

Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry

Newsletter July/Aug 2024

Changing Lives From the Inside Out

A ladies' Testimony

I grew up in church I gave my life to God at age 7. I lived for God all through my childhood and teenage years. Then in my mid twenties I lost my grandmother and I gave up on life I was mad and angry at God for taking my grandmother so within 2 years I turned my back on God walked out of marriage and family. I got with my ex boyfriend and started on a path of self destruction with getting into the bisexual and gay lifestyle and pornography meeting people off the internet for sex and was on the road leading straight to hell for 11 months. Then I find myself in jail facing 70 years for a sex crime that ultimately destroyed my life, my reputation I had finally hit the bottom of the bottomless pit all I could do was look up and cry for God's mercy and to save me from myself and He did He sat me down in prison for 17 ½ years to get my attention. Then on December 14, 2012 my world fell apart I lost my dad I was so angry at God I hated Him and turned away from anything to do with God I went and lived my life on my own terms I was still in the gay lifestyle and I had several girlfriends and turned the natural into the unnatural use of my body. Then the end of October 2020 I had reached the end of my rope. I was tired of being judges rejected Pastors not having anything to do with me telling me I was going to hell so I had made up my mind I did not want anything to do with Christianity, God and I did not even want to hear anything. I called my

sister told her what I was doing she asked me to give her 48 hours. Within 24 hours she had me Bro Townsend information and that he was waiting for my call. So November 3 2020 I called him expecting to get turned away But he did not turn me away. The only way to say it happened was a divine intervention. He was the first person in 17 years to accept me gave me hope He has been there with me through the last year of my sentence He worked with me showed me the Truth showed me what a real Christian was. He was praying for me and through him you the church family voted 100% that I belonged there at the church you all accepted me without knowing anything about me or who I was. God knew all along who I needed and by your prayers, your acceptance, your love for God and others is what brought me out of Hell. I was physically released on 12-17-2021 after serving 17 years 2 months 21 days. I have probation for 5 years so they were not letting me go to church but again Bro. Townsend and the church family went to bat for me my probation officer gave permission for Bro. Townsend to baptize me at the church with no one there so that was December 31st 2021 Bro Townsend called me asked me when I wanted to do it. So I decided that I am starting a new life and a new journey I wanted to start off on the right foot so Saturday January 1, 2022 he baptized me in Jesus name here at the church. From

that day until March 7, 2022 we fought probation for me to be able to attend services finally on March 9th 2022 on a Wednesday night. I stepped foot in the door of new life church. Immediately I felt love, & peace. I felt that I had come home from a long journey I was the prodigal daughter coming home. It has only gotten stronger every time I step foot in this door so my new journey began. God used each one of you to show me what love, acceptance and hope looked like. It is through your prayers fasting teaching and acceptance that I was totally and ultimately set free on July 10, 2022 when God filled me with the Holy Ghost. Thank you for opening up your lives, heart, church to this Prodigal Daughter. Thank you for all of you who has helped me these last 9 months. Thank you all for the sacrifice you've made on getting me to the services. I love each and every one of you. You all are in my heart and you are my family. I am honored to be named among you. New life is the perfect name for this church because of you this church has given me a new life.

By: Barbara Sellers
12-22-2022

Board Chairman:
Jon Freivald
Secretary/Treasurer:
Lisa Miller
Other Board Members:
Tim Miller, Joe Faus,
Colin Whitehouse,
Ronald R. Baker
Founder/Chaplain
Executive
Director
Non- Board
Member Editors:
Lindsey Wydner
Phoebe King

Ministry Outreaches
Available:

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

Ministry training
seminars are availa-
ble for local
churches.

