

# Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry Newsletter

*Changing lives from the inside out*

Nov / Dec 2024

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**Ministry training**  
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**available for local**  
**churches.**

## Merry Christmas

Certainly Christmas should be a wonderful time of year when families get to gather and enjoy this day of rejoicing that Jesus was born to dies for the sin of those who would believe. However, what about the families who have members in the service in a far-off country, living in danger all of the time? How about a family who has prodigal children somewhere and the rest of the family has no contact with them? A family which might have a prodigal father or mother they are concerned about who is living in sin and in danger of hell's fires? Then there are the prodigal who have been caught in sin and are now incarcerated and are paying for the laws they broke. This might not be a very cheerful time for these families, or there might be a family who thinks a holiday is a time for excessive drinking. I have experienced some of these ways of "celebrating"

a Christian Holiday and there was no peace or joy involved. When I was in prison at first I might have shared that holidays were a time of sadness, not joy. As I looked back year after year, I figured out why I was missing things that were not the priority of the holiday. Some of the things I missed were not even godly things and had nothing to do with the birth of Jesus, like the drinking and parties. Then of course I missed family, but when I thought about how much time I actually spent with family when I was free, it really was not that much time. Finally God showed me, in the depths of my heart, the true reason to celebrate. It had nothing to do with anything I missed and allowed me to be sad instead in joyful. God showed me Jesus who led a perfect life. Jesus, a man who knew no sin, yet took on my sin to set me free from the presence, power, and punish-

ment of sin. God led me to actually study the Word regarding the birth of Jesus and His death celebrated because of His resurrection on Easter. He opened my heart to the blessing of these precious times to celebrate. Not only these two holidays but also Thanksgiving giving all thanks to Jesus for all of the blessings we receive daily and they go unnoticed as to where they are coming from. From that time on and even now after being free for about 39 years, I celebrate God, Jesus, and the work of the Holy Spirit, and no matter where I am, no matter how things are going, I can have peace and joy because I am saved and one day I will see Him face to face and He will say to me, "Well done, my faithful servant."

## The New Year's Right Around the Corner. What are Your Plans?

As always we here at Rehoboth Jail and Prisons Ministry and The Bible Readers Outreach Ministry are thankful for all of the blessings of God over the last 39 years and for those of you who have prayer for us and those who have supported us financially all these years. I hope you know what an honor and blessing it is to be moving toward starting our 40th year of serving

the Lord in March. I say this all of the time: we could not do what has been done without the anointing of God on this ministry and God blessing so many of you to pray for us and help us pay the bills. On page 4 you will see the letters that went out for Oct/Nov and the Bible lessons and Bibles mailed out to inmates all over the USA. In January we hope to show the total of

everything for 2024. Each time you pray for us, please know God is hearing your prayers and men and women who are incarcerated are having their lives changed from the inside out. Being one of these people, I personally know what it is like have people you do not know show God's love to a soul lost, but looking for a better way.

## A Poem From One of My Past Pen Pals

### Poem When Jesus Looks

My name is Christian James Grand, and it is important for me to express these words.

When Jesus looks upon my life, what picture does He see? Does He see His own reflection, or does He just see me? Does He see His likeness, the product of His hand, or just another Christian who never took a stand? Does He see a child of God, a child that he made free, living life to honor Him, or does He just see me?

What about the other folks I meet along the way? Do I show them Jesus, to brighten up their day? When someone looks into my eyes can they truly see that calm and gentle Peace of God that dwells inside of me? When I reach out and shake a hand, is He right there in my grip? Can they feel that strength from God that steadies when I slip? When folks are in my presence, do they know His spirit is there? Can they see that He is the one who guides me everywhere?

When other people think of me, what is on their mind? Do they think of Jesus Christ, so gentle and so kind? I try to be like Jesus every single day, spreading love and kindness all along the way. I'm afraid that I have failed; I could not pass the test. Deep inside my heart, I know I haven't done my best. I have had to fight my flesh since the day that I was born; it's always causing trouble and being such a thorn. That's why His spirit dwells in me; He's helping me to learn in every situation.

Where I need to turn, He knew I'd never pass the test. That is why He took my place. He gave His life to save my soul, He suffered my disgrace. Now I try to be like Him; I must represent Him well, so other people should see the joy that Christ has given me. They should want to have it too, especially since it is free. They should begin to ask me, what it is they must do. Just how it is they go about getting Jesus too.

Then I go to tell them this wonderful gift is free. It only takes a humble heart, a prayer on bended knee. Some day

when I am face to face with the Lord, who he has made free, will He see His own reflection or will He just see me?

