

Branches serve another important purpose when they become a resource for providing Counselors. Write-Way now has more than 360 volunteer counselors in 28 Branches. They accept the crucial task of grading test questions and writing encouraging notes on the students' exams.

A Branch Manager was so personally encouraged one day as she worked with the exams she wrote, "There were several studies this week that were just full of testimonies of the difference God is making in the lives of inmates. He is healing, providing deliverance from addiction, saving family members, and giving hope as only God is able. Over and over again we are blessed here as we read this kind of Good News."

Another Branch Manager in central Texas has written: "I believe that this is an excellent ministry to one of the most spiritually vulnerable groups in our civilization, and I espouse to the mandate of Jesus to preach 'freedom for the prisoners,'" (Luke 4:18).

Who are the counselors?

One volunteer counselor, in supplying information about her desire to help with Write-Way, wrote, "Because Jesus is the only answer for a person and I believe rehabilitation is another name for Grace--Jesus is Grace--He is rehabilitation for a lost soul."

As another counselor wrote, "I have been doing grading for 10+ years. It has been good for me and is a service to God, and most importantly, to teach and encourage these inmates."

With this picture of volunteers who desire to counsel inmates, we believe that Write-Way is not only good for prisoners, but also for all those who become involved in the Write-Way system.

What classes do our students attend? What courses are they taught?

Our study courses are published by Emmaus Correspondence School and NAV Press in both English and Spanish. For those of you who have not heard of Emmaus Correspondence School, it is on the campus of Emmaus Bible College in Dubuque, Iowa. The curriculum covers most of the Bible.

Emmaus has described correspondence courses as "UNIQUE TEACHING TOOLS." Our Bible correspondence courses stand alone in certain distinctive features. They expect a response from the student. The casual reader may lay aside a tract or book he has read without feeling any obligation to respond to its message. The correspondence course, through carefully designed examination techniques, reinforces lesson content through recall, and provides the student with an objective measure of his comprehension of the Bible's teaching.

Of even greater importance is the link the course provides between the student and the instructor (the counselor). We believe the correspondence instructor is the key to the effectiveness of the ministry of teaching the Word of God by correspondence. We consequently have high standards and expectations for those who serve the school and our students as correspondence course instructors.

Additional distinctive features of these correspondence courses are:

1. They can be studied during a person's available time, thus getting his personal attention.
2. They eliminate possible barriers, such as race, creed, gender, or language.
3. They go behind prison bars where others are not always allowed.
4. They are often more helpful than the spoken word.
5. They are one of the most cost-effective ways of reaching inmates.

How do prisoners learn about the courses?

Enrollment Cards accompany all books sent to the inmates except the first one. Chaplains pass out the cards. And some inmates send in their names on letters we receive.

What is the scope of WPM?

Write-Way has active students in all Federal and State penal institutions, many county and parish jails, and all large city jails in Texas and Louisiana. The active student list has grown from nine to more than 7,000 in 30 years. An Active Student is one who has completed the first book and is not delinquent more than 90 days in returning an exam.

How did this number grow?

Active students receive Enrollment Cards with their courses. These enrollment cards have been the primary means of acquainting additional inmates with the opportunity to study the Bible. "Enrollment" means the student is starting through a curriculum that contains some 60 courses (50 in Spanish).

Born to Win, the first course and written especially for prisoners, leads the student down the pathway to salvation. To see the comments of a student going from "I'm lost" to saying "I do" to the Savior encourages all counselors to continue even though they are volunteers.

A student named Tommy has written, "I want to thank you so very much for this Bible study, *Born to Win*. You know you are right? I was born to win! All these years I thought I was born to lose!"

Topical studies, book studies, and a survey series lead the student through many difficult and perplexing questions. The questions he answers give counselors the opportunity to encourage the student to continue, and to add additional Scriptures and concepts.

Here are some answers to the question, **"How has this program been helpful for you in a personal way?"**

"It makes my stay here easier to handle!"

"It helps ease my emotions toward others."

"It helps me keep digging & studying the Word."

"It has helped me deal with anger."

"It has alleviated so much burden and brought joy in some of these harder times."

