



WINTER 2005

# Partners Report

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

## PRISONERS SAY "THANK YOU, PARTNERS!"

(Letters Partners received in 2005)

Today—Easter Sunday—was my first confession, first Holy Communion, and confirmation. The daily meditations in *The Word Among Us* help me to understand the beauty and richness of the Catholic faith.

Roger, Texas

Thank you for sending me *The Word Among Us* for Lent. I didn't know anything about Lent until I read this



issue. The first thing I read after praying in the morning is the daily meditation. Kathy, Georgia

A great big thank you! The pamphlet *God Forgives... Can I?* is helping to bring people back to God and to confession.

Chaplain Tom, New York

Partners, you have brought light to my darkness. Jim, Arizona

When I first got sent to prison I was mad at God and everyone. After being here, I know it is God's plan for me. Thank you for the gift of *The Word Among Us*. Joseph, Florida

*The Word Among Us* speaks to my heart. The prayers at the end of each meditation teach me how to pray and to thank God for things in a new way. Terry, Illinois

I'm being released soon. The daily meditations in *The Word Among Us* enriched my life so much while serving my prison sentence. Knowing that I was in communion with other Catholics throughout the world

helped me immensely.

Please let the end of my use of your sponsorship be a beginning for another Catholic locked up in prison.

Raymond, Texas

I want to let you know that I read every page of every issue. I have

even torn out pages that have a special meaning to me. The work of Partners has helped me to grow in my faith and has improved my actions. Richard, Florida

The meditations and prayers support me in my day-to-day pursuit of God and my struggle to transform my life and habits into those that are more Christlike. My spiritual growth can be attributed in part to all who write the magazine and to the donors who make it available to me.

Patrick, Texas

**TAX-DEDUCTIBLE!**

**NEEDED—  
\$100 CHRISTMAS DONORS TO  
HELP US MEET OUR GOAL!**

**Y**our tax-deductible partnership gift of \$100 will help us meet our 2005 goal of \$390,000. Currently, 26,000 Catholic prisoners receive *The Word Among Us* free every month, thanks to your generosity. But there are still some outstanding expenses. So please consider another donation before the end of the year.

In the early months of 2006, Partners wants to begin serving some of the 1,800 Catholic prisoners on our waiting list. In addition, we want to further expand our ministry to Catholic men and women in the military. Chaplains continually tell us of the spiritual hunger of those they serve.

Every gift amount will help!

[www.partnersinevangelism.org](http://www.partnersinevangelism.org)

### 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).



Dear Partners,

We are so pleased to tell you that we have begun shipping hundreds of copies of the Advent issue of *The Word Among Us*, both overseas and to bases and military hospitals in this country. Sharing the news of God's love with the men and women serving in the military, especially at Christmas, is so very rewarding.

This new expansion of Partners has special meaning for me personally. Like many of you who have family members, friends, or acquaintances serving in the armed forces, I now have a son, Tim, who is stationed in Iraq. So it is especially exciting for me to update you on all that we have been able to accomplish in the last several months.

As Angela also mentions in her letter, our military website is now up and running. I invite you to visit it at [www.partnersinevangelism.org](http://www.partnersinevangelism.org). Currently active is an online donation form, as well as a site for chaplains to order free copies of *The Word Among Us*. We are now working on making additional spiritual materials available for chaplains and service men and women. Among the items to be offered are free copies of a pamphlet on forgiveness as well as a Stations of the Cross booklet, both written specifically for men and women in the military. Since many of the military personnel have access to the Internet, we will also be offering online versions of this same material, together with an examination of conscience, also written specifically for the military.

We are very grateful for the encouragement and support we have received from two important organizations. It is a great joy to be associated with both of them:

1. The first is the Archdiocese of the Military Services, USA (or Military

Ordinariate). It exists to provide the Catholic Church's full range of pastoral and spiritual services for those dedicated to national defense. It is through the extraordinary work of the chaplains serving in this archdiocese that our Catholic brothers and sisters are being supported with the sacraments, especially the Eucharist. I encourage you to learn more about them at [www.milarch.org](http://www.milarch.org).

2. The second group I want to thank is Catholics in the Military ([www.catholicmil.org](http://www.catholicmil.org)). They exist to provide Catholic material to armed



forces personnel. They also work to strengthen military families and promote vocations to the military archdiocese.

Of course, we wouldn't be able to expand Partners to serve the military without your prayers and support. I heard from an officer serving in Afghanistan via e-mail last week, who has shared with me how important *The Word Among Us* is in his daily prayer. Your generous donations are making this possible for many other service men and women as well! If you have any questions or concerns, or want more information about our ministry, please feel free to contact me. I'd love to hear from you!

Finally, I ask that you remember these men and women in the military in your prayers and that you pray for their safety, as well as praying that they all come to experience God's love as they fulfill their difficult vocation. I also ask that you pray for increased vocations to the priesthood, so that

more of them may be served by a Catholic chaplain on a regular basis. As Angela has mentioned in her letter, we will be praying for you and your loved ones this Christmas.

**Bryan Keilty**

Director, Ministry to Service Men and Women  
301-831-1262 ext. 2136  
[bryank@wau.org](mailto:bryank@wau.org)



**Partners in Prayer**

Jesus, thank you for calling us to be a support and intercessor for prisoners and our men and women in the military. You have assured us that whatever we ask of the Father in your name, he will give us.

