Rehoboth Ranch: a vision becoming a reality

By Gerald Harris
Editor

EDISON – Rehoboth Ranch is a 90-acre rehabilitation center located in Calhoun Country where those struggling with substance abuse can get started on the road to recovery and get reconnected with their Creator. It is a ministry that was birthed in the heart of Rob Morgan.

Craig O. Layton, pastor of Leary Baptist Church, is excited about the creation of Rehoboth Ranch; and he recently expressed gratitude for Rob and his wife, Selina, who are vibrant members of his church.

Layton explained, “Rob is an adult Sunday School teacher and a member of our Missions Team here at Leary. Selina is our Women’s Bible Study leader and the leader of our Missions Team.”

Rob Morgan has not always been as committed to the Lord and the church as he is at the present time. In fact, he was once an addict in need of rehabilitation himself.

The Albany Herald reported him saying, “The Lord changed me. When I went to rehab, I realized there was a difference between going to church and realizing who Jesus is, Jesus being the Lord. Birds in the air, flowers in the field “don’t worry about anything.”

“While Rob announced his vision of Rehoboth Ranch to the church, the people embraced it and decided to get involved, so Rob’s vision became the vision of the church.”

When the concept of Rehoboth Ranch was presented to James Holloway, associational missionary of Bethel Baptist Association, he wanted to share the opportunity with the association’s missions team. The team was immediately drawn to the ministry and the Association voted to create a new designated fund that could be used for contributions going directly to the ranch. It has now become an official ministry supported at the associational level.

Layton, who is president of the Ranch’s 501(c) Board of Directors as well as a working partner in the day-to-day operations of the ranch, added, “We have board members from various churches who are lending their support to our ministry.

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“This is none other than a move of God. It is more than a rehabilitation center for addicts; it is becoming a Christ-honoring hub of this community. Likeminded believers, from all over are espousing the vision and being compelled to get involved in what God is doing here.

“I could elaborate about all the divine encounters, divine provisions and divine illuminations that have come through this ministry already, but the point is that we are just simple, country folks who are resolved to hear from God and then act on what He gives us by way of instruction.”

Rehoboth does not plan to use the commonly employed 12-step program in its rehabilitation process, but has decided to use a recovery plan similar to several faith-based rehabilitation ministries the leadership has observed.

The Albany Herald quoted Morgan as saying, “What we did was, instead of inventing a wheel, we’ve taken the spokes of wheels we like... (but) this program is based on trust in Jesus only, not Jesus plus. So there is one step and that’s trust in Christ. We believe faith and trust in Christ can cause transformation in any life, which is why Rehoboth is presented as a center for refuge and healing and not a typical rehab facility.”
Movie about Rachel Joy Scott of Columbine shooting has Georgia ties

By Scott Barkley
Web Content Editor

DULUTH —

When Georgia Baptist Masey McLain told her friends she’d earned the role of Rachel Joy Scott in a movie, not many were familiar with the first fatality of the Columbine High School shooting on April 20, 1999.

McLain’s performance in I’m Not Ashamed, released Oct. 21, may change that.

McLain and executive producer Benny Proffitt spoke about the movie before and after a screening held Oct. 5 at the Georgia Baptist Mission Board Missions and Ministry Center. Both emphasized the movie’s purpose.

“The Lord flooded my mind with scripture and worship songs throughout that whole scene. I have never felt His presence so strongly. It was truly amazing and very hard to explain, but I felt the Lord hovering over that day so much.”

Masey McLain

In one of the more heart-wrenching scenes of “I’m Not Ashamed” Rachel Scott’s red Acura becomes a memorial site after the horrific 1999 shootings at Columbine High School in Littleton, CO. Twelve students and a teacher died in the attack before the shooters took their own lives. IMNOTASHAMEDFILM.COM/Special

Rachel, the more I would think, ‘Hey, I can relate to that.”

‘You know I do’

On the day of the shooting Scott and classmate Richard Castlado ate lunch outside the cafeteria when students Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold approached and opened fire. Suffering from multiple bullet wounds, Scott and Castlado each received the same question from Harris.

“Do you believe in God?”

Castlado, an agnostic to this day, said no and was spared. He recalled Scott’s response to Harris.

“You know I do.”

…and Harris’ words before pulling the trigger.

“Then go be with him.”

