



Dear Friends,

January 2009: Vol. 27, No. 01

This month is totally devoted to featuring some of our longer letters from WPM students. We receive many letters each month and most simply want to say "Thank you!" A few will grumble about our particular expression of Christianity. Some may write six or more pages on their spiritual discovery as they have studied the Scriptures. Some send artwork, and a few, their poems. But all are an encouragement and tell us that the Lord is doing a great work in the prisons. Are you "Experiencing God"? Join us!

STUDENT PRAISES

The Person Behind the Scenes

"As I follow each day with a watchful eye and steadfast heart, I think of your program and staff and **the person behind the scenes** grading and reading the exams that come in from inmates all over. Thank you for enrolling me. I feel **He has sent you my way**, as your comments tell me that you love the Lord greatly and love to serve Him in what you do. I pray that everyone is in good health and still waiting for the return of the Father's Son in full glory!" Gilbert

Once Very, Very Hard Person

"I'm so overwhelmed with the desire to get out now and try to make up the seconds that I've wasted with my mom. I've lost my dad; she has stood beside me all the way through this. She is still overjoyed at my new Christian walk. She has always tried to get me in church. **Now she is in awe at my studies and my knowledge of the Bible.** But more importantly, she sees that the Holy Spirit now dwells in the heart of this **once very, very hard person.** She hurts so badly for me to be in this tiny cell only to get out one hour a day. "I'm an ole Aryan Brother. I have hits on me (to kill me) from the Aryan Brotherhood. But I don't care.

I'd rather be a dead Christian than a breathing Aryan. But I keep telling my mom that **this is what God had to do.** It took putting me in this little cement square to make me realize where I was heading without the Holy Spirit and Jesus in my life." Jeffrey

Wished I'd Found Him Sooner

"I wanted to write to thank you for sending me this curriculum. **I have accepted the Lord God Jesus Christ as my Savior through working on this curriculum.** I am at the first year of a six-year sentence for DWI. It seems like every single course God is speaking to me. I feel peace in my heart; I find myself reading the Bible every day and sharing what God has done for me to other prisoners. I give them information on how to get your curriculum.

"It seems every one I talk to about it wants to be a part of it. In my unit it was one prisoner, now it's up to eight. I just handed the yellow slip to my new celly. He borrowed my books to read and we talked for hours. I explained to him how it has changed my life and continues to do so.

"You all are truly a God-send. Know that all your work is not in vain. I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for guiding a lost soul to find God. I only **wished I'd found Him sooner.** I have suffered unbearable hardships, but I realize that **I've been sent to prison to be saved.** God has a plan for me. I put all my faith in Him. I trust in the Lord on behalf of my family and all prisoners whose lives your Bible study touches." Alexander

Just Die and Get It Over With

"Before I trusted Christ, I was a mess. I had no security at all; my life was in limbo, living on the edge from day to day, not knowing what tomorrow would bring. And to top it off, my every mistake would haunt me and kill my conscience. Addicted to drugs and every sin to get my high would make things worse and worse. I was considered a 'lost case.'

REPORT FOR JANUARY 2009

“In and out of jail and prison, confessing to love God, but not with my heart, just lip service. Sex, drugs, and past hurts would dominate every day of my life. I wanted to **just die and get it over with**- end my suffering. I did try to end my life two times and failed.

“One day as I sat in the Bexar County Jail, I was detoxing off of heroin and sicker than ever. I called on God one too many times and felt that He wasn't trying to hear it no more. **But I had no choice; I needed help and I needed it quickly.** So I prayed for a couple of days and then read the Word of God. After one week I was no longer sick; I was healed and I didn't even know it. One night as I sat alone in a cell, I did it: I cried and I begged God to change my desire to sin and fill me with the Holy Spirit. That night I was baptized and have never been the same since.

“It has been harder than ever because the enemy is out to kill, steal, and destroy every minute of the day. He doesn't sleep. But greater is God Who is in me than he that is in the world. It has been an experience only God can give. **I may be locked up but I'm free.** I can sing, I can shout. I can know that my sins are forgiven. I'm a new man; I'm not a lost case. I'm a child of the most high Authority. No weapon formed against me shall prosper. I've been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb.

“Every time the devil tries to bring up my past, I remind him of his future. Christ has paid the price for my every mistake, my addiction, my hurt, my agony; it's all at the foot of the cross. That's all He wanted was my heart, my soul, my everything, because He held nothing back. Whoever doesn't believe that Christ saves and heals can take a look at me. **I'm a walking, talking miracle and I owe it all to my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.**” Shawn

I Am Very Impressed

“Now that is what I call a Bible study! I found this study in our chapel and **I am very impressed.** Please, please keep these coming along with the other series. I have been saved for over 50 years and have a Masters in theology from a Texas Seminary. I need some meat of the Word. We are studying ACTS and ROMANS in our Bible studies here at this unit and an Emmaus study course on these books would be helpful!” Danny

Institutions Served	369
Active Students	9,318
New Enrollees	1,612
Professions of Faith	70
Course Booklets Mailed	9,531
Course Exams Completed	5,873

Student Achievements Reached This Month:

36 Course Units Completed:	21 Students
48 Course Units Completed:	12 Students

Operational Financial Summary:

Beginning Bank Balance-Jan 01:	\$ 77.20
Funds Provided -January	<u>25,843.03</u>
Sub-total:	25,920.23
Program Expense - Postage: 12,959.93#	
Printing: 1,262.00	
Misc Ofc: 335.50	
Books: 2,835.71	
Salaries: 1,487.50*	
Utilities: <u>344.35</u>	
	19,224.99
Sub-total:	6,695.24
From Emergency Reserve:	<u>00.00</u>
Ending Bank Balance-Jan 31:	\$ 6,695.24

#Includes 4 BRM annual charges.

*Faith-based support for salaries included in contributions.

Mail us: P.O. Box 461582, Garland, Texas 75046-1582

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Dear Friends,

February 2009: Vol. 27, No. 02

**NATIONAL
VOLUNTEER WEEK
APRIL 19-25**



For more than 26 years the ministry has been borne by volunteers who have found a satisfying niche of service to the Lord. Some come in for several hours a week, some for several days a week, and some for the entire week. Some are even here 'in the spirit' seven days a week!

Because this February report will be arriving in your home in early April, we wanted to celebrate National Volunteer Week now. And the highlight is on Nancy Messer, who has served WPM for more than 24 years. On a daily basis she has picked up our mail from the Garland post office, opened and dated it, and then sorted it by branch for further processing. And she has done much grading and counseling.

On February 13 she made her last run. She and her husband, Tom, are moving to the East Coast to be near their children. We salute you, Nancy, for your steadfast devotion, cheerfulness, and invaluable help to making this ministry successful and fruitful. We already miss you!

GROUNDING IN THE WORD

"I wanted to write you to say how much I appreciate the support and love that Write-Way has given to me. I can honestly say that the Bible studies have helped to keep me grounded in the Word of God while keeping Him on my mind day and night. When my neighbor at another unit handed me a card to receive studies I was shocked to see that you were from my hometown. So I smiled and mailed the card. I've been blessed ever since. I discharge on April 7, 2009." Jamelyn

GUARANTEE HEARING MY NAME

"I just wanted to thank your ministry for strengthening my walk with the Lord. I started my prison sentence in Ft. Worth in 2002 and was released this past October 2008. I was so lost at the beginning of my time. One day, to guarantee hearing my name at mail call, I signed up for your correspondence courses. Wow, they changed my life forever. Thank God! Now I'm home in the same town as your distributor [ECS in Dubuque, IA]. I've made a great friend there and cannot wait to give back to my community the same way you and your ministry gave. Again, thank you, and praise the Lord for the life I now have filled with hope!" Mickie

STUDENT PRAISES

LOOK AT ME!

"God told me one night to go to church the next morning. I did and met a man who gave me a card to mail in for this correspondence course. And look at me today, 'A Born Again Christian'!!!" Rodney

"I have nothing but time to pray in the Spirit... any requests?" Pamie



Volunteers Alan Wharry (right) and Rodger Turley (left) prepare to load bagged courses to go to the post office. More than 2,000 studies are shipped every week.

→ SOMETHING VERY NEW TO ME ←

"I'm writing your office requesting any Bible study courses that you offer. I have a great interest in learning about the Holy Bible and Jesus Christ. It's something very new to me. When I was growing up I only attended church but a handful of times. I now know that I have lived a life without Jesus Christ walking by myself. I have made the wrong decisions that have led my life to prison. I have asked for forgiveness for my sins and asked Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior at the age of 42. The anger that had once lived in my heart for so many, many years has gone away! I just want to continue to study God's Word. Thank you for offering these Bible courses and doing God's work in encouraging all to learn Jesus Christ." Sergio

→ I'LL NEVER BE BACK AGAIN ←

"I am 28 years old and I am so thankful that you send me these studies. I am an ex-gang member. I have been locked up more times than me and you together have toes and fingers. My first time was when I was 12 years old. I come from a broken home of drugs and alcohol, which is no excuse, but it only made things worse. Church wasn't ever a word in my family. My great grandmother used to tell me stories that were in the Bible, but I was very young.

"The first time I remember picking up a Bible I was 12 years old, alone, and scared in a small cell. I felt that no one loved or cared for me and at 12 that is a very harsh reality. My family didn't write me or check on me so I figured I needed someone. So I asked a lady if she could get me a Bible. She came back in minutes and handed me a New Testament. So I started reading. I didn't understand much of it, but it made me feel better every time I read. I still remember her, a stranger, but she showed me great compassion. For the rest of my stay there I respected her and looked forward to seeing her every day. I wouldn't even cuss around her. She cried the morning I was released and I did too.

"I turned 28 in January, 2009 and I truly feel in my heart I'll never be back again, unless it's to help people like me. I will be released April 2009. I truly feel that God is working in my life. He knows my heart. I am in a 10 x 10 foot cell 23 hours a day. But I still smile and laugh because I am not alone anymore. He has always been there." Stephen

REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2009

Institutions Served	365
Active Students	9,437
New Enrollees	1,672
Professions of Faith	61
Course Booklets Mailed	9,579
Course Exams Completed	5,395

Student Achievements Reached This Month:

36 Course Units Completed:	21 Students
48 Course Units Completed:	14 Students

Operational Financial Summary:

Beginning Bank Balance-Feb 01:	\$ 6,695.24
Funds Provided -February	<u>10,915.26</u>
Sub-total:	17,610.50
Program Expense - Postage:	8,336.35#
Printing:	2,788.67
Misc Ofc:	1,085.00
Books:	5,060.38
Salaries:	318.50*
Utilities:	<u>798.55</u>
	18,387.45
Sub-total:	-776.95
From Emergency Reserve:	<u>1,000.00</u>
Ending Bank Balance-Feb 28:	\$ 223.05

#Includes 2 Business Reply Mail annual charges.