For many years now, I've been trying to better myself. I've been in prison since I was 18 years old. I am now going on 42. I was a kid hooked on meth, robbing Circle K. Received a 17 year term. While in prison, I became worse. I became a member of the Nazi Low Rider prison gang. I spent over 10 years straight in solitary confinement, and S.H.U. (security housing unit). I caught 8 more years in prison to add to my 17 years. January 2003, I was sitting in the S.H.U., helpless, hopeless, in deep despair, losing everyone in my life. The only one that seemed to stay loyal was the devil.

In my darkest moment, I fell to my knees and accepted Jesus into my life. From that point on, I have been on a path of change. The only reason why I came to Jesus was because of prison fellowship and prison ministry. My pen pal stayed writing me while I was an active prison gang member, telling me how much Jesus loved me regardless of what I was going through.

Twenty-three years in prison and I am finally on the tail end of my time. Down to 7 months left. What I know for sure without a shadow of a doubt, if it was not for prison ministry in my life, and countless people volunteering their time to tell me how much Jesus loved me, I wouldn't be here today and that's the God's honest truth.

*This is a man who I started writing in 7/5/13 and he wrote me until he got out 5/15/18. He the second longest writing pen pal I had at that time. He contacted me right before his release. Unfortunately he was back in prison for a parole violation which could of been a minor infraction. He is no longer writing. But he is still in my prayers. I will not give up!*



*This was shared in an earlier article.*

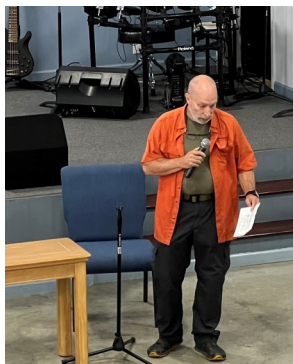
## Pen Pals

How do you become a pen pal? It is very easy and a blessing to share the Word and love of God with those seeking a better way of life. Since I type letters every day, and I only use two fingers to type, I know it does not take a lot of time to sit down, read a letter, and respond to what the person says while adding some of the things you go through in a day. I always suggest for new volunteers to read the brochure on being a pen pal to give them some insight into things to look out for. After reading this brochure, a volunteer should be fully equipped to be a successful witness for the Lord. We only seek Christians for volunteers to write since this ministry is strictly about exalting Jesus and sharing the good news of salvation. There are plenty of pen pal outreaches like dating sites and other sites just for sharing with no Christian message, so when I am asked for a female pen pal for a male inmate, we mail out the first letter which explains what the ministry does and what we do not do. It is the same thing we share with new volunteers in the brochure. We do not pair up male and female pen pals.

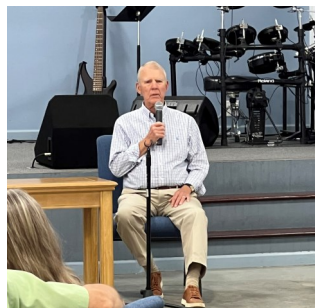
Here is something a volunteer shared with me after repeatedly mentioning the pen pal out reach to her. She finally took a pen pal and after a few letters she asked for another inmate to write. She was so impressed at how spiritually mature her pen pal was and she enjoyed and was blessed by reading the inmate's letters. She initially thought it was going to be a one way blessing, that she would bless the inmate. She wrote these two inmates and shared many times how blessed she was since she became a volunteer.

People think being a pen pal will be a burden to them and it will take time out of their already busy day. Then when they take that first step and find out it is a two way blessing, they are often sorry they did not sign up sooner. I know this is not always the case, even though I screen the inmates with around three letter before I give pen pal. Sometimes the volunteers get a request the inmate has been warned we do not do, but they have the brochure which allows them to know what they might do. Contact us to join us as a volunteer.

# Let's pictures of the 38th Day of Jubilee 2024



Brother Jon Chairman of the board introducing the jubilee 2024



Jim Searcy one of the ministry's Volunteers who helps lead the weekly Bible studies at Dillwyn prison



The Berry family responsible for the some mail dishes of the meal for the jubilees. They provide the main

Tim and Lisa Miller starting the jubilee with praise songs. Lisa is the secretary/ treasury and Tim is also a board member.

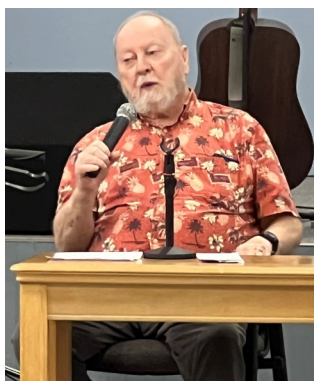


Brother Joe Faus one of the board members and a ex-offender speaking on His life after incarceration and the pen pal outreach of the ministry. He's an Elder in his church.



dished, and Lemonade and some deserts.

Here are some pictures of some of the great food lots of other people brings side dishes and deserts.

