

# BEHIND THE FENCE

JUNE 2017 ISSUE



*Redeeming Love Prison Ministry*

PO Box 487

Broken Arrow, Oklahoma 74013-0487

www.rlpm.org



Sharla Yoder, Director

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

## INMATE TESTIMONY

### “PRODIGAL DAUGHTER COMES HOME”

I was raised in church, and my mom and dad are pastors, as well. I got further away from God and ended up trying to “play the system” all I could.

I did everything possible to get more money to take care of my family and not taking care of my business. By the time I got to prison, I needed a LOT of help! I chose to go to Redeeming Love Prison Ministry’s team chapel outreach one Sat. evening. This was my first time since being incarcerated that I chose to attend a church service. It was so awesome!

As a “prodigal daughter,” I responded to the invitation to recommit my life to the Lord. At that same time, God healed my life and delivered me completely from alcohol, drugs, and even smoking! I knew in my heart I was definitely changed. Redeeming Love is a really, really good ministry and you can always feel God’s love and presence in their services. They help a lot of inmates come to the Lord (or back to Him). I appreciate prayer for me and my children and for an early release, by God’s grace. Thank you!

Twakawna Watts, #641014  
EWCC, Taft, OK



Twakawna Watts, #641014  
EWCC, Taft, OK



### MAILBOX LETTER

I just finished reading your book, ***GOD’S GRACE LIBERATES!*** Amazing book! I will definitely read it again to see what else will be revealed to me. Matthew 25:36, ***“I was in prison and you came to***

***me!***” This is my third time in prison. Before I would have called this place hell! But now that I know God, even though I’m behind this fence, I’m free on the inside and have great hope! I want to read and learn more about God. I want to thank you so much for writing ***God’s Grace Liberates...*** it was and is such a blessing. God Bless You!

Kandace Wilson #640721  
Eddie Warrior Correctional Center  
Taft, OK



Kandace Wilson #640721  
EWCC, Taft, OK

## HIGHLIGHTS: INSIDE A SPECIAL PRISON SERVICE!

by Sharla Yoder

RLPM conducted two special Easter services recently: one at Jackie Brannon Men's Prison in McAlester, OK, on Easter Sunday evening, and one on the Saturday evening before Easter at Eddie Warrior (EWCC) Women's Prison. Since our (front page) inmate testimonies are from EWCC, I want to share more about what our Lord is doing there! It was a very exciting service! I had sent nice colored flyers to the prison several days ahead, which were posted on all housing units, letting the prisoners know about our special Easter service.



*I was in prison and  
you visited me.  
(Matthew 25:36)*

There were **165** inmates who came excitedly into the chapel as some of our ambassadors greeted them at the outer and inner doors. An upbeat CD was playing the song, **MY REDEEMER LIVES!** Because Brenda Toms, our praise and worship leader, was unable to be there, we arranged for the inmate **SIGN CHOIR** to lead a song. It was titled, **COME! NOW IS THE TIME TO WORSHIP** (one of my favorites!). The choir used sign language and the rest of the ladies sang louder than you might expect. ☺



Next, I did some brief teaching about the finished work of Jesus at the cross and lead into an invitation for salvation. How we praise God that **13** of the inmates came forward to receive **JESUS!** After I gave an invitation for “backsliders” to return back to the Lord, there were **17** prisoners who came unashamedly to the front!

After we prayed for them, I gave an invitation, not only to the inmates who had come forward, but also to the others (already saved) to come forward to receive the infilling of the Holy Spirit. I explained some of the many benefits to receiving this powerful gift and new language. I invited all 11 of our ambassadors to join me to lay hands on all **35** prisoners who received the gift of the Holy Spirit, and spoke in tongues, all Glory to God!

After that, Ina Dilldine preached a 20 minute excellent and powerful message about **WHO JESUS IS AND WHAT HE CAME TO DO!** Our ambassadors then passed out the *communion elements* (we had prior security approval to take in) and received communion with our sisters *in remembrance of Jesus'* redemptive (*ultimate*) sacrifice of love at the cross!

The last part of the service was fun (funny, then serious). We had approval for Dot Coleman to bring in her (*notorious*) monkey puppet, *Paquito!* Although he is a monkey, (see photo), he wore rabbit ears trying to convince everyone that he was the Easter Bunny! When he was offered a carrot and some greens, he disgustedly declined, but gave his true identity away when he latched onto a banana instead! In closing, Dot used him to teach some very powerful scriptures and applications for the prisoners! It was a wonderful Easter celebration that will be long remembered. We **thank you** for sending us with your support, and we give God much praise and glory for a wonderful outreach!



