BLESSINGS FROM PRISON

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A Bible Correspondence School (Authorized Distributor for Emmaus Worldwide)

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"Remember the prisoners as if chained with them." Hebrews 13:3 (NKJV)

IIIIIIIII A Testimony from Death Row (DR)

Background: In March 2024, bilingual graduate Rodolfo requested 20 copies of *Walkin' the Walk* (WTW) for leading a group of death row (DR) men in a Bible study. Generally, DR men are housed in single cells and their spiritual needs served by Field Ministers (seminary grads). All movement is single-man and handcuffed. If you have exemplary behavior, such as Rodolfo, you may be able to live in a group setting of no more than 14 men (which he has been in since February 2024). They are the only men on DR allowed to interact in a group; everyone else remains isolated. That is why Field Ministers and Coaches come to them while they are in their cells, or they can address a section of 14 men from a distance. I compiled this testimony from several letters.

Texas has 189 inmates on death row (2022 stats; 6 are women). But they also have 9,251 inmates listed as "life." Some on DR can get an appeal to "life." And some on "life" can parole out. *Rodger Turley, Director*

"I thank our heavenly Father and the Lord Jesus Christ for one more year of life, blessings and opportunities to serve others and the kingdom. I continued the ECS courses after completing your WPM curriculum. I was a few years with them as well, which provided a solid foundation of the Word in my life. I am NOT able to enter the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) Seminary program for Field Ministers because I'm on death row (DR). It's only open to General Population inmates, and only Seminary graduates can be designated as Field Ministers. Perhaps one day, if the Lord permits me to get off DR, I'll be able to sign up for the Seminary or any of the other Programs.

"I was able to earn a Bachelor's in Christian Education from Shalom Ministry Bible College and Seminary in 2010 through correspondence courses. They were willing to grant me 21 credits towards a Master's because of the courses I had completed through your ministry from 2004-2007. No joke, they recognized the quality of ECS courses.

"A quick update on the course booklets previously sent. WTW is going great! The group discussions and questions (on topic or not) help encourage, strengthen, and unite the guys. **These lesson topics truly hit home**, but are also humbling. I'm personally overjoyed how this study group has provided an open door for a fellow brother gifted with wisdom and understanding to assist the others. It is truly amazing.

"We are in need of your courses (for Spanish inmates on DR). I have been praying and meditating on this for some days asking for the Lord's guidance. I reviewed the Spanish curriculum sheet and believe the right choice would be: <u>La Evangelizacion Personal</u> (S-EP). The Spanish study is conducted over the prison radio station and can be viewed on the tablets.

"Most of us are well into our appeals (DR court appeals) so our time is limited, but I continue to encourage them to enroll for your correspondence courses, because God may have mercy on us and send us out of DR and into a life sentence. And most of these men have been students of the Faith-Based Program.

"Once again, thank you so much. God is truly working here, changing men's hearts and minds, our environment, the staff, positively affecting our families and friends, and equipping us to minister more to them all. Four of the Spanish group men are serving as Faith-Based Program mentors. (Cont'd on page 2)

OUR MISSION

To introduce Jesus Christ to each incarcerated person in TX, LA, MS, NM, and IA through a curriculum of English and Spanish Bible correspondence courses that are free, postpaid, and volunteer counseled.

PRAYER REQUEST

Please pray for Emmaus Worldwide as they launch 44 more courses on June 1 onto the tablets of inmates of more than 400 prisons nation-wide. Pray for new technology to communicate with these students.

(Cont'd from page 1)

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They serve the men on their lessons and are mediators in section issues. I could go on and on.

"The Ad.Seg. (Administrative Segregation) group/class has not come together yet. I am happy to share that some men in Ad.Seg. have entered the Faith-Based Program (14 men) and another group is taking the LIFE SKILLS class led by Life Coaches, which is the first step for them to get out of Ad.Seg. and back into General Population. We will continue to encourage these men to sign up for your Biblical courses, even if only through correspondence, so they can learn at their own pace.

"I have met people from England to Europe and Australia, and sowing seeds, or just sharing what our great God has done and is doing. I realized that I may be confined and physically limited, but through letters, articles, and messages, I can reach the world. Besides, this place here is a mission field, and the harvest is ready.

"Please keep us, DR, in your prayers and our ministry opportunities. We have some ideas, plans for others, and some operating as we speak. The LORD's instructions on serving don't change because we are here; we just have to be more creative and partner with those outside to carry them out. And pray for me, that I may be faithful, focused, and have more wisdom to fulfill my ministry. Thank you." *Rodolfo*

"I would like to participate in any Bible studies your organization offers. Thank you so much for your work with inmates! We appreciate being thought of during this difficult time in our lives. I am grateful for this time to focus on my spiritual growth." *Melissa*

BY THE NUMBERS			
	APR 2024	YTD 2024	
Ministry Statistics			
Enrolled Students	3,189	3,047	a
Enrollees - Born To Win	287	1,018	
Professions of Faith	5	19	
Course Books Mailed	2,479	8,843	
Course Exams Completed	1,533	5,435	
Graduates 72+ units	4	25	
Program Gifts and Ex-			
penses			
Expenses:	\$14,446.70	\$51,237.58	
Postage:	\$5,378.82	\$20,816.37	
Courses:	\$2,989.32	\$15,728.81	
Staff support:	\$2,278.00	\$3,448.00	
Qtrly Insurance	\$0.00	\$1,510.75	
Paper/Envelopes	\$305.04	\$1,078.02	
Other:	<u>\$3,495.52</u>	\$8,655.00	
Donations:	\$12,216.53	\$43,959.92	
Acct Dividends	\$1,743.03	\$5,018.91	
NET:	(\$487.14)	(\$2,258.75)	_

"Praise God! Hallelujah for Emmaus correspondence courses. Through the years you have been my compass, my staff, my reward, my confidant, my teacher, my friend, and I thank God and praise Him for you. Never could I get the understanding and the wisdom that God's Word gives without you guys. You help make me faithful. I am an everyday student." *Eddy*

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"I am writing on behalf of my son, Chad, currently on lockdown. He has limited writing paper, pens, and stamps and asked me to write this letter to you. I wanted to say, 'Thank you' to your organization for being a resource to incarcerated individuals. I believe this program gives encouragement and hope of a brighter future through Jesus Christ, our Savior." Linda

(mother of Chad)

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"I wanna thank you guys for your efforts and time for what you do and for sending a book to my family to help them get started. I look forward to getting my name called during mail call to receive a new book teaching. It brings me joy and happiness to hear back from you. I tell others who will listen to hear the great gospel and try to save those who want to know God." *Eric*