



# WRITE-WAY Prison Ministries, Inc.

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## BLESSINGS FROM PRISON

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### Background Issues Affecting our Work

We love to share the testimonies of our students. And I think you love to read them. The majority of our students are in the **Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ)**. So I thought you might be interested in knowing there is a movement to decrease both prisoners and costs. The **Texas Criminal Justice Coalition (TCJC)** at [www.texascjc.org](http://www.texascjc.org) is "dedicated to ending mass incarceration in Texas." TCJC is an advocacy group that maintains the following Texas prison numbers are too high and too costly to taxpayers:

145,000 in Texas State prisons  
66,000 in Texas County Jails  
20,000 in Texas Federal prisons  
3,000 in Texas Juvenile detention  
475,000 on Texas probation or parole  
709,000 Totals

Their web site above is a great place to find Aftercare Resources by county for those coming out of prison. But you can also read these fascinating research reports:

### "One Size Fails All"

- A Failure in the Fourth Degree: Reforming the State Jail Felony System in Texas.
- Young Adults and Community Supervision: The Need for a Developmentally Appropriate Approach to Probation.
- Out of Sight: LGBTQ Youth and Adults in Texas Justice Systems.
- Return to Nowhere: The Revolving Door Between Incarceration and Homelessness.

In addition, they are focusing their efforts on about a dozen issues including:

- Fixing the Bail System.

- Establishing an Independent Ombudsman for the State system.
- Eliminating Occupational Licensing Barriers.
- Diverting People from the Justice System Altogether and Providing Them Treatment in the Community.
- Providing Dignity for Incarcerated Women – 64% are non-violent offenders and 81% are mothers.

1.5 million people are sitting (lounging) in State and Federal prisons across the US, many for non-violent crimes. Prisoners all too often face inhumane conditions and are woefully unprepared to rejoin society as peaceful, productive, and law-abiding citizens. And the costs to taxpayers are about \$80 billion annually!

Regardless of the issues, we have plenty of work to do. Jesus once said, "For you have the poor with you always." (Matthew 26:11) And I think the same applies to the incarcerated, in spite of all the research and legislation! There is a harvest field white and waiting and your prayers and support are very much needed and appreciated.

Rodger Turley, Director

### ENRICHED MY LIFE - Gary

"A few words to express my gratitude for your ministry, which has enriched my life tremendously. Now I realize how much the Word directs and strengthens my inner man daily. It's this spiritual nourishment my heart desires."

### 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, postpaid, and volunteer graded.*

## Prayer Corner

The front page numbers represent people separated from their children, cars repossessed, jobs lost, mortgages not paid, and families weakened. Pray that wardens, chaplains, and legislators may rectify injustices and provide more community resources.

### THANKS FOR ALL YOUR HELP - Luis

"God bless you, brothers and sisters. I give you thanks for all your help while I have been in prison and for sending me the Bible lessons. Each day I have learned more of our Savior Jesus Christ. My heart has been filled with joy and understanding of His Word. Thank you for the beautiful certificate. I will treasure it."

### FRUITFUL AND ON TIME - Mario

"I want you to know that this study [*Jonah: Meeting the God of the Second Chance*] was by far so very fruitful and on time. God is without error and always on time. Thanks for your time and services. Your effort to share God's truth will be cherished here and rewarded in due season. I love you all there as my Christian family."

### PENETRATED MY SOUL - Leonardo

"Before Christ, I did what I wanted. Spoiled, selfish, drug-addicted criminal, murderer, hater, idolater, and all around son of the devil. I came to Christ in February 16, 2010 after hearing the gospel and it penetrated my soul and I believed Jesus died for me and who He was.

"Funny thing, I went back to doing what I wanted to do and I never was satisfied and I didn't enjoy it anymore. Three years later I came to prison.

"God has transformed me from the inside out. He took a drug-addicted drug dealer dealin' dope and transformed me into a Bible-addicted preacher dealing hope!"

### WPM Statement of Faith is available upon request.

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## BY THE NUMBERS

	<u>FEB 2019</u>	<u>FEB 2018</u>
<b>Ministry Statistics</b>		
Enrolled Students	6,871	7,655
New Enrolls - <i>Born To Win</i>	526	676
Professions of Faith	33	35
Course Books Mailed	4,253	4,544
Course Exams Completed	2,884	3,053
Graduate 72+ units	21	0
<b>Operation Finances</b>		
Expenses:	\$21,986.54	\$19,093.58
Postage: 1st class	<b>\$7,293.63</b>	<b>\$8,256.47</b>
Courses:	<b>\$10,840.50</b>	<b>\$8,086.94</b>
Staff support:	<b>\$874.00</b>	<b>\$575.00</b>
Computer upgrades	<b>\$1,015.45</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
Other:	<b>\$1,962.96</b>	<b>\$2,175.17</b>
Donations:	\$14,937.05	\$13,084.35
<b>NET:</b>	<b>(\$7,049.49)</b>	<b>(\$6,009.23)</b>

### HELP OTHERS KNOW JESUS - Gilbert

"I'm writing to let you all know I enjoy the Bible study very much and learn so much from it. I want to learn and help others to know our Lord Jesus Christ. A brother in Christ was here and left the Bible study of Jonah: Meeting the God of the Second Chance. I learned so much from it and I've given a study on it. Now I want to enroll a brother in Christ, but he only speaks Spanish. Bless you all."

### LEAD ME WHERE YOU NEED ME - Michael

"I am writing you today to let you know I'm no longer at the Formby Unit and have been paroled out to El Paso to a halfway house. I believe God sent me here for a reason, so I found me a little church. I'm looking for a full time job close by so I can walk since I have no transportation. Saving my money to get a small apartment and start over. I prayed God to lead me where He needed me, so here I am. Continue to send my Bible studies here. I really miss doing them."

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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