*“Dot Coleman & Paquito”*

## HEART TO HEART

*by Angie Davis*

Concerning giving to RLPM:

I am a partner, an ambassador, a volunteer office worker, and a board member of Redeeming Love Prison Ministry. I have known Sharla for over 30 years. Through the years it has been thrilling to watch this ministry that she founded 25 years ago! My husband and I were involved in home mission work, ministering to Native Americans. We define home missions as ministry to people groups who are of a different culture, sometimes a different language than our own, and one that cannot support those who minister to them. As we watched this prison ministry develop, we realized that it is also truly a home mission field.

Of course, Jesus admonished us to visit Him in prison. In Matthew 25:36 and 40 we read, "I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me... Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me."

Before I was actually involved personally in the prison/jail ministry, I realized that I could "go to Jesus in prison" by giving to the ministry of someone else who is doing that work. Now that I am deeply involved with Sharla's ministry, I know how vitally important this work is in the Kingdom of God. As the Board of Directors, we are very careful and prayerful about the way the finances that God's people send into this ministry are used. We trust God to move on the hearts of believers to financially support and to pray for the work of Redeeming Love Prison Ministry.

Since you are receiving this newsletter, you have shown an interest in Sharla and this prison ministry that God has led her into. Please ask the Holy Spirit to show you what your part is in "visiting Jesus in prison." We are so very thankful for you and your part in this ministry that is so close to Jesus' heart.

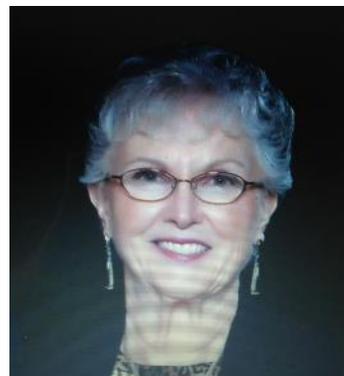
Testimony:

One evening last summer there was a lovely tall African-American lady in our service at David L. Moss Jail. Brenda and I were holding the service and both of us noticed her right away. Her countenance was very somber at the beginning of the service. When we gave the invitations, she responded to the Holy Spirit and received His infilling. Of course, by the end of the service there was a smile on her beautiful face. We were both so impressed by the change in her demeanor. The next time we saw her in the service there, she was still smiling and was involved in the service and receptive to the Word of God. Brenda and I rejoiced over her as we left the jail that evening.

The next time we saw her was at Eddie Warrior Correction Center on March 18th. I was greeting the ladies and saw her as she entered. When I realized who she was, I gave her a big hug. She excitedly told me she would be leaving there on Monday, the 27th. It was glorious watching her worship the Lord during the song service. It is seeing the ladies' lives changed that keeps us inspired to do prison ministry! What a great blessing, to see the Word working in the inmates' lives!!

**Your faithful support is very important during the summer months!**

**JESUS WOULD RATHER GO TO  
HELL FOR YOU THAN TO GO  
TO HEAVEN WITHOUT YOU!!**



*Angie Davis  
Partner/Ambassador  
Office Assistant &  
Board Member*

Thank you, Partners, we love you and appreciate you!  
We look forward to hearing from you all soon!

With much Love and Blessings!

*Sharla*

## 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 2:45 PM.

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.

3rd 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, McLoud, OK, Team Outreach/GYM. 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.

EVERY SUNDAY — 10:30 A.M., 12 & 12 Rehabilitation Center Worship Service, Tulsa, OK..

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, and 12 & 12 Rehabilitation Center, Tulsa.

**TULSA JAIL NOTE:** Sharla does inmate clergy visits at the Tulsa County Jail when referred by an inmate's family member or friend.

## 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, McLoud, OK
- 12 & 12 Rehabilitation Center, Tulsa, 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.**

*Behind The Fence is published bi-monthly by Redeeming Love Prison Ministry, Inc.:  
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Sharon Moreland — processing/mailing.*

**Please visit our new website  
[www.rlpm.org](http://www.rlpm.org)**

LOOK INSIDE!

PRAYER MEETING  
MONDAY, JUNE 5, 7 PM

INMATE TESTIMONY  
PRODIGAL DAUGHTER  
COMES HOME!

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