

REHOBOTH JAIL & PRISON NEWSLETTER

March / April 2023

CHANGING LIVES FROM THE INSIDE OUT

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MINISTRY OUTREACHES AVAILABLE:

In - Prison Ministry

After Care

Support Groups

Pen Pal (letter writing)

Mentoring

Family Ministry

Youth Ministry

Ministry training
seminars available for
local churches.

WHAT IS HAPPENING TO RELIGIONS FREEDOM WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

This month starts the 37th year of this ministry to those lost souls in the jails and prisons along with their families. It has been an educational journey for us. God has revealed Him love and power through the thank you letters we receive coming back from men and women who finally got a call when the mail runs. I am so glad we have been able to do this ministry and if how God grew the pen pal ministry and added the Bible Readers Outreach Ministry back in 2018 the help us continue to minister to even more inmates than when I was going two to three time a week meeting with the men. Right before the pandemic the VA prisons decided to only allow the men to either go to church once a week or a Bible study during one evening. The men had been allowed Bible studies several evenings during the week and Sunday would be their church services. At that time I have 60+ men at the Bible studies and we always had a great time of study and fellowship. After the changed the rules that the men could attend one or the other and changed the schedules of the evening Bible

studies the number of men attending my bible studies suffered greatly. We still have some faithful men wanting to do more than just hear the Word preached these men wanted to grow by an in-depth



Through the 36 full years of Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry many faithful people have seen to our needs, for this we thank you.

Study of the Bible. The institutions made many other changes which made it harder on the volunteers to hold their services. Then after the institutions opened by new rules, many volunteers had found other things to do, the institutions would not allow inmates who had not taken the vaccination to go to school or any programs or even have a visit from family. This ended up being more of a punishment than a precaution. Years Ago a man I highly respected told me he felt in years to come the prisons would eventually cut out religious services all together, and I see that happen-

ing slowly but surely. If that is not bad enough Now many of the Jails not longer allow letters or Bible studies you can only write a post card. To write many prisons you have to mail the letter to another state that scans the mail and then sends to the inmate supposedly for fear of drugs being sprayed. This has to be very expensive for the prisons and very inconvenient for the volunteer and inmate. Plus I am getting a lot more letters returned many by mistake because the person doing the mail is not trained properly since there is a large turn over.

Pray for the ministries dealing with the various departments of corrections through the USA they are taking away the inmates right to receive mail and for religions services which God is the only way these men are going to truly be transformed by the renewing of their mind. Rom. 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

WHY PUT OFF UNTIL TOMORROW WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE TODAY

I sometimes wonder why people today hear the truth that Jesus is coming back soon, or that no one is promised tomorrow and they keep refusing to make that decision to receive salvation. I had a man write me a couple times and he said he knew he needed to accept Jesus, he believed in God, and that Jesus was Lord and Savior, and then he said he did not know why he did not go ahead and accept it into his personal life. Now that is the epitome of stupidity. Like knowing something is going to happen but refusing to do anything to help avoid it.

Some people are so content in their sin and understand they will have to give up the lust of the flesh to follow Jesus and they are just not willing to do that yet. It is like they are waiting for a special personal warning as if God's Word is not enough to draw them to Him. Since the Word of God has been warning people for so long people seem to think they have plenty of time, not looking at the sign of the time and all of the prophecies being fulfilled these latter days. Not thinking just because they are in good health right now it does not guarantee something might happen to them on the highway or in a random accident. People die every day that were in supposedly in perfect health only to find something the doctors were not aware of.

There is so much blatant sin in the world today and so many warning of things to

come upon the world it would be foolish to ignore them as a sign to be ready for the Lord. Many will wait for a sign that never comes because they refused the many signs that were clearly revealed to them, which they refused to take serious. No matter when Jesus will return the Bible encourages us to be ready not get ready. Matt.25:1 "Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. 2 "Now five of them were wise, and five *were* foolish. 3 "Those who *were* foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, 4 "but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. 5 "But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. 6 "And at midnight a cry was *heard*: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!' 7 "Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. 8 "And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us *some* of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' 9 "But the wise answered, saying, 'No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.' 10 "And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. 11 "Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' 12 "But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.' 13 "Watch

therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming. This parable speaks of the marriage supper of the Lamb and makes plain the reason to be ready for Jesus appearance.