*Faith-based support for salaries included in contributions.

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Dear Friends,

March 2009: Vol. 27, No. 03

A SPRING BOUQUET OF PRAISES

“Thank you from the bottom of my heart for the Bible study. It is such a blessing to know that there are those out there such as yourself. I thank God that He showed me the way to your door. I am but a baby in Christ and **I thrive on the very explanation of the Word** that you give me.” *Dana*

“I have spent the last three or four months watching a cellmate of mine do your Bible studies. **They really are amazing.** After watching him learn so much, I would like to begin doing them also.” *Keith*

“I am interested in receiving any Bible studies or Christian literature your ministry might offer for free. I am currently incarcerated in the Dallas County Jail and am finally able to sit still long enough to hear what the Good Lord has to say.” *Sean*

“I want to thank you for my first lesson. I got a lot out of it. My spiritual belief is a lot stronger and my faith is stronger. My heart has changed more toward the Word. I have more love to give. I also have more trust in God and Jesus Christ that they will take all my worries and sins. I am looking forward to more of your lessons.” *Kevin*

“Well, I’m 41 years of age and I never thought I would see 25! I know He did not bring me this far for nothing. So my response is **I’ll just stand on His Word**, because I know that I am in His plans. Before I started these courses, I thought I was saved. But during these courses a lot has changed. I was just too blind to see!” *Robert*

“The reason I am writing is because I have learned that **the material I receive from you is doctrinally sound and Scripturally correct.** Like the Bereans of Acts 17, I search the Scriptures to make sure the things I receive and read is so. Consequently, I have had to abandon a couple of so-called Bible studies because they have proved to be unreliable.” *Dan*

“Praise report! On the 5th of Feb 09 I arrived at the Ramsey unit to begin a nine-month process that will terminate with me released from solitary into general population. I will have my contact visits restored and get to hug and kiss my grandchildren for the first time ever! I will not fail in this process. I will succeed so I can begin to help others do the same. Thank you for these studies. **I kept my sanity by focusing on God and His Word** instead of my sorrows.” *Vern*

“I am blessed. I just wanted to thank you for the studies that you all send to me. These studies have been a **great benefit to me.** Day by day I am learning who Christ is. He is becoming more real to me than ever. Again, thank you for the Bible studies and continuing moral support.” *Daniel*

“During my stay at the Ellis unit **I talked three brothers into leaving the gang** they were a part of. And some I talked into not becoming a gang member. I thank Jesus Christ for that. Thanks for the Bible studies. I am growing in Christ.” *Ricardo*

“I thank you for your course. I am learning a lot. I am a new child in the Word of God. I am so hungry and thirsty for learning His Word and ways. It is a privilege for being in jail one more time, but this time **doing time with God on my side.** It is a very beautiful experience. Thank you for existing and teaching me more of the Word of Christ.” *Ruben*

“Thank the Lord for your Emmaus Correspondence School [parent company of WPM]. The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want. Upon arrival at the Byrd unit I was praying that I could get back into the Bible courses. One day I came in for lunch and **I came across this course lying on the windowsill.** Praise God! The Lord has provided for me. Please send another Bible study; I will continue in the Lord’s Word.” *Harlin*

“I’m going home this Monday and I will be still visiting you all in studying and meditating on the Lord. Don’t send the course to this prison. Send it to where I will be living.” *Tardarius*

WHEN I SAY, "I AM A CHRISTIAN"

When I say, "I am a Christian," I'm not shouting, "I'm clean living." I'm whispering, "I was lost. Now I am found and forgiven."

When I say, "I am a Christian," I don't speak of this with pride. I'm confessing that I have stumbled and need Christ to be my guide.

When I say, "I am a Christian," I'm not trying to be strong. I'm professing that I am weak and need His strength to carry on.

When I say, "I am a Christian," I'm not claiming to be perfect; my flaws are too visible. But God believes I am worth it.

When I say, "I am a Christian," I'm not bragging of success. I'm admitting I have failed and need God to clean up my mess.

When I say, "I am a Christian," I still feel the sting of pain. I have my share of heartaches. So I call upon His Name.

When I say, "I am a Christian," I am not "Holier than thou." I'm just a simple sinner who received God's Grace... somehow!

Inspired from the ECS courses. Joe

"I'm an inmate at a Federal prison. I was a Christian before I fell into Satan's path. But I praise the Lord that I'm here, for now I've come to realize that he's my only way. But I need as much studying as possible. I want to be as strong as I can in the Lord. So I would love your help with Bible study courses from beginning to end!" **Jessica**

"At the end of March I will be discharged from prison. I wish to continue your Bible studies, so please send them and my certificates to my home address. I have enjoyed your studies from 09/06 until now. It has been great for me to grow in my Lord and to better myself. It has helped me to make it in prison the last few years."
Samuel

"Here is a stamped envelope so we can help other students that can't afford to buy stamps and envelopes. I don't get money from my family, but I can still bless someone else with my blessing that I get from the state."
William

REPORT FOR MARCH 2009

Institutions Served	363
Active Students	9,604
New Enrollees	1,771
Professions of Faith	65
Course Booklets Mailed	9,640
Course Exams Completed	5,765

Student Achievements Reached This Month:

36 Course Units Completed: 22 Students

48 Course Units Completed: 13 Students

Operational Financial Summary:

Beginning Bank Balance-March 01:	\$ 223.05
Funds Provided -March	<u>20,438.51</u>
Sub-total:	20,661.56
Program Expense - Postage:	13,404.50
Printing:	2,024.82
Misc Ofc:	1,072.68
Books:	2,071.84
Salaries:	1,519.00*
Utilities:	<u>1,177.64</u>
	21,270.48
Sub-total:	-608.92
From Emergency Reserve:	<u>4,000.00</u>
Ending Bank Balance-March 31:	\$ 3,391.08

*Faith-based support for salaries included in contributions.

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Dear Friends,

April 2009: Vol. 27, No. 04

BRANCH 014: SPANISH COURSES

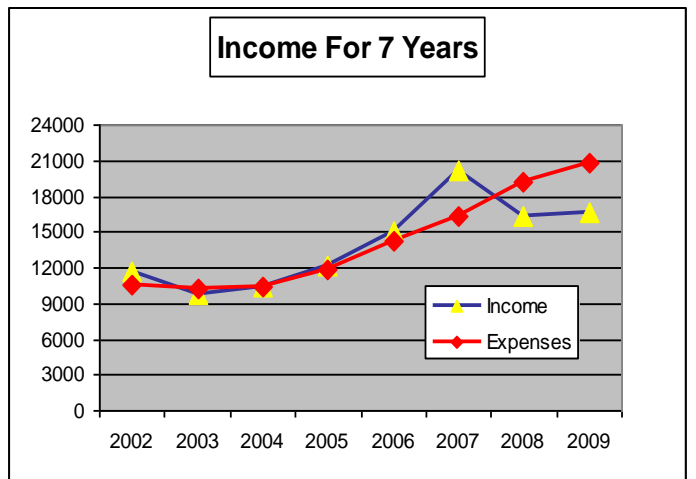
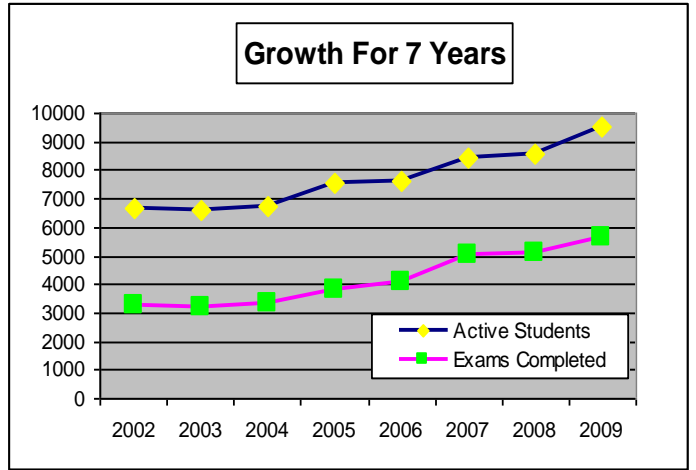
In 1982 Verdad En Amor (or Spanish Bible Chapel: Truth in Love) started weekly Bible classes in the Central Unit at Sugar Land with more than 100 prisoners. As we prayed about reaching others in the state of Texas, we received a phone call from WPM in 1985 to serve Spanish students through the Emmaus courses.

Our secretaries, Mrs. Hilda Fernandez and Mrs. Ruth Cook Martin, do all the post office handling along with Armindo Ribeiro, who does post office pick-up and the preparation of the lessons. F. "Paco" Fernandez gets the lessons to the graders, does all the Navigator lesson grading, and completes all the computer work with the tutoring of Stan Boyer (Branch 003 manager). Branch 014 is divided into 5 small groups of prayers/workers, each group being identified by its own name. All in all, we have a total of 26 grader/counselors, 1 "pen-pal" and 2 secretaries. Glory and honor be to our Lord!

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Francisco Fernandez "PACO" | Maria and Jose Cruz |
| Hilda Fernandez "CACHY" | Esthela and Donato Guajardo |
| Armindo Ribeiro | Hector Liendo |
| Elba Olalla | Telma Castro |
| Yolanda and Oscar Contreras | Dora Cervantes |
| Guillermina Izquierdo | Carmen Wojnarowicz |
| and Eladia Chavez | Mario Wojnarowicz |
| Misael and Isabel Morales | Ana Maria Gimenez |
| Sonia Colorado | Aracely Fonseca |
| Elsa Caballero | Enrique Salguero |
| Leticia and Efrain Castro | Josefina Avila |
| Paulo Nino | |

Francisco (Paco) Fernandez, Manager, Stafford, Texas
161 Institutions, 1030 Students (11% of all active students)
April, 2009, figures: 734 Books mailed, 446 Exams completed.

A PICTURE WORTH A 1,000 WORDS



"The harvest truly is great..." Luke 10:2

According to Fiscal 2008 numbers, the state of Texas is overseeing more than **691,000** men and women, either in prison, on parole, or in some type of community service or treatment program. For a taxpayer, that is a tremendous burden to shoulder. For a psychiatrist, that is a very large dysfunctional group. But for a Christian, that is a typical potential harvest population for whom Christ gave His life. We are reaching only 1.4% of this group.

