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IRON CURTAIN CAME DOWN AND EMMAUS MOVED IN

PART 2

In the previous issue of *The ECS Connection* we described the thriving Emmaus Correspondence School ministries taking place in ex-Soviet countries. In October 2004, over 160 course instructors from the Ukraine, Moldova, Belarus, and the Russian Federation assembled in the town of Belgorod-Dnevstrosky, Ukraine for 3 1/2 days of hearing reports, teaching on how to be more effective as instructors, Bible teaching, and fellowship.

Participants like Jakov of Belarus help in the distribution of 12,000 Emmaus courses a year to these spiritually hungry people. In the Ukraine, some 300 instructors help distribute 60,000 courses each year! And in Moldova, 30,000 courses have been distributed in the past three years with a completion rate of around 50%.

But what initiatives began these ministries? How is the correspondence work conducted in these countries?

After the break up of the Soviet Union in 1989, Martin Vedder of the German assemblies had the



Andreas and Yuri Yur—ECS coordinators

vision of getting Emmaus courses into Russia and the ex-Soviet states. Responding to Martin's challenge, Andreas and Monika Reh were commended from Germany in 1993 to begin the work. In Kiev, the capital of the Ukraine, the work grew quickly. In 1995 Andreas moved his family to Russia to continue developing the work that was simultaneously growing there and in other former Soviet countries.

Presently in Russia there are 20 regions where Emmaus is represented, from St. Petersburg in the extreme northwest to Sakhalin Island just north of Japan. Four coordinators and about 300 instructors distribute and correct courses locally in their regions. This enables over 6,000 active students to study more than 45,000 courses a year. Praise the Lord!

In all of these CIS countries (Commonwealth of Independent States) their system of distributing Emmaus courses is straightforward and effective. They use 24 courses in Russian, studied in a specific



Russian correspondence courses

Continued on page 3

sequence. Students learn of the courses through word of mouth, their churches, or invitation cards distributed door-to-door. After a student completes the first 12 courses and shows spiritual insight and growth, he or she is then invited to become an instructor. He or she keeps a small stock of these first 12 courses in their home and is responsible for recruiting new students, distributing the courses, collecting, and grading them. Once the instructor has finished all 24 courses, he or she can stock and grade them all.

However, if a student asks a question the instructor cannot answer, the instructors are taught to go to their local elders or pastor for help. This involves the local church in the program and encourages the church to use the courses. The advantages to this straightforward program are:

- 1) Distributes responsibility and workload
- 2) Promotes rapid ministry growth
- 3) Makes the national instructors “owners” of the work
- 4) Avoids the use of costly or often inefficient postal services
- 5) Spreads Emmaus offices and accessibility across the country
- 6) Encourages local church participation
- 7) Involves many people in the ministry

Meet Sveta, a young mother from Belarus, who testified how she asked God for a way to serve Him



Sveta from Belarus

from her home while caring for her young children. After completing her twelfth course, she was thrilled when presented with the opportunity of grading Emmaus courses. She has been

instrumental in getting neighborhood children to study the courses, thereby also involving their mothers.

A believer from Minsk, Belarus, described how through the Emmaus courses he has helped 37 older



Volodya with old press in Belgorod, Ukraine



Binding courses in the Kiev office

people in his church. Another instructor has 89 students in an area where there was previously no church, but where now a church of 10 meets—a victory for restrictive Belarus!

Ana, an older woman, remembers the Soviet days. With gold tooth flashing, she tells how she has developed 2 instructors in each of the nearby villages so that she now “only” handles 230 students personally!

Oh, for a zeal like theirs to reach the unsaved and build up the body of believers! It is through these Emmaus Correspondence School courses and the contribution and efforts of believers that God’s Word is reaching people, bringing them to the Savior, and transforming their lives.

—Jim Fleming

INTRODUCING ECO— —ECS COURSES ONLINE



IF YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR Bible-based correspondence courses, your wait is over! Now using the Internet, you can log onto the website www.emmaus.name and click onto the E-Learning tab. The user-friendly sign-up will get you registered so that you can begin studying correspondence courses online!

As you take the courses and complete the exams, you will receive your exam results right away. Plus if you make mistakes, you'll get a second chance (and more if needed) to retake the test. Also, there is plenty

of space to answer the "What Do You Say?" questions. A tutor will respond to your individual answers or questions within a few days.

