

Redeeming Love Prison Ministry



BEHIND THE FENCE

AUGUST 2021 ISSUE



Sharla Yoder
Founder & CEO

28 Years of Full-Time Prison Ministry • 8 Correctional Facilities • 35 Volunteers

Redeeming Love Prison Ministry
P.O. Box 487, Broken Arrow, OK 74013-0487

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With Jesus, I've Come Full Circle!

I've always believed in God. When I was age 12, we had the big Baptist bus pick us up for vacation Bible school. If you joined the circle during prayer (to get saved), you got a bag of candy when you got back on the bus. I left home at age 16 (stepmother problems) and never went back. I got married at 18. My husband was 10 years older than me, had lived through the 60s, and introduced me into the world of drugs.

We had five daughters and meth became my drug of choice. It ruined our marriage, and I lost my husband to a drug overdose in 2004. I started getting in trouble with the law, and in 2000 I spent my first 3-month sentence in county jail. My bunk mate during that stay was a lady named Danette. We became good friends

but lost track of each other later.

Ladies from the church would come and preach to us. I would listen from my cot and watch girls go up, get hands laid on them, and fall back under God's power.



Kami Rush
RLPM Ambassador

Towards the end of my stay, I let the lady lay hands on me. I didn't fall back, but I was raised up—I felt like I was floating, and the light seemed so bright, and in my heart I heard God tell me HE

LOVED ME! I believed it and repented for what had landed me in jail.

Later, when I went to court, I was released unexpectedly. I returned to my old ways, but that was the first seed planted.

In 2008, I landed back in Creek County Jail. The church ladies could come into our cell and preach now. I asked one of them for prayer because I was afraid the other girls were going to beat me up. She told me that the Bible says do not fear 365 times—once for every day—and gave me a pretty Bible. That was the second seed planted.

I started reading and highlighting my Bible whenever it said do not fear. When I got out of jail that time, something was different. I

took my Bible home with me and continued reading it every morning.

I had another encounter at a duplex where I was living. A man who would clean a church across the street from me every week knocked on my door and said, "I'm not sure why I'm here, but the Lord told me to come over because you're hungry. We have a potluck every Sunday after service—you don't even have to come to church, just come and eat." So, I went to the church, and they weren't judgmental. They didn't seem to care that I was high as a kite. And I started to see what Jesus' love really was. Third seed planted.

Fast forward to June 2010: God led me to another church, telling me in my heart, "This is your new church home." I soon realized that God created me and knew me better than I knew myself. So, I gave myself to Him and that moment I decided to never do another shot of dope.

It was a rough couple of years quitting drugs, getting my body to function without the drugs, but every morning I still got up and read my Bible. I also started watching different preachers and teachers on TV. I would take notes, and the Lord would lead me every step of the way. At my

new church, I learned all about Jesus and miracles and mercy and grace.

Eventually, I began working for the church, administering over their boot camp. Soon a lady came as a recruit and yes, it was the same Danette from my old life years ago. She had changed her life also and was walking with the Lord! She had just been invited to join the Creek County jail team, and I was able to go to orientation/training and get a badge to go into the jail on "the other side." It was so satisfying, so fulfilling, I knew I'd found my calling!

I was able to share with these girls that they didn't have to stay in the pit. We started a teaching and after six weeks we had 18 out of 21 girls in the pod get saved!

I've wanted to do prison ministry for a while but didn't think it was possible. Then, I was referred to Redeeming Love Prison Ministry. Sharla Yoder invited Danette and I to her monthly prayer meetings. They're such a wonderful group of people—all on fire for the Lord!

Danette and I volunteered to be a Pen Pal with inmates under RLPM during the 2020 lockdowns. I applied to take the training with the Department of Corrections, and recently completed it!

I've come full circle, from one side of the jail bars to the other. I'm so thankful to RLPM for opening doors for me to help minister to those behind bars.

I get to go soon with one of the RLPM teams to EWCC women's prisons, and I can't wait! I can't say enough how good my life is with the Lord in it. I hope to be able to go to more prisons and jails with RLPM and help share the Gospel of Jesus... that they don't have to be in bondage and oppressed—they can live the abundant good life!

If Jesus did it for me, He will do it for anyone!

In God's Love,
Kami Rush
RLPM Ambassador

*You stand before God
as if you were Christ,
because Christ
stood before
God as if He
were you.*

—Charles Spurgeon
PREACHER, AUTHOR
19th Century England

The Zeal of God!