We at WPM are so pleased that the Lord has blessed us with continued growth both in number of volunteers and students. We have unprecedented access to this great harvest field. We have excellent courses so that they may gain their spiritual eyes and grow up into Christ.

"...therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers..." Luke 10:2

But we need more laborers, those who pray, work, and give. Please consider what the Lord would have you do.



Paco in the midst of his volunteers

For April, our postage costs have climbed to 54% of our monthly budget (see the Report opposite). As a correspondence school we are dependent upon the post office. But the new May postal increases will surely push that number higher. Bulk mail for the course shipments will be up 4%. And costs for mailing the newsletter and purge letters will be up 60%! We do all of our own printing to keep costs low. And we are increasingly dependent on the best computer processes and equipment. Those two items represent 18% of our expenses.

Increasingly we are fighting a tougher battle to maintain our very effective offense into prisons and jails where isolation and oppression are taking their tolls on souls. If we cut back on courses going in, then our student base will shrink. If we cut back on enrollment cards then there will be fewer professions of faith. If we make drastic changes in our newsletter mailing, then you will be affected. Our Father is working even now and Jesus is working. Will you join us in working with your prayers and financial support for the consummation of this harvest? We don't want to cut back now! Thank you!

SAMPLINGS OF GOD'S WORK

I NOW WORSHIP...

"Since I have trusted Christ I see everything through a different perspective. I have humbled myself; the anger inside me is gone. Laughter takes its place. I am able to listen better and speak with more knowledge of the truth. I sleep better; I awake in a good humor with a smile. The first thing on my mind is the Lord and how I can make this day better for everyone around me.

"Things that bothered me in the past are exactly that, the past. Now my Lord takes care of those trivial little worries. He allows me to focus on what is important. I now worship in the true house of God." Carl

GOD NEVER CEASES TO AMAZE...

"I have been working on your Bible study for a while now. Every study book is brimming, chock-full of great wealth of information. The explanations given for each subject are very clear and all-inclusive. I am highly blessed with your Bible studies. I have read Scripture since I was 19 years old, and accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior at the age of 21. Here I am at 43 and God never ceases to amaze me. I cannot tell you how much your study means to me. Thank you." Lorenzo

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORKS

"Your address was given to me by an inmate who is very impressed with you. And when I asked around about you, I found others who are well pleased with you. Keep up the good works!" Michael

REPORT FOR APRIL 2009

Institutions Served	371
Active Students	9,661
New Enrollees	1,446
Professions of Faith	69
Course Booklets Mailed	9,071
Course Exams Completed	5,487

Student Achievements Reached This Month:

36 Course Units Completed:	20 Students
48 Course Units Completed:	15 Students

Operational Finances Summary:

Beginning Account Bal.-April 01:	\$ 3,391.08
Funds Provided -April	<u>9,056.71</u>
Sub-total:	12,447.79
Program Expense - Postage:	13,344.40
Printing:	2,866.52
Misc Ofc:	1,451.79
Books:	5,001.99
Salaries:	1,138.69*
Utilities:	<u>773.75</u>
	24,577.14
Sub-total:	-12,129.35
From Emergency Reserve:	<u>13,000.00</u>
Ending Account Bal.-April 30:	\$ 870.65

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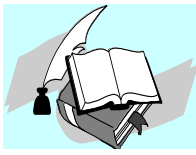
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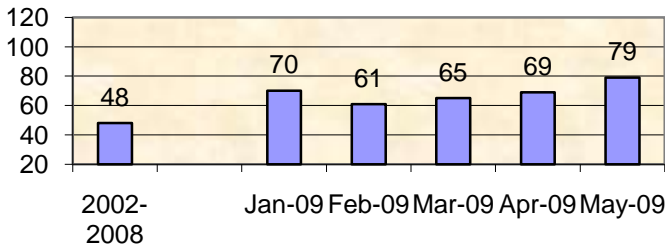
May 2009: Vol. 27, No. 05

**PROFESSIONS OF FAITH –
EVIDENCE OF GOD AT WORK**

One of the names of our God is “Jehovah Jirah,” the God Who Provides. Again and again we at WPM have seen our needs met and lives changed because God has intervened. The angels are rejoicing in heaven!! {Praise God a record number (79) professions of faith in May.}

LOOK! THE FIELDS ARE RIPE FOR HARVEST **

**Professions of Faith 2002-2008
monthly average, 2009 monthly**



Our continued growth of the student body and the responses that we get from our students give evidence that we are doing a remarkable work and that God is at work in our midst.

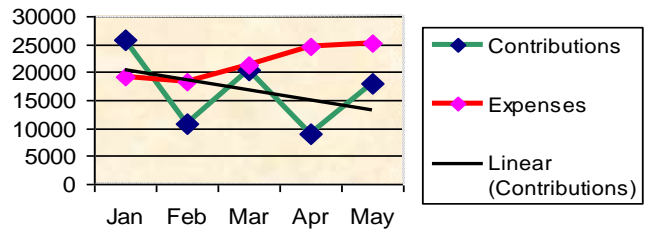
The tension in a faith-based non-profit organization such as WPM is that we must both trust in the Lord of the Harvest to provide and also must operate with fiscal responsibility. That tension grows even greater during economic downturns. In a January 2009 survey of Evangelical Council on Financial Accountability members (ECFA), responses suggested that: 1) God’s people are generous even in times of economic decline (72% met 2008 contribution goals); 2) organizations are focusing on core ministries; and 3) ministries are resilient as they place a priority on balancing expenses with available resources (some made layoffs, cut back capital projects, borrowed from restricted funds, or obtained a loan). Other comments from organizations were that they increased their prayer effort, were forced to make operational decisions and focus on goals, delayed expansion plans, and had losses on investments. The patterns described above also parallel what WPM is experiencing and implementing.

Although our growth is evidence that God is at work in our midst, our contributions have not kept pace with the increased costs of such growth. We continue to explore potential grants and we desire to expand our contribution

base with such organizations as Local Independent Charities and the Kroger Neighbor to Neighbor program (see Kroger challenge.)

Our expenses directly correlate to our enrollment. As our enrollments have increased, so have our expenses. At the same time our contributions have decreased dramatically. As you have evaluated our financial reports and graphs, you have seen that our greatest expenses are always postage and the books our students receive. We have made some changes to lessen the costs of books and postage, but the primary way to reduce these costs is to reduce the number of people we serve. We realize this will also reduce our outreach, reduce professions of faith, and reduce discipleship to students who are maturing in their faith. We are not comfortable with these consequences, but we must match expenses to contributions. We believe our provider God has a plan. We ask you to pray with us for understanding and direction.

**Jan-May 2009
Contributions and Expenses with
Linear Trendline for Contributions**



OPPORTUNITIES AROUND US *****

Therefore, over the next several months we will be testing several options and watching what God wants to do through those of you who, like Jesus, have compassion on the incarcerated. Would you consider increasing your support for WPM by praying for us, using the Kroger program, contributing, and helping us find other ways to increase our contributions? Perhaps you have corporate chaplains or executives in your church or community who desire to help fund ministries that “make a difference.” Would your church financially support a “Branch” of volunteers who do the front-line work of grading and counseling with these men and women?

Working together the Church can astonish the world that God is not “missing in action” (see Matthew 5:16). He is indeed Jehovah Jirah, the God Who provides!

THE KROGER CHALLENGE *****

Included with this newsletter is a form from Kroger with WPM's special ID code. Each year Kroger will commit money to those ministries who apply by donating a percent of purchases from those who use their Kroger Shoppers Card. To date we have received \$751.71. But we must reapply each year, and you must update your card each year. Please follow the instructions on the form and present it to the clerk the next time you shop at Kroger's.

What WPM means to one student

"I would like to thank each of you for the wealth of wisdom and personal attention that I have gained since I began my studies with WPM in 2005. I am truly a more rounded Christian and vessel for God's word because of the "Truth" that your studies contain. I have truly been blessed by what you teach.

"Please, never stop doing the things you do for the incarcerated community. We need all that you have to offer. There are many in here who are lost and need the guidance that your studies offer to place them on the right path to freedom – eternal freedom. Even if you just reach one person, then your efforts were worth it. The heavens above rejoice over one lost soul that was saved because someone took the time to tell that person about Jesus. Keep preaching and teaching our Jesus my brothers and sisters. You will receive your treasures in heaven and there will be many in heaven with you because of the unique way that you bring Christ to a lost people. I thank all of you for the years of fellowship and for loving us – individuals that society has deemed unlovable.

"I write you this letter, not only to thank you but to also inform you that my time incarcerated is drawing to a close. It has been a long five years but it has also been a needed five years. It may sound strange to each of you but I'm truly thankful for my incarceration. I despise the reason that surrounds my incarceration, but I believe this was needed to get me off the alcohol and to draw me closer to my Lord and Savior. I know in my heart without the time spent behind bars, I would still be out there doing the same things I was doing and still be lost. I hate the person I was – I love myself today because of the mighty work Christ has done in me, through me and around me. I will not leave Christ in prison when I leave here. He comes with me. I must add how much I appreciate the personal notes that I would receive in my graded study lessons. I can't begin to tell you how much those encouraging words have helped me throughout my studies. I truly believe that WPM wouldn't have the high standards and dedication that it does today if it wasn't for each of you that work behind the scenes with the love and enthusiasm that you have in your hearts to do God's work and to further His kingdom."

Richard

MEMORIALS

On May 22, 2008 James Alfred Nichols passed away at the age of 94 and a half years. He is the brother of WPM President, Ralph Nichols. This month we discovered a July 2008 memorial gift for Alfred from William and JoAnn Croley. WPM appreciates this gift so very much.

REPORT FOR MAY 2009

Institutions Served	371
Active Students	9,771
New Enrollees	1,467
Professions of Faith	79
Course Booklets Mailed	10,045
Course Exams Completed	6,255

Student Achievements Reached This Month:

36 Course Units Completed: 24 Students
48 Course Units Completed: 19 Students

Operational Finances Summary:

Beginning Account Bal.-May 01:	\$ 870.65
Funds Provided -May	18,011.27
Sub-total:	18,881.92
Program Expense - Postage:	11,733.74
Printing:	2,311.54
Misc Ofc:	1,457.91
Books:	390.00
Salaries:	1,011.50*
Utilities:	748.76
	17,653.45
Ending Account Bal.-May 30:	\$ 1,228.47

- Unpaid April, May book invoices:

INCLUDED IN GRAPH \$7,513.88

*Faith-based support for salaries included in contributions.

