Greetings...

in the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We hope and pray that all is well before God with you and your family. All of us here at HeartCry are doing fine. It has been a tremendously busy two months. Each day our vision seems to grow as each day we see more clearly the fields white unto harvest. We believe that there is no end to what the Lord can do through hearts He has prepared and strengthened. Even after all these years, we desire to be more and do more for the cause of Christ in the World. At this present time we are weary, but not relenting; worn, but not without hope; perplexed, but trusting that He who began a good work in us shall perfect it just as He promised. Please pray for us and please pray that God will send laborers into the harvest. There is an abundant number of men and women waiting to be supported and our heavenly Father always supplies what we need financially so that there is no need to ask or manipulate God’s people. Our great problem is that we can no longer grow and maintain our integrity without the help of key individuals who can work with us in the United States to administer and manage the works that are growing every day. Pray that God will send people who are not only willing but prepared to serve the Lord in leadership roles in HeartCry.

This month’s edition of HeartCry is dedicated to the prison ministries which we are supporting in the countries of Paraguay and Romania. Both of these ministries have gone far beyond all our expectations. We have rejoiced in the reports that have come in from the field and from what our own eyes have beheld as we have visited these works. We hope that what you read and see in the following pages will bring you to bow before our Father and thank Him for the mercy He has shown to men. The stories you will read are just a few of the living epistles of God, demonstrations of His power to save and change. You will see that human depravity is never a match for divine grace, but where sin abounds grace abounds all the more. Alcoholism, drug addiction, murder, robbery, perversions of the deepest sort are all paid for by the blood Christ shed for God’s people. He has placed our sins as far from us as the East is from the West and promised to remember them no more. What are we to say to such things? How can any praise be adequate? How can we ever thank God for such inexpressible, undeniable, incalculable grace?

“All hail the pow’r of Jesus’ Name!
Let angels prostrate fall.
Bring forth the royal diadem,
And crown HIM Lord of All.”

words by Edward Perronet

Your brother,

Paul David Washer
was pastoring. His life and preaching had a great effect on my life. Through brother Carlton, I met pastor Jonas Barbieri who also helped me greatly in my spiritual growth. In 1993, the church where I was a member started several new works and I felt God’s call to serve him as a pastor, but again God had other plans. The very night that I was to preach at the new mission, I was detained at a police check point and asked for my documents. The police immediately detained me. At first I thought it was because of my past jail record, but then I discovered that the police suspected that I was personally involved with a gang of drug dealers! The year before, my documents had been stolen and used by terrorists and drug dealers to falsify their own identities. As God would have it once again I found myself in prison. I told myself that I was dreaming and that it could not be possible. I was in seminary and looking forward to pastoring, but once again God had me thrown into one of the worst places in the world.

For the first 47 days of my imprisonment, I was in the prison below the Governmental palace. As I look back this was, after my salvation, one of the best experiences of my life. I was able to see first hand how so many people need the Lord and the salvation that only comes through the Son. I was able to witness to four of the main leaders of the “Shining Path” terrorist movement. One of them was an engineer, the other one was a professor in the university and the other two were students. They were desperate because they were going to be in jail for thirty years to life. When they saw me in the prison preaching to sixty or seventy men everyday, they began to see their great need for Christ. One of the men approached me and told me that Christ could not forgive him because of all the terrible things he had done. He was second in command in the “Shinning Path” terrorist movement. I sat there and spoke with him until five in the morning and then he finally broke down, crying like a baby. He was saved by God. He later introduced me to others that were in jail for the same reasons. Some of them were saved and some rejected the message. Some of these men were allowed to leave prison under the law of repentance afforded by the State. I never knew anything else about them.

I had never before had the opportunity to speak with men like these. They were intellectuals and terrorists, but God changed some of their lives. There were days in which I stayed up until two in the morning sharing the good news with these men. During those days I did not know much about what was happening outside or with my case, but after 47 days I was put in the Lurigancho prison again, the worst prison in Peru. In Lurigancho, you can see dead people every day. Most of the inmates are filthy and sick with TB.

Before going to prison, I had always doubted God’s care for me. I had seen other pastors suffering and doubted His care and provision for my life. In prison I learned that I would never have to doubt God’s faithfulness. I entered prison weighing 145 lbs. and left weighing 190 lbs. I always had enough food to give to others in the prison because of loving brothers that would come to visit me and bring me food. I was able to evangelize many people with the Gospel and even started a church in one of the sections of the jail.

Prison turned out to be a blessing for me. God transformed a living hell into a blessing that changed my life.
the lives of men. Many of those who were converted are now preaching the Word also. Time went by very fast because I was preaching and ministering around the clock. Before I knew it a year had past.

In the prison of Lurigancho, the authorities are very corrupt. It does not matter if you are innocent, you have to pay to get justice or nothing will happen. The authorities asked me for $3000 in exchange for my freedom and my lawyer was being paid by the drug traffickers so that my case would remain hidden and I would stay in jail. For these reasons my case would not move. After six months of prison, my church and my family could no longer pay for a lawyer. It was then that missionary Paul Washer found out about my situation and was able to pay a new lawyer to keep my case open. I thank God for this because I would have been in prison for twelve years if HeartCry had not helped me.

The day that I was released from prison I was preaching an open air service to the men in prison. I did not know that I was going to be released, but after my sermon the authorities came and told me to leave. I could hardly believe my ears. As I have said before, there are innocent people who spend years in jail because of the corrupt lawyers and authorities who use the innocent as a way to make money. Through all this, God showed me that He does provide for everything.

While I was in jail I had been praying for the jungle region of San Martin where I was born. After prison I traveled there and saw that there were no evangelical churches and that the Word of God was not preached. There were many sects moving into the area and it broke my heart because the true Church was not doing anything. I presented the project of starting a mission in San Martin and my church told me they could not support me or be involved in this type of work because they were focusing more on the city area. After that I presented my project to Paul Washer with the help of Mario Salinas who was already being supported by HeartCry and working with brother Washer. I knew that brother Washer was very interested in reaching people with the Gospel, especially in places where it had not been preached before.

