



SPRING 2006

Partners Report

NEWSLETTER OF PARTNERS IN EVANGELISM MINISTRY TO PRISONERS AND SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN

Thanks from the Front Lines!

"*The Word Among Us* is VERY popular with the soldiers! I'm very grateful for having received them, and now the soldiers are asking for the next issue. They are hungry for the Word. These magazines are a fabulous tool which I would very much appreciate receiving for the rest of 2006, if possible."
Chaplain, Iraq

"THANKS! The love and support for our soldiers here in Iraq continue to overwhelm me. When we fly Blackhawk helicopters tomorrow, my trusty Chaplain assistant will have plenty of copies of *The Word Among Us* for the soldiers! The good Lord is VERY busy working in the hearts of so many, who are seeing their faith tested in ways they could never imagine 'back in the world'."
Chaplain, Iraq

"Our Soldiers want to bring *The Word Among Us* with them when they're taking a break from guard/tower duty, resting during the Convoy Ops, and in their hooches after they get off work. It's amazing how popular those books are becoming!"
Chaplain, Iraq

"We truly appreciate what you are doing. Our soldiers need these daily inspirations, which give them comfort and hope in the midst of chaos and darkness. Know that these truly impact the morale of our soldiers."
Chaplain, Germany

"Just this morning the copies came in! They are wonderful! Sound theology and great inspiration. The sailors definitely need something of quality like this!"
Chaplain, Aircraft Carrier

"Thanks for your willingness to send us *The Word Among Us*, and your promise to pray for the men and women of the Armed Services. May God bless you abundantly for the good works you are doing."
Chaplain, Parris Island

"The issues of *The Word Among Us* arrived yesterday. Thanks very much. With thousands of troops here away from their families for various periods of time (up to a year), we see a good number of people who have a strong desire to grow in their faith. Your publication is wonderful and will greatly bless those who receive a copy. We will especially use your publication with those in our RCIA process. May God bless you for your generosity!"
Chaplain, Qator

"I express my thanks to you for offering the magazines for our military personnel and to those who made donations for this effort. Please express my thanks to them. And may the blessings of the Lord Jesus be with you in all that you do in spreading the Word of God."
Chaplain, Germany.

"Thanks very much for sending us copies of *The Word Among Us*. I know they will enhance the spiritual lives of our soldiers."
Chaplain, Abu Ghriab

Planned Giving!

We invite you to consider making a gift to Partners through a will or bequest, or through a life insurance policy. Information and forms are available on our website or by calling 1-800-775-9673 ext. 2100 (Angela) or ext. 2136 (Bryan).

TAX-DEDUCTIBLE!

Lenten Gift! \$40, \$80, \$120

Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving are the three pillars of our 40 days of Lent.

Will you give \$1, \$2, or \$3 each day during Lent to help provide Catholic prisoners and service men and women with *The Word Among Us*?

That is a tax-deductible donation of \$40, \$80, or \$120.

Donate online at
www.partnersinevangelism.org
or see the form on page 3.



Brothers and Sisters,

Wow! In these last few months, we have witnessed an extraordinary response to the ministry we have launched to service men and women. Just a few of these responses are included on the front of this newsletter. One grateful chaplain thanked us for our timely gift: he was in Baghdad trying to raise funds himself for *The Word Among Us* when our magazines arrived!

Through your generosity and prayers, we are serving men and women in all branches of the armed forces, both overseas and in the U.S. We are in Afghanistan and Iraq. We are in ships at sea and in military hospitals. We are even in Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo. We are in places where military men and women are seeking to experience God.

In early February, on your behalf, I joined Bishop Joseph Estabrook from the Archdiocese for the Military Services in personally bringing *The Word Among Us* to the chaplains and the men and women at Bethesda Naval Hospital and Walter Reed in Washington, D.C. Of the many emotions that flooded my heart during this visit, one feeling was paramount: respect. The extent of the sacrifice these men and women have made is truly moving. Please be assured that they are grateful for your donations and your prayers.

We are pleased and honored that the 5,000 copies of the Lenten issue

of *The Word Among Us* sent to military personnel includes a special wrap cover that we developed in cooperation with the Archdiocese for the Military Services. This cover contains a personal letter from Archbishop O'Brien addressed to the men and women in the armed forces, an introduction to the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and an examination of conscience geared to those in the military. You can see it at our Web site at: <http://www.wau.org/partners/service/spiritual.asp>.