Contact information:

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**Our annual certified CPA audit is available upon request.
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N E W S L E T T E R

Dear Friends,

June 2009: Vol. 27, No. 06

PRAISES! PRAISES! PRAISES!

◆The response to our last newsletter was overwhelming! The Lord moved on many hearts and we had more than a 25% increase over the standard number of monthly donors! As a result, our July financial position looks very good. **Praises!**

◆And we also received many notes of appreciation though some used the return form to remove their names from the mailing list. Regardless, they have committed our work to prayer. **Praises!**

◆If you will look at our June report on the back, the Lord gave us 102 professions of faith! During the years from 2002-2008 the average number of professions of faith per month stayed right around 48. For the first five months of 2009 that number jumped to an average of 68 per month. Now we are witnesses to 102 newborns for June! **Praises!**

“I will call them My people, who were not My people, and her beloved, who was not beloved.”
Romans 9:25

In addition, we continue to receive letters of testimony and praise, both to the great salvation of our Lord Jesus and the effectiveness of working through our courses. We never tire of sharing these with you.

PRAISES! PRAISES! PRAISES!

◆“I want to thank you for all your hard work and dedication that your ministry puts forth in serving the Lord. Your ministry has helped me to grow in knowledge and understanding of God’ Word. My loving and kind brothers and sisters who invest their time grading and providing their encouraging words always lift my spirit creating an awareness that collectively we all form the body of Christ. Their function is vital to the strengthening and growth that is greatly needed. **David**

“I will praise You, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works.”
Psalm 9:1

◆“We all tend to stay up late and sleep most of the day in here, and as I was drifting off to sleep, Youngster, Dead Eye, and GI Joe were up at the table doing Bible study with GI Joe leading. Next thing I know they had all crossed hands and were holding hands with Dead Eye leading the group in prayer. I was sure amazed to see such a thing!” **Rodney**



◆“I have really enjoyed the Bible studies. I appreciate your desire to spread the Word and would like to contribute to it. I can imagine it costs quite a bit to mail the Bible study. I am going to ask my father, who sends me money, to think about contributing to your program. Your ministry is definitely needed and appreciated by my fellow inmates.

It is a good feeling to know that someone cares enough to do this for us. No telling how many of us have been influenced to the better because you take the time to care. Yes, we deserve to be here, at least I do, but your ministry helps make my stay here a little more pleasant.

Thank you so much for the Scriptures you sent. They helped me answer some questions for one of my brothers here, who has since given his life to Jesus. Seven people I have been praying for have surrendered to God and it is partly what I learned from your studies that is responsible. May God richly bless you and keep you in his loving care.” **Carl**

◆“I must send to you my heart felt thanks, for your time, encouragement, and I’m sure, hard work following me through these courses. I am ashamed to admit that after being in and out of churches for the better part of 64 years, that until recently, I knew little more about the Lord God and Christ Jesus than a ten year old who went to Sunday School regularly. So please continue to help me learn and apply God’s Word to my life so I can pass it on to someone who is still as lost as I once was.”

Alvernon

◆“This DOING TIME WITH JESUS lesson has been a phenomenal awakening for me. I had at the time I received this been having problems with these very issues. This lesson helped me understand and answered some questions I had.” **Mark**

◆“Thank you for your letter of concern; it truly touched my heart to have you write asking about me. [Our 90-day purge letter of inquiry] I have a confession and a praise report at the same time. My praise report is that God’s Spirit is moving upon the hearts of men here at Bridgeport. I have recently been placed on the worship team, so most of my time is in chapel most nights. My confession is I’ve been too busy to do my studies. I will try not to fail in returning them soon. Please forgive me for neglecting my studies with you.” **Robert**

◆“Thank you for your free time and the Bible studies you are sending. My life is changing for the best because of them. Volunteering your time for me does not go unnoticed. Please keep up the work God has chosen you to do. Day by day men here in prison are learning about the love God has for us all.” **Shawn**

◆“Thank you for another wonderful study and for reading my hen scratching. HEBREWS is one of my favorite books and I really enjoyed it. I am thankful to whoever it was God used to write it and to you for your time grading this.” **Walter**

◆“Thank you so much for taking time out of your busy life to help me in my walk. I love these studies and can’t wait for more. The work you do is so important to me and many others.” **Geoff**

◆“I really enjoy these Bible studies very much. They give me hope, reassurance, and most of all, love. I look forward to receiving them in the mail. Since starting them I’ve come a long way in the guidance of God in my life. I have a better outlook on things and Jesus has changed my life. I was a very bad guy

at one time, stealing, drinking, robbing, etc. I no longer want that sinful lifestyle. But the love of God is what I need and want. There are so many lost kids in our world today who are growing up like I did. I’m 38 years old and grateful to be alive with Jesus as my Savior. Thank so much for the Bible studies. Keep them coming.” **Charles**

“Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” **II Corinthians 1:2**

REPORT FOR JUNE 2009

Institutions Served	366
Active Students	9,670
New Enrollees	1,513
Professions of Faith	102
Course Booklets Mailed	9,942
Course Exams Completed	6,444

Student Achievements Reached This Month:

36 Course Units Completed:	22 Students
48 Course Units Completed:	14 Students

Operational Finances Summary:

June Program Expenses:	\$ 21,912.44
Postage: \$9,944.88	
Courses: 7,167.55	
June Donor Income:	13,152.68
Deficit:	-8,759.76
From Emergency Reserve:	7,500.00
Unpaid June Publisher invoices:	4,369.10

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Dear Friends,

July 2009: Vol. 27, No. 07

A Spiritual Investment

It's back to school time, the NFL season starts in several weeks, and American Idol, So You Want to Dance, and Dancing with the Stars premieres the Fall TV season shortly. The seasons change, the culture adjusts, and life goes on.

But life in a prison cell remains stagnant, isolated, and confined. Mealtime brings some variety of personal contact; time out of cell for recreation is always anticipated; and mail call assuredly generates a measure of hope.

So when a Bible course comes to an inmate, there is an opportunity to step out of this weary world and into the realm of the Spirit. One may travel back into ancient history, or contemplate the vast sweep of the cosmos, or peer into the highest Heaven, or walk with the Lord in His Kingdom.

When you invest in this ministry, you are, by faith, casting your lot with those who desire to follow Christ and make an eternal difference in individual lives. A mind may be a terrible thing to waste, but a soul lost is an eternal tragedy. Our goal is to affect both the mind and the soul.

Our report on Professions of Faith each month is deeply satisfying. And we are very conservative in compiling those numbers. But what we cannot compile is the number of those who, upon reflection in a prison cell, return to the faith of their childhood. The wandering sheep are returned to the fold and the lost coin to the purse (Luke 15). The knock on the heart's door is heard, the door opened and fellowship is resumed (Rev. 3:20).

Most of us will never visit a prisoner, nor will we write to a prisoner, but in these courses we will encounter those who need counsel and an empathetic ear. And then on that latter day, the Lord will introduce you to Billy or Mary. It was your time, your prayers, and your gifts that were a means of giving the Lord's Word free course to change a life. What a precious investment. Please join us.

"I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance."
Luke 15:7

"Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin...!"

Luke 15:9

Sheep and Coins Speak

"What an amazing study this was. Through it I was able to look at my prison journey with the Lord. What got my attention is how the Lord can really open your mind, heart, and ears when you prosper in His wisdom and knowledge and trust in His journey.

"During a study with some Christian brothers I noticed when I was asked a question, that the answer which came out of my mouth caused me to think, 'Did that really come out of my mouth?' I realized the Lord has helped me to become a better person while on His journey. I wake up glad the Lord taught me or refreshed me about something in life and that I am healthy and safe with the Lord." **Paul**



Preparing the post-paid books for shipment

"You can't imagine how appreciative my Christian brothers and I are about your practice of sending post-age-paid envelopes with your booklets. It may seem trivial to you, but we do not take that gesture lightly. You can just imagine the relative value of a 44-cent stamp, not to mention the convenience.

With your approach there is no reason why a Christian should not be able to grow in our Lord and Savior. The notes left in the last booklet by the one grading it enriched my soul and made me feel like I have a true friend in Garland. Thank you so very much for your ministry! I am eager to get the next booklet in the curriculum." **Michael**

THE FRAGRANCE OF CHRIST

“Thank you for this study. It was hard for me, not knowing what a lot of words mean in the Bible. I don’t have a dictionary for the Bible. I ask sometimes and people tell me what they mean. I’m glad that I started this study. You have helped me learn so much that was unknown to me. I look forward to receiving the next lesson. God bless you for being there for me. There is love in me now and I share my love with you.” **Curtis**

“I would love to continue. [We followed up on a lapse of 90 days] This time (in prison) was starting to get to me. I found myself cutting on different parts of my body because I felt like God wasn’t there with me. But now I see He is because He brought you back into my life.” **Korsah**

“I took every study you had. I really appreciated the courses. God revealed Himself to me in a vision of every time my life had been in danger. I could hear a voice saying, ‘I saved you every time your life was in danger. I saved you when you got shot; I saved you when you got cut; I saved you when you got stabbed; I saved you when you got run over; I saved you when you fought the gang with a baseball bat, but they had knives and guns; I saved you running off the road asleep going 80 mph on cruise control.’ See John 1:48-51: “How do you know me?” **Ricky**

“I am writing to thank all of you for everything that you do. These studies help me to stay focused on God. Being in prison puts a mental strain on everyone. This Bible study helps so much!” **Gerald**

“I’m now 66 years old and have eight chronic ailments and live in a geriatric dorm within TDCJ. I have had six heart attacks, 20 angioplasties, eight stints, two triple bypasses, as well as diabetes, high blood pressure, in addition to kidney and liver disease. I have been in several hospitals. My health is failing and I will probably die in TDCJ as a truly innocent man. Now that you know that, I am hoping and praying that you can work with me. I want to continue my studies until I die. Can you have patience with me? I pray so.” **James**

“I am praying for the ministry, that God continues to bless you to reach other lost souls. I thank you so much. I’ve given the enrollment cards to other inmates. I pray they will find studying with you as rewarding as I have. I kept the back page to this lesson because I like the poem.” **Anthony**

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”
Ephesians 2:10

REPORT FOR JULY 2009

Institutions Served	366
Active Students	9,457
New Enrollees	1,355
Professions of Faith	51
Course Booklets Mailed	8,543
Course Exams Completed	5,656

Student Achievements Reached This Month:

36 Course Units Completed:	14 Students
48 Course Units Completed:	11 Students

Operational Finances Summary:

July Program Expenses:	\$ 28,480.42
Postage:	\$ 13,717.33
Courses:	9,002.27
July Donor Income:	22,291.47
Deficit:	-6,188.95
From Emergency Reserve:	5,000.00

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Dear Friends,

August 2009: Vol. 27, No. 08

HOUSTON BANQUET

The **Houston** area Thanksgiving Banquet will be held Monday, October 19, 2009 from 3:30 to 6:30 pm at The Open Door Mission, 5803 Harrisburg in West Houston. Dinner will be served at 5:30 pm so those working may be able to attend for the meal.

