



WRITE-WAY Prison Ministries, Inc.

NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

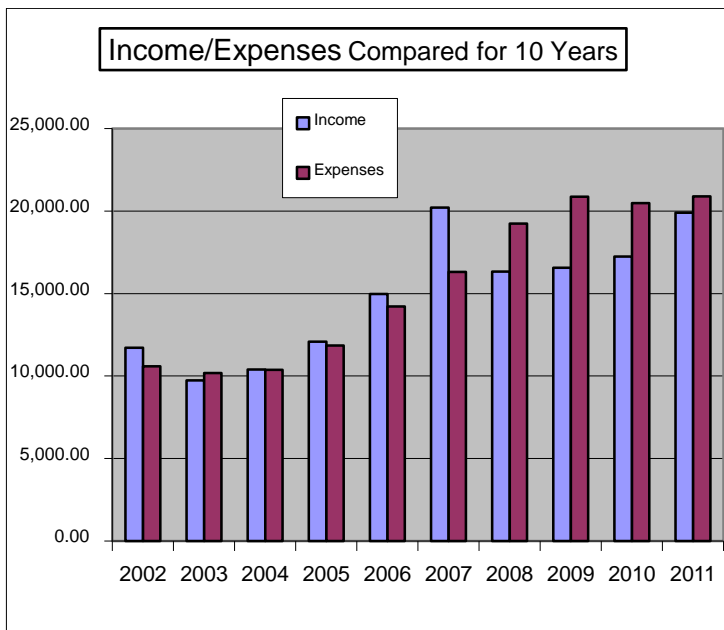
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MISSION 2011 INTO 2012

2012 marks our 30th year of ministry to prisoners! And what a remarkable venture it has been! Ralph Nichols started at his kitchen table with his wife, Dot, in 1982. By time I came on board in 1998 he was looking a little weary. But his spirit was adventurous and his face was set to serve the prisoner. He abided by the admonition in Gal.6:9, "And let us not grow weary while doing good..."

The joy of serving and "doing good" overshadows whatever weariness may come. Our spirits are refreshed when we read exam comments and student letters proclaiming praise and allegiance to their Savior and God. The student benefits, the counselor benefits, and the prison system benefits. Most importantly, our Lord is acknowledged and receives much honor.

Rodger Turley, Director

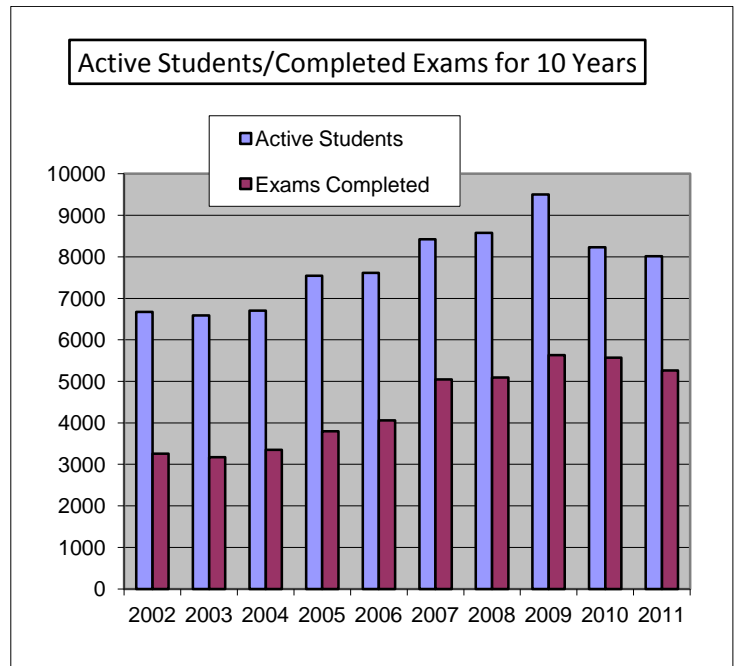


For the past four years our donations have not been able to keep pace with the costs to service new and incoming students. a) Our average monthly cost for postage in 2011 was \$10,479. Since 2002, postage costs have risen by 89%. b) Our average monthly cost for courses in 2011 was \$6,339. Course costs have risen by 105% since 2002.

c) CAUTION: Our expenses for 2011 have averaged \$20,892 per month. That is a 97% jump since 2002. d) PRAISE: Our donations for 2011 averaged \$19,896 per month! That is a 70% rise over 2002 donations.

