

Partners in Evangelism: Annual Report

A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



Welcome to our prison ministry, *Partners in Evangelism!* Let me begin this annual report for 2004 by sharing with you a letter from Richard, an inmate in Michigan:

I've always felt an emptiness in my life that I've tried to fill with all the wrong things—drugs, alcohol, and women—which has gotten me here: prison. Now, at the age of thirty, I have finally realized that God, and God alone, can fill the hole. So if you could send me literature to help me as a Catholic, I will be deeply indebted to you all.

Partners is now in its sixteenth year! In this year's annual report, I am grateful to tell you that in 2004 *Partners* touched the lives of 25,000 Catholic prisoners in the U.S. and Canada—on death row, in state prisons, and correctional institutions. Every day we have brought prisoners just like Richard the word of God in Scripture, inviting them to deepen their relationship with Jesus and to treasure their Catholic faith.

Partners' contribution to the Catholic prison population is, indeed, significant!

As you will see from the graph on page three, donations increased in

2004 by \$57,000 over the previous year. Why are you so generous? Here is what two donors told me:

Partners gives me an opportunity to help in the sharing of the good news of Jesus Christ with people that I have never met. Tom

As a father of five young children, I don't have time to visit my local prison. But by donating to Partners I know I'm answering Jesus' call to care for those in prison. John

Will you join *Partners* in our ministry so that together we can serve more Catholic prisoners? You could partner with us and the more than eight thousand individuals who supported us last year by making a one-time donation, or participate in our "Sponsor a Prison" program by sending a monthly gift of \$20 or \$40 (or whatever you can afford). I especially invite you to pray for prisoners in your own home and at your church. In these ways, you will be responding to Jesus' call to "visit me in prison" (Matthew 25:36).

Your sister in Christ,

Angela M. Burrin

Director

amb@wau.org

www.partnersinevangelism.org.

Partners in Evangelism: Mission and History

The mission of Partners in Evangelism is to provide *The Word Among Us* magazine and other spiritually enriching materials to every Catholic prisoner in the U.S. and Canada so that they can experience God's love, forgiveness, and presence in their lives.

1981-1986: Prisoners in the U.S. and Canada contact *The Word Among Us* requesting free subscriptions to the magazine.

1986: *The Word Among Us* magazine invites its readers to send in donations for a prison "evangelism fund." There is a generous response.

1989: 826 prisoners receive free subscriptions.

1990-1996: Over a six-year period, a total of 27,130 free subscriptions are sent to prisoners.

1997: 6,461 prisoners receive free subscriptions.

1998: Angela Burrin is named executive director of *Partners in Evangelism*.

2000: *Sponsor a Prison* program begins.

14,000 prisoners receive free subscriptions.

First book written, *God Alone: Stories of the Power of Faith*.

Partners sends *Alpha* course materials, an evangelization resource, to chaplains.

2001: 20,000 prisoners receive free subscriptions.

2002: *Partners* expands beyond magazine subscriptions by sending prisoners Bibles, rosaries, greeting cards, and spiritual books donated by readers.

22,000 prisoners receive free subscriptions.

2003: First pamphlet is written specifically for prisoners. *God Forgives . . . Can I?* is sent to 45,000 inmates.

First pamphlet is written specifically for Spanish-speaking prisoners. 7,000 prisoners receive *Dios perdona ¿Puedo perdonar yo?* a translation of *God Forgives . . . Can I?*

24,000 prisoners receive free subscriptions.

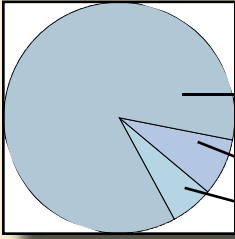
2004: 25,000 prisoners receive subscriptions of *The Word Among Us* magazine in English or Spanish.

8,287 individuals send in donations.

214 individuals participate in "Sponsor a Prison" program.

Another pamphlet *Step by Step to Calvary: Stations of the Cross for Prisoners* is written, with plans to distribute it during Lent 2005.

