

**May/June
2022**

Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry Newsletter

Changing lives from the inside out

Visiting Incarcerated Loved Ones During the Pandemic

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Over the past two years, we've all experienced isolation from Covid. As a mother of an inmate, I must say the pandemic added its additional challenges. Prior to Covid, family members were going to visit my son every weekend. He is married and also has a 6-year-old son. As soon as Covid broke out in 2020, the Virginia Department of Corrections (VA DOC) cancelled all in-person visits. Not only did they put a cancellation on visitation, they also cancelled all educational and religious programs within the VA DOC facilities. Initially, phone calls were the only source of contact with inmates. After several months following the cancellation of in-person visits, the VA DOC finally opened up the virtual video visits. These video calls could be scheduled through GTL, a company that is supposed to help families schedule and manage video visitation.] Of course, the cost was

\$8.00 for 25 minutes and \$20 for 50 minutes. The video calls were and still are of poor quality, to say the least. During every video call you deal with frozen screens, distorted audio, and, at times, total disconnection. This requires you to log back into the call and hope you get reconnected. GTL is using old technology and unable to support most up-to-date computers. The struggle is real and frustrating when attempting to have a video visit with your loved one.

VA DOC opened up the in-person visits in October/November 2021 for several weeks, before cancelling visitation due to the most recent variant breakout. In-person visits have started back up again as of March 5th. These visits have also changed dramatically. You are required to pre-schedule your 1-hour visit. Upon arrival you are required to take a Covid test, before you are able to go into

visit your loved one. Of course, masks are required and seating is arranged at 6 feet distancing. You are only allowed to hug, touch and kiss your family member upon arrival and departure. We are feeling out this new process before exposing his son to this regiment. For now, he is strictly utilizing the virtual video visits for his son. This means he has not seen his child in person or touched him for over 2 years. With the help of God, we are making the best of the situation and continue to live our lives as close as possible through the limitations. My heart goes out to all the families that have loved ones incarcerated. My prayer would be that God gives you the strength to continue whatever means of contact you are able to utilize with your incarcerated loved one. May God bless each of you!

By: The Mother of an Incarcerated Son

Are the things going on in the DOC helping to prevent Covid

While family members, volunteers, and other have to be tested before going in for a visit or for religious programs, the staff that were getting tested a couple time a week are no longer being tested. The institutions were testing inmates new to the institution who were transferred from a

other prison and quarantined for 14 days. However during the height of the pandemic men reading positive were moved from the unit where they were originally located to a unit where there were no positive cases. Of course this makes no sense. When there were no visits or programs and no one coming

into the prisons the covid cases were increasing and after they settled down the only way the covid virus could get introduced was from the staff going on shopping and whatever else they did and coming back into the prisons. Pray for things to go back to normal for the families of the men and women who are incarcerated,

Isa.53:4-8

4 Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted.

5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.

6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

7 He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth.

8 He was taken from prison and from judgment, And who will declare His generation? For He was cut off from the land of the living; For the transgressions of My people He was stricken.

Mother's Day

Every year I try to put some kind of article about Mother's Day and Father's Day in the newsletter. For those of you who will actually celebrate that day with a parent I say, "Praise the Lord!" For ones like me whose parents are no longer here with whom to celebrate, I pray they have wonderful memories, and no regrets for celebrations past when things could have gone better.

Then there are the many inmates now kept from celebration with a parent.

Some relationship are no longer civil and some parents have passed while the inmate was incarcerated. Some of these inmates have parents still living with whom they are successfully reconciling relationships as they are now trusting in the Lord who they had turned their back on for many years.

The purpose in all of this is to say if your parents are no longer here, and you have regrets about your past with them, please do not blame it is on God. My

mother died while I was in prison and, of course, I got mad at God, but He straightened me on that quickly. He made me realize I had many opportunities to spend more quality time with my mother. We were very close, but sin sometimes took precedence over spending time with her. For those of you who still have living parents, reconcile all past disputes so you will not have any regrets about how you treated them.

