



Partners Report

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

A Miracle of God – Serving Soldiers in Harm’s Way

by Chaplain (CPT) John T. Quinn

Jesuit priest Fr. John T. Quinn tells how he ended up as a military chaplain in Iraq and how *The Word Among Us* magazine is ministering to the soldiers there.

Getting into Uniform!

As a Catholic priest, I spent the entire day following 9/11 at the Pentagon, working as a volunteer chaplain. I was deeply moved by the Army chaplains who gathered to nurture the living, care for the wounded, and honor the dead. After that experience, the thought of becoming a military chaplain kept coming back to me.

But I was in no shape to become an Army chaplain. I was an over-the-hill 50 year-old, and I weighed 302 pounds! Fortunately, my Jesuit Provincial facilitated getting me the help I needed. In seven months I was transformed—body, mind, and spirit. I lost 125 pounds! It was truly a miracle of God. I asked what He wanted in return—“Get back in uniform, sign up to become a chaplain, and deploy to minister to soldiers serving in harm’s way!”

There were still MANY obstacles in the way, not the least of which was the fact that I was more than ten years older than the maximum age limit for entry into the armed forces. The critical shortage of priests willing and able to serve as Catholic Chaplains made



“The Chaplain cannot...does NOT do it alone! My Chaplain Assistant SGT Hess (left) handles logistics, transportation, supply, communications, and protection (security before, during, and after all services). He is a devout Christian, an expert marksman, and scores a perfect 300 on the Army Physical Fitness Test. He is my strong right arm, and together, we bring God to Soldiers, and Soldiers to God.”

it possible for me to obtain a waiver. Through it all, GOD continued to work His Miracle...and Grace made straight the crooked path down which I was to travel. My application packet was accepted, and I was one step closer to fulfilling my destiny in the U.S. Army Chaplain Corps.

In April 2005 at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, I completed the thir-

teen-week Chaplain Officer Basic Course. Our class motto was “Walk Among Them!” (as Jesus walked among us—as one of us). We were taught to always embody the motto of the Chaplain Corps as well, For God and Country,” with its follow-on, “Bringing God to Soldiers, and Soldiers to God.” That’s a huge task, but the grace of God’s almighty power makes all things possible!

Feeding the Spiritually Hungry

The Spirit of the Lord is so clearly present in the hearts of our soldiers! They hunger for things spiritual and yearn for a more meaningful rela-

Continued on page 2

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

As you plan for your summer, please remember Partners!

Why? Because we at Partners want to send *The Word Among Us* to an additional 1,500 prisoners and service men and women this year.

Will you please help us reach our goal by making a donation this summer?

Remember! Your donation is tax-deductible.

Donate online at

www.partnersinevangelism.org

or see the form on page 3.

God Is Number One In My Life!

By Vanessa, Georgia

None of the changes I've been through in my life has made me more miserable than the time I was sent to prison. I was focused on the fact that my life was falling apart, that I was hurt, and that I had hurt so many people. I had two choices: either I could be angry, whine all day, and let my past dictate my present, or I could decide to change the road I was on in life and take a new direction. I couldn't expect others to be responsible for my happiness and for my choices.

I chose the second option. I stopped whining and feeling sorry for myself

and started thanking God for his many blessings. It was my responsibility to open my heart and be willing to step out in faith. God has renewed my mind, my body, my soul, and my spirit. He has given me the joy of his salvation. I thank him for this transition to a deeper level of spiritual discipline. I have made God the center of my life—my number one.

Since starting to read *The Word Among Us* I now spend more time in prayer. The meditations and articles cover so much! I dissect them, and look up the Scriptures and any references, and words I don't understand.

It has made me fall more in love with Jesus. It has also taught me discipline, perseverance, and obedience. The magazine is like a "tape recorder," constantly reminding me of right choices and helping me, in adverse situations, to ask, "What would Jesus do?" It has opened my heart to receive his love—I am a "some one." I'm 100 percent Catholic, and *The Word Among Us* has reassured me in my faith.

God has given me a life that I wouldn't trade for anything! These five years and ten months have been a journey that has brought me closer to him. I've met new people, inside and out, who are not concerned about why I'm here. They have shown me that my God is an awesome God who can work miracles! ■

In Harm's Way

Continued from front cover

tionship with Christ. They are looking for "something more" in their lives. Those who are Catholic (or the good number who wish to become Catholic) seem to have a better sense of who they are, and Whose they are, but they also realize that their spiritual foundation is less than they would like. Many really do want to enhance their spiritual fitness/readiness.