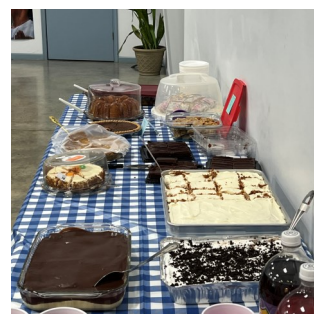


Ron Baker founder, Chaplain of Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry introducing the speakers.



Thomas Truslow ex-offender, has his own electrical business and involved in a ministry to inmates getting out of prison. Speaks on Life with Jesus after prison.

Lots of deserts and while eating a wonderful time for fellowship with people you might not of seen since last Jubilee.



Beke speaking on her mothers Ministry "The Bible Readers Outreach ministry. They give out Bible lessons and Bibles and study materials.



Alvin Yoder ex-offender and board member of Kingsway Ministry in Harrisonburg. Speaks on helping others getting out of prison and how he was helped.



Here are just some of the people attending the jubilee and enjoying the testimonies and praising God for Him Work in this ministry.



This is the update for Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry and Bible Readers Outreach Ministry for the months of Sept 2023/Aug 2024

### Bible Readers Outreach Ministries: for Sept 2023 through Aug. 2024

For the fiscal year of September 2023 - August 2024 the ministry mailed 2,858 Bible lessons; enrolled 295 new students; mailed 108 Bibles at a cost of \$2,897.79; 48 Bible dictionaries/Concordances at \$891.06; Old testament Vernon Magee commentaries 28 at a cost of \$604.47; Misc. office materials (paper, envelopes, ink, cardstock) \$3,047.90 and bought Stamps at a cost of \$6,238.78; for a fiscal year total of \$ 13,841.62.

### Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry Pen Pal Outreach: Letters written and new request from Sept 2023 to Aug 2024

From Sept 2023 till Aug 2024 I wrote letter and received 726 letter in this time and I got 228 new request during that same time. This is down from the previous year more than half

Please keep both The Bible Readers Outreach Ministry and Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry in your prayers.

I received your letter a few days ago. I have been busy filling out forms to get my Veterans money started again. I was in the U.S. Army from 1968 to 1973. I was in the 199<sup>th</sup> Light Infantry in Vietnam.

When I turned eighteen, I went downtown Fresno and enlisted in the U.S. Army because of the war. I reported for basic training at a weight of 187 lbs. (5' 8" tall). During basic I earned "marksman" for the M-14. When I left basic training, I weighed 158 lbs., lean and mean. At that time, it didn't take long to get to Southeast Asia – Vietnam. At that time, I believed in "Survival of the Fittest."

I began seeing combat within weeks. We were fighting the N.V.A. (North Vietnam Army). Combat got good to me: I always wanted to push forward and kill the enemy. I got a "rush" when the napalm was dropped on the enemy and when the 500 lb. bombs were dropped and the concussion from them. I loved the smell of cordite from the 155mm Howitzers (cannons). I was good with my M-14. When my tour of duty ended in 1970, I "re-uped" for another tour of duty, I loved combat that much. I left the army in 1973.

Back in the states, I felt like I had to do something like combat and killing. I got lucky in 1974 and got a job at a steel mill in Portland, Ore. That took the edge off my desires. All my life I believed in evolution and "Survival of the fittest." In 1979, I moved back to Fresno, California, my hometown. Within months, I was in jail for murder. I was sent to San Quentin with a life sentence. San Quentin was famous for the amount of inmate killings. My first year there: 68 inmate murders. There was 5,000 prisoners in San Quentin. I was there for 10 years before I was transferred. I liked San Quentin because it was my idea of "Survival of the fittest." At that time I liked the fact that sex offenders, child molesters, snitches, people who didn't pay their debts, homosexuals, etc. were killed.

When I got transferred to a lower level prison, it was hard for me to get use to. I was in San Quentin for ten years (1979 – 1989). In this lower level there was very few killings. I couldn't understand at first why sex offenders, child molesters, etc. was walking around without being hurt.

As the years went by, I got use to everything. It wasn't until 2013 that I started studying science. After reading how complex DNA was and the human cell, I figured out that this didn't come from evolution. Also, I read in many places that the fossil record is devoid of one singular skeleton of a "man-ape" or transitional fossil. If we evolved from a lesser form such as a ape, there should be millions of these fossils around, since there are billions of people on earth, yet not one has been found. After learning these truths, I decided that "creation" was what happened. I began studying the Bible. My main point of interest at first was the Resurrection of Jesus. After reading what I could in the Gospel's, and some secular sources, I came to the conclusion that Jesus did rise from the grave on the third day. One point stuck in my mind: the 12 Apostles, as a group, was cowards, because when Jesus was arrested, they fled, not one, except for John, backed Jesus. Peter denied he knew Him. But, after they saw the risen Christ, each one of them, except for John, went to their deaths testifying for Christ in front of persecution. I then repented of my sins and accepted Christ as my Savior. Have to go now.

This was a testimony of a pen pal I was writing.

#### 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

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