The jungle area is a very hard place and most missionaries and preachers do not want to go there because it is too far removed and abandoned, but people live there and die there without Christ also. I am very happy to be going to San Martin and am very grateful to HeartCry for the help I will be receiving to carry out this ministry. I want to use the rest of my life to preach God’s Word. My wife has also felt the call of God upon her life to serve Him and is willing to go and minister with me in this area. Her name is Gladys. I would like for you to remember us in prayer as we live there. Pray that God will strengthen us and give us always the same desire to serve Him in spite of anything that comes our way. My wife loves children and she wants to minister among them. I will direct the music and preach as I have done before in other works. The area of San Martin where I am going does not have lights or running water and this helps to preach the Gospel, because in the larger cities people are so much into their vanities that it is hard to tell them about their need for Christ.

What beatings and bars and years of prison could not do, the Word of God was able to accomplish.

Arturo Marin and his wife Gladys are now HeartCry missionaries to the jungles of San Martin. One of the most unevangelized areas in Peru.

We will start in a town called “La Libertad.” In the region there are about 15 towns and none of them have a church. The largest town has about 3,000 people and the smallest one 1,200. Our objective is to open a church in La Libertad and to slowly move on to start one in every one of the smaller towns. We will be evangelizing and trying to teach people to read and write because their education level is very poor.

This is my testimony and if God gives me many years of life I want to use them all for His glory. I hope to one day return from the jungle and be able to tell you again about God’s faithfulness and how He has been changing lives in the jungle. Brother Paul has been of great encouragement to me. His testimony has shown me to press on even when everything is against us. I use to watch him suffering great pain because of his arthritis and yet he kept on preaching and reaching people for Christ. I know I can do the same. I know God will use me and that He will carry out His will in my life. May God bless you!
Dino Ortiz, is a full time missionary with HeartCry. He works in the juvenile prisons in Paraguay. Here he is unloading a crate of Bibles and Christian literature made even from my father who did not suspect anything. Finally, I stole many things from my home and went to live my life on my own. I started traveling through the different cities and towns of my country. Eventually I was introduced to drugs and alcohol. Every weekend my friends and I would drink and do drugs together. My life was a complete disaster.

After 4 years, I returned to the city where I was born. I joined the army thinking that it would help me to discipline myself but it did not work. After the military I became more and more involved with drugs and robbery. I began to consume crack, marijuana and other drugs. I was a complete addict. My family did not want anything to do with me because it was common knowledge that I was a thief and an addict.

I knew that drugs were really destroying my life. I did not have peace. I started to sell drugs to people and I also found a job at a hotel where I sold drugs to the tourists and made five times more money than with people of my own country. My “profession” was going well. I was selling more and more drugs each day, but I could not gain anything. I dressed and ate well and gave money away to my friends.

When I was 19, I decided to enroll in the police force. I was there two years and I became more corrupt than I had already been. I always found ways to steal money without being noticed by the other police. I spent everything I had on drinking and women. I lived like this for two years. I worked and stole and drank and did drugs. I did not see my brothers or father anymore. Not very long after becoming a policeman there was a government overthrow and the government began to get rid of officers that had been in the force less than five years. I was told to leave.

On being dismissed from the police force, I traveled to Cochabamba to a town called Sinaota (or White Town). This is a place in which the production of drugs is higher than anywhere else in Bolivia. There you can see people selling drugs out in the streets as if it were sugar. I saw there how drugs were made and processed. My addiction grew stronger and I began to sell more and more drugs. Then one day I was invited to attend Church with a friend of mine. My friend laughed at the invitation, but I insisted that we go. I know now that before I entered the church, God had already started a work in me. I did not want to think of bad things or dirty things any more. I had a desire to make my life right with God.

When we got to the church everyone treated us very well and welcomed us all. We heard the message which was directed to the Christians but we did not hear the Gospel. No one shared with us about how to be saved, but they did invite us to the youth meeting. I was eager to go because I wanted to know about God. There were many activities going on in the church and I wanted to be involved. I joined the church choir and helped out at a ministry for handicapped children that the church was involved with. In me grew a strong desire to be closer to God and I thought that my good works would make that happen. I thought that I could “buy” a good standing with God.

One Sunday the deacon of the church approached me and asked me if he could speak with me. We sat down and he shared with me the plan of salvation for the first time since I had entered the Church. He shared with me from the Scriptures that I was a sinner in need of repentance and forgiveness from God. I wondered why he had taken so long to tell me about all
this and inside of me I wondered what would have happened if he had not told me about the Gospel and I would have left the church and gone my wicked way again. I understand now that God had everything under control and that He had a perfect time for everything. I agreed with everything the deacon said and repented of my sins and asked Christ to come into my life and be my Savior.

After my conversion, I became more active in Church, but I was still drinking and doing bad things with my friends. This all continued until one day when my friends started calling me the “two-face Christian.” They gave me this name because I would drink together with them and then I would start telling them about God and invite them to Church. After this I sought out some of the men in the church that they might disciple me, but for some reason or another we could never get around to it. I attended church faithfully and fed from the preacher’s messages, but my spiritual growth was not progressing at all because of my way of living. I was still selling drugs and I would even pray according to Proverbs 28:8 that God would prosper my business so that I would be able to bless others! I twisted the text and told God that I wanted to help the church buy its own building because at that time we were renting a place to meet for the services. I wanted to help my family and other people. I wanted to do good things in a way that displeased God. I even bought a big notebook where I started making plans to build a beautiful building for the Church.