Let's look at just a few Bible verses encouraging us to be ready:

Matthew 24:44 "Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect." If we are ready right now for Jesus' coming it will not matter when He come.

Matthew 25:13 "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

Luke 21:28 "Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." This is the reason God encourages us to study the Word (2 Tim. 2:15) so we will be aware of things happening that are a warning of the end time.

Matthew 24:42 "Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming." We need to be aware of the happenings around us.

1 Peter 5:8 "Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour." Things are happening subtly so not easily noticed unless one is sober-minded watching diligently.

Revelation 19:7-9 Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come,

and his Bride has made herself ready; it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure"— for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb." And he said to me, "These are the true words of God." This was why the foolish virgins were not ready for the coming of the Lamb. Jesus.

Luke 21:36 But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man." We need to be in the Word and in constant prayer so the Holy Spirit will keep us aware of what is happening so it does not get by us.

Acts 2:38 "And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." People without the Holy Spirit will not be able to discern the times, and will foolishly reject the signs.

Lets be ready by accepting the free gift of God, Jesus as Lord and Savior.

A Tribute to Colonel Gene Lawson an earlier board member whom is with the Lord from an earlier newsletter.



by his greatest
admirer, His
wife

The auctioneer is silent;
The gavel falls no more.
No hands are raised in bidding;
No lots pass round the floor.

He understood the value
Of a single struggling soul.
Though no one cared to give a bid,
He begged the crowd for more.

His eyes observed more closely
The value of the prize.
If only he could make them see,
Surely then a hand would rise.

One day he was the struggler;
His hidden value lost.
A price was paid for purchase -
His Savior's life it cost.

He always opened with first bid;
His judgment set the tone.
If no one saw great value,
He'd gladly take them home.

One day his body failed him.
With courage faced the pain,
And left behind this life and loves -
A greater life to gain.

The highest bidder now announced,
Going once, going twice, now gone.
The Savior came and took his prize,



Tribute to a Great Man of God, a True Brother in Christ, and a Best Friend Brother Keane Pugh also from an earlier newsletter.

I would like to let everyone know there are hundreds and maybe even thousands of men who will miss Brother Keane. Keane and Ann were very active in the Prison Fellowship group called, "Staunton Community Cares" for many years, going into the VA prisons with the Word of God. During these years it was not only the Godly encouraging words they shared with men; whom much of society had given up on, but also the love they showed to the least of these; God's children. They went above and beyond what would be expected of regular Christian volunteers. Of course, they were not regular volunteers, they were, in my words, extraordinary volunteers. Over the years, as an inmate, I saw them come walking into the programs hand and hand, holding hands through the entire program, letting go only to shake hands with the men who came to the services. I have heard so many men say, "I want that kind of relationship with my wife when I go home". I have met few men who present such a humble attitude; yet were so full of Godly wisdom. Keane blessed everyone he ever came in contact with. Keane and Ann

taught me the true meaning of giving. I remember I would figure, to the penny, legalistic tithing, being sure I gave a 10th, and also being sure I did not give an 11th. When I saw them give and give and give and then see how God blessed them because they trusted Him and that they were not concerned with material goods, I wanted to get in on that. I started giving more freely and God blessed just as His Word promises. Phil 4:19 "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

There came a time I was supposedly trusting in the Lord for my parole, asking various Christians for their prayers. Then I asked Keane and Ann if they would be willing to go to the parole board and speak on my behalf, not knowing then how little it means to the board. They never hesitated. Of course, that did not say much for my trusting in the Lord for my parole. I did not make parole that year. The next year I did not interfere with God, but prayed fervently as did many friends who prayed with me. I finally made parole after three turn-downs. When I got out Keane had a car all fixed up for me. He had several Plymouths and he gave me the one that ran the best. I will never forget the trips I made to see my relative in PA, the trips I made to N. VA to see other relatives, and the many years of volunteering at various prisons because of this selfless act and generous gift. By the way he did this for other inmates as they were released as well.

