

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **WVIW moves to new offices**
- **New staff increases the effectiveness of WVIW**
- **Youthfulness of staff brings new energy**
- **Tremendous ministry in the prisons of Mexico**
- **Transitional Home helps ex-offenders bridge the gap**
- **"Overcomers" graduates over 1,200 prisoners**

REVERSE SIDE THIS ISSUE

Transitional Home Changes Lives

Overcomers graduates over 1,299 prisoners

Marriage Seminars help save marriages

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WORLDWIDE *Voice in the Wilderness* NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 31, ISSUE 1

FIRST QUARTER, 2009

2009 Brings Changes for Growth

► A NEW OFFICE

November 1, 2009, Worldwide Voice in the Wilderness moved into their new offices. The new location is in the same building, 1221 Abrams Road, Richardson, Texas, but a new suite, Suite 345.

The old office had become too small. The new one has five private offices, a reception area, a small kitchen, a copy room, and a large storage and work room. Everyone now has space to work comfortably and efficiently.

► NEW STAFF

Travis and Gina Moffitt, the son and daughter-in-law of Johnny and Betty, joined the staff in December and are busy raising their support. Travis is Johnny's assistant and is in training to one day become the director of

WVIW. Travis and Gina are both graduates of Christ for the Nations Bible Institute in Dallas, Texas. Most recently they have been the Directors of Missions at Morning Star Church in Tampa,



Javier and Johnny in Mexico

Florida.

Javier and Danielle Mendoza started at WVIW in November. Javier is the assistant to Betty and is in charge of the WVIW web site and all electronic communications, and photographer for the

ministry.

These two couples join Sie Davis, Aftercare Director, Tammy Schaefer, Crusade Director, and Edward Chambers, Transitional Home Director, in making WVIW a very effective missions ministry to the prisons of the world and other areas of missions. Both the Moffitt's and the Mendoza's have led several overseas missions trips, and are very knowledgeable in the area of missions.

► NEW VISION

God has challenged the hearts of all the staff with new and clear vision. Each one is excited about what God has for them in 2009, and they are looking forward to how He will use them to impact those in prison and those families

WVIW Impacts Mexican Prisons



Johnny prays for prison ministry volunteer in Puebla, Mexico

In November Johnny, Betty and Javier traveled to Puebla, Mexico to teach prison ministry to a group of churches. They carried with them materials to establish

"Overcomers" in the prisons there. They taught volunteers a total of fifteen hours about the Christian 12-step program and prison ministry in general.

They also took over thirty of these volunteers into two major prisons and conducted services for the inmates. In the women's prison, Johnny dedicated one baby to the Lord and then preached a powerful message on the woman at the well.

There was much weeping as

dozens of ladies came to the altar and gave their lives to Christ. The volunteers were blessed and excited about what they learned and saw. The group of churches known as "Amigos de Fe" are doing a great job in the prisons of Mexico, and we know the ministry there will continue to grow and prosper.

We are looking forward to returning to Puebla in 2009. We are believing God to get into even more prisons at that time.

Please pray for Mexico.

Transitional Home Changes Lives



House Director Edward Chambers helps new resident fill out admission forms

WVIW's Transitional Home is in it's second year of operation and is proving to be a tremendous asset in helping men bridge the gap between prison and freedom. Much of the credit goes to the home's director, Edward Chambers.

Edward is an example of what God can do in a man's life if he will just let go and let God. Edward if from Dallas, and has been in prison four times for a total of twenty-five years. He was released December 13, 2006. He had spent the last

year of his incarceration in a release program inside the prison. He had become a Christian in the Hughes Prison in 1992 and was serious about serving Christ.

He immediately became active in a church where he now serves as an elder and assistant to the pastor. In June of 2007 we asked Edward to move into our Transitional Home and watch over the property. Since then he has proven to be a real servant of the Lord and blessing to WVIW and the men who

come to the home.



Edward and Dr Morris Sheats at recent WVIW banquet

"Thank you for providing Overcomers while I was in prison, and then letting me give back by becoming a facilitator myself."
Artis Harris

Couple enjoying a WVIW Marriage Seminar in a Texas prison



Overcomers in 50 Texas Prisons

Several ago years WVIW was asked to bring the "Overcomers" 12-step drug and alcohol program into the Texas prisons. Johnny and Betty met with Texas Department of Criminal Justice officials and hammered out a cooperative agreement whereby this could be arranged. The state would provide the material and WVIW would provide trained, qualified and certified facilitators.

An ex-offender named Sie Davis was brought on board to be the director of this program. Johnny met Sie while Sie was



Prisoners showing their Overcomers certificates

in prison. They remained friends and Johnny watched his growth in the Lord. After Sie was released, he went through a transitional program and

even became the director of that program. It was evident the hand of God was on Sie to go back into prison as a minister of the Gospel.

Under Sie's leadership the "Overcomers" program has grown in respect and effectiveness to become one of the best life changing programs in the Texas prisons. The "Overcomers" program has been awarded two Governor's Awards for volunteer service. In 2008 WVIW graduated over 1,200 prisoners in 50 prisons, from "Overcomers". The program continues to grow.

WVIW plans Four Marriage Seminars in 2009

Since 1995 WVIW has been holding Marriage Seminars in the prisons of Texas. Statistics show that less than 3% of marriages will survive the prison experience. It is extremely difficult to maintain a successful marriage when a prisoner can only see his spouse two hours each week. These two

hour visits are in a public room with twenty to fifty other couples, and under the watchful eye of correctional officers.

Add to this the fact that many wives must work two jobs and support several children without any assistance from the husband. In other words, says Emmett Solomon, "When a

man goes to prison, a family goes into crisis."

Texas allows WVIW to bring the wives into the prison for three days of teaching on marriage and assisted time of working together on their critical relationship problems. We are saving marriages through this program.