One day there was an opportunity to make a great deal of money selling drugs, but in spite of my lack of spiritual discernment and growth, I was able to realize that this was not right to do anymore. I bowed my head and told God that I wanted to turn away from all my sins. I told Him I wanted to serve Him and dedicate my life to Him. Afterwards I had some problems with the people I worked with (drug dealers) but finally I was able to leave it all behind. I went to speak with a missionary that was serving in Bolivia at the time and told him of my desire to dedicate my life to the service of God and he was very happy. He encouraged me to begin studying at a Bible institute. I chose the Word of Life Institute in Buenos Aires Argentina.

The institute was very difficult for me. I was with 15 other men from different countries. All of them were older and more mature Christians. I felt intimidated by their spirituality and the authorities that were over me. Ever since I was a young
boy I had done whatever I wanted to do, but in the Institute I had to be under the authority of the leaders and the dorm directors and this was hard for me. There were two times in which I almost quit the institute. One night I grabbed my suitcase and was ready to leave, but a Mexican brother convinced me to stay. Another time I almost left and a brother told me to go ahead and leave because I probably did not belong in the ministry in the first place. This is when God broke me and I had to confess to Him everything I had in my heart. I asked Him to help me and change me. I told Him I wanted to be in His will and that I wanted to study and do everything well. After that, I was the last one to go to bed at midnight and the first one to get up at four in the morning because I wanted to have a time with God.

During my years at the institute, I met some students from Paraguay and learned about the great need in that country. I immediately had a desire to go there and minister. I know that God put this desire in me. I prayed earnestly for Paraguay and four years later He gave me the opportunity to go.

After I graduated from the institute, God opened the doors for me to be a missionary in Paraguay. I started working with children and then with youth. God blessed this ministry and I was joyful, but after a year in Paraguay, the Lord burdened my heart for the jails. I began going to the adult men’s prison called Tacumbu. I preached and gave out Bibles and literature. Later I discovered that the juvenile prison was going to be located only two blocks away from the prison where I was currently ministering. I did not doubt that God would also want me to go there and preach the Gospel to the young boys.

As I began preaching in the juvenile prison, God began to work in the lives of the young men and my heart was overjoyed. I discipled some of them for two years, but I had to quit because I did not have a way to support myself. I could not find a job in Asuncion so I had to move back to Argentina to look for something that would help me to remain a missionary in Paraguay. Four years went by and I prayed earnestly that God would open the door for me to return to Paraguay and to the work that I had started.

One day while I was in Argentina, God spoke to me again while I was preaching. I could not finish my sermon and had to apologize to the congregation. I
told them that God had spoken to my heart and that I knew I was to serve Him in Paraguay with all my life in spite of everything and to sacrifice everything for the sake of His call. I told them I was willing to risk it all for Him. I quit my job and gave away what I owned. I returned to Paraguay in February of 1997 and began preaching to the young men in the prisons of Tacumbu and Panchito Lopez and discipling those who were converted. It was far more difficult than I can describe. I had no money or clothes or materials for the ministry. I barely had enough to eat, but then I was contacted by brother Paul Washer and HeartCry. They believed in the ministry that God had given me and began to support me. I am so thankful for what God has done through HeartCry. I am now able to minister full time and to reach out to the lost. Every day I can work among those who desperately need Christ. Thank you for all you have done for me. Everyone that I reach for Christ, we reach together. My work would be impossible without you. Please pray that God will always help me to dedicate my life to Him and to these men that need Him. I hope that my testimony has not bored you but that it has brought glory to God, who is the one that rescued me from my terrible state.

PRISON IN PARAGUAY
Charo Washer recently visited the Panchito Lopez Juvenile Prison in Paraguay where Dino Ortiz ministers. This is her report.

The Panchito Lopez Juvenile Prison is located in Asuncion, the capital city of Paraguay. The prison is designed for adolescent offenders from 13 to 20 years of age. When a prisoner reaches the age of 21, he is transferred to the adult men’s prison called “Tacumbu.”

This prison, like most others in South America, is nothing like a jail or prison in the United States. The smell of garbage stifles the air with a putrid smell that reminds me more of a zoo than anything made for a human being. Flies are everywhere. It is amazing that an epidemic has not broken out. The place ought to be condemned.

The boys are allowed out of their cell blocks only one hour a day to walk around on the outdoor compound, see the sun, feel the air on their faces and maybe play a quick game of soccer on the patio. Visitation is only for an hour and a half on Saturdays and Sundays. The prison authorities and guards are very strict, but do not seem to object to Dino’s ministry among the young men. The greatest obstacle to the ministry comes from the Catholic priest who works as the chaplain of the prison. He has authority in all the spiritual and educational matters of the inmates and does everything in his
power to keep the young men from hearing the Gospel and participating in the Bible Studies. He offers the unbelievers cigarettes as a reward for not attending the services and he does not allow the believers to participate in the educational programs that the prison offers because they are “evangelicals.” The priest has even isolated an entire section of the prison so that many of the young men are cut off from contact with the believers. Some of the stronger Christians among the boys that Dino disciples have been able to smuggle tracts to the section that the priest has cut off from the Gospel and have even entered secretly into the area in order to share the Gospel with the inmates who have not heard.

In spite of all the hardships and persecution, Dino Ortiz and the little band of Christians who work with him to minister to the inmates are not discouraged. They believe that God is faithful and are assured that the Lord will allow them to advance and carry the Gospel to all. They also thank God for the persecution and receive it as a sign that God and His Spirit are moving and shaking the work of the enemy.

Please pray for the boys in this prison. They are rejected by society and even churches are often intimidated and unwilling to help them recover from their past and be restored. Please pray for the boys who have been converted. They are so eager to start their life over again, but must remain behind bars until the appointed time. The justice system in Paraguay is extremely corrupt and many of the boy will be in jail for months or even years before their cases are reviewed. Pray that their time in prison will allow them to be discipled and grow in Christ before they must once again face the outside world and all its temptations.