Happy Mother's Day!

What does Easter, or Resurrection Sunday, mean to you?

As I am writing this article, it is prior to Christmas and I always think of Christmas and Easter together, since I know Jesus' birth was for the purpose of Him dying on the cross for my sin and yours! Enjoying one holiday without the other leave s things half way celebrated. Reading about the birth of our Savior is so encourag-

ing and uplifting. We now have a savior and He is willing to die in my place. What an honor to have God love me so! Then if we are not careful we look at Easter as a sad time since we experience the crucifixion. But we cannot leave the celebration there. As the songs say, "He has risen!" I really think the

church, in general, has lost the excitement of these happenings. Of course Satan works behind the scenes for years to eliminate Jesus from these redeeming celebrations and he has just about accomplished his work for society in general. What a waste of a true time to celebrate for the proper reason.

Fathers' Day

As I said about Mother's Day, how we spend this holiday and how we show our love, while we can, for our parents will determine how we feel when they are gone. I get letters from inmates who have completely destroyed their relationships with their families because of their sin. I encourage them to pray, seek God, and ask Him to help them be able to provide evidence of

a true change in their lives. Many people promise all kinds of things while being locked up and after they are released they go right back to their sin.

There are also many inmates who were treated so badly and abused in unmentionable ways. Mostly these are not looking for reconciliation. It will take them turning all of their anger over to the Lord to even be

able to forgive these terrible acts.

I beg you, in the name of Jesus, if you are a parent who has made mistakes in their parenting, or if you are a child who has been rebellious, make peace before it is too late.

Eph 6:4 "And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and

Memorial Day

Memorial Day commemorates all men and women who have died in U.S. military service. It's not to be confused with Veterans Day, which celebrates the service of U.S. military veterans, or with Armed Forces Day, which honors men and women currently in service. Memorial Day began a few years after the Civil War in 1868.

While I have much respect for our veterans, alive and passed on, I cannot help but think of the words of General William Tecumseh Sherman, a leader of the

Union army in the Civil War. Sherman supposedly said this several years after the war, in an address to a group of cadets— that war is hell. I served in the military. I did not have to kill, and I am thankful for that, but I think of all of the young men and women who died over issues that those above them may not have thought out. I think of the lives lost and the families torn apart by those deaths. I am in no way suggesting anything against our veterans or the military in general. When I came home

during the end of Vietnam civilians, for who the veterans were dying, were spiting on them and calling them baby killers. Isn't that hell— being drafted into the military only to face that kind of treatment? As true men and women of God, let us lift up the government in prayer who send our young people to war. Let us pray for those who join willingly to serve this country. We need more prayer and less demonstrations.

Ps 34:17 *The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears*

A thought I had on

Jan. 1, 2002 God has blessed me by allowing my vehicles to be repaired, God have provided a man to help me in this area and he works as if he works for the Lord himself. I a truly blessed among me to have friends like this. I was able to unstop my drain and I cannot use my sink, my washing machine, and take a shower. Today the Lord gave me 4 new pigs even though he took one back right

Pentecost

Pentecost is significant in both the Old and New Testaments. "Pentecost" is actually the Greek name for a festival known in the Old Testament as the Feast of Weeks ([Leviticus 23:15](#); [Deuteronomy 16:9](#)). The Greek word means "fifty" and refers to the fifty days that have elapsed since the wave offering of Passover. The Feast of Weeks celebrated the end of the grain harvest. Most interesting, however, is its use in Joel and Acts. Looking back to Joel's prophecy ([Joel 2:28–32](#)) and forward to the promise of the Holy Spirit in Christ's last words on earth before His ascension into heaven ([Acts 1:8](#)), Pentecost signals the beginning of the church age.