Why has ECS Ministries begun ECO? A growing number of people are using their computers for educational / learning purposes. In many areas of the world mail service is inefficient and costly, but Internet cafés are becoming increasingly popular. Plus although some national boundaries restrict religious literature, the Internet gets through.

Currently, *Men Who Met the Master* is published online in both English and German. Under development are courses in Arabic, Spanish and Polish, with a short term goal of having one to three of the basic courses in the most-used languages.

Please pray for this new and exciting outreach of ECS Ministries:

- ◆ for the development of this ministry
- ◆ for dedicated tutors for each of the languages
- ◆ for God to use this to reach more people with His Word

If you have questions or comments or need more information, let us know by filling out the form at www.emmaus.name/contact.

—Sharon Fleming, Markus Wilhelm

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Big Numbers— Individual Impact

Often when I talk about the work of ECS Ministries I mention the large number of correspondence courses that are distributed worldwide. An average of two courses per minute . . . of every hour . . . of every day! That amounts to a very big number. Each one of those courses represents an individual who has the opportunity to study God's Word. Elsewhere in this issue you will read the testimonies of individuals who have taken our courses. They remind us that while it is important to reach out to as many

people as possible, God works in the lives of individuals. Join us as we give thanks for the way the Lord is using ECS Ministries materials throughout the world in building His church.

Sincerely,

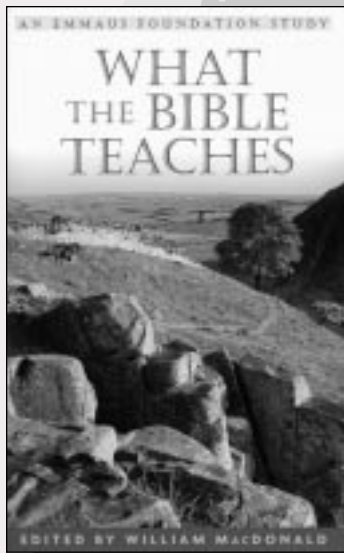
A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Rob Tyler'.

Rob Tyler, Director



FROM AROUND THE WORLD

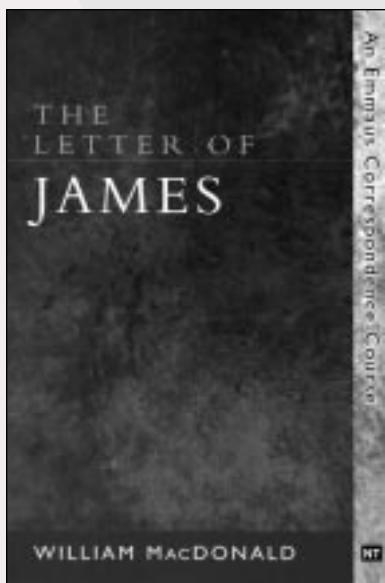
“IT WAS INTERESTING READING the comments of a 13-year-old girl, including her testimony of how she accepted Christ as her Savior 11 months ago. In *What the Bible Teaches*, for instance, Lesson 4, she said, ‘I feel it [sin] is one of the worst things, but thanks to God we have the opportunity that God should forgive us, only if we accept Christ.’ Then in lesson 11 she



says, ‘I’ll be in heaven with Jesus. I know it because I accepted Christ as my Savior.’ Giovanna accepted the Lord in a children’s meeting, and the courses have made some things clear while also teaching her new and important truths.”

KEN RUSSELL
URUGUAY

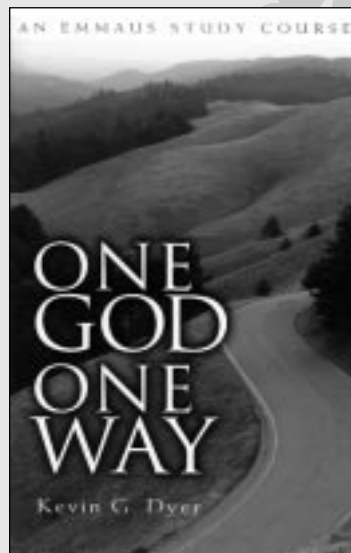
“WHAT A MARVELOUS PIECE OF WRITING!



The Letter of James is so clear and strong and forthright. This Bible study was a real pleasure and inspiration; exactly what I have been looking for with advice on how to live as a Christian. It is very relevant for 21st century life!”