Testimonies From Prison

While visiting the Pachito Lopez Juvenile Prison, Charo interviewed several of the young men who had been converted under Dino Ortiz’s ministry. We hope that they demonstrate to you the power of God through the preaching of the Gospel.

Marcos Fretes

My name is Marcos Fretes and I am sixteen years old. I have been in this prison for nine months for armed robbery. I came to know the Lord three weeks ago through the testimony of another boy who is imprisoned here. I was saved simply because He told me that I could be. I never knew before that I could be saved and forgiven because Christ died to take away my sins.

Since my salvation I have not taken any more drugs and I know that it is God who has helped me. I hope that my family will come to visit me soon so that I can tell them what has happened in my life and they can also be saved.

Matias Borche

My name is Matias Borche and I am 17 years old. This is the second time that I am in jail and have been here for a year and a half. Six months ago I became a Christian. Before Christ found me I was a drug addict and a thief who only wasted his life. I had a very sad life because of all the bad things that I did. I thank God that He brought me here to prison so that I could be saved.

Before coming to prison this time, I thought I knew about God because of things that I heard people say about Him. I knew He existed but I thought that He was too far from me because I was so terrible. I did not have a reason to believe that He could care for me and I did not care about anything either. One day while in prison I heard other boys praising God and praying, and I was curious to know what they were doing and why they were doing it. I went to hear them and they told me about Christ and how to be saved. I believed in Jesus and asked Him to come but now Christ has found me and saved me. I read the Bible whenever I can borrow one from another brother.

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Carlos Alberto Chavez

My name is Carlos Alberto Chavez. I was saved in August of 1997 here in the prison. Before I was saved I used to listen to the messages that were preached here but did not care much about them, but one day God got my attention. It was one day when brother Dino was reading out of Psalm 142:7 and God touched me deeply. I thank God for His mercy in sending his Son Jesus to die for me. In Him I find all my strength.

Luis Javier Ortiz

My name is Luis Javier Ortiz. I am 19 years old. I am here in prison for the third time for armed robbery. This time I have been here for nine months, but because of God this will be my last time.

I met the Lord as my personal Savior eight months ago and ever since then, my life has been changing from what it used to be. My friends and family have pretty much given up on me and do not come to see me because I have been so bad. I know that it is hard to believe and trust me when I say that there has been a change in me, but some day they will be able to see and believe that Christ is real and that He is in me. Please pray for my life.

Milciades Aguilar

My name is Milciades Aguilar and I am 19 years old. I have been in prison for a year and four months because of assault, robbery and drugs. I used to be a very sad, angry and violent person, but Christ saved me nine months ago and ever since then He is changing my life and freeing me from drugs. There are only three other Christians in my cell block and we like to witness to others about Christ. Please pray that we can be useful to Him. I am now doing a discipleship correspondence course and learning more about God and His Word. I thank God for His goodness and for my salvation.

Roberto Cubilla

My name is Roberto Cubilla, I have been in jail for six months. I became a Christian three months ago while reading a Bible I borrowed from another boy here in prison. There was not much to do around here and I was very sad and bored. I was looking for something to comfort me and I read Psalm 91. It touched my life greatly. I did not know what was happening inside me at the time but my life started changing and my behavior changed. I have left the drugs behind and try very hard to please God. When I sin in any way I feel very bad and I ask God to forgive me. When I am tempted in any way I only grab my Bible and read it until the desire goes away. I do not want to stray from God. God is very good to me.

Christian Joel Almirón

My name is Christian Joel Almirón and I am 17 years old. I am in prison for robbery. My life was terrible until I met Christ as my personal Savior. I was lost and only lived to feed my vices and destroy my life. But one day God had mercy on me. He sent His Son so that I could be saved by believing in Him. Thanks to His sacrifice I am saved and others can be saved by only believing in Him. I want to tell the American brothers who are reading this to be brave and to make every effort to live for the glory of God and to remember that we all have one Father that sees us all and knows our hearts. Nothing is hidden from Him. I want to tell the young people like me to run away from drugs because they will ruin anyone’s life. Look for real peace and life in the Lord Jesus. Please remember us in your prayers dear brothers that we may be like Him.

Juan Carlos Gimenes

My name is Juan Carlos Gimenes and I am 19 years old. This is the third time I am in jail. I am here because I killed a man and was convicted of homicide. I will have to be in jail for at least another six years for my sin, but now I have been freed by Christ from my sin and guilt and I know that I am forgiven.

I would like to tell the young people that are reading this to repent and to believe in Christ so that their lives will not be wasted away like mine. Listen to me! You do not want to become like me! You do not want to see your youth poured out on the ground like my youth has been poured out in a place like this!

I am the youngest of three brothers. My two other brothers are in the adult prison. They are lost, but when I am transferred to their prison I will tell them about Christ myself. At the present I can only

A drawing from one of the young inmates in Pachito Lopez. The words are from John 8:31: “The truth shall make you free.”
write letters to them and witness to them through the mail.

Not long ago my mother died. She was a Christian and prayed for me until the day she died. After her death, I felt alone and did not care about anything or anyone anymore. I thought no one cared for me, but now there is Jesus.

Jorge Adelio Espinoza

My name is Jorge Adelio Espinoza and I am 16 years old. I have been in prison a month and fifteen days, but this is the third time I am here. I am now in prison for robbery and murder. I have been saved for a month and can only praise God for His goodness and mercy towards me a sinner. Before coming to Christ I used to rob people, sniff drugs and glue. My life was a complete disaster.

I was saved one day as I was listening to the praises that the inmates were singing with the Christians who come and minister to us in jail. My heart was touched immediately and I only wanted to praise Him because I had this joy in my heart that came out of nowhere. That night some of the boys that were Christians told me that I had to repent of my sin before God and believe in Christ. I did and Christ filled my heart. Since then God has cleansed me from my drug habits and put it in my heart to tell everyone who visits me about Christ and what He has done in me.

