

Sept/Oct 2022

# Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry Newsletter

Changing lives from the inside out!

## Our 35<sup>th</sup> Day of Jubilee



Enjoying a meal at one of the Jubilees

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### Ministry Outreaches

Available:

**In-Prison Ministry**

**After Care**

**Support Groups**

**Pen Pal**

**Mentoring**

**Family Ministry**

**Youth Ministry**

**Bible studies**

**Ministry training**

**seminars available for**

**local churches**

Remember our 36<sup>th</sup> year of the ministry began back in March, but unfortunately we did cancel our Day of Jubilee celebration one year because of the COVID virus. The ministry has come a long way in these 36 years, and we are looking for a blessed Day of Jubilee on September 24, at LWCF where we have had it for several years now. The address is Living Word Christian Fellowship, 5150 Lowesville Road, Arrington, VA, 22922. The phone number, in case you get lost, is 434-277-5193.

As I have mentioned in the past, we are thankful for Bible Readers Outreach ministry joining us back in 2018. Between them mailing out Bible lessons and study materials, such as Bibles, Bible concordances/dictionaries, and other study materials,

and our pen pal outreach, we are touching the lives of more inmates and their families than ever. When an inmate gets out of prison, and he or she wants to continue doing the Bible lessons, they may continue. If you want to have lessons sent to their spouse or children we do that too. We are sharing on page 4 the success of both the Bible studies being mailed out and the number of inmates receiving mail through the pen pal outreach.

As usual the Jubilee will be a day of praising God. We have so much to praise Him for! With all of the prison lock downs and volunteers not being able to share the gospel for long periods of time, our outreach to inmates and their families continues to grow. As the prisons open

back up for volunteers we have volunteers ready to continue that means of sharing.

We will have praise songs to praise the Lord, prayers and praises to Him, and testimonies from inmates blessed by God through His use of the ministry and testimonies from volunteers blessed through the pen pal outreach. That ministry is not a one-way blessing. Just ask anyone who has been a part of it! I know I am truly blessed by the letters I receive. So we are inviting anyone who is interested in learning **anything** about **any part** of the ministry and who would enjoy a wonderful day with the Lord, He will be present. Oh, by the way, there will be a meal as well as all of what I shared and there will be plenty of food. I promise!

### If you have an article in line with this ministry, please contact us.

As you can see on page 4, from time to time we use an inmate's poem or testimony in this newsletter. The total number of words should not exceed 750 and could be much fewer. Testimonies about the pen pal ministry and the blessings one receives from reading letters and being able to share

God's love is a perfect subject. A testimony from an inmate or ex-inmate would be another good article, along with scriptures that would help the readers know how much God loves them. If people only knew how wonderfully God is working in the jails and prisons, they would be happy to be a part of this

work. Like countries that are under heavy persecution, inmates losing the church and Bible study programs, along with face-to-face family visits, are a field ripe for harvest. (Matt.9:37) So we want to share the Lord God especially when the Lord could return at any time and we want Him to find us faithful.

These pictures are of some of the services at one of the prisons, with permission of the warden at that time, before the DOC changed the way the services were done.



Please continue to pray for the ministry since God has seen to bless us for almost 37 years now. Without His blessings and your support we would not of lasted this long. Thanks.

## The decline of religious freedom in prison!

Years ago in the 70s and 80s, I remember having a Bible study from outside church volunteers bringing the Word of God to us. Speaking of just true Christians groups, not counting the cults, we had a service every evening. We had a church service Sunday morning, and we even had a church service on Saturday evening. All of these were from various church groups. These services seemed to be encouraged by many of those in authority. Not any more!

Since the pandemic and the constant lock downs, whether there were a lot of COVID cases or not, most programs are being canceled— even family visitation.

However even before the pandemic when we were going into Buckingham and Dillwyn prisons, the VA DOC made a decision to make the men chose to either attend a Bible study once a week or a church service. Before the men were having Bible studies several week nights **and** attended church on Sundays. Now they must choose between church **or** Bible studies. Of course this affected volunteers also. Even though I was able to keep an evening service at each prison, with the men having to make a choice, many chose Sunday worship and the number of men attending Bible studies went from over 60 to 8 at Buckingham and 4 at Dillwyn. Many volunteers lost the spot completely after years of service

to the DOC. They just cut them out of the work the Lord had called them to do. Soon after the VA DOC called the church services on Sunday, now held on Thursday evenings, the Protestant services. Each Bible study group had to specify a denomination for their group, such as Baptist, Methodist, and so on. Since I had always gone in as nondenominational, just teaching Jesus Christ and Him crucified, I was in a dilemma. So the institution named my night the Mennonite service. I explained that many inmates would not know what the Mennonites taught and that I was teaching the Bible. It came down to take that name, since I could not call it non-denominational, and the other names were already chosen. This decreased all of the evening Bible study attendance, not only mine.