**IN CONFIDENCE**, we pray for prisoners and service men and women. May they experience the love of the Father, come to know Jesus in a deeper way, and be filled with the Holy Spirit this Christmas.

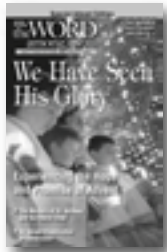
**IN TRUST**, we pray that you protect and guide all our men and women in the military who are called to serve our nation and protect the freedoms that have been given to us. We pray especially that you would keep safe those in harm's way. Give them inner peace and bring them safely home. May those who have been wounded be healed and comforted by your loving presence.

**IN HOPE**, we pray for comfort, healing, and forgiveness for families who have suffered the loss of a loved one as a victim of crime. Speak words of love and truth through the chaplains, guards, and volunteers to prisoners who may be suffering loneliness or depression during the Christmas holidays.

# “Sponsor a Prisoner” Program

*Partners in Evangelism* would like to invite you to join our “Sponsor a Prisoner” program. When you sponsor a prisoner with the card at your right, your monthly gift of \$10, \$20, or \$40 will help guarantee that Catholic inmates receive solid Catholic guidance during their years in prison.

Currently, *Partners in Evangelism Prison Ministry* is sending over 26,000 prisoners *The Word Among Us* each month.



**YES**, I will help meet the spiritual needs of my brothers and sisters in prison.

- I will sponsor 10 prisoners for \$10 per month.
- I will sponsor 20 prisoners for \$20 per month.
- I will sponsor 40 prisoners for \$40 per month.
- Please accept a one-time 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)

(Winter 2005)



*Dear Friends,*

**W**elcome to *Partners Report*, our renamed newsletter! This is quite a milestone in the history of Partners as we begin to update you on the events and growth not only in our ministry to prisoners, but also to service men and women.

There are more “firsts”! We have expanded our website, [www.partnersinevangelism.org](http://www.partnersinevangelism.org), to include pages on the military outreach. I hope you will enjoy browsing these. Also, it is now possible to make a donation online, by going to the link, “How to Become a Partner.” In that same section there is information about making a gift to Partners through a will or bequest, a trust, or a life insurance policy. If you have any questions, please contact either Bryan or myself.

I heard just the other day that Charles, a prisoner on death row who had been receiving *The Word*

*Among Us*, had been executed. In those long and lonely days before his execution, your generous donations to Partners were helping to fulfill Jesus’ words: “I was in prison and you visited me” (Matthew 25:36). On behalf of Charles and the more than 26,000 prisoners Partners reached in 2005, I would like to sincerely thank you. Your partnership with us is truly a blessing. Whatever the size or frequency of your donation, it makes a difference!

I’m also pleased to be able to report that 2005 was a strong year financially. We have received donations ranging from \$3 to \$6,000 and every amount in between. Every month more than 850 individuals send in a contribution. Our 2005 goal is \$390,000. We are close to reaching that goal, but we’re not there yet. So would you please prayerfully consider making another tax-deductible donation before the end of the year?

Christmas is a particularly hard

time for prisoners. So I encourage you to request that a prayer be said on Christmas Day at all your parish Masses for prisoners and their families and children, as well as the victims of crime and all those involved in the correctional system. In the words of Laschelle, a prisoner in Maryland: “Christmas for me is both negative and positive. Negative because I am away from family and that is heart breaking. But also positive because once again I am allowed to see another year and celebrate the birthday of Jesus.”

In closing, please be assured of our prayers for you and your loved ones in 2006! As in previous years, Partners has arranged for a Mass to be offered during the Christmas season for your special intentions.

**Angela Burrin**

Director, Ministry to Prisoners  
 301-831-1262 ext. 2100  
[amb@wau.org](mailto:amb@wau.org)

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



Non-Profit  
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*The Word Among Us*

## Christ has Set My Spirit Free!

Darin, Ontario, Canada

**I** may be in prison, but I am free. Christ has set my spirit free, and because my spirit is free, I am free. In spite of my current circumstances of being away from my loved ones as we celebrate

Christ's birthday, I still have joy and peace in my heart.

Today the social attitude is to focus on and emphasize family, food, and gifts, and the more the better. Being in prison allows me to focus not on the commercialized Christmas (worldly celebrations) but the true meaning and celebration of Christ's birthday.

Christ's birth date is not known, but I celebrate his life every day and not just the day he appeared in the flesh as God himself. This time of year is a time that I reflect more on who Christ is and what he did for me by dying on the cross, and I give him praise and glory. I eagerly await his return so I may be with him forever. ■

## God's Gang of Christians!

MeLisa, Texas

**I** am an inmate in Texas. My grandmother sent me a copy of *The Word Among Us* for September 2004. That issue moved me—and continues to move me—in so many ways, even though it is now 2005. The cover is

now gone! The prayer at the end of the meditation on page 28 says: "Lord, here I am. Reveal more of your plan for me. Strengthen me in your Holy Spirit so that I may fulfill the calling and mission that you have for me." I pray that every day.

I am twenty-six years old. I've been in and out of jail since I was sixteen. I am a current "gang member" who wants to change her life through God's

gang of Christians. My faith family here is arranging for my baptism.

God has helped me in so many ways since I have devoted my time to him—morning, noon, and night. It is a glorious feeling, which I can't explain.

Now, and when I get released, I will walk with Jesus. I will turn to Jesus when I get angry instead of to violence. I have found a church to go to when I get out. God is good! ■