



Dear Friends,

May 2010: Vol. 28, No. 05

As this issue goes into the mail, the ECS Prison Conference on June 2-5 is history. But I wanted to share with you several prominent themes. First, an ex-felon is usually present at the conferences giving us a first-hand testimony as to the benefits of these correspondence courses. Joseph Cabral from California tenderly and firmly testified of his pilgrimage and commitment to Christ and we all were delighted to embrace him as a brother in Christ.

Secondly, ECS reported that the number of Hispanic courses distributed has increased by 36% over the last ten years. Unfortunately, as the Hispanic population rises, so does the Hispanic prison population. We badly need a Spanish coordinator to help us with translation and communication to our Spanish volunteers.

The highlight of the conference was the two sessions by Lenny Spitale (that's three Italian syllables), author of *Prison Ministry: Understanding Prison Culture Inside And Out*. You can buy the book on [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) at discount and read reviews. You need to read it! As an ex-offender and now prison minister, Lenny exuded enthusiasm for his subject with the sparkle of his Italian background. His first point was the deficiency of fathers in inmates' lives. Absence, abuse, neglect. Then he helped us understand that prison has a culture all its own and that successful ministry needs to familiarize itself with this special culture.



*The 2010 ECS Prison Conference convened at Emmaus Bible College in Dubuque, Iowa*

In closing, Lenny led us through several changes taking place in and out of the prison culture that might affect our outreach in the future.

- Supermax prisons with restrictions on access.
- Budget cuts, particularly in Human Services.
- Less chaplains; in CA the ratio recommended is 1 to 500. Actual is 1 to 4,000.
- Religious pluralism – more attention being given to rights of other religions and cults.
- The increase of gang activity (something to be loyal to).
- Female juveniles are on the increase.
- The appearance of “Hospice” units due to aging “lifers.”
- The rise in infectious diseases (hepatitis C and HIV).
- Political correctness (Canadian PC’s cannot distribute DTWJ due to references to homosexuals).

In spite of these potential obstacles, Lenny encouraged us to be intentional about “passing the baton” of salvation to the incarcerated. The obstacles listed above may reduce the number of volunteers who can go into the prisons. But since we specialize in correspondence courses, the mail can go where we may not be able to go! Lenny affirmed that our greatest work is yet to come. His final word:

- The church that receives a former inmate has a treasure, a spiritual “fire in their lap!”

We have a great work and the Lord is obviously at work. Let us know today of your desire to join us!

Rodger Turley, VP, WPM Board

**YOU MADE A DIFFERENCE!!**

Thank you for putting us on your Kroger Plus card when shopping. We have gone from \$108 the first year to over \$780 in Kroger donations in 2009. That's more than 218 students served with a course sent and an exam returned.

It is time to sign up for this year's Kroger Neighbor to Neighbor donor program, running from 7/1/2010 to 4/30/2011. Simply take the enclosed letter on your next shopping trip to Kroger and allow the cashier to scan our barcode.

## FROM BEHIND THE WALL

### I WANT TO FIND GOD

"I am wanting to enroll in your studies of the Bible. I believe in straightening up my life and this is the first step in doing so. I read the Bible, but a better understanding would help me learn. When I was younger I was studying the Book and I lost the way. Now I want to find God and His wisdom. I also have a friend in here with me who would like to join." Emilio

### ANOTHER EXCELLENT BIBLE STUDY

"Thanks again for another excellent Bible study course. I really enjoyed the study on Ephesians, especially 4:8-21. The verse by verse commentary was very helpful. I don't know when I'm leaving county jail, but you guys will be the first to know!" Charles

### I AM 19 YEARS OLD

"I have been in your program for a little over a month and have very much enjoyed the lessons. They help me get through the days of my incarceration. I very much appreciate what you have done for me and other inmates. It's a blessing to be able to learn more and more about our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

"I am 19 years old and have been in and out of facilities from the time I was eight, when my mom told me she didn't want me anymore and put me in foster care. I started acting out and was placed in many boy's homes and juvenile centers. But this is the first bit of real trouble I've ever been in. And I'm taking it as a blessing in disguise, because on the 'outside' I don't think I would have ever found the Lord like I have in the four months that I've been incarcerated. I was too far along in drugs and alcohol, but He took me out of that and showed me the way to salvation.

"Also I have a list of inmates from RCJ who would like to enroll in these lessons." Michael

### LET ME KNOW YOU CARED

"First of all, thank you for helping inmates to have the privilege to do Bible studies. I'm so sorry I fell behind. Due to moving around, a lot has changed since I've gotten my Bible studies. We have been on lockdown twice plus once for medical reasons. I work in the kitchen then go to trade school for six hours. It's no reason to be behind. Your questionnaire shocked me to let me know you cared instead of falling off like I did. I'm trying to change my ways to be a better person. I have two boys and a beautiful wife to go home to." Angel

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**Send us your email address to receive donor receipts and this monthly newsletter electronically.**

## REPORT FOR MAY

Institutions Served	345
Enrolled Students	7,959
Suspended*	940
Active Students	7,019
New Enrollees	716
<b>Professions of Faith</b>	<b>47</b>
Course Booklets Mailed	7,555
Course Exams Completed	5,138

\*Students returning no exams for more than 90 days.

### Student Achievements Reached This Month:

**36 Course Units Completed: 33 Students**  
**48 Course Units Completed: 42 Students**

### Operational Finances Summary:

May Donations:	\$ 19,700.78
May Expenses:	26,073.33
Postage:	\$ 10,247.27
Courses:	9,061.35
Operating/Admin:	6,764.71
Deficit:	\$ -6,372.55

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**Government employees in Texas may make designated work place payroll deductions through Local Independent Charities of Texas (LIC) at [www.lic.org](http://www.lic.org)**

**Our annual certified CPA audit is available upon request.  
WPM Statement of Faith is available upon request.**

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