Christian Argueyo Silva

My name is Christian Argueyo Silva and I am twenty years old. I am in prison for assault, robbery and drugs. I am happy to greet you and even though I do not know you I know that you belong to God like I do and that makes us brothers. There are four other believers in my cell block and we pray and praise God together that God will make us bold to be witnesses of His love to the other guys here that do not know Christ. I thank God for changing my life and for freeing me from the power that Satan had over me. Christ has shown me the true way and He continues to teach me things through His Word that I never knew before.

I do not know when I will leave prison but I know that God has a job for me while I am here and that is to spread His Word to other cell blocks. Thank you so much for the tracts that you have shared.
with us to help us evangelize others. Please pray for us always and remember us. It will be wonderful to see you in heaven some day. Also pray for the priest who works here in the jail. He makes things difficult at times, but he needs Christ in his life too. He does not allow us to share Christ in some areas of the prison and some have not yet heard. Please pray that they will.

Please pray that when I do get out I may be able to find a place to live and work. My mother sells drugs and she does not want me back unless I sell drugs for her. Please pray that she will also be saved.

**Elio Insfran**

My name is Elio Insfran and I am 18 years old. I have been in prison now for two years for murdering another man. Before I was saved I lived a life of misery in my sin. Because I murdered a man, I had nightmares and wanted to die. I only wanted to stop living so that all my pain would go away. I thought my life had no hope, that I had fallen too low to ever recover or to have a life and peace. I have known Christ for about a year and six months and I thank Him for saving me and changing me. I needed forgiveness so much and He gave it to me!

I was saved through the ministry of Dino Ortiz and the brothers and sisters who come to visit us and tell us about God and His salvation. Now I read my Bible and attend every service. I trust God and when I feel scared I trust what He says in His Word. Please pray for me.

**Arnaldo Niño Silva**

My name is Arnaldo Niño Silva and I am 18 years old. I have been in jail for 9 months and 20 days. This is the second time I am in jail for robbery, but I know it will be the last time because I have been saved by God.

I have been a Christian for 8 months. I was saved through the help of Dino Ortiz and all the brothers and sisters that come to minister to us every Tuesday and Thursday. I thank God that they come and preach to us the Gospel of Jesus. I used to be a lost sinner that had a miserable life, but after hearing about God I realized I was wrong and was separated from Him. I repented of my sins and He forgave me and changed me so that I can now praise His name. I was addicted to drugs, but since I have known Him in my life, I read His Word and have left all those things behind me. His Word speaks to me and guides me telling me what to do about everything.

I will be out of jail in two months and with God’s help I will find a church and a job. Please pray that I will be able to tell my family about Christ and what He has done for me. Pray that I will be used by Him.

The reason I am here in prison is because of a crime I committed in the Barrio Obrero with a friend of mine 10 months ago. We were walking though the streets and a young man 22 years old crossed our path. We approached him and I pulled out my pistol and put it to his temple. We made him lay down on the street with his face to the floor and we took everything he had. We robbed the young man because we wanted to buy more drugs and go to a party close to where we held the man up. When we were robbing him I told him not to move or even lift up his head and that if he did not obey I would shoot him in the head. The man stayed on the street with his face down. He was trembling and told me not to worry because he would not move. When we finished robbing him, I told him again not to look up and that I would be looking at him. In a few seconds we were gone. After the robbery, my friend and I went to the party. While my friend was dancing, I went to buy beer. Suddenly I turned around and there was the man we had robbed standing there with the police. He was pointing at me and the police drew near. Immediately I looked around, but saw there was no way to escape. The man did not recognize my friend who helped in the robbery and my friend knew that I would not give him up. The police asked me to leave the dance hall with them and I said there would be no problem. When I was alone with the police, they interrogated me and beat me up in order to discover who had been working with me in the robbery and where I had hidden the gun that I had used. I acted as though I did not know what they were talking about. The police were furious and hit me. They told me to spit (which means to give up my partner). I acted like I did not understand and spit on the floor. The policeman pulled out his gun and put it to my throat and threatened to kill me, but one of his partners told him to put his gun away. Then they put the handcuffs on me and took me to the police station. The next day they put me here in prison.

Christ found me one day when I was standing alone in the jail and looking through the bars. I was so sad and tired. I could not understand why I was so tired. I felt as though I had a great and deep emptiness in my heart and I felt worn out and miserable. Then I heard some voices that were singing and praising God. I lifted up my head and saw a group of people. They looked so much different than me. All of them were happy and full of joy. I saw that they had peace and tranquility. I decided to go to where they were and heard the song they were singing which said, “Christ breaks all the chains.” It seemed to me that their songs had something to do with me, they seemed to speak about what I lacked. I needed Christ to come break the chains of my sin.

When the praise songs finished, one of the Christians asked me if I would like to join them and I told him it would be my plea-
When I looked around the table where I had been seated, I saw that all of the other guys were doing a Bible study. Brother Dino who was teaching them asked me if I would also like to study with them and I said yes. He told me to come the next time and he would have a Bible study just for me. The next day I did not return, nor the day after. I do not know what was wrong with me, but I could not make myself return to the Bible study. Finally, Dino had one of the guards bring me to talk with him and he asked me if I really wanted to study the Bible. I told him that I did and by the grace of God he gave me a new Bible and 20 Bible studies to work on. This was the beginning of my knowledge of God and the Bible. Thanks to Christ, now the deep emptiness that I had has disappeared because of our Lord Jesus Christ. Now I am content and happy.

Miguel Angel Rojas Pineda

My name is Miguel Angel Rojas Pineda and I am 17 years old. I have been here in prison for two years and three months. I was wrongly accused and put in prison because my name is the same as that of a criminal that lives in my neighborhood. He was accused of robbery and I was sent to prison.