Watching Keane and Ann in the way they blessed the inmates through God's love, I was reassured of God's call on my life, to minister to the lost, as Keane and Ann had ministered to me and so many others. I feel I am a prison ministry chaplain today partly because of the spiritual, moral, and financial support and encouragement from Keane and Ann over the years. By the way for you who do not know it, Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry will be 36 years old in March of 2023, so they

had a long-lasting influence in my life as they have had in many others'. I could go on and on about how much I love Keane and Ann, but each of you who know them have your own story to share, of how they blessed your life; this is just a small part of how they blessed mine. They are both with the Lord now.



Keane at one of the first
Day of Jubilee Celebrations



Keane and Ann Pugh at
their home.

This is the update for Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry and Bible Readers Outreach Ministry for the months of Dec 2022/ Jan 2023

Bible Readers Outreach Ministries:

In Dec 2022 we mailed out 2751 Bible lessons, enrolled 24 new students, mailed 8 Bibles at \$178.34, 5 Bible dictionaries/concordances at \$91.49. Bible dictionaries/concordances 3 at 59.72 Misc office materials (paper, envelopes, ink, cardstock) \$437.35, Stamps \$394.89 for a total of **\$ 1161.79**
In Jan 2023 we mailed out 277 Bible lessons enrolled 21 new students, mailed 6 Bibles cost of \$122.58, 6 Bible dictionaries/Concordances at \$108.96 and McGee commentaries 3 at 55.32 Misc office materials (paper, envelopes, ink, cardstock) \$208.72 Stamps \$267.40 for a total of \$ 763.02
Total cost for 2022 Lessons mailed 3,536 new lessons 436 Bibles 174 at \$4034.22 Bible dictionaries/concordances 77 at \$1433.41 Bible dictionaries/concordances 71 at \$1122.16 Misc office materials (paper, envelopes, ink, cardstock) \$3569.33 stamps \$5851.22 **total for the year \$16016.34**

Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry Pen Pal Outreach:

In Dec 2022 I wrote 77 letter and received 20 new request during that month for volunteer pen pal . New volunteers to write inmates. 2
In Jan 2023 I wrote 77 letter and received 19 new request during that month for volunteer pen pal . New volunteers to write inmates. None
I also received 1 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?

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**

Questions and answers to quiz

Answers for Jan/Feb 2023

1. Tax collectors and prostitutes (Matt. 21:31)
2. His son (Matt. 21:37)
3. Killed him (Matt. 21:39)
4. The capstone/cornerstone (Matt. 21:42)
5. A king (Matt. 22:2)
6. A wedding for his son 6. (Matt. 22:2)
7. They ignored, mistreated, and killed them
8. (Matt. 22:5-6) The streets/ street corners
9. (Matt. 22:9-10) Wedding clothes
10. (Matt. 22:13) Into outer darkness, the place of weeping and gnashing of teeth

Questions for March/April 2023

1. What was the value of the coin used for the tax that Jesus asked to see?
2. Whose portrait was on the coin that Jesus asked to see?
3. What opposition group quizzes Jesus on marriage at the resurrection?
4. How many brothers were in the marriage/resurrection question Jesus was asked?
5. Jesus said that at the resurrection people do not marry similar to what unmarried group?
6. Who asked Jesus which was the greatest commandment in the law?
7. Whose son did the Pharisees agree the Messiah would be?
9. Jesus said the Pharisees wouldn't lift one thing to

- help people. What was it?
10. What did the Pharisees wear wide on their clothing?

Here is a joke send by an inmate out of a paper.

When he was ten years old, a boy went on a cross country trip with his family. They had seen the Grand Canyon and the world's largest ball of string and today they were going to see the man with the best memory in the world. The man was a Native American, and he entertained visitors at his home in Arizona. The boy was very intrigued but struggled with how to test the man's memory. When he met the man, all the boy could think to ask was, "What did you have for breakfast on my

birthday, April 2, 1950?" The man quickly answered – Eggs. The boy walked away disappointed in himself at not asking a better question, but it was time to go. The boy vowed to return, and he did, 10 years later. In the meantime, the boy became fascinated with Native American culture, even learning a little of the language. So upon meeting the man for the second time the boy greeted the man with a traditional greeting in his language, "How." "Scrambled," said the man.

If you have a Joke, poem for the newsletter please feel free to send it to us.