

Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry Newsletter

Nov/Dec 2022

Changing Lives from the Inside Out

Have a wonderful time of celebrating Jesus

There are plenty of decorations to buy and parties to attend during this season... but how should we really celebrate Christmas? The question is important because of the significance of the day and because so many obviously do not know how to celebrate it.

I know, of course, that Jesus was probably not born on December 25 — at least there is no real evidence that He was. Nevertheless, this is the day that most people, Christians and non-Christians alike, observe as His birthday, and if we are to mark it at all, this seems to be the only realistic time to do it. But how? That is the question. What is the genuinely Christian way to observe Christ's nativity? Quite obviously, the fact that the world often celebrates the day in non-Christian ways is no excuse for Christians to either neglect or misuse it.

How do you celebrate Christmas? If we are honest, we must admit that many persons, even Christians, celebrate it most by buying presents, decorating their houses, visiting relatives and friends, or watching football games on television. Others celebrate it by getting drunk, some beginning at the office party on the last work-

ing day before Christmas and not sobering up until sometime after the twenty-fifth or even after New Year's. This, of course, is monstrous. These celebrations are inadequate to say the least.

But how should a Christian celebrate Christmas? Before we turn to the book of Luke, I want to say first that by far the best and greatest way to celebrate Christmas is by becoming a Christian if you have never done so. In other words, the best way to celebrate Christmas is by becoming a follower of Him whose birth we commemorate. This is why Jesus came. The Bible tells us that the birth of Jesus was unlike all other births in that Jesus existed before birth as the second person of the Godhead and He became man, not to provide us with a sweet story to tell children each winter or even as a theme for our greatest musical compositions, but in order to grow to maturity and then to die for our sin as a means of our salvation. Jesus was born to be our Savior as the carol says:

Anyone can understand Christmas in just three sentences:

- I am a sinner.
- As a sinner I need a Sav-

ior.

- Jesus Christ is that Savior.

Three sentences! So, the best way to celebrate Christmas is to believe on Jesus as your Savior. If you have never done that, then this is a great season in which to believe on Him. Come to Him! Come to Him now!

But now, assuming that you have believed on Him and that you are a Christian, what can you add to this in order to properly celebrate Christmas? At this point our Bible text comes in, for it is a report of how those who witnessed the first Christmas observed it. The passage begins by speaking of the shepherds.

"When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told" (Luke 2:17-20).

James Montgomery Boice

Merry Christmas

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These are ex-offenders
testifying of God's blessings



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The 35th Jubilee a big success.

On Saturday September 24, we had our 35th annual Day of Jubilee. Although the turnout was less than originally expected, those who attended were there for the right reason: to praise the Lord with every ounce of our being. I heard from some who attended that it was the best they attended. We had a little over 40 people present and at least three other prison outreaches were present. Kingsway Ministry, which was ministering to me when I was incarcerated, was present again this year. There was another man

there, Clint Webb, who does Bible lessons for inmates. He teaches them in the jails and if someone goes home he mails them the lessons like we do with our lessons. Also in attendance was a group who attend various churches who are starting a program for people convicted of sex offences. The will start with the offender with letters to the inmates and perhaps visits, and follow up when inmates get out of jail or prison and are released into their district. That group is called New Mercies 4 You Reentry Ministry.

They are just getting started and this is something that has been needed for many years, but people are afraid to be associated such a program. I am happy and proud to say this group is not afraid. I have been witnessing to sex offenders for years and know many who are out of prison, some for years, who are doing great, off of parole, and leading a good life by the grace of God cleansed by the same blood that saves you and me.

Is the church responsible alone for teaching children to love and follow the Lord?

As I have studied the Bible for many years I understand more clearly that had I gotten a better understanding of the Bible at an earlier age, perhaps I would lead a much different life. I am not blaming anyone for my sin. I am just saying if the Bible had been a regular part of my upbringing, and if I knew better where sin leads from the Biblical perspective, things might have come out differently.