Encourage your friends and prospective counselors to come by and see what the Lord is doing. We will have the WPM display up with a variety of course books and literature. Please RSVP to Zoe Strock, Branch 075 manager, at 713-784-1733 or email her at zoes-trock@sbcglobal.net.



GARLAND OPEN HOUSE

The **Garland** Headquarters office at 1026 Stonewall Street invites you to a Thanksgiving OPEN HOUSE on Saturday, November 7, 2009. We will be open for fellowship and tours from 10 am until 2 pm. A light lunch will be served from 11 am to 1 pm.

Encourage your friends and prospective counselors to come by and see what the Lord is doing. Please RSVP to our office at 972-840-9798.



Three times a year we announce our graduate students. The additional page this month lists those students and the units earned. We congratulate them for a job well done and for demonstrating their desire to grow in spiritual things and to advance in civility.

THE OVERCOMERS

WPM recently participated in a conference session where Dr. Byron Johnson, Director of the Baylor University Institute for Studies of Religion, made a powerful presentation based on the premise of hundreds of compiled studies that “religion” is beneficial to health and “pro-social” behavior. Religious disciplines act not only as a buffer against immorality and lawlessness (anti-social behavior), but also promotes pro-social behavior (civility).

In particular, Dr. Johnson worked with Colson’s Prison Fellowship to study the effect of a faith-based prison program on inmate spiritual transformation while in prison and the recidivism rate upon release from prison. Bible study was the most significant factor in change, along with chapel programs, peer prayer/study groups, outside volunteer programs, pen pals, mentors, and the prospect of supportive aftercare. Religious knowledge and disciplines generated transformational responses like: adhering to Godly principles versus old prison codes of behavior; exhibiting a positive outlook; “I’m not who I used to be.” And recidivism is cut by two thirds.

Visit his web site at www.isreligion.org

It is very encouraging to note that Bible study is a major factor in character transformation toward pro-social behavior. Of course, we know that; we counseled our student exams. Now we can show the data that backs up our convictions. And we can use that data to promote our cause. Correspondence courses for inmates get the job done! Please join us!



PSALM 34:1 “I will bless the Lord at all times. His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

"PRO-SOCIAL" COMMENTS

A Response from BEGINNING A NEW LIFE...

"I submit to God because I know that He will give me more joy than I could ever get on my own, and He always delivers. Although I see society as even more evil than I did before, I am much less bitter toward it. I know that my place is in God's Kingdom, not in the world. I don't stress over trusting people because I know that they can't hurt me without God's permission. Nothing can touch me without God's allowance. Through experience I know that I can trust Him with everything. He never fails. So I am forever free to enjoy God without fear." **John**

A FREE AND WILLING VESSEL

"I really enjoyed doing the study, TALKING WITH CHRIST! Through this particular study I learned how very important it is for me to 'talk' to God. He knows everything about me way before it happens, but He wants to hear from me, know that I give Him the honor and respect He requires, and recognize His omnipotence.

"Maintaining an active prayer life keeps His relationship with me alive. Any relationship is two-sided and prayer communication with my Lord keeps me focused on Him, His will in my life, and enhances my daily walk with Him. Then I'm not only talking the talk, but I'm actually walking the walk with God. As a believer that's so very important to me- to allow God to use me as a free and willing vessel.

"In the short time I've been studying God's Word through Emmaus/Write-Way, I've become a stronger Christian and more willing to reach out and speak words of Christ's love for all. So I thank you for helping me to become a more effective Christian."

Barbara

THE DEVIL WAS LEADING ME

"Before I came here I lived a life that was going to lead me straight to hell. Believe me when I say that the devil was leading me down that path. Since I have been here and made sobriety my priority I have come to realize that the Word of God plays a very big part in my recovery. I have rededicated my life to my Savior, Lord Jesus Christ. And with Him on my side I know I can defeat my disease called drug addiction.

"Thank you for taking the time to read and grade my Bible studies. Thank you for sending them for me to understand my Father God's Word more than ever before. I am also writing to let you know that God has answered my prayers and I received a release date of 09/08/09!"
Linda

REPORT FOR AUGUST 2009

Institutions Served	378
Active Students	9,362
New Enrollees	1,389
Professions of Faith	81
Course Booklets Mailed	9,589
Course Exams Completed	6,570

Student Achievements Reached This Month:

36 Course Units Completed:	31 Students
48 Course Units Completed:	16 Students

Operational Finances Summary:

August Program Expenses:	\$ 24,706.42
Postage:	\$ 11,280.34
Courses:	7,421.63
August Donor Income:	14,268.00
Deficit:	-10,438.02

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Dear Friends,

September 2009: Vol. 27, No. 09

THE CELL – A CLASSROOM

The Director of the Write-Way correspondence program, Ralph Nichols, likes to think of our work as educators. He views our task as a school with instructors and counselors who encourage incarcerated men and women to mature in their spiritual growth, broaden their perspective, and sharpen their intellect.

WPM follows the observation of Paul when he told Timothy, **“You have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”** (II Timothy 3:15) That is good education! The Baylor study I mentioned last month (see www.isreligion.org) only confirms Paul’s conviction: Bible study is the most significant factor in changing a prisoner’s behavior and attitude.

Our courses are designed to help these students know the Holy Scriptures. And knowledge paves the way for the Holy Spirit to cause them, like the prodigal, to “come to themselves.” (Luke 15:17) Then they are wise for salvation. Now God has a hearing and He can proceed to “reason” with them. (Isaiah 1:18)

Do you realize you are a part of this school of 10,000 students? With God all things are possible! And what a classroom He uses - a prison cell! Why not join us like these high school students in the picture?

MEMORIALS

We have received a gift in memory of Tom Holmes, Jr., from his sister, Ruthie Sonnenburg. Ms. Sonnenburg is a faithful counselor in Branch 007. A gift was also received in memory of Jim Denney, wife of Nancy Denny of Rowlett, by Keith and Denise Terry. Thank you for your generosity in helping extend the Good News to inmates.

CLASSROOM RESPONSES



*Classroom Kids for Classroom Inmates
Volunteers from a local school*

WPM has an agreement with a local school that allows certain students to become involved in community service. A couple of times a month these students help us out by stamping books which must be mailed out with our name and address. On this particular day the students stamped 13 cases of books, about 2,000-3,000 books! As you can see this is a wonderful service to us which we greatly appreciate.

Uneducated, Unwise, and Unloved

“I was raised by drug addicts. By the age of 8 I was already smoking pot and acting out. By 4th grade I was in my first of many group homes. At 14 I was a full-blown coke head. By 18 I had a 20 year aggravated prison sentence and at 19 I was a ranking member of a large prison gang over my own unit.

“God tried to get my attention and I continuously ignored and even ran from Him. He gave me over to my sins, yet still loved and called me unto His Son. In Nov. 2007 I bowed my knee. Immediately I was released from a drug addiction that I thought would be the death of me. He filled me with a love and peace- even here in prison. I felt a deep joy and freedom.

“I became a new creation in Christ, just as He promised. Even more surprising He called me to the ministry! Me! Now my days are spent preparing myself. I use my time for ‘Bible boot camp’ feeding on the Word and growing in Christ. He is getting me ready to lead Kingdom Mission: Operation T.H.U.G., an inner city youth outreach calling kids out from being thugs to being True Hero’s Under God. God is good!” Joe

Your Life is not Over

“Dearly Beloved Brother William MacDonald,* out of all the books on the shelf, my hand took your book, and what a blessing from Almighty God. I had studied the book of James previously, but your study on the book of James has given me new insights that I needed to live and practice what the Lord God has called me to!

“If I might ask of you, sir, that I might receive all your books? I’ve been studying God’s Word since I’ve been in prison some 10 years now! The day I turned myself in, at a time when I thought my life was over, God spoke to me. The Lord said, ‘Your life is not over! Your life will be better than you can imagine!’

“I have been doing Bible studies and sending them back to the church for ten years now. But the Lord has kept me and He is still faithful. And now, I have come to understand and believe my life is better! And I haven’t come out of prison yet! I know the Lord God Almighty will bring me out of here in His appointed time!” James

**William MacDonald, author of numerous books and articles, passed into Heaven on December 25, 2007 at the age of 90. He served as President of Emmaus Bible College from 1954 to 1965. He refused to accept royalties on his authored books.*

Prison a Blessing in Disguise

“I’m one of your students from prison. I was released on July 6. While I was in prison I really learned a lot from your Bible studies. I would like very much to continue my studies at home so I can continue to grow as a Christian. I also want to thank you all for helping me to come to know the Lord! This last time in prison was really a blessing in disguise!” Antonio

God Will Never Give Up On Me

“Thank you for all your love and your kindness. I am growing more and more with the Lord. I have a lot of fear being in a place like this. I pray that you can read all of my writing in my exam book. It is hard for me to memorize verses. But I will never give up, because I know that God will never give up on me.”

Robert

REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2009

Institutions Served	382
Enrolled Students	10,357
Purged*	<u>1,405</u>
Active Students	8,952
New Enrollees	859
Professions of Faith	77
Course Booklets Mailed	8,287
Course Exams Completed	5,792

Student Achievements Reached This Month:

36 Course Units Completed: 31 Students
48 Course Units Completed: 11 Students

Operational Finances Summary:

September Expenses:	\$ 21,634.83
Postage:	\$ 11,181.15
Courses:	5,297.65
September Donations:	<u>20,711.52</u>
Deficit:	\$ - 932.31

*Students returning no exams for more than 90 days.