Pictures 2023's Jubilee



Next month will be the 38th Day Of Jubilee

In March of 2024 this ministry began its 39th year of ministry. We are very thankful for all of the support from those who help physically in the working of the ministry. Like the volunteers who actually go into the prisons. The Bible Outreach Ministry, mailing out the 100's of Bible studies those who are in constant prayer for all of the workers and for those who look at this ministry of being worthy of their financial giving. We always pray for an interesting turn out for the Jubilee, as

we try to invite new released inmates to share their testimonies. However in VA the parole Board is not releasing many men each year. In fact at Buckingham there are men who have been turned down for parole after 47 years of going up year after year with a perfect institutional record for the last 30 years. Without Christ these men and women would have lost hope years ago, so that is one of the best reasons for prison ministries taking the love of God and His precious Word into them.

We want to reassure them there is hope in Jesus. Even in prison being turned down for parole the same trivial reasons all those years, many of the Christians hold fast to their relations with Jesus and they are encouraged and lifted up by the volunteers taking the Word of God to them and showing His love to them. ³⁶ I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me. Matthew 25:36 Let us continue praying for those incarcerated.

Up date on Ministry for 2024 so far.

Lets start with thanksgiving for all of the prayer support from inmates all over as they pray daily and mention in the letter they are praying an responding to our request mentioned for prayer. Along with their prayers we also have many individuals and church as a whole praying for us and these much needed prayers are greatly appreciated. As in every ministry there are expenses and for the financial supporters we can not thank you enough for feeling we are worthy of you support even as the cost of living is much higher each day.

We now had Some fresh volunteers going into the two prisons we are minister in and we are asking for prayer that hey will remain strong since the institutions do not make it easy to serve the Lord since it add work for the officers and other staff.

Here are some prayer request for everyone. Pray for the Board members, pray for the volunteers who work to share God's Word and His love to those society would just as soon forget.

I have noticed a great loss of memory as I work each day on the ministry work. Doing Bible lessons, do messages for when I preach, and as I have to

use the Internet to look up inmates and their crimes before I give them a pen pal. I can look at something and as I try to move to what I am looking for what I am trying for find I often have to stop and try to remember what I was thinking just a few minutes ago. I have explained this to my board and although it might take longer for me to do my work it is still be accomplished by the grace of God and lots of prayer on my part and for many of you. I mention this for special prayer for God to allow me to keep doing the work of the ministry until He takes me home, and if He take me home while the ministry is still a part of His plan He will provide someone enthusiastic and qualified to run the ministry according to God's perfect will.

The inmates need prayer for more humane treatment, such as better meals, not being lockdown so often when it is not necessary to the security of the prison, The was the mailing system if causing he mail go to through third party places to be checked for drug residue prayer sprayer on the letter or the envelope. This entails the letter being copies and sent electronically to the inmate which makes the letter even longer getting to the pen pal. Plus in order for the inmate to get the elec-

tronic letter in he or she does not have a tablet they have to use a kiosk machine and there are a lot of inmates using it so that also make it even longer for them to get their mail.

Jay-pay is a good way to write individual if you only writing to individuals in the same state, but each state has differed rules and prices so for this ministry it would be very confusing to have an account it each of the 50 states where we write.

Please pray for the shortage on officers and staff in the prisons all over the USA. Many prisons have the inmate's counselors doing so much work that the work with or for in inmate take the back seat. So when an inmate get close to his release date it is hard to almost impossible for him or her to get help with a home plan what is necessary for an inmate to be released on parole or probation.

Pray that incarcerated peoples and their families will receive a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus. Pray that God will fulfill the dream of Restoration House where men can be paroled upon release. Pray that the D.O.C. reduces the burden on volunteers and pen pals.

Lets not forget the upcoming Day of Jubilee Sept 8th

We invite you to the 38 day of Jubilee being held on Sept 28 at Living Word Christian Fellowship Church at 5150 Lowesville Rd. Arrington VA 22922. The event will start at 10:30 with praise songs to celebrate Jesus and all He continues to do to for this ministry over all of these years and in the years still before us. We will have testimonies from ex-inmates who are been released and have been serving the Lord for years proving that sharing the Word of God is the prison is not a waste of time and instead truly "changes the lives from the inside out." We will take time to show our appreciation for the volunteers who wrote letters to those incarcerated and on the flip side we will hear from ex-offenders who have benefited from letter leading them to Jesus. We also

