

# REHOBOTH JAIL & PRISON MINISTRY NEWSLETTER

Changing Lives From the Inside Out

**2023 Jan / Feb.**

## **Happy New Year! Open Your Heart to the Lord for the New Year**

Did you ever in your life think things would come to what the United States government has stood for in 2022? I remember growing up I was proud to be an American and thought we had the best form of government. It was certainly much better then than what it became in 2022. The things our government did cannot be blamed on one person; it was all those in charge of the government both federal and state. If this was not enough of a reason to pray for those in authority over us (Heb 13:17), I cannot think of what might be a better reason to pray. I was told once it is not the man who can change things for the better; it is Jesus, and I agree, but I believe we need to pray for a man with a willing heart to follow God. In the

Book of Judges, each time the Israelites cried out to God, He responded, but only after He allowed them to feel what it was like serving the god's of the people around them. What is America serving over God? Who or what is our number one priority above God? I know many churches are praying for better things but what kind of better things? The economy is important, but not more important than the saving of the unborn killed in the womb. Education is important, but what kind of education is being taught? And if it is corrupt, why are Christians allowing it to continue? When the government or a school board says parents do not have the right to have a say on what should or should not be taught in school,

that is too much government control. As we reach out to God in all manner of problems, we need to vote out those who would cause our youth to be perverted in their thoughts because somehow those kind of people have gotten into positions where they are helping make those kind of decisions. We need to pray without ceasing for certain, but along with that, we need to be wise as a serpent and harmless as a dove (Matt10:16). If the grade schools are converting children away from God just like the colleges have been doing for years, why continue to send our children? How many excuses will we come up with? What is more important than the souls of our children? Lets make a difference in the new year.

## **Who is in Control of Your Life?**

The more I learn about the pandemic, the more I think a lot of it was to see how much control our government could hold over us before the people said that is enough. Demanding people get a shot, even when people who got all three shots still got COVID, is

puzzling. While the shots could be the best thing, people should certainly be able to make a choice to take them or not. Being forced to wear a mask when hearing masks help, but then others are reporting masks do not make that much difference. We as Christians have

a straight line to the One who can eliminate these kind of problems, so let us seek the Lord with all of our hearts and be obedient servants to Him so He will answer our prayers (Ps.143:1).

**Chairman: Tim Miller Board Members: Secretary/Treasurer: Lisa Miller  
Jon Freivald, Rhonda Via, Steve Via, Joe Faus  
Chaplain/ Executive Director/ Founder: Ronald R. Baker  
Editors: Lindsey Wydner & Phoebe King**

Ministry Outreaches Available:

In - Prison Ministry - After Care - Support Groups - Pen Pal (letter writing)  
Mentoring - Family Ministry -Youth Ministry - Bible Studies  
Ministry training seminars available for local churches

1 Pet 1:<sup>14</sup> as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, *as* in your ignorance; <sup>15</sup> but as He who called you *is* holy, you also be holy in all *your* conduct,

Does this Scripture above apply to Christians today? Certainly it does. As I grow closer to the Lord and look at Christianity, it seems to be watered down by those who teach easy believism. It seems people think God has slacked up on His demands to be holy and to be obedient. Much of society has decided by listening to false teachers that the Bible does not mean what it has always meant.

One of God's attributes is that He is **Immutable** - God is always the same in His nature, His character, and His will. He never changes, and can never be made to change. **James 1:17** "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning." Why do some Christians today think because society wants the God they worship to fit into their idea of God that they can make God change? I hear preachers that people used to hold as true men of God now stating that the Bible does not mean what it always meant.

There are a lot of ministers on TV who come from a group called Word of Faith. The **Word of Faith** movement is a pseudo-Christian cult. While there is no central authority in the Word of Faith movement, and no official set of beliefs, adherents share a set of basic unbiblical beliefs about God, the nature of the universe, the nature of humanity and more. At the bottom of this article is a list of Word of Faith teachers. Based on their stated beliefs, each should be considered a false teacher.

Word of Faith teachers combine a variety of unbiblical ideas. Because each teacher is independent, they might teach things slightly different, but they all share the same foundational errors. Some of these false ideas include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Faith is a force, and words are the containers for that force
- Being made in God's image means that we share in His divine nature
- Salvation brings health and wealth as the right of all believers
- God speaks to Word of Faith leaders directly

If you are listening to any of these teachers, and I was surprised at some of the names, you are being mislead. Go to <https://godwords.org/what-is-the-word-of-faith-movement/> and see for yourself these names.

