



## **BLESSINGS FROM PRISON**

*April 2017: Vol. 35, No. 4*

Dear Friends,

Perhaps down the road we'll do a "double" newsletter. There are so many fine comments we have no room to share. So, I'll be brief and only say, "may you know 'the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings.'" (Phil 3:10)

Rodger Turley, Director

"I lay down My life that I may take it again." John 10:17



### **MY LOVING AND SOVEREIGN GOD**

"Thank you, my loving and sovereign God, that my failures and mistakes are part of the all things You work together for good, as well as my tensions and stresses, my hostile and anxious feelings, my regrets, my trips into shame and self-blame, and the specific things that trigger them. I praise you that all things, including these, can contribute to my spiritual growth and my experience of You. I'm more aware of my need to cry to You, to take refuge in You, to rely on You.

"I rejoice that these things keep reminding me to depend on You with all my heart. They prompt me to trust in Your love, Your forgiveness, Your power, Your sufficiency, Your ability to overrule, and Your transforming presence within me. Thank you for the ways that my shortcomings and failures bring pressure on me to open myself to You more fully, and the way they let You show me deep and hidden needs, griefs, and hurts that I've never poured out before You, that I've never exposed to Your healing touch, and sins that I've never faced and acknowledged. How grateful I am for Your constant cleansing. I praise you that I'm free from condemnation simply because Christ died for me and rose again; it doesn't depend on how well I live." **Armando**

**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, post-paid, and volunteer graded.

**BEFORE I TRUSTED CHRIST:** "My life was without direction and without true joy or satisfaction. I dealt with severe emotional problems and spent my teenage years doing drugs and alcohol. As I grew older the burden of pain and sense of loneliness and confusion only worsened. This all led me into a downward spiral that destroyed my relationship with my family, with my girlfriend, and cost me multiple jobs, my apartment, and ultimately my freedom."

**HOW I TRUSTED CHRIST:** "When I found myself incarcerated at 18, I had no idea what to do. I had never been locked up before and because of the seriousness of the charges, I was placed in a cell by myself for 23 hours a day for 10 months. A guy in the cell next to me asked if I had anything to read and if I had a Bible. He said he'd get one to me.

"Once I had the Bible, I had no idea what to do with it. I flipped to the few Scriptures I did know. Eventually I began to follow the reading guide and started to read through the gospels. As I read, I felt drawn to the Word; I wanted to read it more and more. I began to see myself in the words of the Bible, in its stories and verses. I felt at home in the pages of that Bible. It was as if after 18 years of searching, I had finally found where I belong. Shortly after my 19<sup>th</sup> birthday, I gave my life to Christ."

**SINCE I'VE TRUSTED CHRIST:** "I experienced peace unlike anything ever before. I felt as if I finally had purpose in life, and what had been missing in my life - hope. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, I went from doing all I can just to make it through the day, only to spend a sleepless night contemplating suicide, to having the strength to not only endure, but overcome. I began to conquer the things which once ruled me. I was finally living instead of just existing. I spent too long being a part of the problem. Now by the grace of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, I will be part of the solution." **Eufemio**



**“While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”**  
Romans 5:8

## THE DIFFERENCE THAT YOU HAVE MADE

“Having this Bible study and the volunteers and their positive reinforcement has helped me grow and understand more of His Word. Thank you for your time and the difference that you have made in my life.”

**Terry**

## ALMOST DIED THREE TIMES

“Please forgive me for not completing the courses. I fell by the wayside when I got out. I started shooting meth and almost died three times. Can I please finish what I started? Before I got out, I was on pre-release unit and had a near death experience. Everything went black. I heard people praying for me. But this one lady I heard like she was in the cell with me say, ‘Lord, discipline him in the path you have chosen for him.’ I don’t want to go to hell.” **Clifton**

## PRESERVED ME FROM DEATH

“This lesson solidified my faith (*What the Bible Teaches*). I was destined to the lake of fire. But even though I didn’t deserve to be saved, He saved me through His Son, Jesus Christ. And even as I was living in sin – addiction, on the streets, in prostitution, He preserved me from death.” **Alejandro**

## PRAYER CORNER \* \* \* \* \*

Every Monday at noon we pray for those students who send their requests to us here. This corner will be our monthly place to let you know how you can pray for us.

Our curriculum committee is in the midst of making some sequence adjustments and adding and dropping some courses from the curriculum. We want the very best spiritual education for our students. So please pray as the deliberations proceed.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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## BY THE NUMBERS

|                                      | <b>MAR<br/>2017</b> | <b>MAR<br/>2016</b> |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Ministry Statistics</b>           |                     |                     |
| Enrolled Students                    | 8,282               | 8,090               |
| New Enrollees ( <i>Born To Win</i> ) | 795                 | 1,011               |
| Professions of Faith                 | 79                  | 70                  |
| Course Books Mailed                  | 5,402               | 6,784               |
| Course Exams Completed               | 3,601               | 4,841               |
| Students Graduated (72 units)        | 22                  | 11                  |
| <b>Operation Finances</b>            |                     |                     |
| Expenses:                            | \$20,766.71         | 18,411.85           |
| Postage:                             | \$ 9,105.36         |                     |
| Courses:                             | \$ 6,245.88         |                     |
| Staff support:                       | \$ 1,200.00         |                     |
| Other:                               | \$ 4,215.47         |                     |
| Donations:                           | \$14,208.65         | 12,417.34           |
| <b>NET:</b>                          | <b>(\$6,558.06)</b> | <b>(\$5,994.51)</b> |

*January Overage covering any deficits.*

## BRIEF, BUT PROFOUND

“I live just to do these Bible studies and learn God’s Word. Thank you!” **Lyman**

“Thank you volunteers for bringing me these Bible studies and replying with my grades. One day I will volunteer for God in some place.” **Jesus**

**“I can’t wait for church in Heaven. That’s going to be the place to be. I can only imagine.”**  
**Jimmy**



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WPM Statement of Faith is available upon request.

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