“I will never forget the day we filmed the shooting scene,” McLain recalled. “The Lord flooded my mind with scripture and worship songs throughout that whole scene. I have never felt His presence so strongly. It was truly amazing and very hard to explain, but I felt the Lord hovering over that day so much.

“He allowed me to go to so many places emotionally that I had never been. I am an actress and have been acting for about six years and I know how to be in a moment during a scene emotionally, but it was the Lord that truly gave me everything I needed to do this part.”

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The Southern Baptist Convention is a wonderful fellowship of some 45,000 churches in 42 Baptist state conventions. We are joined together in a relationship that is loosely knit together, but bound very deeply with a common vision to be on mission for Jesus Christ in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the uttermost parts of the earth.

In this writing, I want to feature two letters I received recently as they speak about the importance of our partnership as Georgia Baptists and Southern Baptists.

One letter comes from a friend of many years, Kevin Ezell, president of the North American Mission Board. Kevin served on my staff at First Baptist Church of Paducah as a high school student and as a college student. He was deeply loved by our congregation and we all rejoiced when God called him into the Gospel ministry. It was our privilege to ordain Kevin and to rejoice in how God has used him across the years.

Kevin wrote words of appreciation in his letter for our Georgia Baptist churches who increased their giving to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions by 4.45%. That is wonderful news, Georgia Baptists. I am thankful for your heart for missions and for our close relationship with the North American Mission Board which is uniquely focused on church planting and a myriad of ministries including Disaster Relief which continues to be one of the primary outreach ministries of the Southern Baptist Convention.

I encourage you to keep Kevin Ezell in your prayers. His responsibilities are great. Because I have known him for a long time I know his heart well. He cherishes your prayers and support as we work diligently to reach North America for Christ.

The second letter comes from one of our fine pastors, Jeff Parmer. In his letter, Jeff expresses appreciation for the wonderful staff of the Georgia Baptist Mission Board. He mentions Randy Mullinax in particular, who brought the message for the homecoming celebration at Crossview Baptist Church. Jeff is also a dear friend and has served on many committees and in many capacities in the life of our Georgia Baptist Mission Board.

Thank you, Jeff, for your wonderfully uplifting letter. Your uplifting remarks serve to make us want to work harder than ever to serve our Georgia Baptist churches.

Time to wake up to reality

WSB-TV reported that parents in Henry County are upset with an email that went out on Monday, Oct. 3 to teachers at East Lake Elementary School. The memo was a reminder to teachers that crosses or Bible verses on an instructor’s desk are prohibited.

Todd Starnes of Fox News wrote, “Jesus just got kicked out of public schools in Henry County, Georgia. “The school district fired off a directive to school administrators ordering them to eradicate anything remotely religious from all public school buildings.”

Someone who received a copy of the directive apparently shared his/her copy with Starnes. It said, “You are hereby directed to remove all items which contain religious symbols, such as crosses, printed bibles, angels, bible verses, printed prayers, and biblical quotations from the common areas, hallways, classrooms, and office of East Lake Elementary School.”

The edict continued, “Further … religious and biblical references should not be included in notes to parents, email signature lines, or any other correspondence sent on behalf of East Lake Elementary.”

Berndt Petersen, reporting for WSB-TV, said, “The email indicated the list [of forbidden symbols and religious items] was a new policy, but a district spokesman said it’s merely a new memo.”

J.D. Hardin, with the Henry County Schools, explained, “That is a federal law that we’re abiding by. We just sent out these reminders and things to be aware of and we’ve been doing that for the past two decades.”

Whether the decree was issued two decades ago or two days ago is immaterial. The government is overstepping its bounds and ignoring the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution by issuing such pronouncements against the displaying of religious objects and articles.

The First Amendment says, “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.” Politicians talk much about “making no law respecting an establishment of religion,” but this phrase forbids more than the establishment of religion by the government. It forbids even laws respecting an establishment of religion.

In an article titled, “Faith and Freedom Under Fire in America” a staff writer penned, “The assaults against the Judeo/Christian faith in the U.S. have been increasing at an alarming rate in nearly all aspects of our daily lives.

The decline has been championed by social liberals that have used laws that were meant to protect our liberty of conscience as weapons against [people of faith].