SHEILA
ENGLAND

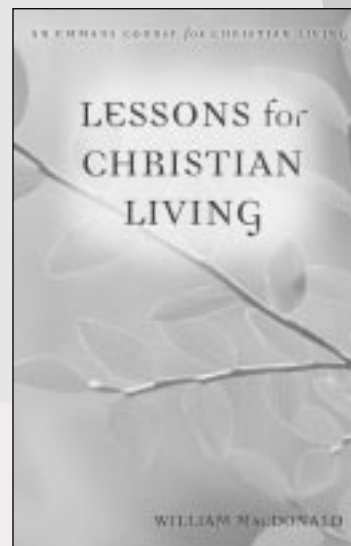
“I AM FROM AN IDOL WORSHIPPING FAMILY. I heard the gospel after I came to Bangalore and received these Emmaus courses. When I went through the course *One God, One Way* the lesson reminded



me about Noah’s days. I did not want to perish and I also understood the punishment of sins. Now I found a solution that Jesus could pardon and cleanse my sins, and that Jesus died for the sins of all men. I have accepted Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord.”

NARASHIMA
INDIA

“I AM FROM A FARMER’S FAMILY. Our neighbor was going to church. Many times they invited me to their church, and with their help I got these lessons. Earlier we thought that Jesus was one of the other gods. But after I went through these courses I under-

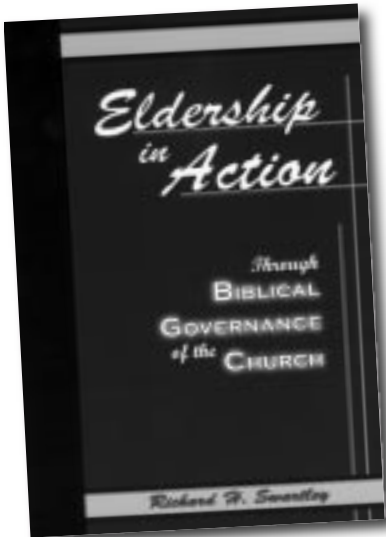


stood that Jesus died for my sins and the sins of the whole world. The 3rd and 4th lessons of *Lessons for Christian Living* helped me accept the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal Savior. I can overcome sin through Jesus Christ.”

RATHNAMMA
INDIA

HOT OFF THE PRESS

With summer nearly here, it's time to stock up on Bible-based books and resources that teach, encourage, and inspire. Perhaps it's time to share a book with a friend, relative, or co-worker and see them grow in their faith. Whether for yourself or for a friend, these resources will help you turn challenges into opportunities and learn how to incorporate biblical principles into successful Christian living.



ELDERSHIP IN ACTION: THROUGH BIBLICAL GOVERNANCE OF THE CHURCH

This insightful resource explains in detail how a church can be truly biblical in its governance and leadership, while simultaneously fulfilling the Great Commission. The focus is on the elders' collective responsibilities as well as practical aspects of putting biblical structures and methods to work. Also explored are implementation techniques: from the small church, to the church plant, to the large church with many members and ministries. (192 pages)

Author: Richard Swartley

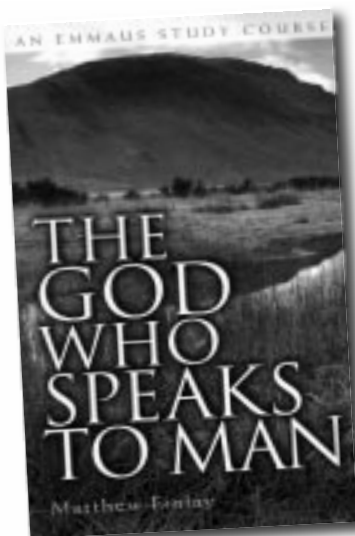
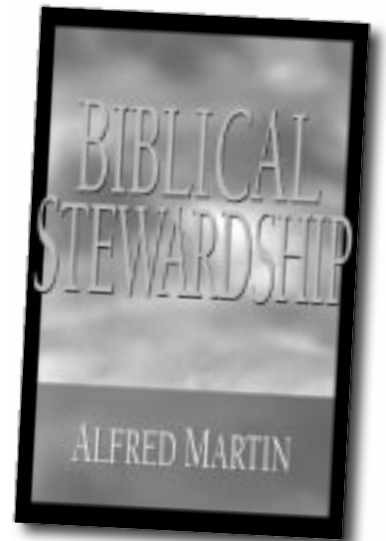
Price: 12.95

