



# WRITE-WAY Prison Ministries, Inc.

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## BLESSINGS FROM PRISON

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Successful spiritual stories are the product of the Holy Spirit working through many hands (see I Cor. 3:4-9) Such is the story below, where former WPM Board member, Chaplain Al Gibbons (now deceased), labored often at the Coffield Unit over several decades and distributed Emmaus courses. His coworker, Chaplain Frank Oakerson, continues weekly walks through the prison, counseling and compelling men to come to Christ. Every month he sends us dozens of enrollments. Now Gateway Church has blessed the progression with baptisms at an inside-prison Church.

### Rival Gang Members Risk Their Lives to Get Baptized Together in Texas Maximum Security Prison

A Texas megachurch has seen incredible things happen since planting a church inside the state's largest maximum-security prison six months ago. But what happened last week was a first in the history of the prison.

The warden at Coffield Unit in Anderson County, which is located about 90 minutes outside of the Dallas/Fort Worth area and houses roughly 4,200 criminal offenders, invited Gateway Church to baptize a handful of inmates in administrative segregation, or solitary confinement, where they spend 23 hours of their day behind solid, steel doors with air holes in them because of how dangerous they are. Five of the men – confirmed gang or cartel members – were brought into the gymnasium, shackled hand and foot and around the waist, and they had to clear the prison because of safety concerns. “They couldn’t lift their arms above their waist, each one has a guard on each arm, and wouldn’t leave their side until they were in the water,” Holsinger said.

Three of them were placed on one side, two men on the other. A field guard told the pastor it was because they were from rival gangs and the only way for them to leave the gangs or cartels is death.

Holsinger spoke to each one of the guys in solitary confinement, each with a violent history. “I have tried it my way my whole life and it’s gotten me here,” one of the prisoners told the campus pastor. “I want to try it God’s way...we’re going to come out of the water as new men.” One by one the men were baptized.

“These guys from two different gangs professed the same Lord and were baptized in the same water together and they walked out together, guards not holding onto their arms anymore because God had done something in their life,” Holsinger said.

But it was what he saw afterward that shocked him. Each of the inmates, dripping with water and fully clothed, were trembling in fear. “These guys literally know they’re putting their life at risk and they’re doing it anyway,” the campus pastor said. “Never one time in my life have I felt like my decision to follow Christ has put me in danger or discomfort...for these guys to come in and they were so humble and gentle...to see them walking out trembling, they may be afraid for their life not knowing what would happen, but they did not regret the decision they had just made. That was mind-blowing to me.”

The remaining 14 prisoners in solitary confinement will be baptized in July and the church is also planning on taking several thousand Bibles to supply the prison for individual and new inmates in a partnership with the local radio station, KCBI, Dallas, TX. Gateway plans to launch six more prison campuses throughout Texas by the start of 2020.

Source: Fox News June 06, 2019



Coffield prison inmates worship at the newest campus of Gateway Church. (Gateway Church Photography)

### 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, postpaid, and volunteer graded.

## Prayer Corner

Would you please pray for the Wardens of these prisons? Every day they are faced with tough situations: fights in the pods, dishonest employees, suicides, complaints from inmate families, medical emergencies, and shortages in the budget. They need to extend mercy, but they also need to receive mercy to do their duties.

### Culture Confusion

“My life has passed in confusion. I was born a male but the women raised me and I grew up as a girl. From 14 I was given estrogen hormones and my life has been like this till now at 33 – in prison with breasts like a woman.

“Truth is that in my life of the flesh I failed, but I have changed in Christ. It has been hard for other Christians to see me as a child of God. I have instructed myself in the Truth and know the Truth. It is Christ. I want to be an example and a man of God for God, which is not of the flesh, but by the Spirit of God. I need relief that only God can give me.” **Ahmed** (letter in Spanish-Pray for Ahmed)

### Put My Family Back into My Life

“I just want to thank you so much for your words of encouragement (Lesson: *Win the Battle for Your Mind*). You were very professional in grading my exam and in leading me in a spiritual way through my weaknesses. Please continue to pray for me, my wife, and our six children to reconcile. They are a good family, but I am to blame for our separation. But now that I am a changed man, I pray to God to put my family back into my life. I want to tell them about God and what He has done and is doing in my life.” **Erasmio**

### This Lesson has now Changed My Life

“All my life I’ve struggled with the problems and issues Jonah had. Now that I’ve read this lesson on Jonah (*Jonah: Meeting the God of the Second Chance*) I understand. My heart has opened and brightened! Thank you so much from the bottom of my heart, for this lesson has now changed my life!” **Israel**

#### 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 Interstate Batteries, Stewards Ministries, and The Dallas Foundation.

	<u>MAY 2019</u>	<u>YTD 2019</u>	
<b>Ministry Statistics</b>			
Enrolled Students	6,979	6,929	AVG
Enrollees - <i>Born To Win</i>	582	3,023	
Professions of Faith	55	195	
Course Books Mailed	5,608	24,553	
Course Exams Completed	3,505	16,602	
Graduates 72+ units	13	65	
<b>Program Gifts and Costs</b>			
Expenses:	\$17,363.29	\$96,344.38	
Postage:	<b>\$7,243.34</b>	<b>\$38,682.51</b>	
Courses:	<b>\$6,284.96</b>	<b>\$38,827.52</b>	
Staff support:	<b>\$1,804.23</b>	<b>\$4,333.00</b>	
Qrtly Insurance	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$1,080.00</b>	
Other:	<b>\$2,030.76</b>	<b>\$13,421.35</b>	
Donations:	\$11,756.31	\$86,911.25	
<b>NET:</b>	<b>(\$5,606.98)</b>	<b>(\$9,433.13)</b>	

### Walkin’ the Walk has been Amazing

“First, I thank you for the courses I have received. This one took a little longer (*Walkin’ the Walk*). It takes me a little longer than most to read, study, and let it sink in. *Walkin’ the Walk* has been amazing. A couple of people say I’m positive and uplifting. But a lot of the info I go off of comes from, of course, the Bible, and the courses I receive from Write-Way.

“I recently became a Trustee, so lots of my day is taken up, but I’m not allowing that to take the Word away or my study time. For 17 years of my life I have been able to make time for drugs and fake friends. So replacing that dedication with dedication to building a relationship with the Lord and more full-hearted Christians will no doubt provide the tools I need to be a Godly parent, Godly son, Godly grandson, and Godly friend to those that have been placed in my life. Please pray I keep my eyes and heart on Jesus. I’m including the name of a good friend also incarcerated here who would like to get more involved in the Word” **Adam**

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

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