

BEHIND THE FENCE

FEBRUARY 2020 ISSUE



Redeeming Love Prison Ministry

PO Box 487

Broken Arrow, Oklahoma 74013-0487

www.redeemingloveprisonministry.org

Happy
Valentine's
Day



Sharla Yoder, Director

27 Years of Full-Time Prison Ministry * 44 Ambassadors * 9 Correctional Facilities

FORMER INMATE TESTIMONY

FROM PRISONER TO PASTOR TO PARDONED!!

I was born in a US naval hospital in Japan, but only lived there a year before we moved to Ft. Huron, MI. After nine years, my parents and three brothers moved to Broken Arrow, OK, where we attended a Catholic church. When I was in seventh grade, I began yielding to peer pressure to feel accepted, and began to smoke tobacco, and then weed. By eighth grade it was LSD. My dad warned me that if I didn't change my ways, I would wind up in prison. But I was rebellious and had a "know it all" attitude.

After graduation I became an auto body painter. I was married in 1981 and because of the huge financial gain, I began "cooking meth," and it took over my whole life and became my god! My life was out of control and I couldn't stop. I was arrested in 2003, when a drug task force kicked down my door and charged me with manufacturing, possession, and possession of a firearm. I was sentenced to fifteen years in prison at Ft. Supply, in the panhandle of Oklahoma. In prison,



Rev. Patrick Mosier
RLPM Ambassador

under DOC custody, it was a whole different world. But when prison ministries would come in, it was a

beautiful thing! It reminded us that there were people who really CARED about us, and it gave us HOPE of a better life! They were like a breath of fresh air. They planted seeds in my heart when I attended chapel. I saw some really big bad guys cry in that chapel!

By God's grace, I was released after only a year and put on probation for 14 years. But after only three days, I

went back to meth. My wife, Brenda, and I lost our house and became homeless, staying in an abandoned trailer with no heat or water. I had lost my three brothers along the way, including my identical twin, due to AIDS, alcohol, and meth. I went into the woods and dropped to my knees and cried out to the Lord, "**If you are up there, I need you; I can't do this on my own; please take control of my life!**" I felt goose bumps everywhere.

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FORMER INMATE TESTIMONY

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Instantly I felt the Holy Spirit's presence. Great peace and joy that I had never known filled my broken heart.

I was still high, but my wife and I went to House of Prayer Church in Lake Crest, OK. People hugged us and welcomed us, and we felt we belonged. I went down to the front and received salvation, and was soon baptized. We have faithfully attended church since then.

God delivered me from all addiction without any withdrawals! (Eighty percent of people on meth NEVER are able to get off. It is worse than any drug.) For many years I thought I would die an addict. I praise God that Brenda stood by me all through my addiction. (We have been married 38 years and have three grown children and five grandkids.)

I began to grow a lot as a Christian and felt called to ministry. We then moved to Locust Grove, OK. I started preaching in 2016, and was soon ordained at Homeward Bound Church in Salina, OK, where we still attend. I had a deep desire to help people spiritually who were trapped in the same life of drugs I was set free of by God's grace. I minister at a drug rehab quarterly at Quapaw, OK, and I am on the pastoral team at the Salvation Army every Saturday evening, where I have preached for the past three years. (See photo.) I also was asked to share my testimony at the Chouteau Public High School in Chouteau, OK.

In 2018, I got off of probation. In 2019, I bought a car from Steve Woodrow, a car salesperson and RLPM Ambassdor, and got well acquainted with him and his involvement in Redeeming Love Prison

Ministry (RLPM). He invited me to come to their monthly prayer meeting/fellowship, where I met Sharla Yoder and many others. I applied to serve with RLPM at the jail in October 2019, but because of my incarceration the jail declined my application (for now).

In 2007, I had developed COPD, from the smoking and body paint fumes. By 2017, I was on supplemental oxygen *full time*, and government disability. **But in September, at RLPM's monthly prayer meeting, everyone prayed for my lungs to be healed. I have not been on oxygen since then and believe God has miraculously healed me and restored my lungs, glory to Jesus!** I have read Sharla Yoder's book, "*God's Grace Liberates!*" and have been very inspired. I truly believe God's love and grace can change any circumstance.

I have very recently gone up before the Pardon and Parole Board of Oklahoma after a lengthy application process. Only one out of twenty-five candidates who went before me received a pardon. (There are six parole board members and a judge.) I shared how I received Jesus and He set me free of meth. I also told them that I am a minister and involved with RLPM and more. **I give God much praise and glory for favor, because they unanimously voted to give me a full pardon, which will give me a clean record!**

Now I can reapply to minister with RLPM at the Tulsa Jail and start an application for the prisons! My favorite scripture is Ephesians 3:20—"**God can do exceedingly abundantly above that which we can ask or think according to the power that works in us by Christ Jesus.**" God not only has great plans for *my* future, but for *your* future, too, as you fully commit your life to Jesus Christ!

RLPM EXPANDS AT THREE PRISONS!