share Bible lesson mailed to them along with Bibles and other study materials to help them grow closer to God. Thanks for Bible Readers Outreach Ministries from TN who joined us back in 2018, praise the Lord for them. There will be a wonderful meal and if you have a favorite dish you would like to share feel free to bring them. We always provide a main dish and, tea and lemon aid, if you prefer soft drinks please brings enough to share and desert. We always have deserts to share but we always enjoy those people bring that they specific enjoy baking. While the meal is going on it will e a time of fellowship, since many of the people coming might not of seen since last year's Jubilee. Usually after the meal as some people begin to leave we appreciate anyone to

help with the clean up as we do with the early arrivers who help with the set up. We do not rush people who want to fellowship, but it seems things always work out that everyone has a good time plenty to eat and wonderful fellowship.

We want all to know although the meal f a wonderful part of the time together, Praising God for His keeping this ministry active and successful is out main focus. With God anointing we will be able to do no good work. We also want to appreciate off the volunteers who work with us, those who actually go into the prisons, those who pray for and those who support us financially . We has much to be thankful for. Please come and enjoy a time of praising the Lord.

This is the update for Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry and Bible Readers Outreach Ministry for the months of Non/Dec 2024

Bible Readers Outreach Ministries:

In April, 2024 we mailed out 232 Bible lessons, enrolled 36 new students, mailed 11 Bibles at \$239.18, 4 Bible dictionaries/concordances at \$75.22. Old testament Vernon Magee concordances 3 & @ \$76.46 Misc. office materials (paper, envelopes, ink, cardstock) \$200.00, Stamps \$101.60 for a total of \$ 692.46

In May 2024 we mailed out 237 Bible lessons enrolled 16 new students, mailed 6 Bibles cost of \$151.70 1 Bible dictionaries/Concordances at \$17.42 and 4 Old testament Vernon Magee concordances \$99.55 Misc. office materials (paper, envelopes, ink, cardstock) \$0 Stamps \$0 for a total of \$ 268.67 +

Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry Pen Pal Outreach:

In April 2024 I wrote 51 letter and received 18 new request during that month for volunteer pen pal . New volunteers to write inmates. None

In may 2024 I wrote 39 letter and received 6 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 had translated . So I could read and try to write back. I used Google translator to translate my letter into Spanish since I do not have any Hispanic volunteers. Then I had is checked to see if it seemed correct.

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.

"God's Words of Love for Us to Live by"

1 John 4:7-8... "Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love" ...When we love...we heal, bring peace, calm the anxious and show the lost they are worthy. As one in the love of Christ.

Luke 7:34... "The Son of man came eating and drinking, and you say, "Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners" ...The love of God applies to us all. Whether we are sinners or are fleeing from sin. The state of our sin is irrelevant to God. He loves us equally, so we then know he died for us, for our sins. No matter the sin who have or will commit.

John 3:16... "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten son. That whosoever believe in Him should not per-

ish, but have everlasting life" ...Imagine that? He freely gave us His son to die, so we can live. Then as we honor the greatest gift ever given to humanity, we Love as he would want us to. That is the answer for all of mankind.

Romans 5:8... "But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" ...That is Love. God is Love.

John 15:13... "Greater love hath no man than this: that a man lay down his life for one's friends" ...Are we ready to sacrifice for Christ, for the ones we love, for this world? The smallest act of humility in servitude is the purest form of our sacrifices for another, through God's love.

Romans 5:5... "And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us" ... Our shame, guilt, remorse, past; died

with Christ on the cross. Walk in the light of His love, then these human detriments fade away into the mist, and the hand of God emerges and guides you to paradise. Believe, it does exist.

John 4:16... "And so, we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them" ...The union of our spiritual life is sealed in the love Jesus died for. We must seek it, live it and above all, share it. Then the union expands and healing through Christ takes over.

1 Peter 4:8... "Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins" ...Sin dissipates in proportion to the love we absorb and then manifest from God.

"Loved and Loving"

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

Web site www.jailandprisonministries.org (434) 831-2593

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