It surprises me how many so called preachers appear on what is supposed to be a Christian TV network. I noticed as I tried to listen to certain ministers how they did not speak about Jesus as to the need of repentance of sin or how the Bible states in Acts 14:22 "strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting *them* to continue in the faith, and saying, "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God." But these false teachers tell people all they have to do is speak and have faith and everything will be fine. We will never be ill, never need finances, as long as we send them donations. They tell us all we have to do is have faith and God will provide, and I believe that. However, I do not think it is speaking about wealth. If that was the truth, why do we have to send them a certain amount and God will multiply that amount back to us? Why don't they pray and trust God to provide like they are asking us to do?

I once heard from a ministry who told me to send \$1,000 and God would give me \$10,000. I wrote back and said we were a small ministry and we could use the \$1000, so why didn't they send us the \$1,000, and they could then receive the \$10,000 since they were a much larger ministry. Funny thing I never heard back from them.

Being in the prison ministry, I get all kind of letters praising ministers who I know to be a false teacher. Learning to be able to turn these people away from those minister to a true teacher takes prayer. Since a lot of people are not really looking for the truth, they are seeking exactly what these false teachers are sharing. However, they will soon enough realize that we do not command God and He obeys. It is God who commands, and it is us who must obey. The word of God states John 8:<sup>32</sup> "**And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.**" One has to actually want the truth to be able to accept it. One needs to read the Word for themselves in order to discern the truth. 2 Tim. 2:14, <sup>15</sup> "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. <sup>16</sup> But shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness.

God does not promise us an easy life no matter what false teachers teach. God will never leave us nor forsake us. Heb 13:5 "so through those trials He will be with us" unless Josh 24:14 "If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then He will turn and do you harm and consume you, after He has done you good." So when these false teachers introduce you to a god who is not described in the Bible, and you turn and serve that god, you have chosen to forsake the God of the Bible and are serving nothing.

God bless each of you who are reading these words.

## What Does Your Time With God Consist of?

I remember when a few words to God at night was what I called devotional time. Usually the prayer was after I got into bed and sometimes I fell asleep while praying. While I think talking to the Lord is a great way to go to sleep, it should not be what we call quality time with God. Realizing this was not good enough prayer or devotional time, I started asking people to pray for my prayer time to actually be meaningful and something God would appreciate. It did not happen over night, but actually took much longer than it should have. Eventually, God showed me to set a time for my daily devotional, in my case, early in the morning when I was fresh and hopefully rested. It needed to be uninterrupted, a time I would not rush

because there was so much work to do for the ministry. I had too often had poor time with the Lord, thinking about things I needed to do that day. So I setup a time without excuses to have a good, sound devotional and uninterrupted prayer daily. Then as people would ask me to pray for things and people, I had to write them down or I would forget. When the list got too long for one morning's devotional, I started a second day, and now I have a long list for all seven days of the week. I thank God He had patience with me and gave me a prayer time. I believe He is satisfied and showing me ways to improve it every year.

I tell people who I share God with to set a time for a devotional for the family all together, and then

come the excuses, valid or not - we are never together at the same time, we do not all eat together, the kids have activities, we both work. I am sure all of that is true, and I realize I have more free time than many, but I know how much better my life is with a set time each day as a #1 priority which is not to be put off or replaced to spend quality and quantity time with the Lord.

So I ask this question in love not pointing my finger at anyone - What does your time with God consist of? How much does God actually mean to you and your family? To say we are too busy is an insult to the God who is providing all of your needs through His rejoices in glory through Christ Jesus. Phil.4:19

## I Wish I Could do Something for the Lord, but my Health

With my health hindering me from many physical activities, things I use to enjoy doing to help others, I started feeling useless. Where I use to actually go into the prisons and preach and teach 3 times some weeks and preach at churches outside the prison as well, I started feeling that maybe God was showing me my involvement in the ministry was over. In 2018 Bible Readers Outreach Ministry came along side of Rehoboth Jail and Prison Ministry, and the ministries were able to grow in what we could do even with the prisons locked down for over 18 months. With the pandemic, other ministries that depended on just going into the prisons, sat idle. However, with the pen pal ministry and the Bible Readers Outreach Ministry, we sent letters to most every state and mailed out Bible studies, Bible concordances, and other study materials.