Through the years I saw a newer lack of interest in religious services from the administration as well as other programs. I remember driving 60 miles in bad weather just to be told there was no program that night. I would call before I left home, but the day shift was still on duty, and even if they said as far as they were concerned services were a go, when the night shift came on they just said, "No service." After complaining enough about that, the program coordinator was supposed to call the volunteers if there was a lock down, but we still had the same problem, since she would actually be gone when the night

shift came on. Now the staff or someone in charge can shut down all movement for weeks or months because someone tests positive. At first they were checking the officers ever couple day and testing all volunteers every time they came in. Now they are not testing the staff unless they say they feel ill. Some of the inmates who write me tell me their cell area would be COVID free only to have the institution move an infected positive case into their dorm. I know that is hard to believe, but I have heard it enough and from men I trust that I fully believe it. I believe it is cruel and unusual punishment to give the men a week of freedom and then take it away for a month or more. They are not being allowed to go to the commissary to get writing supplies or hygiene items for long periods of time. One of the worst situations that has arisen has to do with family visitation being denied for long periods of time. When the family *is* allowed to visit, the wife is not allowed to hug her spouse and the inmate is not allowed to hug his children. How do you explain to your little child, "Daddy is not allowed to hug you?" I fully understand the precautions being taken; however, if the family is tested and come up negative, why not allow a hug when the staff is not even being tested any more? There are many truly born-again Christians in prisons. Should they be forgotten because they made a mistake? I say no!

## Have you ever wondered when God would take you?

Sometimes when I am busy writing letters to inmates I wonder, "What if the Lord took me right now? Who would know? When would someone find me? Who would finish the work the Lord has called me to do for these going on 36 years?" Unlike many of my brothers and sisters who say, "Take me now," I am praying to hold on until the rapture, no matter how much I hurt physically and no matter how bad thing get. I am not saying for God not to take me when He is ready. I just pray, if it might be His will, for me to continue this work until He comes for His church. I try to dig deep within to be sure there is not an ulterior motive to wanting God to hold off, and I will admit there are other thoughts that come into my mind as possible reasons to want to hang on. But when my pain level is so high it is off of the 1-10 scale, and I

ask God to take me, He instead allows me to deal with the pain. I wonder if that might be what He is doing. (1 Cor.10:13) I read through the Bible every day and study for hours every day. I am aware of His promises for the believers and I know they are true for me. I know I should not, but many times when I am not at my best, I wonder how could God choose me? Then the Holy Spirit kindly reminds me it was all Jesus and had nothing to do with me. I wish I could fully understand God's choice and explain to people who say they chose God, so they would believe it as I do, but that is again the job of the Holy Spirit. If you ever wonder when God might take you, you are not alone. Of course with the world in the shape it is in now the end could be very close. Of course in the past there have been many world events that probably made

people think Jesus was coming at that time. I know I have done everything I need to do to be ready, and I am not bragging! I have acknowledged Jesus as my personal Lord and Savior and repented of my sin. I continue to repent to God and I acknowledge His Word is needed to guide my steps. So Jesus will do the rest as He anoints me with the understanding of His Word through the inspiration of His Spirit. 2 Tim 2:15 says for us to study and we need to do that as God speaks to us through His written word and through His preached Word, so church is not something to ignore Pray for me as I also pray for you all. Titus 1:2 "In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;" That promises is accomplished through Jesus.

## Today's false teachers will have no excuse!

If you have any doubts about the fate of false teachers in today's church, read the book of Jude. For example, Jude said <sup>3</sup>Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. <sup>4</sup>For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus

Christ. John MacArthur states Jude had intended to write a letter on salvation as the common blessing enjoyed by all believers, perhaps to emphasize unity and fellowship among believers, and remind them that God is no respecter of persons. But he was compelled, instead, to write a call to battle for the truth in light of the arrival of apostate teachers.