"Knowing that I know I'm saved."

"It stimulated concern about my salvation."

"I have learned how to 'Love' more easily now."

The process goes like this: The student enrolls in Write-Way by filling out an Enrollment Card, or his name is mailed to us on a piece of paper, or a chaplain may send in a list of interested inmates.

The Home Office receives the Enrollment request, and enters the name and his information in the Student Database. After the Enrollment Cards have been entered, the Home Office ships out the first study course, *Born to Win*, along with a return envelope to all the new students.

Once the student receives his study course, he must complete an exam in order to receive another course. The student's completed exam, when received by the assigned Branch, is graded and given appropriate comments. The student responds to the "What Do You Say" questions. These responses give the counselor the opportunity to encourage the student. A certificate is prepared and sent with the exam to the student. One student told us he was so elated at receiving his certificate he just looked at it all day long!

When the student's *Born to Win* grade is entered into the computer, two more courses are sent. As each additional exam is sent in, the student will have another lesson to work on while awaiting the results of the completed study.

Prison life may be confining, but when the Lord places His hand on the rebellious person, he often receives Christ and starts a new life. Many believe that going to jail is the end of the road for them. However, we find some whose lives have changed and blessings flow rather than cursings.

Dora in Dallas County Jail tells us, "This study has given me an unquenchable thirst for more of the Word. Reading the Scriptures and learning more of my Savior somehow makes me want to live, walk, talk, breathe, eat, think and do the things in my life that are pleasing to God."

One student wants **to Live:**
"I am totally lost. I thought at one time I was saved, but I realize now that I am still living in darkness. I feel so alone in this world."

Nicole wants **to walk:**
"I found out by this lesson that I need help to know God and be a true Christian. I have been going about it all wrong. But now I am thankful I have discovered *Born to Win* and that ya'll are the help I need to learn the right way."

Don wants **to talk:** "I know what these lessons can do, and it's a way to serve and witness."

Jimmy wants **to think:** "As I study I look at the Bible in a new way, and I'm still learning. I'm not a good writer as you can see, but I learn to read and write as I go on. I learn and your studies are making it more worthwhile in helping me."

Donald is **thankful:** "I am expressing my gratitude to you for your service to the Master. Your efforts to share His glorious Gospel will not go unrewarded. I want you to realize that you have affected my eternity. I know that in a coming day I shall bow before my Savior and with my tears I shall wet His feet. But I will not know then any more than I know now, that He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords."

You may be asking, how can I help?
The answer is - in many ways. Volunteers are needed in the Home office for all kinds of clerical work, from secretary, to opening the mail, ordering books, stocking books, stuffing books for mailings, checking the mailing before it goes out, data entry, updating student files, stuffing certificates and graded exams for return mailing to the students, producing the monthly Newsletter, recording the accounts, and printing Business Reply envelopes and other forms. In other words, in the Home Office we need all kinds of talent, but especially we need people who have a heart for service.

Perhaps counseling the students sparks your interest.
We can certainly use counselors in the Home Office. In addition, we also need counselors in branches throughout Texas and Louisiana. We are available to explain the details to anyone who may be interested in starting a Branch in their church, where a group of people could meet, grade, and counsel students.

We pray daily for workers. Perhaps you may be an answer to our prayers.

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WRITE-WAY



IN TWELVE MINUTES

In general, we are a Bible correspondence school for all prisoners, whether in city or county/parish jails, state prisons, or Federal prisons in Texas and Louisiana.

We are dedicated to the propagation of the gospel and the promotion of Christian growth in the Word of God through Bible correspondence courses to all prisoners in the State of Texas and Louisiana.

Where is Write-Way located?
Our Home Office is in Garland, Texas. Twenty eight Branches throughout the State give Write-Way a state-wide presence. Our Home Office is also considered a Branch, and our staff consists of about 40 volunteers who administratively support some 360 counselors in our Branches. These Branches counsel more than 7,000 students in more than 315 prisons and jails each month.

What do we mean when we say "Branch"?
We could call the Branches "field offices", because they are in churches out in the field, around the State, where they minister to our students. Each Branch is assigned specific institutions whose inmates they counsel.