The only biblical reference to the actual events of Pentecost is [Acts 2:1–3](#). Pentecost is reminiscent of the Last Supper; in both instances the disciples are together in a house for what proves to be

an important event. At the Last Supper, the disciples witnessed the end of the Messiah's earthly ministry as He asks them to remember Him after His death until He returns. At Pentecost, the disciples witnessed the birth of the New Testament church in the coming of the Holy Spirit to indwell all believers. Thus the scene of the disciples in a room at Pentecost links the commencement of the Holy Spirit's work in the church with the conclusion of Christ's earthly ministry in the upper room before the crucifixion.

The description of fire and wind mentioned in the Pentecost account resounds throughout the Old and the New Testaments. The sound of the wind at Pentecost was "rushing" and "mighty." Scriptural references to the power of wind (always understood to be under God's control) abound. [Exodus 10:13](#); [Psalm 18:42](#) and [Isaiah 11:15](#) in the

Old Testament and [Matthew 14:23–32](#) in the New Testament are only a few examples. More significant than wind as power is wind as life in the Old Testament ([Job 12:10](#)) and as spirit in the New ([John 3:8](#)). Just as the first Adam received the breath of physical life ([Genesis 2:7](#)), so the last Adam, Jesus, brings the breath of spiritual life. The idea of spiritual life as generated by the Holy Spirit is certainly implicit in the sound of the wind at Pentecost. Fire is often associated in the Old Testament with the presence of God ([Exodus 3:2](#); [13:21–22](#); [24:17](#); [Isaiah 10:17](#)) and with His holiness ([Psalm 97:3](#); [Malachi 3:2](#)). Likewise, in the New Testament, fire is associated with the presence of God ([Hebrews 12:29](#)) and the purification He can bring about in human life ([Revelation 3:18](#)). God's presence and holiness are implied in the Pentecostal tongues of fire. Indeed, fire is identified with

Christ Himself ([Revelation 1:14](#); [19:12](#)). This association naturally underlies the Pentecost gift of the Holy Spirit, who would teach the disciples the things of Christ ([John 16:14](#)).

Another aspect of the Day of Pentecost is the miraculous speaking in foreign tongues which enabled people from various language groups to understand the message of the apostles. In addition is the bold and incisive preaching of Peter to a Jewish audience. The effect of the sermon was powerful, as listeners were "cut to the heart" ([Acts 2:37](#)) and instructed by Peter to "repent, and be baptized" ([Acts 2:38](#)). The narrative concludes with three thousand souls being added to the fellowship, the breaking of bread, prayers, apostolic signs and wonders, and a community in which everyone's needs were met.

This is the update for Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry and Bible Readers Outreach Ministry for the months of April/May 2021

Bible Readers Outreach Ministries:

In Feb 2022 we mailed out 260 Bible lessons, enrolled 33 new students, mailed 21 Bibles at \$419.26, 7 Bible dictionaries/concordances at \$175.32. Misc office materials (paper, envelopes, ink, cardstock) \$146.96, Stamps 0 for a total of \$ 741.54

In March 2022 we mailed out 325 Bible lessons enrolled 58 new students, mailed 25 Bibles cost of \$636.98, 20 Bible dictionaries/Concordances at \$352.57 and Misc office materials (paper, envelopes, ink, cardstock) \$433.43 Stamps \$245.25 for a total of \$ 2134.14

Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry Pen Pal Outreach:

In Feb 2022 I wrote 90 letter and received 17 new request during that month for volunteer pen pal . New volunteers to write inmates. 3

In March 2022 I wrote 91 letter and received 18 new request during that month for volunteer pen pal . New volunteers to write inmates. 2

I also received 3 letter written in Spanish which I could not read. I have no Hispanic volunteers to respond to these request. I had a friend write a generic response stating we have no Hispanic volunteer. Are you interested? We really need Hispanic pen pal!

Please keep both divisions of this ministry in your prayers. Since I send the letter to be edited and give the editors time to edit I go back a few months so we can get an accurate count and not have to wait until the last day to add the month before the newsletter goes out.