Today it seems people are ignoring these warnings and entertaining the flashy, charismatic, energetic, false teachers who put them in a

state of emotional excitement and them leaving the services feeling energized, even though the message had no meat as to being holy as God is holy or repenting of sin.

Instead, the one leaves thinking grace has saved him, and he can now live anyway he or she chooses. We have the entire Word of God and people still let someone else tickle their ears instead of see the truth with all of all our heart and all of our soul, not allowing someone to make us feel good about a ungodly life.

More celebration praising God over the years



Ex inmate shares her testimony at a banquet at MT View Mennonite church



Before a wonderful meal people enjoying hearing up date on the prison work



Doesn't that make your mouth water

Bring you favorite dish and come and enjoy the events of the day ending up with a meal.

**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 June 2022 we mailed out 286 Bible lessons, enrolled 40 new students, mailed 20 Bibles at \$467.02, 3 Bible dictionaries/concordances at \$95/.22. Old Testament Vernon McGee commentaries 13 @ \$139.11 Misc office materials (paper, envelopes, ink, cardstock) \$73.87 Stamps \$518.68 for a total of **\$1293.93**

In July 2022 we mailed out 328 Bible lessons enrolled 49 new students, mailed 18 Bibles cost of \$413.89 1 Bible dictionaries/Concordances at \$32.75 Old Testament Vernon McGee commentaries 2 @ \$58.77 Misc office materials (paper, envelopes, ink, cardstock) \$353.27 Stamps \$183.85 for a total of \$1042.13

**Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry Pen Pal Outreach:**

**In June 2022 I wrote 96 letter and received 19 new request during that month for volunteer pen pal . New volunteers to write inmates. 2**

**In July 2022 I wrote 89 letter and received 328new request during that month for volunteer pen pal . New volunteers to write inmates. None**

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 July/Aug**

- 1.) Four drachmas (Matt. 17:27)
- 2.) A child (Matt. 18:3)
- 3.) Their neck (Matt. 18:6)
- 4.) Eye, hand, foot (Matt. 18:8-9)
- 5.) One hundred sheep (Matt. 18:12)
- 6.) Heaven (Matt. 18:18)
- 7.) Two (Matt. 18:19)
- 8.) Seven times (Matt. 18:21)
- 9.) Seventy-seven times (Matt. 18:21)
- 10.) Ten thousand bags of gold/talents (Matt. 18:24)

### **Question for Sept/Oct**

1. In the parable of the unmerciful servant, over how much money did the servant choke another servant?
2. According to Jesus, why did Moses permit divorce?
3. According to Jesus, what was the only reason for

- divorce?
4. Who did Jesus tell the rich young man to give him money to?
  5. According to Jesus in Matthew 19, it's hard for whom to enter the kingdom of God?
  6. Jesus said it's easier for a camel to go through what than for the rich to get into heaven?
  7. Who did Jesus say His followers would sit on thrones and judge?
  8. Jesus said those who had left behind family and homes would receive a blessing of how many times more?
  9. In the parable of the vineyard workers, how much was each worker paid no matter when they started to work?
  10. The mother of whose sons asked Jesus if her boys would sit at His right and left in the kingdom?

### **The DEA Officer**

A DEA officer stops at a ranch in Texas and talks with an old rancher. He tells the rancher, "I need to inspect your ranch for illegally grown drugs."

The rancher says, "Okay, but don't go in that field over there," as he points out the location.

The DEA officer verbally explodes saying, "Mister, I have the authority of the federal government with me!" Reaching into his rear pants pocket, he removes his badge and proudly displays it to the rancher. "See this badge? This badge means I am allowed to go wherever I wish...on any land. No questions asked or answers given. Have I made myself clear? Do you under-

stand?"

The rancher nod politely and goes about his chores.

A short time later, the old rancher hears loud screams and sees the DEA officer running for his life chased by the rancher's big Santa Gertrudis with every step, the bull is gaining on the officer and it seems likely that he'll get gored before he reaches safety. The officer is clearly terrified.

The rancher throws down his tools, runs over to the fence, and yells at the top of his lungs...

"Your badge. Show him your badge!"

Now that is a little Texas humor. I hope it doesn't offend you.

I really got a kick out of that!