BIBLICAL STEWARDSHIP

Do you know what stewardship encompasses? Does it deal only with your personal possessions? Are you aware that biblical stewardship includes much more than money issues? Biblical stewardship is a whole-life responsibility. Alfred Martin begins his book by presenting creation as the basis of God's ownership. He goes on to show that stewardship is a lifestyle involving the effective use of body, mind, time, speech, and action as well as money. This book will challenge your thinking. It will help you see that stewardship is not an option for the believer but a responsibility. And it will guide you in setting priorities that will help you become a good steward of the manifold grace of God. (96 pages, plus free exam booklet)

Author: Alfred Martin

Price: 8.95



THE GOD WHO SPEAKS TO MAN

Do you ever take time to really think about the issues of life? This study is designed to help you think through for yourself the great truths revealed by God for all mankind. It will help you examine their scope and significance, and how they relate to you as a rational, thinking person. Some of the concepts may challenge you, and cause you to think deeply about them as you weigh the issues involved. But take your time and make the most of this opportunity to meet *The God Who Speaks to Man*. (128 pages, plus free exam booklet)

Author: Matthew Finlay

Price: 4.95

These and other useful resources can be ordered at:

1-888-338-7809 or **ecsorders@emmaus.edu**

Call today for your free 2005 resource guide!

A NEW WAY INSIDE?

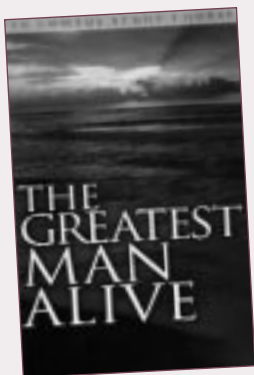
Last fall, New Jersey Prison Coordinator Gregory Kuras suggested that ECS place an article in the *Inside Journal*, a newspaper publication from Prison Fellowship Ministries. In the January / February issue, a picture featuring ***Born to Win*** appeared along with a free course offer for inmates. Through March, ECS has received 1113 requests from prisoners! We are thankful for the tremendous response as well as the increased publicity and awareness of ECS Ministries.

WE'RE GLAD YOU ASKED!

"WHY DID YOU CHANGE THE NAME FROM EMMAUS CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOL TO ECS MINISTRIES?"

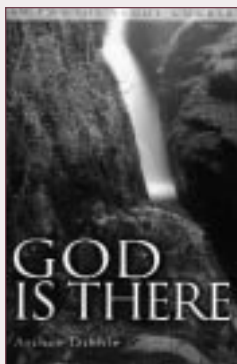
On July 1, 2002, the Emmaus Correspondence School separated from Emmaus Bible College. This was done so that each organization could better focus on its own ministry. As a result, the Emmaus Correspondence School is no longer part of Emmaus Bible College. The change of name to ECS Ministries represents our identity in becoming a new organization that is separate financially, legally, and administratively. And with the change of name comes a renewed vision—to add books and group study guides as part of an expanded publishing ministry. But although we have a new name, the goal of bringing 'the Word to the world' remains our steadfast goal.

PRISONER TESTIMONIES



"The courses you sent me *The Greatest Man Alive* and especially *God Is There* were the best and easiest courses for me to understand God's purpose for my life. I also learned more about

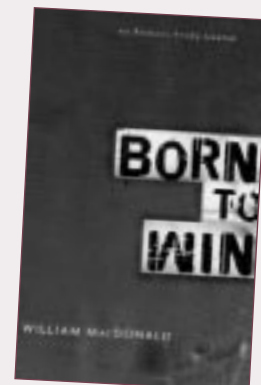
Christ, creation, and how to handle everyday situations in my life. Before I found the Bible difficult to understand, but these courses really helped me." —Mark in Canada



"I really enjoyed *Born to Win*.

The course has opened my eyes to the time I have wasted and to how sin has separated me from my own family. I guess if sin separated man in the beginning from his Creator, certainly it will separate man from his family. And this is what has happened to me. I'm really reaching out to you, not only for consolation, but for you to share with me more about Jesus Christ."

—Donald in Texas



www.ecsministries.org

We're on the web:

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