

March/April  
2024

# Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry Newsletter

Changing Lives From the Inside Out

Bible Reading Outreach Ministry : Barbara Holmes

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During the year 2023, we saw many blessings from the Lord. The Lord has added many men and ladies to the Bible lessons. We are thankful for each one. Some will stay with the lessons and continue even after they go home. However, some who are in jail will take them as long as they are incarcerated, and much to our sorrow, they have no church to go to when they get out, and they have no help to keep them interested in the Bible.

We always send out the first lesson in John as John 3:16 tells them how much God loves them. Our hope is to give them as much as we can showing God's love and His salvation. Our prayer is that we plant a seed, and we know God will water it.

There are many things we have been able to do for the men as they study different books of the Bible. They get a Bible of their own after they take 4 lessons in John, and as they get farther into God's Word, they are sent

other books to help them with their studies. We also send out birthday cards for each participant, and we get letters telling us how thankful they were for the card. Many of the prisoners never hear from outsiders. We also send other kinds of cards when needed like a death in their family or a hospitalization.

Through the last 30+ years, I have seen many miracles in people's lives and wonderful changes as they go from living for the world to living for the LORD. This makes all our efforts worth it. When we get a new person telling us that a cellmate told them about the LORD, and they want to start the Bible lessons, we praise God for that cellmate who shined the light of Jesus in words and action.

Many of the men have started sending either money or stamps to help keep the ministry going. In the letters they send, they say they want to be a part of spreading God's Love. It's amaz-

ing how God works in each individual life to further His kingdom!

We give thanks to the LORD for the many who are taking the lessons and have never been incarcerated.

We are thankful for the men and ladies that have gone home and still do the lessons. Some have been with us for more than 20 years.

We desire your prayers for the ministry that we can reach more men and ladies in 2024 than we did in 2023. Pray for the men and ladies that do the lessons that God's Word will turn their lives around as they see their need for a Savior. Pray for the men and ladies that are witnessing for the LORD to those around them.

I close in love and thankfulness for what God has allowed us to do all these years. Great is His faithfulness.

Pray the Holmes family for health and peace.

Every year in March, we reach the anniversary of the date the ministry began. This year, thanks to many of you who supported us with prayer and finances along with the Lord looking over us, we go into year 39. I cannot express with words the blessing it has been for this ministry to have been able to work with the men and women incarcerated and share their joy and comfort in their sorrow. As much as we hope to have been a blessing to them, we know they have certainly been a wonderful blessing to us as well. Please continue praying for the success of this ministry and thanks for all you have already done for us.

## DOC Counselor's Job Description

Matt. 6:28-34 <sup>28</sup>“So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; <sup>29</sup>“and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. <sup>30</sup>“Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more *clothe* you, O you of little faith? <sup>31</sup>“Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ <sup>32</sup>“For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. <sup>33</sup>“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. <sup>34</sup>“Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day *is* its own trouble.

Provide comprehensive case management services by ensuring all relevant classification paperwork is timely, accurate and complete. Ensure inmates are appropriately employed during their incarceration. The position focuses on inmate release planning and performing case management/counseling for adult inmates, which includes classification. Promotes the development of self and staff through providing training. Acts as a role model by providing guidance/direction for inmates in a correctional facility, which enhances facility security and promotes long-term pro-social behaviors.

However, I once spoke to an inmate who was talking about things he needed done, and I mentioned his counselor should be helping him with that. He said “I have been here two years and I have never seen my counselor.” Later on as I got to know this man, he went up for parole. Many months went by and he did not hear anything. A year passed and still nothing. I came in for Bible study and happened to ask if he had heard anything yet and he said no. So I told him to contact his counselor and ask her. After a week or so he got his answer. It was a turn down. It had been in her office for over 6 months. People make mis-

takes, we all know, but these things happen way too often. The main thing that troubles me is when an inmate with no family is going up for parole, they need a home plan, a place to go acceptable by the state, and these counselors do not do anything to help them find a halfway house or a place they can be released to. If they do not have a home plan, many times this hinders them being granted parole. Please pray for this situation.