I became a Christian when an inmate who was about to finish his sentence told me about Christ and the peace that he had found in Him. He told me that the only answer for my life and all the questions I had was found in Him. He also told me to speak with brother Dino so that he could lead me to know Christ. After my conversion, I began to feel at peace and have joy in my life. I quit worrying about my life and my family even though they had stopped coming to see me. Prior to my conversion I had been addicted to drugs and cigarettes and I saw that they were not good for me. I asked God to help me because I had tried to leave them, but could not do it. God helped me overcome these habits and took away all my cravings for these bad things.

Now I think about God almost all of the time. I pray every time I remember and read my Bible. I did not use to be like this, but God has changed me. I pray that my family may know God and be saved. I also pray for my other inmates here in prison that God will save and change their lives like He has mine.

Juan Pablo Bobadilla
My name is Juan Pablo Bobadilla and I am 18 years old. I have been here in prison for a year and two months. This is the fourth time that I am in prison for armed robbery. I have known the Lord for two months now and I am happy that He has saved me from hell. Before I was saved I used to drink and consume all kinds of drugs. I felt lonely and empty. My heart was empty of the life I have now found in Christ.

I was saved one day when another inmate invited me to go to the worship reunions they have here in prison. I went to see what it was like. At the meeting, I asked the people there to help me pray because I wanted to know Christ as my Savior. I knew that the only way to solve all my problems and to fill the void I felt in my heart was through Christ, but I had no faith until that moment. I thank God that others were praying for me!

After my conversion, I signed up to receive a discipleship course by correspondence. Almost immediately, I was offered drugs by some of the guys in prison, but I rejected it. They asked me if I had started attending the worship meetings and I told them that I had and that I had forsaken all the things that once held me. I told them that since I have been saved I have a peace in my heart like I have never felt before. I told them how I now have love and peace like I never knew I could feel.

After I get out of jail I hope to study and work and find a church to attend. I also want to stay in touch with those who have ministered to us so lovingly.

Geraldo Asunción Acuña
My name is Geraldo Asunción Acuña and I am 17 years old. I have been here in prison for two and a half years. This is my first time in prison. I have been a Christian for a year. I was saved one day while attending the worship meetings that we have in the prison.

Before I came to prison I worked making tile. I had a job until I made a terrible mistake that put me in prison. My family members are not Christians but they are happy that my life has changed. I tell them about Christ when they come and visit me. I do not know when I will be out, but with God’s help I will find a church and a job. I do not like being here, but I know I have to pay for my crimes and become a better man. I want to help my family because they are very poor. Please pray that God will strengthen me when I get out of jail because it will be hard to be accepted because of what I have done. God is all I have and I trust in Him because He has changed me and given me His life.

Ramon
My name is Ramon. I have just recently become a Christian. Before I was saved and before I came to prison my mother used to give me tracts and tell me about God but I did not pay attention or care about the subject. I would always throw away the tracts and tell my mother I had read them or that I had given them to another friend that wanted to read them.

One night while I was sitting by myself in jail thinking about my life and what I had done, one of the guards called me to the door. He said that it was no time to receive visits or packages, but that he had something for me from my mother. He gave me a book I had seen laying around my house before but had never picked up or read. I received it and I thanked him. I opened it to find a letter from my mother in which this verse stood out: “For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.” My mother told me that I had sinned and that Jesus who had never known sin had come to take my place at the cross and that I could be saved by repenting and trusting in Him.

Jesus saved me that night and gave me His Spirit. Now I can be different. I can be strong in my weakness and sin is not the ruler of my life. I now want to be like Jesus in my daily life for He reached out to me in a day of absolute darkness.
Prison Work in Romania  

by Matai Muresan

I was born the youngest of six children in a Christian family, but I did not want to be baptized until I knew for sure that Christ was the way. After reading the Bible three times, I was converted. In 1975, I graduated with a degree in electromechanical engineering from the University of Timisoara. Shortly after, I began working in a prison and became close friends with many of the inmates. I would talk to them about the Lord and would shorten their sentences for good behavior. One night there was no watchman on duty and so I visited a wing of the prison that had been off-limits to me. I found a man who had been in his cell for 12 years without a single visitor. That night I decided I wanted to visit all the prisoners in Romania and tell them about Jesus. I quit my job and became a missionary to the prisons. I am the only missionary who has a permit to enter every prison in Transylvania. My main work is in the prison at Ayud. The average attendance in the church there is 70 and half of the men are baptized members. Besides my prison work, I teach religion to the 8th grade in Ayud and have started three mission works in Garbova de Sus, Hoparta and Teius.

For the last two years HeartCry has been supporting Matai Muresan as he ministers in the prisons of Transylvania. Last year, HeartCry was able to provide pastor Matai with a used car to help in his ministry. Matai travels hundreds of miles a week, visiting not only the prison in Transylvania, but also caring for the members of three missions that he has started. We are very proud of the work that God is accomplishing through pastor Matai.

Believers in the prison at Ayud in the area of Transylvania in Romania. The Church which HeartCry missionary Matai Muresan has begun in this prison has a weekly attendance of 70 inmates.

Matai is one of HeartCry’s most faithful men in the field. God has given him a very unique prison ministry as well as enabling him to start several Churches.
Meet Your New Missionary
Adalberto Suarez

My name is Adalberto Suarez and I was born in Cerro de Pasco, a mining region of Peru, high in the Andes Mountains. I was eight years old when I first heard about Christ. As a young boy I had the desire to follow Christ, but I did not understand the Gospel and was unconverted. When I was a teenager, my parents and I moved to Huancayo so that I could finish my high school studies.

