

BEHIND THE FENCE

FEBRUARY 2017 ISSUE



Redeeming Love Prison Ministry

PO Box 487
Broken Arrow, Oklahoma 74013-0487

www.rlpn.org



Sharla Yoder, Director

24 Years of Full-Time Prison Ministry * 50 Ambassadors * 12 Correctional Facilities

FORMER INMATE TESTIMONY

FROM PRISON TO PRISON MINISTRY!

When I was only 8 months old, my father sent me to Monterey, Mexico, to be raised by my grandparents. When I was 6 years of age, my grandma decided to tell me the truth...that they were not my parents. Confused, I was sobbing deeply when Grandma got me out from under the table and tried to hold me, but nothing was the same after that. I started to feel unwanted, lonely, hurt, and unloved. But most importantly, I felt betrayed by the people who were supposed to love me.

While growing up, I always wondered about my mother, and it drove me to misbehave a lot in school and at home. At a very young age I met my husband. After the first year of marriage, my husband became **very** abusive! I put up with it for 6 years after the birth of my first son. I finally had the courage to leave my husband. Once I left him, my life changed, but not for the good. I started going out to clubs and got involved with the wrong people and drugs for the next 15 years. I met another guy who was also very abusive to me. I left him after a couple of months of the abuse.

After I had my second son, I tried to really straighten out my life. But being a drug addict isn't easy to conquer, as it takes time and a lot of support. *My children were taken away from me!* After that, my life just got worse. I got deeper into drugs and again started to hang out with the wrong people. I didn't care



Vickie Sanchez, former inmate, MBCC.

anymore about anything, not even my life. I tried to commit suicide two times, but thank God, I was never successful. While trying to steal money something went wrong. One of my friends pulled out a gun and the key to a truck from the person we were stealing from. I jumped in the truck while telling the others, "Let's go!" I didn't get high that night. I was flipping the channels when I saw a Christian show on TV. I saw an 800 number and called it. I told the person on the other end that I wanted to die... I was tired and had enough of this life! They prayed with me, and 5 days later I was arrested and went to jail for attempted robbery with a firearm. The sentence carried up to 25 years to life in prison.

I didn't even *know* what faith was or how to believe in God or if He even heard my prayers. But I prayed and chose to believe He was real and that He would see me through this, and gave it to Him. During my last court hearing, the judge said, "Ms. Sanchez, I hereby sentence you to 10 years in the women's state prison." I couldn't believe what I was hearing! As I was crying the judge said, "But with a one year review." I didn't understand what the one year review was. At Mable Bassett Women's Prison, I got truly born again. I began attending Redeeming Love Prison Ministry. I attended the service each time they came to Mabel Bassett, and I started to understand a lot more of God's Word. By

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CORRESPONDENCE

CORRESPONDENCE BIBLY STUDY
MINISTRY FLOURISHES!

A Big Thank you to YOU, Sharla Yoder, from the Richard Mussers of Mohave Valley, Arizona! Yes, thank you for inviting us to mail our newsletters to you to give out and introduce us at your monthly outreaches at MBCC and EWCC those *many* years ago! Your desire was for a correspondence type of ministry for the women inmates. Our “Circle of

Friends” newsletter was renamed “A Cup of Encouragement for God’s Special Ladies in Waiting.” (It is also a discipling tool.) I was thrilled because I had felt the call to a prison ministry since 1982, but after a few “failures” when I attempted to fill this call, I just figured *I’ve been mistaken.*

However in 2009, the “Cup” developed into a correspondence study we titled “The ABC’s of Knowing Jesus.” It has grown into additional advanced correspondence teaching when the basic ones are completed. The inmates mail back their answers to reflective lesson questions, and I make comments and mail them back with their next lesson.

Richard and I entered into our eighth year this month of sending these lessons. We now have students in several Oklahoma prisons, 15 state prisons in Texas, and two state prisons in Arkansas. Most surprising of all is that there’s now a small pocket of men participating in all four of the studies! Richard keeps a spread sheet, so I don’t try to keep up with numbers coming in and going out. It’s *great* to find referred names of new students in our large P.O. Box in each day’s mail! ***Approximately 400-500 lessons are in progress at any given time.*** Richard is the bookkeeper, I just focus on the one lesson I’m working on at the moment. It’s so amazing to read what Jesus has done in these special people’s lives. All we can say is “Thank you, Sharla and RLPM!”

Note: In the next Behind the Fence Newsletter, we will share about our special Pen-Pal Ministry!



Mary Sue Musser
RLPM Correspondence Course

Continued from Page 1

God’s grace, I had an excellent one year review and was released! After my release, in 2008, I felt called to ministry and God opened many doors for me. I began attending Inner City Church in Oklahoma City, OK. I volunteered at the Dream Center. I was employed by the Life and Hope Substance Abuse Center and am now the office manager. I attend Randall University and am working on a degree in Sociology. I have also written a look about my life story that will be published this year.

I later met Dr. David Cavallaro, an RLPM board member, at a meeting where several pastors get together for prayer. I felt called to minister to prisoners. Dr. Cavallaro recommended that I get in touch with Redeeming Love Prison Ministry, and I contacted Sharla Yoder. Redeeming Love Prison Ministry had not only helped me to grow in my relationship with the Lord, but in faith and the grace of the Lord while incarcerated. Sharla also gave me encouragement to help others who are going through the same situations I’ve been in. God has put it in my heart to write a live play, hopefully to be performed at Mable Bassett, about the affects of domestic violence. By God’s grace and favor, I am now approved to go back to Mabel Bassett with Redeeming Love Prison Ministry! I want God to use me to encourage the women and help them know that there is great hope for them in the grace of Jesus Christ alone!