During this 18 months or 2 years of lockdown on and off, I noticed my walking any distance was getting harder and my imbalance was not doing too good either. I slowly realized I might not be able to keep actually going into the prison, walking the distances to get to where the services were held. I battled with that though for a long time as God showed me through small activities at home, which really

gave me a hard time, that I needed to make a decision. I thought it was just me giving up. After 35 years of serving the Lord going into the prisons, would this no longer be a part of my life? I prayed to God to show me if I was just giving up because it would be a little harder, and after a while I saw God had already provided me a way to actually serve more inmates now through both combined ministries than I was meeting face to face with the number of men attending the services in prison. So after almost two years of trying to get new volunteers approved to do the in-prison Bible studies, God allowed us to have 7 men approved to go into Buckingham prison and do a service every Tuesday.

Now to finally get to my point, when I was worried about not being able to serve the Lord because of my health, God showed me a way to serve Him and be at home. So those who say "I wish I could do something for the Lord, but my health." how about sitting in your comfortable home, writing a letter to someone lost who needs to know the way, someone seeking a better life and looking for Christian discipleship?

## 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 Oct 2022 we mailed out 328 Bible lessons, enrolled 31 new students, mailed 12 Bibles at \$272.92, 9 Bible dictionaries/concordances at \$135.07. Misc office materials (paper, envelopes, ink, cardstock) \$479.19, Stamps \$458.64 for a total of \$ 1337.72

In Nov 2022 we mailed out 289 Bible lessons enrolled 37 new students, mailed 15 Bibles cost of \$395.79 4 Bible dictionaries/Concordances at \$60.05 and Misc office materials (paper, envelopes, ink, cardstock) \$200.00 Stamps \$959.00 for a total of \$ 1724.71

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

In Oct 2022 I wrote 64 letter and received 13 new request during that month for volunteer pen pal . New volunteers to write inmates. 1

In Nov 2022 I wrote 74 letter and received 18 new request during that month for volunteer pen pal . New volunteers to write inmates. None

I have one Hispanic volunteers to respond to Hispanic request. I had a friend write a generic response stating we have no Hispanic volunteer. Are you interested? We have 28 confirmed volunteers writing over 96 inmates and we still looking for a volunteer to write. Many of the people assigned as volunteers have not confirmed they are still writing and some did so that is when the number is much lower. So it is hard to get an accurate count. I still have 82 men needing a pen pal and 9 ladies .

### 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

“**The Bible Reading Outreach Ministry**”

Checks made out to “The Bible Reading Outreach Ministries” address Barbara Holmes 3152 Glenn Husky Rd Sevierville, TN 37862

## Questions and Answers to Quiz

### Answers for Nov/Dec

1. A slave (Matt. 20:27)
2. His life (Matt. 20:28)
3. A donkey and a colt (Matt. 21:2)
4. Zechariah (Matt. 21:5)
5. Cloaks and tree branches/palms (Matt. 21:8)
6. Save/Save us (Matt. 21:9)
7. Doves (Matt. 21:12)
8. Robbers/Thieves (Matt. 21:13)
9. Fig (Matt. 21:19)
10. John the Baptist's (Matt. 21:25)

### Questions for Jan/Feb 2023

1. What two groups of people did Jesus tell the Pharisees were getting into heaven before them?
2. In the parable of the tenants, who did the landowner

- send to collect the fruit after three sets of servants were killed?
3. In the parable of the tenants, what did the tenants do to the son?
  4. According to Jesus, what did the stone become that the builders rejected?
  5. In the parable of the wedding banquet, who was throwing a banquet?
  6. In the parable of the wedding banquet, what was the occasion that inspired the banquet?
  7. In the parable of the wedding banquet, what did the invited people do to the servants who were inviting them to the banquet?
  8. Where did the servants eventually go to invite people to the banquet?

## Poems or Testimonies from I

9. In the parable of the wedding banquet, what was the guest not wearing that caused him to get thrown out?
10. Where did they throw the man not wearing the wedding clothes?

### Here are two jokes for you

One day, a King visited a prison and talked to each of the inmates! Most of them claimed that they were innocent. They had been railroaded! They told him that nobody understood them, and they had been exploited. Finally, the King said to a convict, “I suppose you are an innocent victim too!”

“No, sir. I am not. I am

guilty, and I deserve the punishment,” replied the man.

Turning to the warden. The King said, “Here, release this rascal before he corrupts all these fine innocent people in here!”

A Dutch Pastor was explaining the red, white and blue Netherlands flag to an American Pastor. Said the first Pastor. “Our flag is symbolic of our taxes. We get red when we talk about them, white when we get our tax bill, and blue after paying them.” The American nodded his understanding. “I know what you mean. It's the same in the USA only we see stars too.”