Contact information:

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NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

October 2009: Vol. 27, No. 10

The Lord has been so good to me this year. All the students that I have seen come to Him this month is payment enough for all the year. With my wife Dot in His presence it is lonely, but I can sleep all night with not too many times waking up. People are getting used to me coming in late, helping with the posting at 4:00 o'clock pm and then going home. This shows that all the volunteers are doing what needs to be done. Praise the Lord.

Then when I think of 27 years of continually grading and counseling papers, I wish I could meet all of the students to see and hear what the Lord has done for each one. There have been hundreds who have come to Him with their problems (all of those things that Satan has thrown in their path).

I have been reading Psalms. To read about all the good things the Lord has done for Israel, and then read about all that He has done to those who did not do His will, has been very comforting to me.

My sister, Lucile, continually asks about what Israel and Iran are doing. At 100 she is looking forward to meeting the Lord. She has been faithfully serving here in the Home office twice each week until just recently. Thanks to all volunteers that have spent time for the Lord answering student challenges along with hearing student joys and sorrows! My prayer is that it may all be pleasing to the Lord.

Blessings in this Season of Heavenly Things!

Ralph M. Nichols

Director, Write-Way Prison Ministries

"Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him and bless His name. For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations." Psalm 100: 4-5

MEMORIALS

We have received a gift in memory of Tom Holmes, Jr., from his niece, Sylvia Sheets and her husband, Gary Sheets. Mrs. Sheets has been a faithful supporter in Branch 026. Thank you for your generosity in helping extend the Good News to inmates.

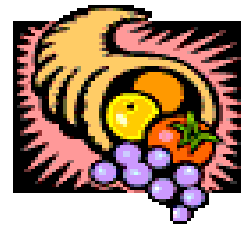
THANKSGIVING

RESTORE US, O GOD (Psalm 80:3)

I miss the mark too often;
I'm ashamed, I've failed again.
I fall on my knees, I cry to my Lord.
Forgive me, I have sinned.
Does He ignore or scorn me,
Though He can see the condition I'm in?
No. I feel His arm around me.
And He lifts me up again.

You chose me Lord, I don't know why.
I stand before you, now I cry.
Do you have a job for me?
Use me Lord, I'm standing by.
I'm ready... Here am I. *Richard*

"You all may think that I rush through these lessons filling in the blanks. But I have an earnest hunger to learn and nothing but time to spend. I am a true believer. I know that I'm a new creature because my life has so completely changed. I no longer enjoy the things I enjoyed in the past. I have a happiness and an eagerness I never before had. I wake up with a song in my heart and a desire to learn and to the things the Bible teaches." *Richard*



I WILL HAVE A HOME IN HEAVEN

"Wow! On page 44, 'Object of Faith' (What The Bible Teaches) really opened up my eyes on an issue I've been concerned about: Salvation - faith in Christ. It says that, though I may know all the facts about Jesus, His life, death, burial, resurrection and ascension, I must believe in Him, to trust Him to save me from my sins and take me to heaven. I've got to trust Him, let Him through His Holy Spirit dwell in me, to change me and help me live a life sold out to God. I really learned a lot from this study that gave me insight to things I had questions about before." *Mary*

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK

“Thank you so much for the wonderful study of the book of John. It has been a great study and an eye-opener. As I continue to study God’s Word, I am growing more spiritual each day. Not only do I get a great study, but I get to share the Word as well. A lot of the time as I study someone will come along and ask what I am reading. Therefore, the door opens for me to share the Word of God as well. So keep up the good work of sending Bible studies. My prayers are with you.”
Michael

I COULD NOT PUT IT DOWN

“I am now 63 years old and in a correctional center looking at 15 years behind bars. I have several times tried to read and understand the Bible with no luck or help at all. I found one of your books, *The Gospel of John*. Why I picked it up I don’t know, but I started reading it and I had to find a Bible to use and I could not put it down. It explains in a way this country boy can understand. I am looking at all this time and have found something that has my interest and that I can understand because of the way you put it. Please send a list of your courses.”
Dennis

SUCH KINDNESS TO PEOPLE LIKE ME

“You all at WPM have shown so much to me, brought me to salvation, understanding the meaning, taught me so much about God, and still continue. Only God’s children would show such kindness to people like me. Your efforts will not go unnoticed.”
June

MY OWN STUDIES

“I am interested in having my own Write-Way Prison Ministry booklets. I have been helping my celly with his Bible study and would like to know how to go about receiving my own studies. Thank you.”
Michael

THANKS FOR THE PARTNERSHIP

“I was incarcerated and got in partnership with your ministry. You were sending me lesson plans and words of encouragement. I’m now out of jail, thanks to God. And I’m doing great! I have a job and I’m a member of a great church. I take part in five ministries: the adult choir, counselor for the youth, prayer intercessor, Christian education teacher (ages 12-18), and I clean the church. I go to churches and schools all over my city and preach and encourage the youth by telling my testimony. Thanks for the partnership while I was incarcerated and I hope it continues while I’m out of jail.”
Malcolm

*You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.
Psalm 23:5*

REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2009

Institutions Served		372
Enrolled Students	10,022	
Suspended*	<u>1,099</u>	
Active Students		8,923
New Enrollees		768
Professions of Faith		70
Course Booklets Mailed		8,780
Course Exams Completed		6,324

Student Achievements Reached This Month:

36 Course Units Completed: 26 Students

48 Course Units Completed: 17 Students

Operational Finances Summary:

October Expenses:	\$ 26,494.25
Postage:	\$ 11,785.54
Courses:	6,768.47
October Donations:	<u>26,024.79</u>
Deficit:	\$ - 469.46

*Students returning no exams for more than 90 days.

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NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

November 2009: Vol. 27, No. 11



As I come to the end of the year 2009, even though this is the November Newsletter, I am, at the moment, thinking of the old year changing into the New Year. So my mind goes to Peter in the portico preaching about the Lord Jesus Christ, "Whom Heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began." (Acts 3:21)

Let your imagination go for a moment to think of:

What would it be like to have the curse removed?

What would it be like to live in continuous light ("no night there")?

What would it be like to be able to go to Jesus and ask Him a question?

On and on with your imagination! Let it go.

But still Jesus says, "In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also." (John 14:2,3)

May the Lord be a rich blessing for 2010. May thinking of these things bring peace and joy to you for all of 2010!

Ralph M. Nichols



Director, Write-Way Prison Ministries

YOU ARE MY FAMILY

"Thank you so much for the birthday cards you send each year. Again Scripture is fulfilled: 'He who does the will of the Father is my brother, mother, and sister.' Though I have natural brothers and sisters, they don't write. I am overjoyed and often teary-eyed when I receive these lessons graded and with comments. I know we probably don't look alike, but your spirit amplified by your words

and deeds convince me you are my family. I love you all and know He'll continue to bless you, because you bless us, those the world does not consider." MARK



IT BRINGS A SMILE ON MY FACE

"I have been doing studies of the Bible with you for some time now and I must say the studies have opened my eyes to see how Christ gave His life as a sacrifice to save a sinner like me. I know His love endures forever. I know I have made some mistakes in my life while growing up, and we can change, as we get older. But the Father has to guide us and God is still working in me even to this day. As I study His Word He changes me and I am happy. I thank you for the Bible studies as it brings a smile on my face to know more of His Word and for being a child of God." RICHARD



I CANNOT ATTEND CHURCH

"I'm writing these few lines to thank you for sending me the Bible study. I have learned a lot through your study guides. I enjoy reading my Bible with the help of your Bible study. I'm living in a high security building in what we call 'seg' and I cannot attend church. But with the help of your ministries and the church programs on the radio I have been able to learn something about the Word of God everyday. I will keep your ministry program in my prayers so that you are able to reach out to those inmates who don't know about the Lord Jesus Christ. Thank you for helping me grow in the Word of God." SERGIO

SPECIAL NOTE TO OUR DONORS AND FRIENDS

With the advancements of technology, we are able to go environmentally "green!" First, we can email you our monthly newsletter instead of sending paper copies. Send your email address to us at: writewaypm@verizon.net.

Secondly, you can send us your donation via our secure [GiveDirect](http://www.givedirect.org) Donate Page on our web site at www.writewaypm.org. The same day we receive your gift we can acknowledge it via email! If you prefer to pay by check or have auto-pay set up with your bank, then we can acknowledge that gift via email. So please send us

your email address to writewaypm@verizon.net and tell us what you wish to do.



THE DEVIL WAS TRYING HARD

“Before I trusted Christ I was living very worldly. I was living opposed to God’s Word. I was living for self and living in pure sin. Crime was my life for fast money. Then I got into a lot of trouble and was heading for prison for the 4th time. I was scared to death and the devil was trying hard to get me to think that after all I had done God wouldn’t help me or save me and that it wasn’t any use in trying. So I cried a lot and I was overwhelmed with grief.

“I heard a small voice in my mind, along with people, telling me to ask God to help me. So in private, I said, ‘God, if there is anything You can do with my life, please help me.’ Then a ministry volunteer came and singled me out and asked if we could talk. I did and she and I asked God to enter my life. I accepted Christ, I love God and I know He loves me. I know that I am saved and I am trying daily to serve God and make Him proud of me. I am in prison right now but my heart and mind are free. I am safe now. Thank you, Jesus!”
BEATRICE

MEMORIALS

Two gifts have been received in memory of Judy Turley, wife of Lee Turley in Virden, IL, brother of Rodger Turley at the Garland office. Thank you, Nell Wilson and Rodger Turley, for your generosity in helping extend the Good News to inmates.



A POEM

Always a failure, why do I try?
Hear me, O Lord; I’m living a lie.
Promises to love you I don’t deny;
A promise freely given: it didn’t last.
I find myself doing the things of the past.

I’ve submitted my soul; release me, devil.
My God is alive, in this I revel.
I begin my new life, not on the level;
Another day or two, I submit to the devil.

Praise and obedience, not a great task.
I ask your forgiveness, I know it is given.
Renewed in spirit, my life is driven.
For you, Lord, only am I living.

Let not the devil receive the acclaim.
The fault is all mine; I am to blame.
Spare me, Lord, from the eternal flame.
I once again renew my vow;
The way of the cross, the only way how.

RICHARD

REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2009

Institutions Served	364
Enrolled Students	9,582
Suspended*	<u>1,261</u>
Active Students	8,321
New Enrollees	541
Professions of Faith	38
Course Booklets Mailed	8,011
Course Exams Completed	4,934

*Students returning no exams for more than 90 days.