I am not saying I did not know right from wrong, I am not saying I was not convicted when I sinned. What I am saying is the scripture from was not understood in my house to be a part of my upbringing. Eph. 6:4 "And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord."

So I wonder how many Christian families are just allowing Church and Sunday school to be all of the Scripture that is being shared with their children. The parents are not showing the importance of knowing the

Word in a personal way to their children, but allowing the church to be their source of spiritual growth.

As I read through the Bible year after year and ponder on scripture about feeling youthful lust (2 Tim. 2:22) and verses teaching one when one joins Himself to a harlot, as in 2 Cor. 6:15-18 15 "Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not! 16 Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For "the two," He says, "shall become one flesh." 17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him. 18 Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body," plus many other warnings about sexual sin while my hormones raged as a young man, maybe that would have been enough to stop some of my sin.

One thing I am sure of as a born again Christian if I have children today with the corrupt things that are being taught in public schools, Bible reading and study would be an every day thing. I would get the family together at least once a day to train them up in the way they should go and not leave it to the church. Many families seem unconcerned or unaware of what is being taught in schools 5 days a week. They are unaware that teaching contradicts what the children are being taught once a week in church.

I encourage any Christian family with children reading this who do not have a daily time to read and study the Bible together, to do it. When someone says they do not have time or cannot get the family together at the same time, I remind them their children will go closer to God or further from Him. We need to do our part while they are young to be sure God is provider and teacher, not those full of corruption.

Are we learning patience through trials and tribulation?

More testimonies from those attending the 2022 Jubilee

Learning to lean on Jesus is not easy at times. When one is saved, many times the person leading them to Jesus leads them through the words to repeat, but they do not go far enough to explain that now Satan will come against them like never before. Instead they make a statement like, "Now everything is going to be alright," which is true for the long run, but they do not share Bible verses like Acts 14:22 strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, "We must through many tribulations to enter the kingdom of God." So when tribulations come these people feel they were either lied to or they did something wrong.

Even after one figures this situation out, they still have to learn how to handle things like praying for an event to be over but it still continues, or having pain in their life, either mental or physical pain, while praying for relief with no relief in sight. Part of the learning process is how one handles these disappointing, seemingly unanswered prayers with the circumstance continuing and feeling like God is not listening or He is angry. I

remember in the depth of some pain a while back I was actually angry with God, arguing with Him about how my healing would make it easier for me to continue serving Him. This went on for too long. I believed God was trying to show me that since he knew I loved Him and I must not realize how much, He would show me how to continue to serve Him even in the most severe pain I ever experienced. Even when I cried out to Him and said I could not take the pain anymore, and even begged Him if He was not going to heal me to please take me home, He waited. Even a week later, as I maintained that level of pain, God showed me I could endure and His love for me was not shown by taking away the pain as much as it was helping me endure the pain and helping me refuse Satan's suggestion that God did not love me or he would heal me.

Later on when I was in a lot of pain, not as bad as the other time. I was hurting, but badly enough for me ask for healing, and after a week of still hurting, it was like a still small voice pointed out that I was not responding in anger, and I was not arguing with God or fussing at

Him for not healing me. It showed me I had grown in a way that was not pleasant, but was necessary for my spiritual growth to show others through patience and how I respond to disappointment as they look on without me knowing it.

However I still face one thing that sometimes comes across to others in an unintentional way. I always request prayer over and over for things in my life. Being someone who loves praying for others, and seeing how prayer works, I expect the same respect from other Christians to mention my needs to God. Sometimes people get a feeling I want them to feel sorry for me, or a certain crowd thinks I should be healed if I am truly a man of God with enough faith, and all I need to do is demand it of God and He has to do it, since He promised it in his word. Of course neither of these are true. So I trust the prayers of the faithful, mature Christians to pray earnestly and fervently for my needs. James 5: 16 "Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."



Some of the great food provided

Do you have anything you would like to add to our newsletters?

