

Sept/Oct 2023

One of the first Day of  
Jubilee



CHANGING LIVES FROM THE INSIDE OUT

# Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry Newsletter

The day of Jubilee will be held at Living Word Christian Fellowship on Sept. 30th and will start at 10:30 AM. The address for your GPS is Living Word Christian Fellowship, 5150 Lowesville Road, Arrington, VA 22922. As always, we will have prayer to begin the service and praise songs to lift up the Lord and show appreciation for all God continues to do in and through this ministry in these 37 years. Remember because of Covid, we had to cancel the celebration in 2020, so this is only number 36 as far as the celebrations go. In the November newsletter, we will share pictures from this Jubilee and share some of the happenings, but if you want to know what goes on earlier, come and enjoy it for yourself. Last year we had more ex-offenders attend and share their testimonies. Many of them have been out a long time and are now involved in prison ministry. Some of them we have shared the Word

with and what a blessing to see them still serving the Lord and giving God all the glory for their new life. I love everything about the Jubilee, but I think one of the favorite things people enjoy is the testimonies from former inmates about their new life, and the testimonies as to how the pen pal ministry was such a blessing for them to receive letters from people who showed God's love for them. Then on the other side, the volunteers who attend also share how much of a blessing they also get hearing from those former inmates who were seeking a personal relationship with the Lord and that volunteer was able to be a part of that journey. If this is not enough to make someone interested in coming, add to this a wonderful meal and time to fellowship with those you might not have seen since the last Jubilee celebration. By the way, if you are interested in attending, you can bring your family, and if you know someone

who has been incarcerated, they are welcome to come with their family. The celebration is family friendly. We are praying for a good attendance, and hopefully the ex-inmates who came last year will attend again. You can write to us for any information at the e-mail address at the bottom of this page. If you want to bring a covered dish, dessert, drinks, or anything else, you are welcome to. We will provide the bulk of the main dishes and will appreciate if someone has a favorite dish they would like to share. We have a full kitchen with two stoves and two microwaves to warm the food up. We also have a handicap ramp and two handicap bathrooms.

**Chairman:** Tim Miller **Board Members:** Jon Freivald,  
Rhonda Via, Steve Via, Joe Faus, & Colin Whitehouse

**Secretary/Treasurer:** Lisa Miller

**Chaplain/Executive Director, Founder:** Ronald R. Baker

**Editors:** Lindsey Wynder, Phoebe King

**Web Administrator:** Mike King

**Ministry Outreaches Available:**

In - Prison Ministry - After Care - Support Groups - Pen Pal (letter writing)

Mentoring - Family Ministry - Youth

Ministry training seminars available for local churches

**Website** [www.jailandprisonministries.org](http://www.jailandprisonministries.org)

**Email:** [rrbak@juno.com](mailto:rrbak@juno.com)

## What is the number one priority in your life?

In Judges and throughout the Bible, the Israelites continue to walk away from God to serve the gods of the people around them. God commanded them to get rid of all the idol worshipers in the land He had given them. Most every tribe allowed those pagans to remain for one reason or another. Jehovah had brought them out of slavery in Egypt, through the wilderness, and given them the possessions He had promised their forefathers. Through all of this, they were a stiff-necked, rebellious, and hard-hearted people. Still God loved them and continued to forgive them and save them from the messes they got themselves into. Their God defeated every other so-called god of any of the nations they went up against; He showed Himself superior in every way.

Still each time they reverted to serving the gods of the people Jehovah had conquered. Why is it, when they had a winner in Jehovah they strayed to a non-existent god? Throughout the book of Judges, they changed between serving the One true God and a god which their God had proved inferior, even non-existent. When they served these false gods on one too many occasions, God told them in Judges 10: 13-16 13 **“Yet ye have forsaken me, and served other gods: wherefore I will deliver you no more. 14 Go and cry unto the gods which ye have chosen; let them deliver you in the time of your tribulation. 15 And the children of Israel said unto the LORD, We have sinned: do thou unto us whatsoever seemeth good unto thee; deliver us only, we pray thee, this**

day. 16 And they put away the strange gods from among them, and served the LORD: and his soul was grieved for the misery of Israel.”

Are there any hidden idols you are serving or that you are putting before Jehovah and His commandment, “if you love me then obey me”?

I certainly see lots of people today who instead of allowing God to be number one in their life, they have allowed so many things to take positions over God being number one, and in fact sometimes He is at the bottom of their list. Check your heart and see where you place God in your life.

