

BEHIND THE FENCE

FEBRUARY 2018 ISSUE



Redeeming Love Prison Ministry

PO Box 487
Broken Arrow, Oklahoma 74013-0487

www.rlpm.org



Sharla Yoder, Director

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

FORMER INMATE TESTIMONY

AFTER PRISON SUCCESS IN CHRIST!

***Note:** Sophia Carbajal shared this beautiful testimony live at our 25th Anniversary Banquet. You will enjoy the amazing victories in Jesus she acquired in prison!*

I grew up in Alamogordo, New Mexico. My mother is a God-fearing woman, but my father was an alcoholic and heroin addict. He was a **very** abusive man physically, emotionally and sexually. My mother worked a graveyard shift, so my siblings and I were left alone with my father at night. He always came home from work drunk or high. As a young girl, I could not understand how the man who was supposed to love and protect me could shatter everything meaningful in my life! He stripped me of my innocence, self-worth, confidence, hopes and dreams. I kept my shameful secret, hoping someone would hear my silent cry and rescue me, but no one did.

At age 12, I began to experiment with marijuana and alcohol to try to numb my pain. I became pregnant at age 15, but the baby's father did not stay with me. I was an abandoned teenage mother. I managed to graduate high



Sophia Carbajal, former inmate, MBCC

school while I worked part-time and was partying. I then began to traffic drugs from Mexico to El Paso, Texas. Soon I was arrested and sentenced to 3 years federal probation. I continued my addictions and began to traffic interstate. I was arrested again in the Panhandle of Oklahoma in 2011. I was facing 25 years to life in prison, hundreds of miles from home. I was scared, hopeless, miserable, and had no purpose or peace.

My mom took me to church as a child, but later I was so angry with God for what I went through with my father's abuse! In court, I pleaded guilty as charged and through God's mercy was sentenced to only fifteen years at Mabel Bassett Correctional Center in McLoud, OK. After every vice was taken from me, I finally realized my greatest need was Jesus Christ. I dropped to my knees and asked God to take control of my life! I was determined and asked God not to allow me to walk out of prison the same woman I walked in. I was blessed to begin my college education and did what I could to better myself. I became a chapel orderly, and it was there that I met Sharla Yoder, and she invited me to attend

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FORMER INMATE TESTIMONY*Continued from Page 1*

Redeeming Love Prison Ministry for the first time.

I immediately felt the presence of the Holy Spirit in this ministry. I attended on a regular basis and was soon operating the sound system for them. God began to move in my life in a mighty way! At one of the invitations at RLPM's chapel service, I went up for prayer, and Sharla Yoder prayed with me about my daughter, Melissa. She began to change and is now sober and serving the Lord—glory to God! Angie Davis also became a mentor to me in the Mentors program through RLPM on Monday nights. As she shared God's Word with me, it became alive in my spirit. I was introduced to Sharla's book, ***God's Grace Liberates!*** as we studied it in Mentors. It had a great impact on my life as I realized how much I have been forgiven and redeemed by God's grace. I am so grateful and blessed for Redeeming Love Prison Ministry (and other ministries) that take the Word and the Spirit of God into prisons. In November, 2017, it was one year that I have been paroled from prison. I am now at *His House Ministries* in Claremore, OK, owned by former inmate Rhonda Bear. I manage this group home for former inmates and also manage a Christian coffee house called *She Brews*.

I have been clean and sober for 6 years, and I am a God-fearing woman who strives for integrity and continues to lead women to the Lord. I am active in my church and have learned to place my confidence in God and not man. I pray that my story has ministered to you. I now have direction, purpose, peace and joy! Thank you for allowing me to share, and God bless you!

***TRUST IN THE INVISIBLE,
INFALLIBLE GOD WHO LOVES
YOU!*** (Joseph Prince)

MORE AMBASSADORS NEEDED IN REDEEMING LOVE PRISON MINISTRY!

We are in need of several additional ambassadors (volunteers) to serve in RLPM!

God has called us to reach out even further to share the Gospel with more prisoners. We believe our Lord is coming soon, and we have more ministry to accomplish to win the lost and disciple them so they can live victoriously and win others to our Lord in *their* world! There are three ways you can respond to this announcement:

1. You can agree with us in prayer for God to send us new ambassadors.
2. You can ask people you know who have a heart to serve God to contact us for more information. (Also give them a copy of this ***Behind the Fence*** newsletter.) You can go to just one prison.