— by Sharla Yoder - April 17, 1991 —

NOTE: Soon after I was ordained (by Pastor Bob Yandian, Grace Church in Tulsa) and preparing to start Redeeming Love Prison Ministry, the Lord inspired me to write this poem. I believe the words are even more significant today, 30 years later! This poem may not be for you, but perhaps for someone you know who could benefit from it. It's also a good "review" for us all.

The "zeal of God" is an eager and intense interest in pursuing HIM. It is important that we, as Christians, not only have a zeal for God, but for the things of God. To be zealous is to have passion in our heart to please God, to do His will and to advance His kingdom and glory! It is His love, passion, and compassion in us for others, which comes from knowing God, His Word, and abiding in His presence! It is joyfully given to help us reach and fulfill our individual God-given destiny!

*The zeal of God, dear friend,
Belongs in your heart
To energize your whole being
And consume every part.*

*Be zealous right now
Before it's too late
Others won't go to hell
But they'll enter heaven's gate!*

*If your effect as a Christian
Has lately been lost,
Return to God and be wise
Repent at all cost!*

*God's love and compassion is key
To His power and great victory.
With a heart full of His fiery zeal
No demon can hope to repeal...*

*In cool or luke-warmness
He will never have pleasure
So, receive from His Spirit
Fervent zeal without measure!*

*Their lives will be changed
To God be ALL glory!
In heaven, we'll rejoice, His
Redeeming love, our great story!*

*Let your heart be ignited
With Holy Ghost fire
God's will for your life
In you, His desire!*

*The last revival is surely upon us
Is Jesus still truly your Lord?
Receive now His flaming zeal
And then many crowns of reward!*

August Prayer Meeting >>> TIME CHANGE <<<

On **August 2**, we will have our monthly prayer meeting at a new time! **Please come at 6:30 P.M.**

Afterwards, we will have some watermelon (seedless), cantaloupe, cookies, and beverages. Please call or email me to let me know you are planning to come! These prayer meetings continue to get better and better as God takes us from glory to glory, Amen!

If you are not on the email list and wish to receive more detailed information, please contact the ministry office by phone or by email.

Details will be sent by email with RSVP required.

We will meet: **Monday, August 2, 2021, at 6:30 PM**

Redeeming Love Prison Ministries
1213 South Willow Avenue,
Broken Arrow, OK 74012
918-252-2772

Please RSVP as soon as possible so we know how many to plan on for food and to set up for. (syoder5@cox.net.) Please watch your e-mail for reminder and details. **Thank you!**

Heart to Heart

— by Sharla Yoder —

I am excited to report to you that our ministry together is moving forward in the prisons and jail! This week we had two services at the Tulsa Jail on Monday and will go to three prisons this weekend.

I am excited too that Sandra McCollom, daughter of Dave and Joyce Meyer (well-known Christian author and speaker), will be our special guest at EWCC women's prison in September!

We know the ladies will love her as she teaches about God's grace in her life and how she was set free from legalism and a performance mentality! She also will be giving her book, titled, *I Tried Until I Almost Died*, to all ladies who attend the chapel service! She has a wonderful ministry and is very excited about coming to minister at a women's prison!

Friend, we are so honored and blessed to have you a part of this ministry that is impacting many hurting people's lives with God's love and transforming power . . . all for God's glory! We can't tell you enough times how deeply we appreciate your prayers and financial support.

We are trusting God to speak to numerous people to partner with RLPM or to increase their support. We know that God has many more prisoners for us to minister to, and with the help of additional people like you, we can make an even greater impact! As we bring our resources together, we can accomplish so much more in these last days!

We are grateful that God has brought our paths together, and we trust that His plans and purposes will be fulfilled in ALL our lives as we continue to "Seek first

His kingdom" (Matthew 6:33 NIV), that all needs will be met, now and in this end-time harvest, Amen! We look forward to hearing from you soon!

Much Love & Continual Blessings~



Rev. Sharla Yoder,

Founder & CEO, RLPM, Inc.

All contributions are tax-deductible when made payable to RLPM. Tax receipts are provided.

Thank you for your support!

**MONTHLY AND ANNUAL
TAX RECEIPTS ARE MAILED
TO EACH CONTRIBUTOR.**

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www.RedeemingLovePrisonMinistry.org

NEW AMBASSADOR'S TESTIMONY!
"The Zeal of God!" Poem
PRAYER MEETING UPDATE:
Monday, August 2nd, 6:30pm, RSVP

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