I am really thankful that Redeeming Love Prison Ministry has ministered to me in prison and has given me the opportunity to be on their ministry team to be a blessing and encouragement to the women prisoners at Mabel Bassett! Although my life has been full of many challenges, I *know* that with God, ALL things are possible, and that Jesus has won the victory FOR me, and in HIM, I am an overcomer... BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING!!! How I thank God, and I thank you! Vickie

Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear.

1 John 4:17-18 (NKJV)

I AM YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER, AND I WANT ONLY THE VERY BEST FOR YOU! IT DELIGHTS MY HEART TO SEE YOU PROSPER IN EVERY AREA OF YOUR LIFE! "Let the Lord be magnified, who has pleasure in the prosperity of His servant"

(Psalm 35:27 NKJV).

NEW PRAISE AND WORSHIP CD OFFER

We still have some of Brenda Toms' excellent new original praise and worship CD she has produced. We would like to make it available to you when you write in and request one! (For more information about it, please see the Dec. 2016 newsletter now at rlp.org (click on "Publications.") Here are a few comments from those who have already enjoyed it:

At a time when the latest special effects and techniques are a great influence, it is refreshing to take a step back to be bathed in pure worship. As I listened to "From Prisoners to Praisers," it was as though I had heard it before—and I have! God's Word permeates each selection. You will be encouraged as you experience His powerful presence. Brenda Toms' music and vocals combine as a soothing balm which calls us away to our highest purpose. Feed your faith as the Word and worship wash over you!



Winnie Gasper,
RLPM partner,
Norman, OK.



Tom Cabel, RLP
board member.

Brenda's album is a simple compilation of scriptures put to music. This is what the book of Psalms is all about—inspired scripture put to song. Unfortunately, David couldn't leave his music for our enjoyment and inspiration. I highly recommend Brenda's CD for Christian entertainment, edification, and even a way to memorize scripture. Brenda is a modern-day psalmist!

INMATE RESPONSE: YEAR END PRAISE REPORT!

by Sharla Yoder

We give our Lord much praise and glory for the life-changing decisions the inmates in the 11 correctional facilities where we minister have made in 2016! We had **a total attendance in 2016** (at our chapel service outreaches, Bible studies, mentoring, special programs, and cell-to-cell ministry) of **5,639**.

There were **566** inmates who received salvation in Jesus Christ. We had a total of **1,202** inmates who rededicated their lives to our Lord. We also had **1,261** inmates receive the infilling of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in a heavenly language. Much THANKS be to GOD and to our wonderful PARTNERS for an incredible year, AMEN!

If you are not yet a partner with RLP, why not *lay up treasures in heaven* by giving to make this life-changing ministry possible and to help us expand to reaching ever more incarcerated people while there is still time and opportunity.

Even if you start out small, we know that God will give you *increase!* As He does He will lead you in your giving. Your gifts, large or small, are changing many lives for now and for eternity! Our Lord thanks you, and we do, too, and appreciate the continued support of our wonderful partners!

We LOVE you, and we look forward to hearing from you soon! ☺

Sharla Yoder, Director
Redeeming Love Prison Ministry, Inc.

(PLEASE SEE BACK PAGE FOR
INFORMATION ON YEAR END TAX RECIEPTS)

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, McCloud, OK. Meet 2:45 PM. Cancelled Jan. & Feb. (state holidays).

Every TUESDAY — "Homes of Honor" (Christian Family Relationships), JDCC Men's Prison, Taft, OK 3-5 PM. Leaders, Bill and Judy Hulett.

1st, 3rd, (& if 5th) WEDNESDAY — Tulsa County Jail — 12 pods, team outreaches plus Chapel Service (2 pods), 6:30-8:20 PM (B.A. group meets 5:45 PM) Coordinator, Ina Dilldine.

2nd WEDNESDAY — Cimarron Correctional Center, Cushing, OK — Teaching/Ministry, Tom Cabell, and Roy Mowry, Michael Shanahan, Leader, 6:30-8 PM.

2nd WEDNESDAY — OSP Men's Maximum Prison — Cell to Cell ministry, 9 AM – 3 PM, McAlester, OK, Dr. David Cavallaro, Leader.

4th WEDNESDAY — Creek County Jail, Sapulpa, OK, meet 6:45 PM, Coordinator Mickie Brooks.

4th FRIDAY — MBCC Women's Prison, McCloud, OK, Team Outreach/Chapel. Meet in B.A. at 2:45 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 5:30 PM or at the Prison at 7 PM.

3rd SUNDAY — JBCC Men's Prison, McAlester, OK; meet in B.A. at 3:20 PM, Evangelistic Team Outreach/Worship Service/Chapel, 5:30-7 PM.

RLPM-OKC Ambassadors also minister at Lexington, Cleveland County Jail, Oklahoma County Jail and Juvenile Detention Center (OKC, OK)

12 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
- Federal Transfer Center, OKC, OK
- Jackie Brannon Men's Prison, McAlester, OK
- Jess Dunn Correctional Center Men's Prison, Taft, OK
- Juvenile Crisis Center, OKC, OK
- Lexington Assessment and Reception Center, Lexington, OK
- Mabel Bassett Women's Prison, McCloud, OK
- Oklahoma County Jail, OKC, 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!

Annual total receipts mailed upon request.

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**Please visit our new website
www.rlpm.org**

LOOK INSIDE!

Year-end receipts will gladly be sent upon your request to RLPM.
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 7 PM
INMATE TESTIMONY:
FROM PRISONER TO PRISON MINISTER!

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