## Officers in the DOC: When are They Going to be Accountable?

It seems that ever since the so called pandemic, the DOC continued to used covid as a reason to shut down programs and schools. Sometimes a man might have a cold in a building across the compound, and they might say it could be covid, so they shut down the entire compound for a week or so even if the inmate only has a cold. That way the officers get a break and do

less since there will not be any programs for them to watch over. I am also hearing of more officers mistreating inmates in other states. Of course, I always take complaints from inmates with a grain of salt since they do not always tell it like it is. But when I hear this over and over from so many various institutions, some of this mistreatment has to be true. The worst

thing about this is that these officers do not seem to face any accountability. Since most all of the prisons are short of staff, they are not willing to fire anyone and make it any worse. This should not be so, and we need to be praying for God to put a stop to these cruel treatments of these inmates.

## Speaking of lonely, do you need someone to write to?

I understand there are a lot of elderly people home bound who might not get a lot of visits. One way for them to have regular communication with someone is to volunteer as a pen pal. Most of the time they might get a letter a week, since it takes a while for the letter to get to the inmate and for their letter to get back to the

volunteer. So it would not be overwhelming on them but think of the joy these two could bring to each other, sharing the love of God with each other. Although I look at this as a double blessing for the volunteer and equally to the inmate, I do not seem to have too many elderly individuals or couples volun-

teering as pen pals. However, older people are not the only people we are looking for as volunteers. We want people who see this outreach as a way for them to play their part in spreading the gospel to the lost. Praise the Lord!

## Spring Starts March 19th and We are Ready!

I have often said of all four seasons, spring and fall are my favorites. Spring because everything seems new with the trees and lawns coming alive again after a winter's rest. The weather is warming up from the winter cold, but it is pleasant as one looks ahead to what the heat of summer will bring. Fall comes after enduring the hot days of summer and enjoying the cooler temperatures before the cold of winter starts back up. One thing for sure, even though I have my favorites, I am glad here in VA we get a taste of all four seasons.

I think of life and how we have good times and trying

times. I enjoy all of the times when everything is going well. I am in fair health, and no real problems at the moment. However, when I look back at the trials in my life and seeing how God got me through them, I get excited about how much Jesus loves and cares for me. I know it is said that without the hard or trying times, we would not enjoy the good times as much. I praise God for all the lessons Jesus has taught me.

As I look back at a lost and useless life before I knew Christ, I realize I have so much to be thankful for. I used to wonder why me? Why would God die to pay

for my sins, when I never appreciated all the things He was doing for me and never acknowledge it was Him watching over me while I lived a life which was an abomination in His eyes? Yet He still loved me. When I share Jesus with the lost, I know they want a quick fix. I know I did. They really do not want to hear to pray, read their Bible, and things will get better after they repent of their sin and receive Jesus. After a while, I see the Holy Spirit get involved, things fall into place, and God is glorified.

John 15:1-5

**“<sup>1</sup>I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.<sup>2</sup>Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.<sup>3</sup>You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.<sup>4</sup>Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.<sup>5</sup>I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.”**

## Palm Sunday March 24th & Easter March 31st

We pray that you enjoy your palm Sunday service glorifying Jesus and the experiences He will face during the week before His sacrificial death on the cross to pay for our sin. He chose to die for our sin. No one took His life. He gave it for those who believe in Him. Many prophesies were fulfilled during this week. While celebrating Palm Sunday, it would be very beneficial if you read all of what happened during His triumphant entry into Jerusalem and all of the praise He received. Everything sounds great, but if you miss all of the happenings of the week, you will not see the entire picture. Sure the pastor will go over much of everything in his sermon, which is great, but why not experience it personally by studying for yourself first before the service?