If you have a Christian poem or story about how you were saved or some thing about the DOC and an inmate you might know who is incarcerated let us know and we will

try to fit in in one of the newsletters. We enjoy things we get from Inmates The article should not be longer than 500 words so we can get the entire article

in one section. If you are a pen pal and have anything to share about that outreach that would be great.

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 Aug 2022 we mailed out 315 Bible lessons, enrolled 34 new students, mailed 4 Bibles at \$401.22, 9 Bible dictionaries/concordances at \$135.85. Vernon McGee concordances 3 at \$66.65 Misc office materials (paper, envelopes, ink, cardstock) \$200.00, Stamps \$201.60 for a total of **\$1005.32**

In Sept 2022 we mailed out 294 Bible lessons enrolled 39 new students, mailed 23 Bibles cost of \$394.99 13 Bible dictionaries/Concordances at \$236.58 McGee concordances 7 at \$140.24 and Misc office materials (paper, envelopes, ink, cardstock) \$577.60 Stamps \$895.64 for a total of **\$2245.05**

Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry Pen Pal Outreach:

In Aug 2022 I wrote 89 letter and received 28 new request during that month for volunteer pen pal. New volunteers to write inmates. 1

In Sept 2022 I wrote 75 letter and received 14 new request during that month for volunteer pen pal. New volunteers to write inmates. 3

We have 27 confirmed volunteers writing after going over who was still volunteering they are writing around 100 confirmed inmates being written to and we have 17 women needing a pen pal and 139 men still looking for a volunteer to write.

For the year 2022 from Jan to Aug we have written and received 707? Letters? We had 189 new request for pen pal and we obtained?

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, Answers and Poems

Answers to Sept/Oct

- 1.) A hundred silver coins/denarii (Matt. 18:28)
- 2.) Because of people's hard hearts (Matt. 19:8)
- 3.) Marital unfaithfulness (Matt. 19:9)
- 4.) The poor (Matt. 19:21)
- 5.) The rich (Matt. 19:23)
- 6.) The eye of a needle (Matt. 19:24)
- 7.) The twelve tribes of Israel (Matt. 19:28)
- 8.) A hundred times more (Matt. 19:29)
- 9.) A denarius or a full day's wages (Matt. 20:9)
- 10.) Zebedee's (Matt. 20:20)

Question for Nov/Dec

1. In Matthew 20, for someone to be first, they must become what?
2. What did Jesus say the Son of Man gave as a ransom for many?

3. Before the triumphal entry, what two animals did Jesus ask His disciples to find?
4. What Old Testament prophet said Jesus would ride those two animals?
5. When Jesus entered Jerusalem for the triumphal entry, what two things did people lay in the streets?
6. What does the word *Hosanna* mean?
7. In Matthew 21, Jesus tipped over the table of people selling what animal?
8. Jesus told the money changers that they were making His "house" a den of what?
9. What kind of tree did Jesus wither?
10. Jesus rebuked the Pharisees by asking if baptism was from heaven or from man?

"Increasing God's Presence and Joy"

1. Seek God...Jeremiah 29, 11-13, "You will seek me and

find me, when you seek me with all your heart."

2. Think Jesus...Hebrews 12, 1-2; Colossians 3, 1-4, "Fixing your eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of Faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

3. Be Thankful...Psalms 100, 1-5, "Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his covets with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name."
4. Examine Conscience...1 John, 8-10, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."
5. Trust Promises, Psalm 16:11, 89:15-16, 90:14, Isaiah 9:6, Luke 2:10-11, 10:21, John 15:9-11, Acts 2:25 and 28, Jude 1:24, To him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you before his glorious presence

without fault and with great joy." 6. Obey God, 1 John 5:3 and 2:3, "We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands."

7. Ask God, James 1:2-7, "But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind." Written by my friend, an inmate I write to in Arkansas. He wishes all a very Merry Christmas and as he writes here, God brings joy and grounds us in His mercy. What greater gift could we ever expect on Christmas or any other day of our life? The only gift we will ever need to live a life of purpose and meaning. The love and understanding of God and His word.

This is just one of many articles shared by pen pals to this ministry. Send you articles.