## The Pen Pal Ministry is growing. Are you involved yet?

I am always happy to share about the pen pal ministry, both to hopefully interest those who would like to join to do so and to praise God for how smoothly it is running with the volunteers I have and the blessing of being able to keep up with the inmates I have on my list who are still looking for volunteers to write to them. I get so many first time letters who I write and explain what the ministry does and things we do not get involved in. The letters show sincere appreciation that

someone is willing to write to them even though they are in prison. To receive that kind of appreciation makes the pen pal ministry well worth the work put into it. Some of these individuals have never read the Bible, and now that they have lost everything, they want to know all they can about God. I get them involved with the Bible studies that we provide, and they write asking very simple question and hard ones as well seeking to change their life before returning to society. Many gang

members have left their affiliations with the gangs and are seeking a God they had rebelled against all of their earlier life. I do not know what the success rate is for those writing and then staying out of trouble after being released, but there are enough positive cases to allow me to know it is a worthwhile outreach. Come and join us.

## If you have a poem or short testimony you want to share, let us know.

We love to have jokes, short stories, or testimonies to share in these newsletters. We were getting short jokes from some inmates for a while and lots of poems, but those things have dried up. Even if you are not an inmate and would like to share something, please feel free to e-mail it to us for a future newsletter. We can make larger spaces which would hold around 450 words, but we provide lots of spaces for shorter articles. The last page of the newslet-

ter has updates on the Bible lessons, Bibles and books mailed out each month as well as how many letters were written and how many new pen pals are seeking volunteers. There are also some Bible question for those interested and the answers will be sent out in the following newsletter. Since we are not getting many comments on those questions, I am thinking about not putting them in the 2024 newsletters. That will leave more space for

testimonies, short poems, or good clean jokes for us to share or another article. So remember if you run across a good joke or something worth sharing, send it along. Also remember the need for volunteers for the pen pal outreach and pray for all of the aspects of this ministry and the staff.

When I look around me, over the community where I live and surrounding areas all over, and when I read letters from inmates who have wasted their lives, I find all the reasons I need to pray for the condition society is in. Instead of people looking for a better way, they keep getting more corrupt and practice evil as a norm.

Drugs and alcohol are two of many items defiling the families all over. I know of people who have spent their life thinking that was the way to live, waiting for the next high, wasting away in sin, even when there is a wonderful alternative. I read about people caught up in pornography, child pornography, sex trafficking and all kinds of perverted activities with no signs of remorse. I know, but by the grace of God there go I. I hate to hear selfish righteous people saying how they would never do those

kinds of things, and I feel sorry for them. Anyone is capable of any sin when placed in a certain circumstance when pressures and temptations are too strong and one does not have God in their life. The presence of the Holy Spirit helps the born again believer to not fall into those things, but before the presence of God is in one's life, any sin is possible.

Instead of looking down on the sinners perhaps we need do as 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." Since it is speaking of this prayer coming from a righteous man, we know this righteous one is in Christ, and since it says confess your trespasses, we see this one praying is not perfect without sin yet. We who are saved

still have sin that God is forgiving, and future sin as well. We need to remember in God's eyes, sin is missing the mark. It does not matter by how much we miss the mark, but only that we would all miss the mark without Jesus.

Luke 16:15 "And He said to them, '**You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is highly esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of God.**'" Sin is sin let us pray for all sinners.

## Thanks for all the help the ministry receives.

I want to thank my present and past editors. We could actually use another editor if anyone is interested. I certainly thank my Board Members who help keep the ministry accountable. We thank our overseer and VA conference for also keeping the ministry accountable. I certainly thank our volunteers who go into the prison weekly taking the Word of God in to the men incarcerated. I am thankful for the volunteers who are writing inmates and taking some of the pressure off of me with the pen pals in prison still waiting for a

volunteer who I write. We could not run the ministry as efficiently without the prayers and financial support from so many people and churches. Even though some churches have no longer been able to support us financially, we are blessed and thankful for their prayers and for others who have taken up the call to support us financially. Since our budget is low, we are able to accomplish all we need to, and we have all of the supplies we need. Praise God. I am thankful for the man who keeps our website up-to-date, which is one

less activity I need to do. With my health the way it is, I am very thankful for the help I get with shopping, and I am able to pay others to clean and do repairs around the house. The Board of Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry and the Bible Reader Outreach ministry, who is a vital part of the ministry, are most blessed and thankful.

