



BLESSINGS FROM PRISON

JANUARY 2017: Vol. 35, No. 1

Dear Friends,

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR 2016

Together, under the Lord's kind hand:

- More than **900** students professed Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior
- More than **11,000** of our first course, *Born To Win* were distributed into jails and prisons.
- **Three** new Branches were formed, adding additional volunteers eager to serve.
- Finally, the new Internet database, **GradesysPRO**, became fully functional, replacing the DOS-based program we had been using since mid-1980.

With hearty thanks and great gratitude I salute all our caring counselors, diligent staff, and faithful donors. We are blessed to observe our Lord's endeavors in the jails and prisons of Texas and Louisiana!

Rodger Turley, Director

THE WORD OF GOD IS REAL

"I was born in Guatemala, but when I came to the U.S I knew there was a God, but I was not doing His will. Two years before my incarceration I had a dream about the end of the world and I was left behind. I woke up crying and started to pray. Then after two or three days I went back to the world.

"The day I got arrested I experienced the same feeling from that dream. I asked for a Bible, repented of all my sins, and asked God for forgiveness. The Word of God is real! This prison unit is blessed. We do Bible studies together and have many opportunities to learn the Word of God." **Edver**

OUR MISSION: To introduce Jesus Christ to each incarcerated person in Texas and Louisiana through a curriculum of English and Spanish Bible correspondence courses, that are free, post-paid, and volunteer graded.



"But You are the same,
and Your years will have no end." Psalm 102:27

EIGHT YEARS AND 136 CREDITS

"Thank you all so very much for everything you do for those in prison. After spending two years in county jail I was sent to state prison. I was new in the faith at that time and felt that my life was over.

"My cellie gave me a card to send in for a Bible study from Write-Way. One of the first pieces of mail I received in prison was the *Born To Win* Bible study. I did not realize then what a blessing this was for me. For the past eight years and 136 credits I have learned more than I could have ever imagined.

"In twenty months I will be released on parole. Thank you so much for helping me reach this point. Your ministry has helped to mold me – a second chance in this life" **Joseph**

YOU COMPLIMENTED ME

"I loved the way you complimented me on my Bible studies. I do have a long way to go, to say the least. But no one has said nothing that nice to me ever in my life. It really meant something for a man of God or a woman of God to tell me I am worth more than anything in the world. From my heart I want to say, God bless you!" **Kevin**

I WANT TO BE LIKE THIS GUY

"I found this book in the book cart. I was reading the story, *Born To Win*. I want to be born to win. I want to be enrolled in Bible study. Yes, I want to change my life, to win the victory over the lies of Satan. I want to get the knowledge of God and start a new person in my walk in the light with our Lord Jesus Christ. I want to be like this guy in *Born To Win* so I can lift my hands up and I'm no longer bound to death and sin!" **Ngol**

GOD WAS KEEPING ME ALIVE

"I am writing to say thanks for my certificate for finishing your Bible course. Sad to say, it's been many, many years doing the Bible study during each time I was incarcerated for one reason or another. Someone mentioned to me that those were the times God was keeping me alive. I am not proud of being in/out of prison all this time.

"When I enrolled into your Bible study back in 1989, it was my very first time in prison. Thus I finished your Bible study my very last time ever in prison, amen! I get out in June 2017." **Daryl**

THIS SMALL DONATION

"I was informed of your needs in furthering the Kingdom of our Father. I am very hopeful that this small donation [\$200] will be of use to you. Here in the Federal system we can pay bills, make deposits, and make donations. I thank God for the opportunity to join with you in this marvelous endeavor to educate the prisoner and I thank you for your acceptance. I was reading Philemon tonight and am still visualizing Onesimus as a free man as opposed to being a slave. Thank you so much for the wonderful materials!" **Leon**

BEING USED BY OUR LORD

"To my Brothers and Sisters at Write-Way: I am thanking you for your kindness and devotion in grading my work, sending the studies, and being used by our Lord to help me grow in my walk with Christ." **Benito**

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Over our 34 years, we have occasionally manipulated our program to increase offerings to our students or decrease them in order to reduce costs. In 2016 we labored under a reduction because of the high cost of courses and postage.

In 2017 we desire to be more aggressive in order to give more students the best, free Christian education while they are incarcerated. We are redesigning our curriculum so that those 80% of our students who are engaged in the first 25 courses have the very best studies to meet their needs. We intend to reach out to more Chaplains so we can assist them in their work in the Faith Dorms.

We praise the Lord that January gifts have covered our 2016 deficits! Amen!

BY THE NUMBERS

	DEC 2016	YTD 2016
Ministry Statistics		
Active Students	5,341	7,519
New Enrollees (<i>Born To Win</i>)	790	11,101
Professions of Faith	78	925
Course Books Mailed	4,795	75,526
Course Exams Completed	3,465	55,306
Students Graduated (72 units)	31	182
Operation Finances		
Expenses:	\$23,852.45	\$282,027.18
Postage: \$ 8,695.31		
Courses: \$ 11,960.01		
Salary: \$ 1,195.00		
Other: \$ 2,002.13		
Donations:	<u>\$40,752.00</u>	<u>\$215,518.77</u>
NET:	\$16,899.55	(\$66,508.41)
Overages covered by January 2017 gifts		

Visit us or donate online: www.writewaypm.org
Send us your email address to receive donor receipts
and this monthly newsletter electronically.

WPM Statement of Faith is available upon request.

Write-Way Prison Ministries, Inc. is a non-profit organization tax exempt under IRS Code 501(c)(3), ID No. 75-1848459. Write-Way Prison Ministries, Inc. has received grants from Interstate Batteries, Stewards Ministries, and The Dallas Foundation.

Board of Directors: Rodger Turley, President; Dave Verinder, VP; Wes Jones, Treasurer; Joyce Jones, Secretary; John D. Coffey; Delwin Rettig; Esther Robinson; Grace Hill; Chaplain Alfred A. Gibbons (Emeritus Trustee) and Don Johnson (Emeritus Trustee); and Founder, Ralph Nichols (Emeritus in Memoriam)