



WRITE-WAY Prison Ministries, Inc.

NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

February 2012: Vol. 30, No. 2

A TRIBUTE TO VOLUNTEERS

One of the most valuable assets of WPM is its volunteers, all 400+ of them! They work within 32 “Branches” out of various churches in Texas and Louisiana and in the office. The tasks volunteers do are so varied, it is impossible to create a complete list. They include: getting the mail... opening the mail... enrolling new students... grading exams... praying for and encouraging the students... posting grades... sending certificates with completed exams... printing envelopes and forms... tracking transferred students... pulling, stuffing, and mailing new courses... making deposits... writing students who fail courses... and maintaining the computer system, the physical facility and the grounds.

Many send donations in addition to the many hours they spend in service! Each would assert that they are blessed in giving by receiving a greater blessing. What could be more satisfying than observing first-hand Adam’s broken race proclaiming their redemption and extolling their Savior? Those kinds of comments are very encouraging.

Studies indicate the United States is the “most advanced country in philanthropy” in the percentage of income allotted to charities and the average number of hours devoted to volunteerism. We have never logged volunteer hours, but the national average is about 24 hours per month. Our Grader/Counselors may spend that much time a month. Branch Managers certainly do more. But others may come to the office for several hours a week, or one day a week, and some for all five days a week.

What are some of our pressing needs? We earnestly desire your prayers for God’s wisdom, guidance, and direction. We work diligently to accomplish the mission that God has given us to reach the incarcerated for Christ. Would you also pray God for God’s provision so we can meet our financial needs?

In the Garland office we could use someone who knows Quick-Books, perhaps one day a week. Another area of need is help in tracking transferred students and resending returned items from the post office. Many more students are completing the curriculum and that requires more time writing letters of congratulations, compiling transcripts, and forwarding this information to the Dubuque office. If you live near one of the Branches, they would be very happy to have additional graders. We can provide phone numbers!

More than one in every four American adults volunteers. That represents the equivalent of nine million full-time workers at a value of \$239 billion! You can be sure we value our volunteers! The former Director, Ralph Nichols, was always concerned how best to show appreciation to our volunteers. But with so many, I

think he finally decided the Lord would have the last word at their Homecoming! “Well done, good and faithful servant.”

The type of organization where people volunteer most is “religious” in nature (33.9%). That’s because volunteering is an expression of our gratitude to the Lord for His work of Grace in our lives. We are “His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works (Eph.2:10). Jesus stated in John 5:17, “My Father has been working until now, and I have been working.” Likewise, we also go into the Harvest to work.

Our volunteers are more than numbers! They are the saints of God serving in the manner as their Savior did. Volunteer today and find your place in the big picture!

PAST AND PRESENT VOLUNTEERS



Top left to bottom right: Lucile Nichols (deceased); Bonnie Cathey, Esther Robinson, and Gordon Robinson grading; BR075 Manager, Zoe Strock, with Board Trustee, Don Johnson; BR062 Manager, Julio Sarmiento with wife, Mari-tza; Jenny Johnson, Pete Thompson, Esther Robinson, and Pat Huber, sorting newsletters; BR003 Manager, Stan Boyer; Beth Coffey in shipping; BR050 Manager, Cliff Adams; Douglas Culberson and Eloize Baker readying courses to mail; BR036 Manager, Re Jackson (retired) with husband, Ed; Ralph Nichols, former Director (deceased); Spanish BR014 gathered around Manager, Paco Fernandez; and Nancy Messer (retired) who picked up and opened mail 20 yrs.

THINGS VOLUNTEERS READ

"I truly appreciate the work that your ministry does, the service given from the heart of your staff and their sacrifice for me a prisoner. May God bless Write-Way and also give the staff success in what you are doing. May His love lift you up with favor and peace." **Rudy**

"You are in our prayers. You help so many prisoners with Bible studies provided by donations of people whose hearts the Lord has touched. Keep up the great work for the Lord. He is our provider and sustains our lives. I can't explain how many times the Holy Spirit has moved in my life and has taught me." **Richard**

"I have received the Lord Jesus Christ while studying the courses. I considered myself ignorant of the things of God. Thanks to these courses, little by little, I am learning new things." **George**

"I just want to take this opportunity to thank you all for helping me grow spiritually through the years. There were many dark and dreary days along the way, and had it not been for your ministry, there's no doubt I would have been a casualty. However, the courses you provided gave me a solid foundation to build on. So when those tough times came I was able to remain grounded, rooted on God's word and His promise to 'never leave us or forsake us.' Thank you." **Ben**

"I saw one of your studies and thought it was good. I'm 35 and serving a 35-year sentence here at Angola State Prison. I knew a little about the Bible before I came to jail, but I would really like to become a Christian."

Randall (Working on *Born To Win* this month!)

"I cannot explain how God has moved in my life in the space provided. I have run from the Lord all my life. It took Him to bring me to nothing for Him to make me something. I thank Him daily for doing that. And I trust He will allow me someday to share that with others in the free world. If not, then I will continue to share it with the ones He surrounds me with. I will not run anymore." **Al**

"God created me through Christ Jesus to do good works. In that, I find a great deal of self-worth. To do God's will makes me feel as if something is being accomplished, rather than doing my will." **Joshua**

"One day I just got tired of not knowing if I would go to heaven. I had just started getting in the Bible and I read, 'Confess your sins to the Lord and you will be forgiven.' Next thing I felt this warm feeling come over me and my heart started to dance. A smile spread across my face and I knew it was time for me to confess and be saved." **Jane**

"They shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be fresh and flourishing, to declare that the Lord is upright;"
PS 92:14, 15

MEMORIAL GIFTS

A gift was received from Bob and Leona Doss in memory of his mother, Lillian Doss. Thank you for your kindness.

JANUARY 2012

Ministry Statistics

Institutions Served	335
Enrolled Students	7,457
New Enrollees	882
Professions of Faith	56
Course Books Mailed	6,098
Course Exams Completed	5,358

Student Achievements

36 Course Units	75
48 Course units	69
60 Course Units	36

Operation Finances

January Donations	\$10,165.85
January Expenses	<u>(\$17,330.62)</u>
Postage:	\$10,225.59
Courses	2,411.77
Printing:	2,006.06
4QTR11 taxes:	1,050.49
Admin/Misc:	1,636.71
Surplus/(Deficit)	* <u>(\$7,164.77)</u>

*December surplus covers this.

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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.**

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