Beginning in Luke 19, Jesus weeps over Jerusalem. **“<sup>41</sup>Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it.<sup>42</sup>saying, “If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.<sup>43</sup>“For days will come upon you when your enemies will build**

**an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side,<sup>44</sup> “and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation.”** He cleanses the temple (19:45-46). He teaches the Passover crowds (19:47-48). He contends with the Jewish rulers in chapter 20: **“<sup>1</sup>Now it happened on one of those days, as He taught the people in the temple and preached the gospel, that the chief priests and the scribes, together with the elders, confronted Him<sup>2</sup>and spoke to Him, saying, “Tell us, by what authority are You doing these things? Or who is he who gave You this authority?”<sup>3</sup>But He answered and said to them, “I also will ask you one thing, and answer Me:<sup>4</sup>“The baptism of John—was it from heaven or from men?”** He shared a parable that seemed to reflect on the character of the Jewish leaders about the evil vinedressers (20:9-19). He deals again with the Pharisees about taxes (20:20-26). He gives an answer to the Sadducees about the resurrection (20:27-40). He shares a story about a widow who gave all

she had (21:1-4). Jesus warns the Jews about the destruction of the temple (21:5-24). The Jewish leaders begin to plot against Jesus and Judas joins in the conspiracy (22:1-6). Thursday Jesus prepares for the Passover in chapter 22: **“<sup>7</sup>Then came the Day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover must be killed.<sup>8</sup>And He sent Peter and John, saying, “Go and prepare the Passover for us, that we may eat.”<sup>9</sup>So they said to Him, “Where do You want us to prepare?”<sup>10</sup>And He said to them, “Behold, when you have entered the city, a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water; follow him into the house which he enters.<sup>11</sup>“Then you shall say to the master of the house, ‘The Teacher says to you, “Where is the guest room where I may eat the Passover with My disciples?”’<sup>12</sup>“Then he will show you a large, furnished upper room; there make ready.”<sup>13</sup>So they went and found it just as He had said to them, and they prepared the Passover.”** Jesus celebrates Passover and introduces the Lord's Supper (22:14-23). We see a dispute among the disciples (22:24-30). We see Peter is warned he will

deny Jesus three time before the rooster crows and Peter argues he would never do such a thing (22:31-34). Jesus agonizes in the garden as He prays while the disciples sleep even after they were warned to watch and pray that they do not fall into temptation (22:39-46). We see Jesus' arrest (22:47-53). Friday, we see Peter's denial (22:54-62), Jesus mocked and beaten (22:63-65), the trial before the Sanhedrin (22:66-71), the indictment before Pilate (23:1-5), the hearing before Herod (23:6-12), Pilate's verdict (23:13-25), the crucifixion (23:26-49), and the burial of Jesus (23:50-56).

Now with us sharing these events, don't you want to spend time with your family or individually reviewing these events since Jesus did it all for us?

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

**Bible Readers Outreach Ministries:**

In Dec. 2023 we mailed out 234 Bible lessons, enrolled 20 new students, mailed 8 Bibles at \$352.00, 8 Bible dictionaries/concordances at \$155.47. Old Testament Vernon McGee Commentaries 3 at 57.14 Misc. office materials (paper, envelopes, ink, card-stock) \$472.09, Stamps \$580.87 for a total of 1423.12

In Jan. 2024 we mailed out 238 Bible lessons enrolled 33 new students, mailed 13 Bibles cost of \$245.98, 5 Bible dictionaries/Concordances at \$84.33 Old Testament Vernon McGee Commentaries 2 at \$43.18 Misc. office materials (paper, envelopes, ink, card-stock) \$511.89 Stamps \$461.20 for a total of \$ 1523.74

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

In Dec. 2023 I wrote 44 letter and received 15 new request during that month for volunteer pen pal . New volunteers to write inmates. None

In Jan. 2024 I wrote 45 letter and received 18 new request during that month for volunteer pen pal . New volunteers to write inmates. None

I also received 2 letter written 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?

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.

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 a cow doesn't produce milk is it a milk dud or an udder failure?

**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.

For gifts for the Jail & Prison Ministry, checks should be made payable to "Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry" and mailed to:

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For gifts for the Reading Outreach Ministry, checks should be made payable to "The Bible Reading Outreach Ministries" and mailed to:

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