In order to accommodate the effects of lower donations, a) we reduced enrollments, b) we restricted the number of books students had out at one time, and c) we made a concerted effort to streamline the curriculum and shipping. The result is new enrollments and the number of active students have declined. For 2012 we are pursuing more funding sources in hopes of not cutting programs.

Thank you, each counselor, each staff volunteer, each donor, for laboring so selflessly to "do good" and bless these men and women. The fruit is obvious and very satisfying.



While "doing good" in 2011, a) we served an average of 8,017 students per month, b) we mailed on average 7,913 courses per month, and c) graded 5,263 exams. The difference between these last two numbers is generally loss of books due to transfers, release to free world, prison shake-downs, and discouragement during incarceration. This ratio has dropped from 49% in 2002 to 33% in 2011. And d) in 2011 we enrolled an average of 894 new students per month, 54% of the 1669 enrollees per month in 2002! Yet our professions of faith have remained at approximately 50 per month over the ten year span.

More students are going further into the curriculum and more are completing it. I believe that the Branch volunteers' ability to counsel and relate one on one makes this possible. e) In 2011 39 students reached the 36 unit certificate level per month and 31 students reached the 48 unit certificate level. Since 2002 that is a 904% increase!

Early in our ministry, the national office suggested that we ought to aim at 5% enrollment of the incarcerated population. For Texas and Louisiana that would be 14,200 students! Whether that is realistic is questionable, but it is a goal we keep in mind. In addition to reaching as many prisoners as we can with the work of Christ and growing them in the Lord, there are several positive residual social advantages to our work. a) Recidivism (return to prison) is reduced for Christian ex-offenders and therefore a possible reduction in taxes that support the prison system. b) Because Christian inmates learn personal discipline, how to control their anger, and how to get along better with their peers, the supervision load is lightened for prison administrations. c) Employers are satisfied to obtain ex-offender employees who have "learned their lessons," make wise decisions, and get along with other employees.

These kinds of changes make a big difference in tax dollars saved as shown in a recent Texas Criminal Justice Coalition survey (see www.criminaljusticecoalition.org). They maintain that many non-violent offenders can be rehabilitated at the local community level at a fraction of the cost of incarceration. The average cost for a Texas inmate for one day in TDCJ is \$50.79 as compared to \$1.30 for a paroled individual. For all those incarcerated that is \$7,661,859 per day or \$2,796,578,535 per year! The Pew Report on U.S. Imprisonment several years ago found that some states spend more on corrections than on education! Currently 63% of the prison population is chemically dependent and 56% have mental health problems. The commission maintains that "Confinement only manages, not reduces, risk" and that these non-violent offenders could be better helped at the local level with specialized programs.

We are in place to make a significant difference at several levels. Please join us in this revolution in our prisons.

STUDENTS WHO EXCEL

Most courses in the curriculum are assigned one or two units depending upon reading level and content. With each exam completed we offer a certificate of completion. We also grant a larger certificate upon completion of 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, and 30 units. At 36 units of work, Emmaus Correspondence School (ECS) presents the student with a large 8 1/2 x 11 certificate. Others are earned at 48 units and 60 units of work. Please note the accompanying list of students who excelled in pursuing their studies during the last half of 2011. They are very proud of these certificates.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

A gift was received from Emmett and Kitty Marshal in memory of Larry Atkins. Thank you for your kindness.

DECEMBER 2011

Ministry Statistics	2011
Institutions Served	324
Enrolled Students	7,434
New Enrollees	895
Professions of Faith	46
Course Books Mailed	6,644
Course Exams Completed	5,509

Student Achievements	2011
36 Course Units	41
48 Course units	21
60 Course Units	12

Operation Finances	2011
December Donations	\$34,050.75
December Expenses	\$22,783.11
Postage	\$12,937.12
Courses	\$5,428.19
Admin/Misc	\$4,417.80
Surplus/Deficit	\$11,267.64

We are grateful for the December surplus which helps us cover any early 2012 deficits.

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

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

**Our annual certified CPA audit is available upon request.
 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 Exxon-Mobil, Interstate Batteries, Stewards Ministries, and The Dallas Foundation.

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