Finally, as you may recall, we launched our ministry with a commitment from *The Word Among Us* for 5,000 magazines each month. The requests from the men and women in the military have greatly exceeded that total. We will be working very hard over the next few months to extend our reach. We are both excited by the challenge and inspired by the need! Please help us by sharing with others what our ministry is about and asking them to partner with us in bringing God's love to our brothers and sisters in the armed forces. We are receiving heartfelt requests from ships without chaplains, from deployed units in harm's way, and from those caring for critically wounded patients. I invite you to consider becoming a "Monthly Sponsor." See details on page 3.

Please, continue to pray for these men and women and all who are being served by Partners.

Bryan Keilty
Director, Ministry to Service Men and Women



Partners in Prayer

FAITH—Let us pray for an increase in *faith* for all prisoners and service men and women. Let us pray especially for those who suffer from doubts, loneliness, or depression. Come, Holy Spirit, and fill their hearts with the fire of God's love.

HOPE—Let us pray for an increase of *hope* for the families of service men and women and prisoners, during the absence of their loved ones. St. Joseph, guardian of the Holy Family, intercede for us, that families be strengthened during their separation and soon be reunited.

LOVE—Let us pray for an increase of *love* for all prison and military chaplains. Holy Spirit, give them words of wisdom, truth, and comfort as they minister to men and women in difficult and challenging circumstances.

PEACE—Let us pray for an increase of *peace* for all individuals and families who suffer the loss of a loved one through war or a criminal act. Mary, Queen of Peace, we ask you to intercede for us, that Jesus would pour out his comfort, healing, forgiveness, and restoration.

I WAS IN PRISON AND YOU VISITED ME!

A "thank you" letter to a prison volunteer, written by Susan, who was recently released from prison.

Dear Mary,

I've wanted to write for a while now to let you know how much it meant

to me when you came to visit me in prison. Though prison is the last place on earth anyone wants to be, I needed it. Your visiting, sharing of God's love with me, letting me know my life still has meaning, and your continuing concern now that I have been released, has made such an impact on my life.

I had been running scared after being molested as a child from age six to twelve by a close family member. I became confused, lost, and untrusting. I allowed myself to spin out of control at such a young age—drinking codeine cough syrup and taking my dad's valiums—leading into street drugs. I created my own prisons with

Continued on back cover

Become a Partners Monthly Sponsor!

Partners in Evangelism would like to invite you to become a “Monthly Sponsor.” You can choose to sponsor either prisoners or service men and women, or both—by donating to a general fund where your gift will be applied to where it is most needed.

Your monthly donation of \$10, \$20, or \$40 will ensure that our Catholic brothers and sisters in difficult circumstances receive a free copy of *The Word Among Us* every month.

Currently, Partners in Evangelism is sending this Catholic devotional to over 26,000 prisoners and 5,000 service men and women.

Please say YES! And complete the card to your right.

YES, I will become a monthly sponsor for:

Prisoners Service Men and Women General Fund

I will sponsor at a monthly rate of:

\$10 per month \$20 per month \$40 per month \$ Other

Please accept a one-time Lenten donation in the amount of \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone () _____

I want to charge my first month's sponsorship or my one-time contribution to my:

Visa MasterCard Discover

Amount \$ _____ Card No. _____ Exp. Date ____/____

Signature _____

MAIL TO:

USA: Partners in Evangelism, 9639 Doctor Perry Rd., #126, Ijamsville, MD 21754

CANADA: Metanoia Outreach, ATTN: Partners in Evangelism, Box 1107, Station F, Toronto, Ontario M4Y 2T8 (This will insure a tax-deductible receipt for checks only)

(Spring 2006)



Dear Partners,
God is good! In 2005 you,—together with over 9,000 other donors—gave \$401,000 to Partners in Evangelism. This was \$11,000 over our projected goal. God is, indeed, blessing this ministry. Thank you for being a partner with us—whether you have been a faithful donor for many years or have just begun your partnership with us. There are over 400,000 Catholic prisoners in North America, and every year, as donations increase, we send *The Word Among Us* to more of them. Many prisoners write to tell me how loved they feel by us “people out there” through receiving this devotional. Each day, it draws them closer to God in his Word so that they can experience his personal love for them.