Mission Statement:

To establish and strengthen the Christian life of inmates and their families by providing opportunities for worship, instruction, nurturing of children, fellowship, service, mutual aid, brotherly counsel, and to establish and strengthen the Christian life of evangelism. To bring the Gospel to the unsaved and to lead them to faith in Christ followed by membership in the body of Christ.

All donations of any kind are tax deductible under United States Code Section 170(c)(2). All giving constitutes your express agreement to relinquish control in accordance with IRS regulation." They can be sent to the address below and will be used to further the Jail & Prison Ministry. Checks made out to **Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry "**

Ronald R. Baker, Chaplain
6166 Helens Way, Schuyler, VA 22969-9607

For gifts for "The Bible Reading Outreach Ministry" Checks made out to "The Bible Reading Outreach Ministries" address Barbara Holmes 3152 Glenn Husky Rd Sevierville, TN 37862

Inmate corner quizzes and answers and poems from inmates

Answers to March/April

- 1.) The dogs (Matt. 15:26)
- 2.) The crumbs (Matt. 15:27)
- 3.) Three days (Matt. 15:32)
- 4.) Seven (Matt. 15:34)
- 5.) Seven (Matt. 15:37)
- 6.) Red (Matt. 16:2)
- 7.) Pharisees and Sadducees (Matt. 16:12)
- 8.) John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah (Matt. 16:14)
- 9.) Rock (Matt. 16:18)
- 10.) Hades (Matt. 16:18)

Question for May/June

1. Who did Jesus tell to get behind Him when talking to Peter?
2. Which three apostles were invited up to the mountain where the transfiguration occurred?
3. When Jesus transfigured, what did His face shine like?
4. What two Old Testament people appeared on the moun-

tain with Jesus?

5. What did Peter offer to build for the occasion?
6. In reference to Elijah coming some day soon, who did the disciples understand Elijah was?
7. What two things did the boy suffering from seizures throw himself into?
8. According to Jesus, why couldn't the disciples cast out demons?
9. What tax did the collectors question if Jesus was going to pay?
10. How much was that tax?

My Choice by one of our pen pals

FORGET-ME-NOT'S ARE
MAGICAL,
ALL DRESSED IN WIN-
TER'S BLUE.
I LOVE THE GLEAM OF
MARIGOLDS
AND LADY SLIPPERS, TOO.

BUT SHOULD YOU STEAL
THE BEAUTY
THAT FROM NATURE'S
GARDEN GROWS,
AND HOARD IT FOR YOUR-
SELF, THAT'S FINE:
JUST LET ME HAVE THE
ROSE.
THE NIGHT SKY IS SPEC-
TACULAR,
ADORNED IN SILVER
STARS.
I LOVE EACH RAY OF
SPARKLING CHEER
FROM BETELGEUSE TO
MARS.
THEY GLADLY GIFT THEIR
FRIENDSHIP
TO THE EARTH'S FOR-
SAKEN SONS.
IF YOU MUST HAVE THEM
ALL, YOU MAY:
I'D RATHER HAVE THE
SUN.
A CROWN ADORNED IN
EMERALDS,
A SCEPTER MADE OF
GOLD,
A ROBE OF PURPLE LINEN;

LET THEIR MAJESTY BE-
HOLD!
THEIR BEARER HAS THE
POWER
TO GIVE COWARDS
STRENGTH TO FIGHT,
AND IF YOU WANT THE
GLORY, GREAT:
I'LL KEEP MY SHINING
LIGHT.
THE BEAUTY OF A
LOVER'S FACE,
THE WARMTH A FAMILY
BRINGS,
A DAUGHTER'S SPECIAL
LIGHT, THESE ARE
THE EARTH'S MOST PRE-
CIOUS THINGS.
BUT IF YOU CHOOSE TO
DRIVE YOUR FLAG
INTO THE SOFTENED SOD
OF EARTH AND CALL IT
HOME, IT'S YOURS:
I'LL MAKE MY HOME
WITH GOD.

If you have something you would
to present to be placed in one of
these newsletter please let us
know