I started to get copies of *The Word Among Us* during Advent 2005—the edition with the daily Mass readings. It provides servicemen/women a fabulous tool, the missal, all of the readings for the month, and a daily meditation. Soldiers I serve with have been thrilled when I tell them they can keep their copy of *The Word Among Us*! They treasure it, and faithfully bring it to Mass whenever they get the opportunity to attend. As January came to a close, more than a few soldiers came to me, wondering whether or not the missals for February had arrived. After contacting Partners I assured my sol-



"This in-flight Communion Service on board a Blackhawk helicopter was for a stranded soldier, trying to get back to his unit."

diers that we would continue to receive these invaluable resources throughout our year-long deployment in Iraq.

As one of only two Catholic priests currently serving in the 4th Infantry Division, I have to fly around and do 'battlespace circulation' in order to provide coverage for between 5,000-7,000 Catholic soldiers. The number

is even greater when you factor in the large numbers of Catholics among the civilian workers on each of our forward operating bases (FOB). My wonderful Chaplain Assistant, Sgt. Sam Hess, never complains about having to carry around so many books...because he knows just how much the people enjoy and use them.

Hope for the Future

Despite the fact that there is still a lot of danger here, there is also a great deal of hope for the good which is being accomplished in this part of the world. Morale is good, and our brave young men and women serving in harm's way can be proud of their dedication to God and country. The Catholic community continues to flourish, and I am very excited about scheduling classes for the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA).

May God bless all who pray for and seek for PEACE in our world. May God have mercy on us all, especially until we figure out a way to settle our differences without resorting to killing one another. ■

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 27,000 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 donation in the amount of \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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

(Summer 2006)



Dear Friends in Christ,

At the halfway point of 2006, we would like to share with you some of the activities of Partners:

- During April and May, we added another 1,000 prisoners to our mailing list! And we renewed for another six months all of our existing subscriptions. *The Word Among Us* is now being sent to more than 27,000 prisoners!
- Since December 2005, we have sent 5,000 copies of *The Word Among Us* each month to Catholic men and women serving in the armed forces.

On behalf of all of our Partners, we were honored to attend in May the Military Archdiocese's Memorial Day Mass, celebrated at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. Afterward, Bishop Estabrook of the Military Archdiocese thanked us, both on his behalf and on behalf of the many military chaplains who have expressed their appreciation to him of all that Partners is doing to

meet the spiritual needs of the men and women they serve.

Daily we are reminded of that spiritual hunger. E-mails and letters arrive every day from men and women in prison, service men and women, and chaplains (both prison and military) requesting our help. While we are reaching out to many, the need is still so great in both ministries.

- On the military front, we are ever aware of the sailors on ships without chaplains, injured men and women in military hospitals, and forward deployed troops in the Middle East, all of whom are requesting *The Word Among Us*.
- The requests of thirty-two prison chaplains who have heard about our Catholic magazine are sitting in a box under Angela's desk. In addition, sixty chaplains who are currently part of our ministry are requesting an increase in the number of copies they receive each month.

In January we set an ambitious goal of \$80,000 over last year to begin

to fulfill some of these requests. We have redoubled our efforts and, along with various fundraising efforts to the broader *The Word Among Us* readership and donations from you, our partners, we are hopeful of reaching that goal.

Rarely does a day go by without our mentioning to others here in this office how appreciative we are of your partnership with us. Your commitment and generosity are an inspiration to us, and the primary component of our ministries. We love your letters, phone calls, and e-mails—that one-on-one contact with you—because they encourage us in our efforts to reach more men and women in need of the spiritual nourishment in *The Word Among Us*.

Please continue to pray for our service men and women and all prisoners.

Angela M. Burrin
Ministry to Prisoners

Bryan T. Keilty
Ministry to Service Men and Women

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The Word Among Us



Partners in Prayer

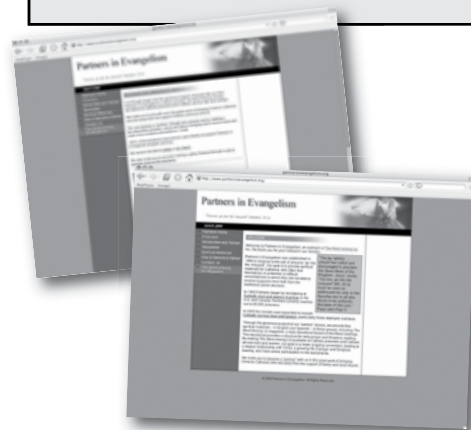
FATHER—Your love for all your sons and daughters is immeasurable and unchanging. We pray that all our prisoners and service men and women will know and experience your great love. May it give them courage to face daily challenges and free them of any fears, doubts, confusion, or depression. Help them to love others as you have loved them.

JESUS—The peace you give surpasses all understanding. Grant peace to the families of prisoners and our service men and women during the absence of their loved ones. We pray for peace in the world and in the hearts of all people.

HOLY SPIRIT—You are the source of all spiritual gifts. Grant that the gifts of wisdom and understanding, especially, be bestowed upon chaplains and persons in authority. May they be channels of your gifts to all in their care.

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).



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