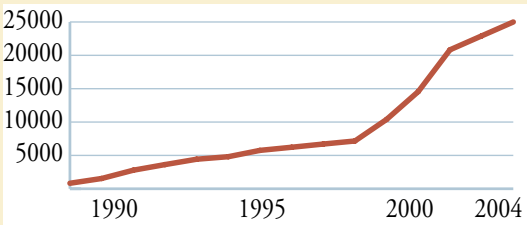
What We Have Achieved Together!



How Your Donations Have Served Prisoners in 2004

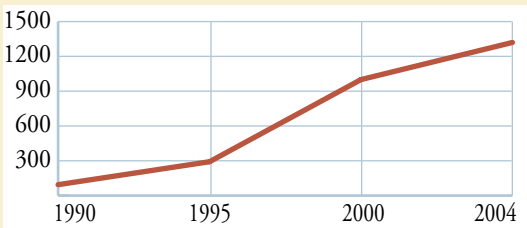
86% Prisoners' support: *The Word Among Us*, *La Palabra Entre Nosotros*, books, and pamphlets
8% Fundraising
6% Chaplains' and volunteers' support

Growth of Subscriptions | 1989-2004



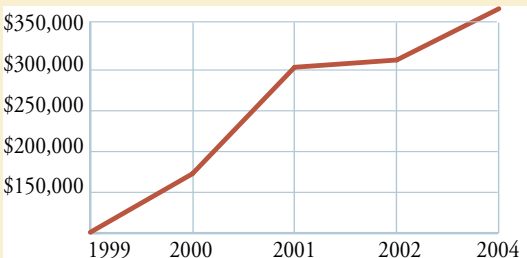
The number of prisoners receiving *The Word Among Us* and *La Palabra Entre Nosotros* grew from 826 in 1989 to 25,000 at the end of 2004.

Growth in Number of Prisons | 1990-2004



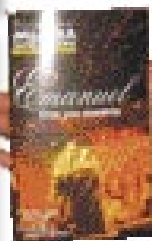
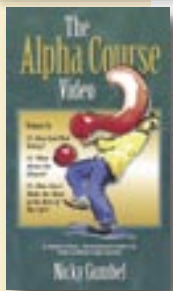
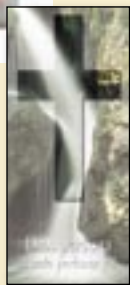
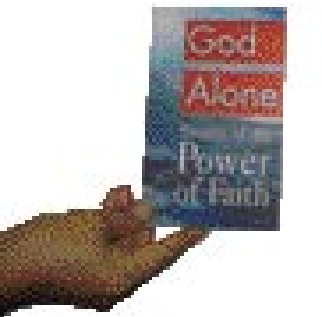
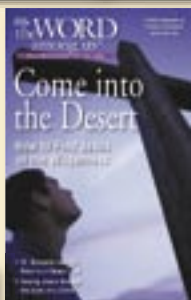
The number of prisons receiving *The Word Among Us* and *La Palabra Entre Nosotros* grew from 94 in 1990 to 1,340 at the end of 2004.

Growth in Donations | 1999-2004



Thanks to your generosity, in 2004 we received \$370,414 in donations, an 18% increase over last year!

What *Partners* Brings to Prisoners!



Every morning I am blessed with Scripture from *The Word Among Us*, thanks to generous donations from people “out there.” Ron, Idaho.

It is so comforting to read the Mass Scripture readings every day, especially since I'm on a yard where no religious services are available. Karen, Arizona.

I never miss a day of taking the time to read the meditations in *The Word Among Us*. This practice has changed my life over the past years. Carl, Colorado.

I have just finished reading the pamphlet *God Forgives... Can I?* Forgiveness has always been a hard subject for me. But now that I have the love of Jesus in me, I can feel the darkness being chipped away. Juan, Texas.

We have a box full of books pertaining to our Catholic faith. I admire greatly the support you have shown me. Fr. Tony Warnakula.

The Alpha course was so fulfilling. I've made the commitment to start over in Christ. I'm making a break with the past. Sherri.

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Box 1107, Station F, Toronto,
Ontario M4Y 2T8 (this will insure a
tax-deductible receipt for checks only)

On the Internet at www.partnersinevangelism.org