If you live in Oklahoma, **you** can pray about becoming an ambassador with us. ☺

What qualifications are we looking for? People who love God and believe they have a call from Him to minister to people who have some very big needs. People who have either been to Bible school, or have some experience in ministry. (Prisons are no place to begin in ministry with no experience.) They need to know how to pray with an unbeliever to receive Jesus as Savior, how to minister healing, or pray with people for other needs and ***encourage*** them. We also need people who are called to teach God's Word or to preach. If you have any questions, feel free to email me (I don't text) at syoder5@cox.net. We believe that God has some wonderful new ambassadors for Redeeming Love Prison Ministry who would love to be a part of our vision and serve the Lord with us!

LOOK WHAT THE LORD HAS DONE! –2017 STATISTICS

We give **GOD** much praise and *ALL* of the glory for what HE has done through Redeeming Love Prison Ministry last year in 2017! We want you to know so that you can see how your financial support has made this report possible! (We cannot take photos or film inside prisons or jails as other types of missionaries can, so this report and inmate testimonies are how we can report our victories together *with* you and *to* you. ☺)

	TOTAL
ATTENDANCE AT ALL FACILITIES:	6,128
NUMBER OF SALVATIONS:	589
NUMBER OF REDEDICATIONS:	1,202
NUMBER FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT:	1,322



MAILBOX LETTER

Christmas card/letter to Sharla
and the JBCC Ambassadors
Team of RLPM:

Dear Sharla, Tom,
Roy, Steve, Ina &
David,

I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the work that you put into this ministry. The many lives that you are able to touch, both men and women, since you have been going into the prisons and jails is truly a blessing! Not to mention the families' lives that are being touched because of Romans 10:14, NIV ("How, then, can they call on the One they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the One of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?") You all are truly laborers for the Lord's harvest. Matthew 9:38 NKJV ("Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.")

I want to thank you personally for the help that you have been to me, whether it was a situation I was going through on the yard, family, or personal. You have always been there for me to stand in the gap, call on the Holy Spirit, or just give good godly counsel. So from the bottom of my heart, thank you. God bless you and Merry Christmas!

Sincerely,

Shawn Rice #262980
Jess Dunn Correctional Center, Taft, OK
(Previously at JBCC, McAlaster, OK)



Shawn Rice #262980
JDCC, Taft, OK

HEART TO HEART

by Sharla Yoder

I am so very grateful to God and to you for your prayers for my surgery last year. I have recovered well from it now. However, I have another health situation that I am trusting God to take care of.

In 2015, I had two stents placed in the main (center) artery to my heart. They have recently totally collapsed and I am told are buried into the tissue and calcified. The result is I don't have much energy and often have angina chest pain because insufficient blood is getting to my heart when I am active. (This has slowed me down considerably as I have to pace myself with rest.) My former cardiologist said that there was nothing they could do...the risk was too great to remove the stents. One of our board members referred me to another cardiologist for a second opinion, which I got. He believes removal of the stents and restoration of the blood flow is a possibility, but needs to see the film (not just the report) to decide if he will refer me to a heart surgeon. (I'm not sure if he is thinking about a bypass.) If this is God's will, I believe that He will bring me through it victoriously!

Again, I deeply appreciate your prayers, and I believe that God is more than able to take care of this situation! I have much peace, knowing what God's Word promises and that the price was already paid for my healing by Jesus at the cross! I believe that I have a very bright future on this earth with much yet to accomplish for His glory, Amen! I am asking God for a miracle surgery without doctors, because I know that there is NOTHING too hard for Him! Thank you again for your agreement in prayer.

I believe that 2018 is going to be an awesome year for each of you wonderful partners and for RLPM! Together we will reach many more prisoners with God's life-changing Gospel of heart transformation... YES!

Thank you for your generosity. Without your support, we simply could not do what God has called us to do.

We look forward to hearing from you soon!

With much love and Shalom!

Sharla

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.

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, McCloud, 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, McCloud, 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!

Monthly tax receipts are mailed. Yearly tax receipts will be sent upon request.

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Sharon Moreland — processing/mailing.*

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

LOOK INSIDE!

**Year-end receipts will gladly be sent upon your request to RLPM.
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 7 PM
INSPIRING INMATE TESTIMONY!
MORE AMBASSADORS NEEDED**

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