On completing my education, I moved to Lima and began to work with my father’s family. I had planned to study in the convent and become a priest in the Catholic Church, but my plans quickly changed. My father’s family was very religious and yet I could see that they were full of idolatry and sin. I became discouraged about religion and soon lost all desire for it. I began to live my life like any other young man who was unconverted.

In 1982, I moved to a very poor area outside of Lima called Ate Vitarte, Santa Clara. It was there that I met a Christian girl named Teresa Nunez. I liked her very much and she witnessed to me about Christ and about the work that Christ had carried out in her family. I was unconverted and without the knowledge of God, and so I took it all as a nice story, but nothing more. She would not go out with me because I was not a Christian, but she would always witness to me and treat me as a friend. Since I liked her so much I would wait for her outside of the place where she worked and walk her to her home. She would use the time to share with me about her faith.

After a short time, her father found out that there was a young man walking his daughter home from work. One night as we walked to her house he jumped out from the bushes with a belt in his hand and began to chase me and beat me as I tried to run away. I tried to talk to him and tell him I respected his daughter and had good intentions but this man would not hear a word from me! As I ran I fell into a ditch full of water. When I was pulling myself out of the water, I looked back and saw that the old man was still coming after me. I tried to reason with him since I could not run because of my wet clothes, but he continued to beat me with the belt.

It was at that moment that my salvation finally arrived! His wife Josefa yelled out to him, “Antonio! What do you think you are doing? You are a Christian, how can you behave like that! What kind of testimony are you giving this boy?” When she arrived to where we were she apologized to me for her husband’s actions and asked me to please come the next day to their house so that we could talk about everything. This good lady told me that she and her family were Evangelical Christians and that if I intended to have a serious relationship with her daughter that this would not be possible because I was not a Christian.

The next day I was told that I could not see Teresa anymore or have any type of relationship with her because I was not a Christian. I was very sad, but as time went by, I began to attend her Church. At first I stood outside of the Church and would not enter because I was afraid of her father. Little by little I made my way closer to the building and listened from afar. One day Teresa’s mother saw me near the door and invited me to come in. She told me that it would be OK and that her husband would not do anything bad to me. Because of her words, I finally had the courage to enter the building. I did all of this because I really loved Teresa, but was blind to the love with which God was drawing me to Himself. I attended the church only to impress Teresa and her father. I wanted them to see that I was a good and moral man, but her father Antonio would not even look at me or give me permission to speak with her.

One day I sent word to Teresa that we needed to run away and be married. I told her I loved her and that we should disobey her family. She did not agree with my proposal and told me that she could not dishonor her family or her God. When I heard her response it really broke me. I was sad that she did not love me “enough” to agree with my plans, but I was even more broken because I realized that I had never thought or cared about God’s opinion. It was at that moment that I began to see my great need of God and I began attending church in order to seek His face. One night I looked around me and saw the love the brothers had shown to me and God spoke to my heart. That same night I was converted and gave my life to Christ. Everyone in the church received me joyfully, even Teresa’s father who had beaten me. I thank God for having mercy on me and patience when I was only thinking about myself.

The next day I spoke to Teresa’s...
mother and asked her if I could speak to her husband about dating their daughter now that I had become a Christian. But she said that it would not be possible to date her daughter until I became a mature believer. She also said that her husband would be waiting to see if I had really become a Christian before he would allow me to get close to his daughter.

After a few months in the Church I was baptized, but not because I was wanting to please Teresa or her father, but because I knew that as a Christian it was something that God demanded from me. I began to receive discipleship, and no longer worried about Teresa or her parents. I had a peace about waiting for God to move in my favor. I knew that God would do all in His time.

As time went by I became a very active Christian. I obeyed Teresa’s parents and saw Teresa only in Church. One day when I least expected it her father called me to speak with him. He told me that he had been observing my life and that he was pleased with the way I had grown. He gave me permission to visit his daughter at their home and six months later we were married. Not long after Teresa and I were married I felt the call of God to serve Him full time as pastor of the Church where I received Christ. As I pastored, I also studied at night at a Bible institute.

God has blessed my wife and I with a son which we love very much, his name is Jonathan. This baby came to us as a blessing and a miracle because we could not have children. This baby came to us from a home where the mother had died giving him birth and the father could not raise him and did not want him because he blamed him for the death of his wife. God opened the doors and everything worked out for us to adopt him. He has been a blessing and a joy to us from the first day. We have dedicated him to the Lord and hope that one day he will serve God with all his heart. He loves God and says that he wants to be a pastor and missionary like his father.

I praise God for his innumerable mercies in my life. For saving me, for shaping my life and for allowing me to serve Him by preaching His Gospel to the people here in Peru. I cry every time I tell this testimony.
Brother Adalberto is supported by HeartCry as a missionary to poor areas of Lima, Peru. He is currently pastoring the work Lily of the Valley in the district of Santa Clara outside of Lima.

Carmen de Casado
The following is a testimony from Charo's mother Carmen de Casado. She is not a missionary with HeartCry, but works with Dino Ortiz in his prison ministry. Charo is very proud of what the Lord has done in the life of her mother.

My name is Carmen de Casado, I was born in Piura, Peru. I am 48 years old and have been a Christian for the last three years. I am presently ministering with other brothers and sisters at the Panchito Lopez Juvenile Jail and the adult men's jail in Tacumbu, in Asuncion, Paraguay.

The first time I heard an invitation to receive Christ as my personal Savior I was six years old. I had been playing with the radio looking for a station that narrated stories for children, but I found instead a station that preached the Gospel. I still remember the clarity of the message and the inviting voice of the preacher telling the people listening that they could receive Christ right where they were in their homes. Even though I was very young I thought to myself, how could it be possible to receive Christ? I know now that this was the voice of God speaking to me. When it is God who speaks to you, it is difficult to forget. After hearing the message, I lost the reception and never heard it again. For many years I was very intrigued by what I heard that day.