Student Achievements Reached This Month:

36 Course Units Completed: 15 Students
48 Course Units Completed: 11 Students

Operational Finances Summary:

November Expenses:	\$ 18,869.17
Postage:	\$ 8,456.59
Courses:	5,179.28
November Donations:	<u>18,867.91</u>
Deficit:	\$ - 1.26

Contact information:

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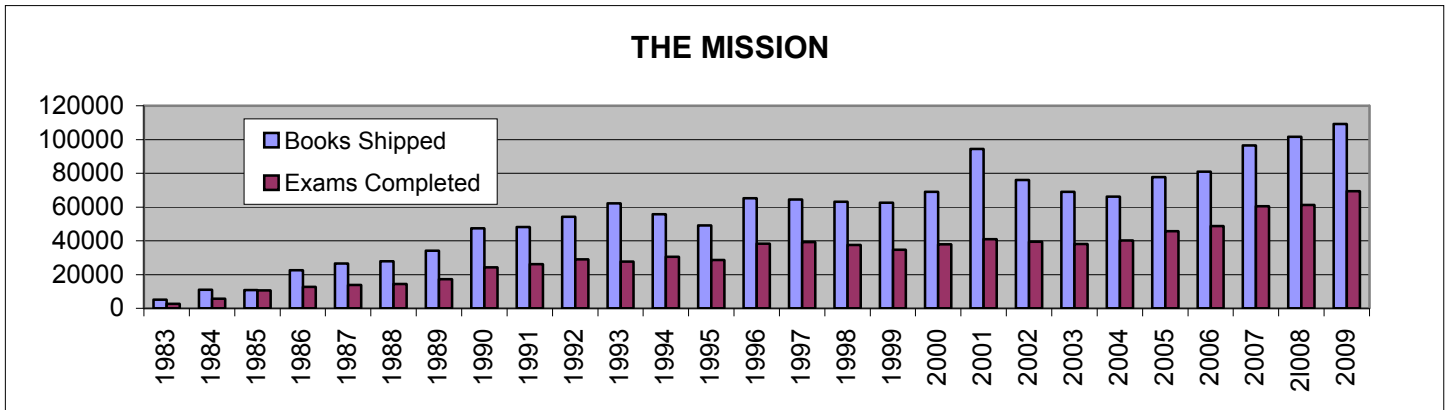
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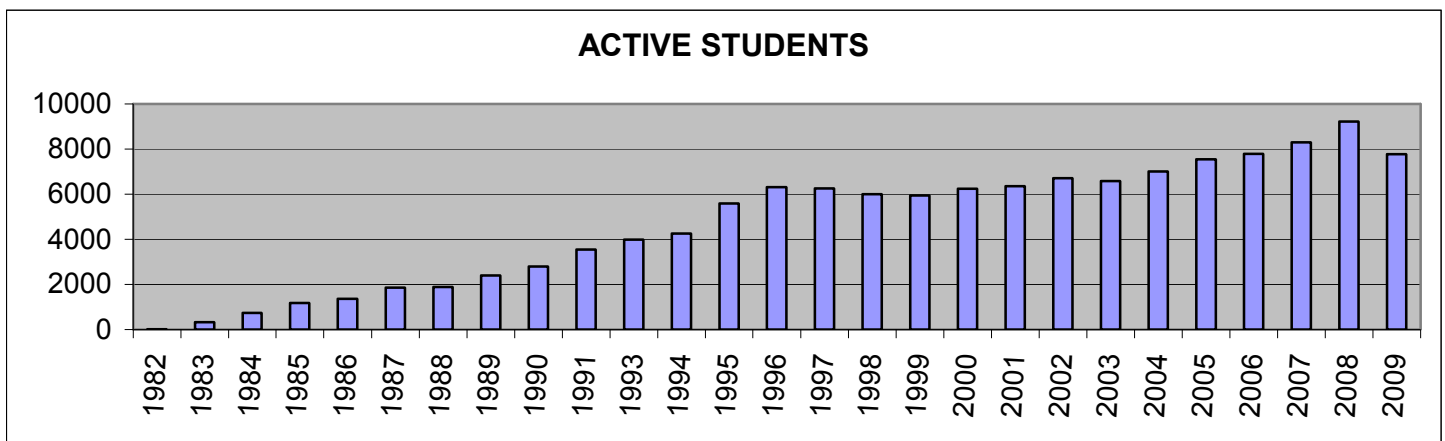


“For I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you.” Genesis 28:15

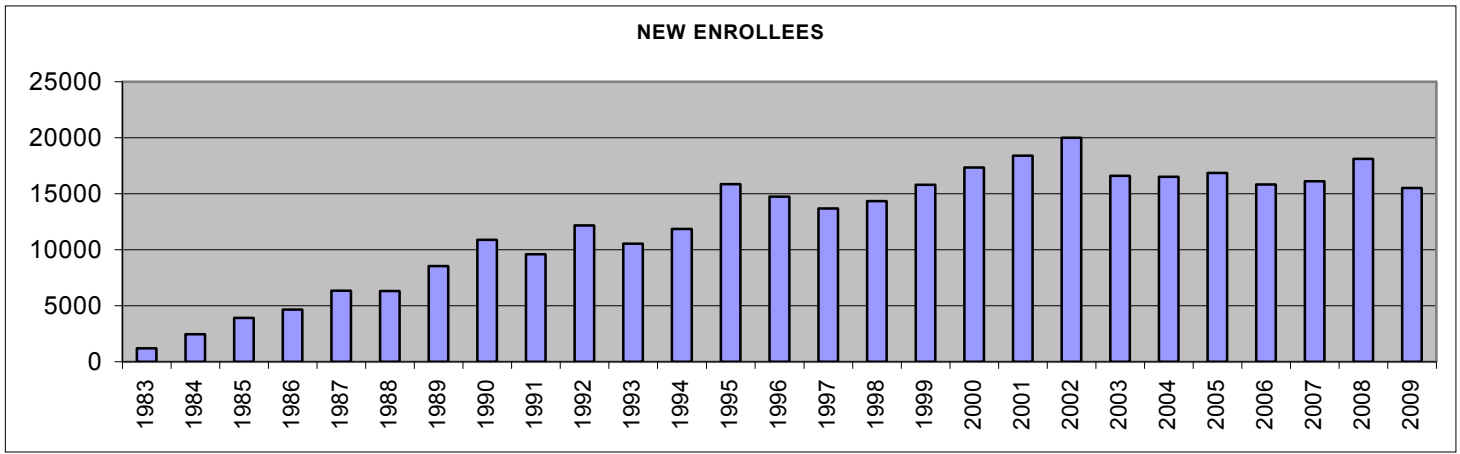
What has He spoken to you? Will He do it? He has showed us His burden for the spiritual welfare of the prisoner and that burden has become ours. And whatever the circumstances, we believe that He is both willing and able to do it. So in the following visuals which we present on an annual basis you can see His faithfulness. Thank you faithful co-laborers and interested friends for believing what He has spoken He will do.



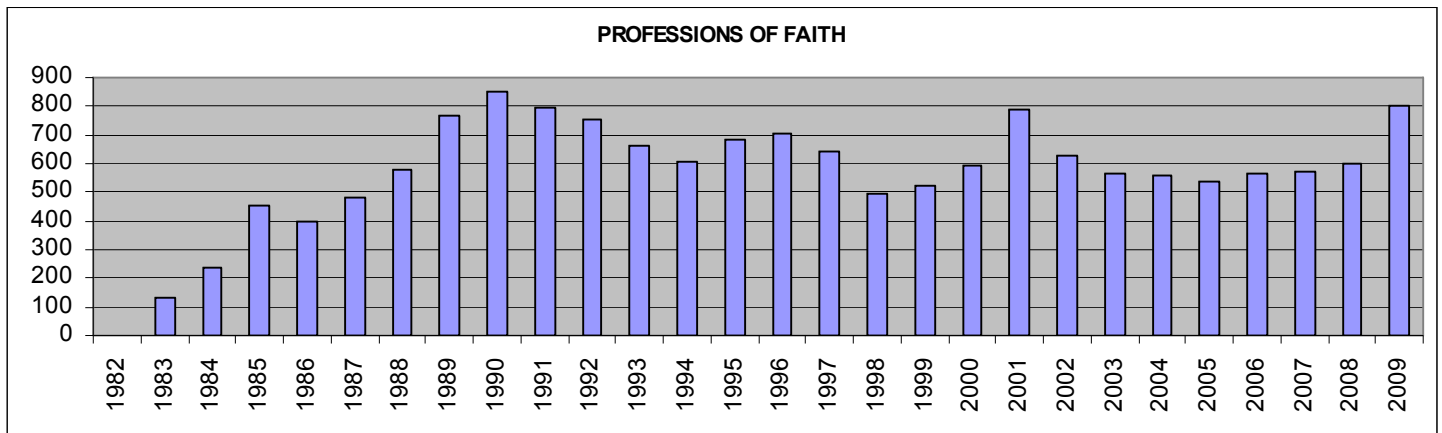
Our MISSION is to present free Bible correspondence courses to the prisoners of Texas and Louisiana in order that they may believe upon the Lord Jesus Christ and that they may develop into mature disciples who glorify God. In 2009 we mailed **109,202** courses to prisoners in more than 370 federal prisons, state prisons, and county and parish jails. As a result, our **400+** volunteers graded and counseled and shipped back **69,293** exams sprinkled with encouraging remarks and additional Scripture references. Email us if you would like to venture out on this mission.