We are delighted to report that God has allowed us to expand our ministry to the **Juvenile Detention Center in OKC, OK**, every Friday, with Michael Luciani. Also at two of the prisons where we have ministered for many years but only once a month.

At Cimarron Correctional Facility in Cushing, OK, Dr. Michael Shanahan is now teaching a Bible study on both the third and fourth Wednesday evenings of each month. The attendance has grown tremendously in his classes, and we give our Lord much praise and thanks! Also, we are now going twice a month to the Creek County Jail in Sapulpa, OK. We minister to just the ladies monthly on the fourth Tuesday afternoon and also just the men on the fourth Wednesday evening—Praise God!

You have a choice every single day. I choose to feel blessed. I choose to feel grateful. I choose to be excited! I choose to be thankful. Therefore, I choose to be happy. 😊

(Author unknown)

HEART TO HEART

by Sharla Yoder, RLPM Director

We are excited that several new ambassadors will be taking training this month and in April will be certified to begin going with us to either (or both) the prisons or the Tulsa Jail. That means we will be able to minister to more inmates in more ways!

As our income increases, we are also excited for more Bible studies to be reprinted, and for the ability to reach out to more prisons and prisoners! Your faithful financial support is so vital and so deeply appreciated that we can't thank you enough! It brings us all much joy and fulfillment when we see how beautifully Jesus changes many lives that have been ravaged by addiction and sin, to become victorious people who reach their God-given dreams and callings!

We pray that you are tremendously blessed in every way as you give to support our ministry together. Great will be our rewards for reaching out to hurting people who are incarcerated. God loves them so much, and His love and power is in us to transform what Satan desires to destroy—into trophies of God's grace!

WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU SOON!

More Love and Joy,



Rev. Sharla Yoder, Director (27 years)
Redeeming Love Prison Ministry

MONTHLY MINISTRY SCHEDULE

1st MONDAY — Monthly Priority Prayer Meeting and Fellowship, 7-9 PM, 1213 S. Willow Ave., Broken Arrow. 918-252-2772.

3rd MONDAY — Mentoring — MBCC Women's Prison, McLoud, OK. Meet 2:30 PM.

Every TUESDAY — "Marriage On The Rock" (Jimmy Evans Video Series), JDCC Men's Prison, Taft, OK 3-5 PM. Leaders, Bill and Judy Hulett.

4th TUESDAY — Creek County Jail, Sapulpa, OK — Ladies Chapel Service, 3:30 PM; Mickie Brooks, Coordinator.

1st, 3rd, (& if 5th) WEDNESDAY — Tulsa County Jail — 12 pods, team outreaches, 6:30-8:20 PM (B.A. group meets 5:45 PM); Coordinator, Ina Dilldine.

3rd & 4th WEDNESDAY — Cimarron Correctional Center, Cushing, OK — Bible Study with Dr. Michael Shanahan.

4th WEDNESDAY — Creek County Jail, Sapulpa, OK — Men's Chapel Service, 6:45 PM.

EVERY FRIDAY — Juvenile Detention Center, Oklahoma City, OK — Ministry With Michael Luciani, 1:00 PM.

4th FRIDAY — MBCC Women's Prison, McLoud, OK — Team Outreach/GYM. Meet in B.A. at 2:30 PM; others meet at Prison at 4:45 PM.

3rd SATURDAY — EWCC Women's Prison, Taft, OK, 7:45-9:10 PM. Meet in B.A. at 5:45 PM or at the Prison at 7 PM.

3rd SUNDAY — OSP Maximum Prison, McAlester, OK — Cell-To-Cell Ministry, 2-3:30 PM; meet in B.A. at Noon.

3rd SUNDAY — JBCC Men's Prison — Team Chapel Service, 5-7:45 PM.



LOOK INSIDE!

9 Correctional Facilities Served by RLPM

- Cimarron Correctional Facility Men's Prison, Cushing, OK
- Creek County Jail, Sapulpa, OK
- David L. Moss Correctional Center /Tulsa Jail, Tulsa, OK
- Eddie Warrior Correction Center Women's Prison, Taft, OK
- Jackie Brannon Men's Prison, McAlester, OK
- Jess Dunn Correctional Center Men's Prison, Taft, OK
- Juvenile Detention Center, Oklahoma City, OK
- Mabel Bassett Women's Prison, McLoud, OK
- Oklahoma State Penitentiary, McAlester, OK

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.

Behind The Fence is published bi-monthly by Redeeming Love Prison Ministry, Inc.:
Sharla Yoder and Ambassadors — writing;
Nancy Kanafani — editing;
Sandra Williams — writing and graphics;
ORU Copy Services — production;
Sharon Moreland — processing/mailing.

Please visit our new website
www.redeemingloveprisonministry.org

POWERFUL FORMER PRISONER TESTIMONY!
CHICKEN CHILI DINNER & PRAYER MEETING, MONDAY, FEB 3RD, 6 PM, RSVP ASAP

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