Prisoners and ex-prisoners like Susan, whose letter is on page one, need to know they are loved. And Partners’ ministry is all about bringing

God’s love to our brothers and sisters in difficult circumstances. So, for 2006 I have set a goal of adding 1,000 more prisoners to our monthly distribution list. That would make a total of 27,000 prisoners receiving *The Word Among Us* every month in either English or Spanish.

The ministry to service men and women is now in its fourth month! As well as joining Bryan in his enthusiasm for this new ministry, I also want to help him raise funds. Currently, 396 of our partners are *monthly sponsors of prisoners*. I am now excited to announce two new sponsorship opportunities. One is to become a *monthly sponsor of service men or women*. The other is to become a *monthly sponsor of our general fund*—your donation would go to either prisoners or those serving in the military, wherever it is most needed. Monthly payments may be made automatically through your bank or credit card. You can set up your monthly gift by calling 1-800-775-9673 or by com-

pleting the form above.

Last year many of you called me for a variety of reasons, ranging from questions about your donation, to a son in prison, or how to become a pen-pal to a prisoner. It was great hearing from you! In the coming months, Bryan and I would welcome a phone call from you with your input about our newsletter, *Partners Report*. We have put together a short survey to direct our conversation. So please call!

Remember that it is now possible to make a [donation online](http://www.partnersinevangelsim.org) by going to www.partnersinevangelsim.org, “How to Become a Partner.” The Web site also contains information about making a [gift to Partners through a will or bequest, trust, or life insurance](#). If you have any questions, please contact Bryan or me.

May God bless you in 2006.

Angela Burrin

Director, Ministry to Prisoners
301-831-1262 ext. 2100
amb@wau.org

TAX-DEDUCTIBLE!

Lenten Gift! \$40, \$80, \$120

Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving are the three pillars of our 40 days of Lent.

Will you give \$1, \$2, or \$3 each day during Lent to help provide Catholic prisoners and service men and women with *The Word Among Us*?

That is a tax-deductible donation of \$40, \$80, or \$120.

**Donate online at
www.partnersinevangelism.org
or see the form on page 3.**

Partners in Evangelism
9639 Doctor Perry Road, #126
Ijamsville, Maryland
21754



Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
The Word Among Us

I WAS IN PRISON AND YOU VISITED ME!

Continued from page 2

addiction. I lost my self-esteem and confidence. I was confused about God, his love for me, and the love of others—even my family's. As soon as anyone tried to get close to me, I chased them away, afraid that they too would only hurt me.

I rebelled and ran. I hated my life and myself. I hurt so many people. What's more, I hurt God. I felt I could never ever be forgiven for the mess I made, the pain I caused, the time and talents I wasted. I suffered depression, anxiety, and fear after being arrested. I felt as if God had abandoned and punished me.

Then I met you! You helped me understand—finally at the age of forty—that God loves me. God put me in a place where I could become not only sober, but where he could also

get my attention. He gave me time to get to know him. He knew I was on a suicide mission and had overdosed many times. I knew he was drawing me to himself. He put you and other volunteers in my life—when others abandoned me—to show me the true love of Christ.

**You made me feel safe.
And here it is, almost four
years later, and you are
still in my life.**

Jesus' light shines through you, and God knew I would trust you not to hurt me. I kept thinking that if you only knew the crime and sins I've committed, you wouldn't even talk to me. But never once did you judge me or even press me for these things. You made me feel safe. And here it is, almost four years later, and you are

still in my life.

While in prison I read *The Word Among Us* every day. God began to allow me to understand his Word. The daily meditations and witnesses have touched my heart deeply and helped change my mind about God. He is a God of love—not just justice or punishment. You helped me relate Scripture to my life. I now understand his love for me.

Please never think that your work at the prison is wasted time. There are many hurting little girls there in older women's bodies. Though I am turning forty-four years old, I am probably behaving like a sixteen or seventeen year old. It seemed my life stopped when I was six years old. But God is helping me and others like me grow up through prison volunteers like you.

Thank you!
Susan