



# BEHIND THE FENCE



**Sharla Yoder**  
Founder & CEO

APRIL 2021 ISSUE

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

Redeeming Love Prison Ministry

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## A New Man in Christ Jesus!

— INMATE TESTIMONY —

I am honored and humbled to share with you, my brothers and sisters, the marvelous grace and mercy of God in my life! My mother was a Christian, and I was raised in church until age 14–15 years old. My father was not a part of my life. But I refuse to blame anyone or any situation for the wrong choices I made.

I first came to prison in 1984 at age 24, and was discharged at age 26, returning to prison in 1988, discharged in 1989, and returned a month later with a 75- year sentence at age 29. When I was at James Crabtree Correctional Center, I became a born-again believer in Christ in 1992. The chaplain, Dennis Burrell, became my mentor and friend until he passed away in 2006. In 2009, I



**Bruce Hill**  
#138416

was released on parole, but violated it, and in 2013, was sent to Cimmeron Correctional Facility.

This is where I encountered Redeeming Love Prison Ministry, through attending an excellent Bible study taught by Dr. Michael Shanahan for the next six years! When I arrived here at JBCC in McAlester, I met Sharla Yoder and



*When a train goes through a tunnel, and it gets dark, you don't throw away the ticket and get off.*

*You sit still and trust the engineer.*

—Corrie ten Boom

Author of *THE HIDING PLACE*

the Redeeming Love Prison Ministry team, who came every third Sunday evening for a chapel service. I asked Sharla about Mike Shanahan and told her what an impact he had on my life at CCF.

I asked if he could come and speak as a guest minister with the team sometime. Unfortunately, the month he was scheduled to come was when the Covid lockdown started. I am 61 years old and have spent over half of my life in prison! God has truly delivered me out of the kingdom of darkness and into the Kingdom of His dear Son!

I AM A NEW CREATION IN CHRIST JESUS—the old man is dead, and my NEW MAN IS ALIVE AND WELL! (2 Corinthians 5:17–21.)

I remember one day at CCF, God asked me if I wanted to be a criminal for the rest of my life. I

answered, “No, Lord!” He showed me how easy it is to stay out of prison. He showed me a line on the floor and said, “If you step on this side of the law (line) and stay there, you’ll get out of prison and stay out. If not, you will stay in prison the rest of your life! How simple, yet true. I know now that I am not a criminal, but the righteousness of God, in Christ!

Redeeming Love Prison Ministry is very effective in impacting our lives with Jesus here at JBCC. The love and respect they have for the men here is very reflective in their ministry. I encourage people to support this ministry as it is producing a great harvest. ALL praise, honor, and glory be to God!!

Truthfully and Sincerely,  
**Brother Bruce Hill**  
Servant of God, #138416  
JBCC, McAlester, OK



Your  
**PEACE**  
is more  
important than  
driving yourself  
crazy trying to  
understand why  
something  
happened the  
way it did.

**Let it go  
and trust  
God!**

—Author Unknown  
Facebook Post



## Pen Pal Ministry Flourishing!

I am so grateful to the Lord for the support and success of our pen pal ministry! Many inmates are being ministered to with the love of God on a one-on-one basis, and they are very appreciative.

Peggy Wallace, Partner of

RLPM, became a pen pal in December, and shares her experience below. She writes:

“A few years ago, at the Bridge Church, I heard Sharla and several of the Ambassadors talk about their ministry at the prisons, and how they loved

sharing God’s Word with the inmates. I saw that love for the inmates, almost like they were their own kids. The Ambassadors were changing lives in the prisons and giving them HOPE, telling them how they could start a new life in Christ. I thought I would love



to be involved when I retire. Then, in November, they started the Pen Pal Ministry, and I knew I could do that now.

I wrote my first letter a few weeks before Christmas. I also sent the inmate I'd written to several Christmas cards. She was so appreciative! I encouraged her to read a lot now, because when she is released, she won't have time—working and spending time with her children, she will be busy. Of course, all the inmates are concerned about after they are released—where to live, close to the bus route, starting over with no furniture, etc.



**Peggy Wallace,  
RLPM Pen Pal**

I tried encouraging her to trust God, and she will get help finding a job and place to live. I know the judicial system is also helping people more than ever to get settled after leaving prison. I shared the importance of finding a good church that

teaches God's Word and to go as much as she can.

She loved one of the cards I sent her that included John 13:34, which says, "Love one another; as I have loved you" (NKJV). She needs this to block out all the drama of prison life. I told her that can happen anywhere, just be ready to block it out with the Word of God.

Thank you, Redeeming Love Prison Ministry, for all you do for the inmates."



— Peggy Wallace

## April Fellowship Dinner & Prayer Meeting!

Our monthly prayer meeting and fellowship dinner will be on **Monday, April 5, at 6 pm** at the home and office of Sharla Yoder and RLPM.

We will have an Italian meal (with an additional low-carb entrée) and a birthday cake for Kurt, one of our Ambassadors. Prayer meeting will be around 7 pm.

**Details will be sent by email with RSVP required.**

We will meet:

**Monday, Apr. 5, 2021, at 6 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!**

*Beautiful faces  
(and bodies) are  
everywhere.*

***But beautiful  
hearts and  
minds are  
hard to find.***

—Author Unknown  
Facebook Post



# Heart to Heart

— by Sharla Yoder —



As we celebrate the resurrection of our wonderful Lord, let's remember that His ultimate sacrifice was for ALL people, from ALL backgrounds. Prisoners are often looked down on as the least worthy. Because Jesus CHOSE to eat with "publicans and sinners," we know He desired to show them just how much God loves them! (Mark 2:16.)

I am so thankful that God's mercy and grace for us in saving us is no less than His loving compassion and grace for those who are incarcerated! They deserve the same opportunity to hear...believe...and receive the Gospel—the so great salvation that Jesus paid the same price for, for them as anyone else. It has been well said that "You have never truly found Jesus if you do not tell others about Him." AMEN!

With the vaccines soon available at the prisons, we believe they may be opening up before long. We are making preparations by

having our new volunteers do their applications and sign up for training as soon as possible, as well as those who need to renew their badges. Because there could be a waiting list, this needs to be done ASAP for this Spring/Summer, so we can be ready!

A huge THANK YOU to all who support RLPM with your prayers, finances, and volunteering in any way. This ministry could not do anything without YOU! Your faithfulness in these times has (and IS) so VITAL and so deeply appreciated! I want to leave you with this blessing, taken from the books of Numbers and Psalms, and recently written in a beautiful song by several Christian music artists including Kari Jobe.

May His favor be upon you and a thousand generations [and] your family and your children and their children, and their children. May His presence go before you and behind you, and beside you, [and] all around you.

HE is with you.... In the morning, in the evening, in your coming, and your going. In your weeping and rejoicing—HE is for you!

We look forward to hearing from you soon!

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  
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