“These attacks span the realms of education, where our children are eroticized and indoctrinated; in government where coercion hides behind the labels of hate speech and tolerance; in our professional lives where businesses are coerced into participating in practices that insult their belief systems; and in the world of entertainment, where somehow what is immoral is portrayed as normal and acceptable.”
**ACROSS**

1. Come to ___: KJV for “It will happen” (Gen 4:14)
2. The city of Gibeon “made ___ with Joshua and with the children of Israel” (Josh. 10:4)
3. Deceived, as the spies (Josh 2:1) (2 wds.)
4. Jericho was one (Josh. 6:1)
5. Sign of despair on Joshua’s head (Josh. 7:6)
6. One of the Ten Commandments, e.g. (Ex. 20:1)
7. Pharoah’s problem (Ex. 5:2)
8. How shall I defy, whom the Lord hath not ___?” (Num. 23:8)
9. What Joshua built at 60 Across (Josh. 8:30)
10. vacation time in Versailles
11. Govt. benefits program
12. Vacation time in Versailles
13. Women’s magazine
14. Dueling sword
15. At battle’s end, Amalek was this (slang)
16. Joshua went ___ the mount of God (Ex. 24:13)
17. “The Lord said unto Joshua, ___ not, neither be thou dismayed” (Josh. 8:1)
18. One way to accomplish 19 Across
19. “The ___ of the Lord’s host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot” (Josh. 5:15)
20. Bible fragrance source (Prov. 7:17)
21. Joshua was one
22. Israelites’ loot from Ai (Josh. 8:26-27)
23. Bard’s before 24. Presented to the people by Moses, Joshua ___ the Israelites (Num. 27:22-23)
24. Israelites’ loom from Ai (Josh. 8:26-27)
25. “How long are ye slack to go and possess the land, which the Lord ___ of your fathers hath given you?” (Josh. 18:3)
26. Poultry products producer
27. One of the Stooges
28. Burning incense ___ a fragrance (Gen. 8:20-21)
29. Fishing cord
30. Adder’s threats to horse heels (Gen. 49:17)
31. Geometry word
32. Sweet potato
33. Distribute
34. Reason “Jericho was straitly shut up” (Josh. 6:1-3)
35. Go-to place for a pastrami on rye
36. Writing table
37. ___ Lanka
38. Baseball glove
39. Rahab ___ ___ the spices (Josh 2:1) (2 wds.)
40. Jericho was one (Josh. 6:1)
41. Swee’ ___, Popeye tot
42. Joshua was minister to him (Ex. 24:13)
43. Breadway awards
44. “Is there any taste in the white of an ___?” (Job 6:6)
45. John will not use these to write (3 John 1:13)
46. One of the watchers of Joshua’s battle with Amalek (Ex. 17:10)
47. Bean
48. Joshua’s dad (Ex. 33:11)
49. Their products
50. “Their works are works of iniquity, and the ___ of violence is in their hands” (Isa. 59:6)
51. Only he and Joshua entered the land (Num. 26:65)
52. Joshua’s yuccas
53. “The people served the ___ all the days of Joshua” (Judg. 2:7)
54. Poultry products producer
55. “How shall I defy, whom the Lord hath not ___?” (Num. 23:8)
56. Turn over
57. Mount of 60 Down
58. Pharoah’s problem (Ex. 5:2)
59. Veteran’s Day mo.
60. One of the Ten Commandments, e.g.
61. John the Baptist would eat one (Matt. 3:4)
62. Tame, as a horse (Ex. 13:18)
63. Ancient Greek marketplace
64. Stringed instrument
65. “I was blind, now ___ ___.” (John 9:25) (2 wds.)
66. Star
67. Stravinsky’s first name
68. Small amounts, as of paint

**DOWN**

2.描述Achan as “all Israel stoned him with stones” (Josh. 7:25)
4. String of noted 1906 revival
5. Ancient Greek marketplace
7. Feature of a daring aerial escapade (2 wds.)
8. Period of time
9. Feature of a daring aerial escapade (2 wds.)
10. Horse nibble
11. Govt. benefits program
12. America’s capital (2 wds.)
13. A pillar of a cloud would ___ the Israelites to move (Ex. 13:21)
14. Extreme prefix
15. Mississippi university
16. Ancient Greek marketplace
17. Pharaoh’s problem (Ex. 5:2)
18. Period of time
19. String of noted 1906 revival
20. Bible fragrance source (Prov. 7:17)
22. Mississippi university
23.阶段性状态
24. Biblical vacation spot (John 11:20)
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