Many years later, when I was 39 years of age, my four daughters started studying in a Baptist School that had just opened its doors in our neighborhood. The school invited the parents to a reunion and once again I heard the invitation that I had heard when I was six years old. I got up from my seat and spoke to one of the deacons, asking him to explain to me about having Jesus in my heart and he explained the Gospel to me in a very simple way and led me to Christ.

I went back home and full of joy started to share with some members of my family what had happened to me. It was wonderful to know that God had forgiven me and cleansed me from my sins. I even started writing praise songs that I later sang in church. I also began to see how God had worked in my life even before my conversion. Years earlier I had had cancer and I could see that God had even had a purpose in healing me and keeping my life at that time so that I could behold His salvation and experience His forgiveness that day.

The reaction at home to my conversion was extremely negative since my parents are Catholics and we were living with them at the time. In spite of this, three out of my four daughters became Christians. They began to attend church and grow in the Lord, even though I eventually grew cold and gave in to the pressure at home. I was intimidated and I walked away from God. I could not stand the mockery and overbearing rejection of friends or family. But since He alone is faithful, in His time He brought me back to Himself.

In 1989, my family and I moved to Paraguay. Months before we left, I went to the beach with my family. While swimming I was suddenly swept away by a large wave that took me far from the shore. I knew how to swim well and knew that most people die because they panic and lose their strength so I simply relaxed. Suddenly two questions shattered my confidence. How long will you be able to control your body? Where are you swimming to? In a few moments I could no longer see the horizon. My self confidence was destroyed. I lost all hope and screamed to heaven, “What do you want from me God?” At that moment I felt God answered me, saying: “Tell others about me!” I promised I would and immediately I lost all my strength and felt a sweet calm come over me as if God were reaching out to save me from drowning. Then out of nowhere three men came and reached out to me and led me out of the angry ocean.

When the trouble had passed, my wicked heart again convinced me that nothing had happened. How could I speak about God to others when everyone made fun of me? I hardly knew what to say! Just like Jonah, I thought I could run away from God and I tried my best to live my life the way it pleased me. I sinned and fell under such depression that I wished to die. I desired to go back to God, but I believed that I had fallen too low and had been away from Him too long. I thought I was beyond His reach. I hated my life and myself. At this point I picked up my Bible and read desperately looking for some hope and some kind of answer. God brought such conviction of sin to my heart through His Word that I finally fell at His feet seeking forgiveness for my sin and rebellion. He took away my sin, cleansed me and gave me the courage and love I needed to live as a Christian and tell others about Him. I became a member of a Baptist Church and began seeking to serve God in
a witness for Him.

One day I saw a special report on TV about juvenile jails and my heart went out to the young lives without God. As a child I was very rebellious and destructive and I suffered in many ways for my sin. I had a terrible relationship with my parents growing up and had even been molested by another family member. My heart was full of resentment and hate, but God had taken all this away and I longed to be able to tell the young men in prison about Him.

Two years have passed since I have been working with a small group of brothers and sisters at the Panchito Lopez Jail and ministering to those in prison. We all feel God’s calling to love and reach out to these young lives. Since I am a painter and illustrator by profession, I teach the boys painting and drawing techniques. I tell them about Christ and share about what He did for me. I visit and encourage them and their families. It is such a joy for me to be able to tell others about what the Lord did for me and to see these young men light up when they see that they also can experience His salvation. I thank God for this wonderful privilege of ministering the Gospel according to the talent that He has given me. I will never be able to thank my God enough for saving me and changing my life. Please pray as I continue to be a witness for Him.

HeartCry Missionary Society

Statement of Purpose:

HeartCry is a missionary society under the authority of a local New Testament Church. We are dedicated to the task of fulfilling the Great Commission through working in partnership with national pastors, workers and mission boards in foreign fields. There are nearly 3 billion individuals in the world who have still not heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The traditional mission methods of only training and financing North American missionaries is a slow and costly process that has not and will not enable us to reach the world.

A national pastor or missionary can be prepared for ministry through hands on training in the same way that Jesus trained the disciples and can be ready for the work without years of language training or cultural adjustment and with only a fraction of the financial support required for a missionary sent from a developed country. Therefore HeartCry seeks to work with godly men and women of integrity and vision in the unreached world to help them evangelize and plant Churches among their own peoples. Our main areas of ministry are:

- Supporting national workers to plant and edify churches in the foreign field.
- Assisting with the purchase of land and building materials for churches in the foreign field.
- Providing Bibles to Christians in the foreign field.
- Providing pastor’s libraries and training materials to Christians in the foreign field.
- Sponsoring pastor and discipleship training conferences in the foreign field.
- Working for reform in the United States through prayer, preaching and the HeartCry newsletter.

Financial Accountability

HeartCry is under the authority and supervision of Waldo Baptist Church. The ministry provides a biannual financial report to all its supporters. Further information may be obtained on request from Waldo Baptist, 6970 Waldo Church Rd., Metropolis, IL 62960, Tel. (618) 564-2180. Of all the individuals who work to make HeartCry possible, only Paul and Charo Washer are salaried. Nearly all administrative costs are covered by Waldo Baptist Church.

Principles of Ministry

The chief end of all mission work is the Glory of God. Our greatest concern is that His Name be great among the nations, from the rising to the setting of the sun (Malachi 1:11). We find our constant motivation, not in man or his needs, but in God, his commitment to his own glory and our God-given desire to see him glorified in every nation, tribe, people and language.

Every need of this ministry will be obtained through prayer. We may share our missionary vision with others and even make known to them the specific tasks which the Lord has laid on our heart to do, but we may not raise support through prodding or manipu-
Young men who have been converted through HeartCry’s prison ministry in the country of Paraguay. They are now enrolled in a discipleship ministry of HeartCry missionary Dino Ortiz.