## "Slow Me Down Lord" from one of my many pen pals.

## Elderly man

Slow me down, Lord  
Ease the pounding of my heart  
By the quieting of my mind  
Steady my hurried pace with a vision  
Of the eternal reach of time  
Give me, amid the confusion of the day  
The calmness of the everlasting hills  
Break the tensions of my nerves and  
Muscles with the soothing music of the  
Singing streams that live in my memory  
Help me to know the magical,

Restoring power of sleep  
Teach me the art of taking minute vacations  
Of slowing down to look at a flower, to chat  
With a friend, to pat a dog, to read a few  
Lines from a good book  
Slow me down, Lord, and inspire me to  
Send my roots deep into the soil of life's  
Enduring values that I may grow  
Toward the stars of my greater destiny.

An Elderly man was having a hard time getting up from a park bench. After struggling few minutes he smiles as a little girl offered to help him. That's very kind of you dear he told her. "But are you really strong enough?" Oh sure she said I've helped my dad when he was drunker than you.

## This is the update for Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry and Bible Readers Outreach Ministry for the months of June/July 20213

### Bible Readers Outreach Ministries:

In June. 2023 we mailed out 253 Bible lessons, enrolled 30 new students, mailed 8 Bibles at \$222.35, 2 Bible dictionaries/concordances at \$31.86. OT Vernon McGee commentaries 3 at 67.22 Misc. office materials (paper, envelopes, ink, cardstock) \$319.15, Stamps \$376.20 for a total of \$ 958.779

In July. 2023 we mailed out 255 Bible lessons enrolled 24 new students, mailed 6 Bibles cost of \$169.02, 7 Bible dictionaries/Concordances at \$137.86 and OT Vernon McGee commentaries 3 at 58.50 Misc. office materials (paper, envelopes, ink, cardstock) \$0. Stamps \$582.95 for a total of \$ 1055.19

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

In June 2023 I wrote 81 letter and received 13 new request during that month for volunteer pen pal . New volunteers to write inmates. None

In July 2023 I wrote 72 letter and received 23 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 sent it to one of my volunteers and he wrote this fellow.

So far this year I have written 540 letters and gotten 124 new request for a pen pal. I have around 91 inmates still looking for a pen pal.

### 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. Donations can be sent to the address below and will be used to further the Jail & Prison Ministry. Make checks payable to:

“Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry”

Ronald R. Baker, Chaplain

6166 Helens Way, Schuyler, VA 22969-9607

For gifts for the Bible Reading Outreach Ministry, make checks payable to:

“The Bible Reading Outreach Ministries”

Barbara Holmes

3152 Glenn Husky Road, Sevierville, TN 37862

## Questions and answers to quiz

### Answers for July/Aug

- 1.) Mount of Olives (Matt. 24:3)
- 2.) wars (Matt. 24:6)
- 3.) Love (Matt. 24:12)
- 4.) Pregnant and nursing mothers (Matt. 24:19)
- 5.) Messiahs and prophets (Matt. 24:24)
- 6.) Sun and the moon (Matt. 24:29)
- 7.) Jesus' words (Matt. 24:35)
- 8.) The father (Matt. 24:36)
- 9.) Noah (Matt. 24:37)
- 10.) A field (Matt. 24:40)

### Questions for Sept/Oct 2023

1. What were the two women grinding with when one was taken and the other was left?
2. In the parable, how many virgins took their lamps to go out and meet the bridegroom?

3. How many virgins were foolish and how many wise?
4. What did the foolish virgins forget to take with them?
5. At what time did the bridegroom show up?
6. In the parable of the talents, the man gave each servant talents based on what?
7. What did the person with one talent do with his money?
8. The master complimented the servants by saying, “Well done \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ servant.”
9. What kind of man did the servant with one talent think his master was?
10. Where was this worthless servant thrown?

### Good Job Reference?

My son is the manager of a glass and window company and advertised in the paper for experienced glaziers.

Since a good glass man is hard to find, he was pleased when a man who called about the job said he had over 20 years of experience.

“Where have you worked as a glazier?” my son asked.

The man replied, “Dunkin’ Doughnuts.”

A minister wound up the services one morning by saying, “Next Sunday I am going to preach on the subject of liars. And in connection, as a preparation for my sermon, I would like you all to read the 17th chapter of Mark.”

On the following Sunday, the preacher rose to being and said, “Now then, all of you who have done as I requested and read the 17th chapter of Mark, please raise your hand.” Nearly every hand in the congregation went up. Then said the preacher, “You are the people I want to talk to. There is no 17th chapter of