



BEHIND THE FENCE

DECEMBER 2020 ISSUE



Sharla Yoder
Director of RLPM

28 Years of Full-Time Prison Ministry • 8 Correctional Facilities • Over 40 Ambassadors

Redeeming Love Prison Ministry

www.RedeemingLovePrisonMinistry.org

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Former Inmate Guest Speaker Testimony



Note: Former Jackie Brannon Prison inmate shared his powerful testimony at our Special Event recently at The Bridge Church in Bixby, OK! Here is his written, condensed version.

I was born and raised in Woodward, OK. I was raised in church and had a strong “drug problem”—I was DRUG to church every Sunday by my grandma!

That church was very strict and legalistic. I rebelled against religion by getting involved with not only drugs, but heavily into alcohol. At age 19, I spent 30 days in jail for the sale of meth.

My alcohol dependence led me to experiment with things like K-2, which caused me to black out at times. My total loss of control and these blackouts led me to do things that I later had no recollection of. During one of those times, I committed my

crime and spent 8 years in prison. Before going to prison, I was of the mindset that I no longer believed in God. While in jail, knowing I would likely be going to prison, I began to get sober in my thinking.

I later fell to my knees and cried out to the God I knew as a child. His deep peace began to sweep over me. God began restoring my mind and He helped me remember what I needed to and deal with it, so I could move on.

After medium security prison, I was moved to lower security at Jackie Brannon Correctional Center in McAlester, OK. During this time I encountered

Redeeming Love Prison Ministry. They spoke truth into my life and helped strengthen me spiritually.

I read Sharla Yoder’s book titled GOD’S GRACE LIBERATES!” It helped set me free from guilt, condemnation, and legalism under the Old Covenant law.

I saw how powerful God’s love and grace are when you understand the finished work of Jesus at the cross and our new identity in Christ! He has given me authority against the devil in His powerful name, JESUS! The promises of the New Covenant are for me today, and I am continually growing in my relationship with Him!

Also, Redeeming Love Prison Ministry was willing to stay with a group of us men after the service (instead of heading back to Tulsa). This was while we had to wait (20 minutes plus) for the vans to pick us up to go back to our dorms. They took time to pray and encouraged us even more!

Steve Woodrow, an RLPM Ambassador, spoke prophetically into my life to warn me that after I left prison, Satan would challenge me with some big “roadblocks,” but I had a choice to overcome them with God’s help and power. This so encouraged me when those battles later came!

One of my favorite scriptures is 1 Corinthians 10:13 (NIV): “No temptation [will] overtake you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But . . . He will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.”



Mike Gosner

After I discharged, I was accepted at Hand Up Ministries in OKC, OK. I was at a safe place, away from former associates and connections to drugs and alcohol.

God has called me to preach and I receive invitations from time to time to minister at various churches. I am an evangelist, driven with a passion to see people set free by God’s great power of the Gospel of Jesus! I also counsel men here at Hand Up Ministries and minister as a chaplain and small group leader at another location.

I currently head up a small ministry that goes to the streets on weekends to feed the homeless, provide clothing, and help people in need of Jesus and His deliverance. I have many opportunities to minister to the lost and those wanting to escape drug addiction, and I find it most fulfilling!

In closing, I want to thank you for supporting Redeeming Love Prison Ministry so they can continue to let God use them to impact other prisoners, who are like I was, with God’s Word, power, love, and hope, so we, too, can be used of God to minister to others!

Thank you!

Mike Gosner

Former inmate at Jackie Brannon Prison, McAlester, OK
(Now residing in OKC, OK)

RLPM Christmas Party Invitation!

We joyfully invite you to our Christmas party and prayer meeting on Monday, December 7th 2020, at 6pm.

It will be held at the home and office of:

Redeeming Love Prison Ministries

1213 S. Willow Ave.

Broken Arrow, OK 74012

918-252-2772



On the menu will be party snacks, hot & cold appetizers, Christmas cookies, hot apple cider, and other festive foods. We also will have the fireplace burning, sing Christmas carols, and have prayer for our country, our ministry, and your requests, receive communion together and an offering for RLPM. We invite our new guests who attended the Special Fall Event to join us! A group e-mail will be sent around December 1, with suggestions about what food to bring if you wish to. *We hope to see you there!*

Special Event Photo Highlights!

We had a joyfully exciting time at The Bridge Church in Bixby, OK, for our Special Fall Event recently! It was great being together, and we received much wonderful feedback about the program and speakers.

We give glory to God for ALL He has done and for His faithfulness for these 28 years! Six of our ambassadors also shared their call to RLPM and how it has impacted their lives to be involved in this missionary work in our correctional facilities.

Pastor Juarez talked about how important it is to share the gospel of grace with prisoners, who continually live with reminders of guilt and condemnation, and that only Jesus can set them free! New guests also joined us, and we launched our new Pen Pal Ministry!

We praise God that it is off to a great start!

**(Photos were graciously taken by Roy Mowry.)*



Group Photo



Mike Shanahan
Bible Teacher & Board Member



Sharla Yoder
RLPM Founder & Director



Steve Woodrow
Ambassador & Preacher



Jerrie Kelly
Bible Teacher & Mentor



Ina Dilldine
Ambassador & Evangelist



Roy Mowry
Teacher & Evangelist



Vickie Cabell
Administrative Assistant & Board Member



Pastor Orlando Juarez
The Bridge Church, Bixby, OK



Heart to Heart

— by Sharla Yoder —



I am excited about the new growth of RLPM—in spite of the pandemic! We gave out several applications for new ambassadors who are interested in being trained on Zoom by the Department of Corrections in preparation for going to one or more of the prisons with us as soon as they reopen.

INMATE CHRISTMAS PROJECT!

We want to help fund the INMATE CHRISTMAS PROJECT of donating funds for the women prisoners at EWCC! The Christmas bags will consist of personal care hygiene items, yearly pocket planners, colored pencils, socks, crossword puzzle booklets, candy, and more, for 800 inmates. These Christmas

Gift Bags show so much of God's love to these ladies, and they appreciate them so much! It also encourages more to come to our chapel services. Thank you in advance for helping to provide funding for this important project!

We are continually grateful for your support of this ministry, which could not happen without being supported by Christian people like you! Together we can accomplish much kingdom business in the prisons... ALL for the glory of God!

In this season of giving, let's remember that God gave us His BEST gift when He sent JESUS, His precious only Son, to be our desperately needed Savior! In closing, I want to repeat what I

shared at our recent event: Jim Elliot, martyred missionary evangelist in Ecuador, said, "HE IS NO FOOL TO GIVE WHAT HE CANNOT KEEP, TO GAIN WHAT HE CANNOT LOSE."

We pray that you have a joyfully blessed Christmas and the very most BLESSED New Year in 2021.

We look forward to hearing from you soon!

More Love, Joy, & Peace in JESUS!

Rev. Sharla Yoder,
Director, Redeeming Love
Prison Ministry, Inc.

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