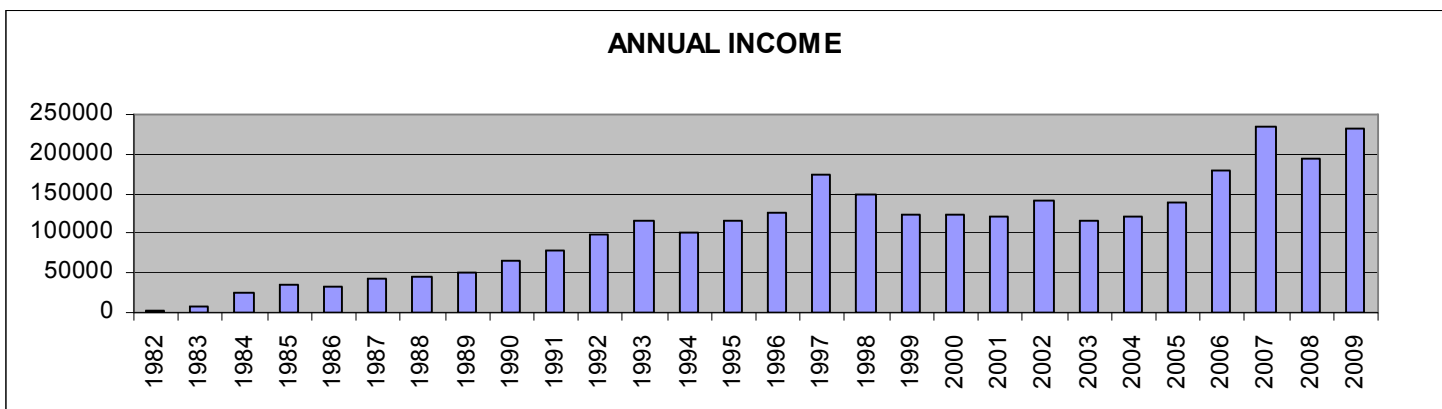
ACTIVE STUDENTS at 12/31/09 (after suspending those who had not responded with a finished exam after 90 days) was **7,777**. However, we hit a record **9,771** students in May before we started a process of streamlining our operations in order to match our diminished income. Many of our students get moved around and thus lose their courses. Or a unit shakedown may cause them to have their courses destroyed. Some students get very discouraged due to delayed parole, extended sentences, or family problems or deaths. But our counselors are always ready with an encouraging word and extending the compassion of Jesus into their lives.



The WPM enrollment card is our prison evangelistic tool. In 2009 there were 15,520 new enrollees, hitting a high of 1,771 new students in the month of March. We have redesigned the enrollment card so that those who are truly serious about pursuing studies will return the form. Our policy has been to include an enrollment card with every new course shipped. We are finding that more of the new students are staying with us longer.



BORN TO WIN is the very first course sent to a new student. This book, along with the next four courses, is designed to assess the student's spiritual status and to elicit a profession of faith. In 2009 there were 800 professions of faith or an average of about 67 per month. It is a delightful experience to watch as these new born begin to grow and gain knowledge of their Savior. Their thrilling testimonies are a major part of our monthly newsletter.



WPM support comes from those individuals, churches, businesses, grantors, and Local Independent Charities donors whose hearts are full of compassion for the incarcerated. In 2009 that support amounted to \$ 232,809.30! Many of the churches represented by our 28 Branches give to support the work of their members who are volunteers. Operational expenses for 2009 were \$ 280,288.25, so we have a deficit that needs attention. Postage costs accounted for 50.36% and courses materials for 21.84% of our operational budget for a total of 72.20%.

JEWELS IN HIS CROWN

“I am happy to inform you that I am leaving for home and want to continue my studies. Compared to when I came in, I’m a new person walking out of prison with faith in my Lord Jesus Christ to move the mountains in my life.” **Elena**

“Thank you so much for the Bible studies and your help in grading and comments. I love the tracts you send me. I use one as a book marker and send others to relatives. Your work has a chain reaction!”

Robert

“Thank you for your time and concern in helping others to find and understand Jesus Christ. I love all of you and keep you in my prayers.” **Michael**

“What a wonderful thing you are doing for the prison population! I thank you from the depths of my heart. God bless and please keep it up.” **Audy**

“I would like to take a moment to say thank you for all the prayers, love, and support that you have given me in my time of need. Rest assured, I have learned my lesson and my days of lying and criminal activity are far behind me. I am now focused on the future and becoming a better son, father, brother, uncle, friend, and an all together better person.” **Bryant**

“I have just received my 48 unit certificate. In looking back over all my books I find that I have learned so much! I thank you all and mainly I thank God and His Holy Spirit for all the time spent with me. I’m looking forward to many more lessons.” **Jim**



Lucile Nichols, a faithful volunteer for more than 20 years, and sister of Director, Ralph Nichols, celebrated her 100th birthday on December 22, 2009. She retired from WPM in July (at 99!1/2 !!!).

REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2009

Institutions Served	359
Enrolled Students	9,038
Suspended*	<u>1,261</u>
Active Students	7,777
New Enrollees	1,127
Professions of Faith	37
Course Booklets Mailed	8,114
Course Exams Completed	4,798

*Students returning no exams for more than 90 days.

Student Achievements Reached This Month:

36 Course Units Completed: 15 Students
48 Course Units Completed: 15 Students

Operational Finances Summary:

December Expenses:	\$ 27,077.21
Postage:	\$ 14,999.28
Courses:	4,865.82
December Donations:	<u>43,749.07</u>

Contact information:

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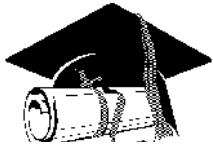
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Memorials

We thank Barbara Godfrey for her kind gift for the Spanish speaking ministry in memory of her mother, Betty Godfrey. Barbara is part of BR076 here in the main office.



Upon successful completion of 36 and 48 units, beautiful 8 1/2 x 12 certificates are issued by the maus Bible Correspondence School. WPM does not offer courses beyond 53 units, but at its discretion, Emmaus Correspondence School may allow the student to continue up to 108 units. This plan gives the student incentive to keep on with the studies. Our graduates stand as a tribute to the more than 380 counselors who give of their time and talents to encourage students and to edify them in Christ. They

are also a tribute to those who spend long hours without pay: some ministering in a business way, some donating needed goods, some giving financially, and some upholding WPM in prayer. Only the Lord knows the full extent of this service of sacrifice. Our God is reaping the harvest.

September through December 2009

* Units earned with Honor
 ** Units earned with Distinction
 (Sp) Spanish Curriculum

Students below have earned 36 Unit Certificates

Bailey, John F *
 Belsha, Charles D
 Bentley, Robert W *
 Brown, Jonathan W *
 Cain, Carolyn S *
 Chanek, Anton J
 Cinnamon, Donna *
 Cisneros, Neftali L *
 Cole, Dolan *
 Coleman, McArthur
 Collins, Dirone A
 Craft, Michael *
 Davila, Raul M
 Davis, Demarcus
 Davis, Jonathan D
 Delhagen, William V **
 Dossett, Mike E **
 Edwards, Arthur F
 Flatt, Tony E *
 Fleming, Roger *
 Fox, James N
 Fulmer, James H
 Galvan, Oscar E **
 Ganther, Kenneth I **
 Graham, Richard W
 Harris, Robert D *
 Hartgrove, John **
 Hearn, John L **
 Henigan-Jones, Demetrius R *
 Hoffman, Gerald
 Hollis, Ricky R
 Honore, Wilson
 Horta, Jose G *
 Horton, Ernest D *
 Jackson, Beryl C *
 Johns, Dennis W **
 Johnson, James W
 Jones, William L
 Kelly, Willie H
 Lavallee, Leon K *
 Linder, Roy W *
 Lister, Oliver E *
 Lockhart, Dwain E
 Martinez, Linda F

Mathis, Donald *
 Maxwell, Eric A **
 Mays, Gerald E
 Minjarez, Gregorio
 Montoya, Juan R *
 Moore, Darren D
 Moore, James C *
 Morales, James A
 Munoz, Daniel *
 Myers, Gregory B **
 Navarro, Antulio L
 Orr, Harvey C
 Padilla, Florencio
 Palacios, Victor *
 Pannell, Wesley A *
 Partain, Martin C *
 Penny, Roderick W *
 Pritt, Angel D
 Ramirez, Filimon R
 Reid, Michael G
 Riggs, Toni R
 Robertson, Darrell L *
 Robertson, Wilbur R
 Santos, Joseph S
 Schley, David L *
 Sharp, Monty J **
 Shugart, James P *
 Smith, Joseph A *
 Smith, Ronald D *
 Stadler, Walter C **
 Stuart, Clay
 Talbott, Angela M
 Thoman, Jim E *
 Verzoza, Guadalupe N *
 Walkden, Donald H

Students below have completed the WPM curriculum

Archie, Touni L *
 Barfield, Arnold B *
 Bell, Jerry W *
 Breeland, Richard W
 Caldwell, J W
 Collins, Edward G *
 Couch, Fred *
 Cross, David L *
 Davis, John K
 Eyre, Randy J **
 Gonzalez, Ines
 Hernandez, Manuel A(Sp) *

Hernandez, Mario X *
 Houston, Willie F **
 Irvin, Sean D **
 Jennings, Charles M **
 Jernigan, Ricardo **
 Johnson, Moses
 Kiehl, Matthew D **
 Love, Marty D *
 Maiese, Brian K
 McClanahan, Terry W *
 Palomarez, Rudy *
 Pate, Daniel T
 Perez, Manuel J
 Petty, James K
 Reedy, Robert J *
 Reyes, Alejandro *
 Reyes, Jose A *
 Rosales, Oscar
 Shaw, Willis L
 Shield, Ryan B *
 Smith, Donald R
 Smith, Patty K *
 Soto, Steven G
 Speer, Rhonda C
 Woodard, Vernon L **
 York, Ronnie L *

The following students have gone on to earn additional Units through ECS:

Students below have earned 60 Unit Certificates

Askins, Janet E *
 Borgas, Pete
 Bundrant, George H
 Canada, Robert B *
 Carr, Linda M
 Claxton, Gena C
 Dellis, Willie P *
 Dixon, Dempsey *
 Ducre, Ricky J **
 Esqueda, Domingo *
 Gerrish, Wayne J *
 Hampton, Bryce **
 Jackson, Larry D **
 Jones, Shirley A
 McConahie, Brandy M
 McGill, Brian K
 Morgan, Michael J *

Nelson, James D
 Noland, Ronny D
 Ono, Parker K **
 Otis, Robert L **
 Parker, Danny E
 Peloquin, James A **
 Pena, Robert A *
 Philley, Douglas
 Porter, James C **
 Pospisil, David H
 Ramirez, Juan R
 Rios, Juan P *
 Stewart, Michael L
 Thomas, Greg A
 Umana, Ismael F
 Urrabas, Rudy M
 Wingate, Jonathan L **
 Word, Ronald C

Students below have earned 72 Unit Certificates

Cooper, Craig *
 Davis, Tommy J *
 Fox, Artis D *
 Kammerer, Tommy *
 Newman, Anthony Q
 Solis, Juan C
 To, Binh V **
 Toomer, Phillip R *
 Tyler, Kelvin

Students below have earned 84 Unit Certificate

Dobrenich, Matthew J **
 Hanford, Andre
 Kanten, Benjamin **

Students below have earned 96 Unit Certificates

Albertson, David *
 Collins, Stella
 Miller, Mark E *
 Ricks, Julie A *