



Focus Group Prison Ministries/ 865-694-3837

## F.O.C.U.S.

Following Our  
Choices Unto  
Success



Steve Humphreys receives the Seminary Extension Certificate from Randall Williams, Director of SBC Seminary Extension

## SEMINARY EXTENSION CENTER OPENS AT MORGAN COUNTY

History was made and a dream was fulfilled last month inside Tennessee's largest prison. In 2009, our Executive Director, Steve Humphreys, had the opportunity to visit Angola Prison in Louisiana. Long considered by many to be one of the toughest prisons in America, Angola has been the site of a great movement of God in the last ten years. More than 300 men have successfully earned degrees through the Seminary Extension program. As Steve spoke with one of the inmate ministers, he realized what a difference this program was making in the lives of the men there. "He had just returned from a two-year missionary assignment at a prison in northern Louisiana. This did not seem like a very significant thing until I learned that his wife and family lived only about 30 minutes south of Angola and he had not seen them since leaving for his mission assignment: it was too expensive for them to travel the distance. Wow! What a sacrifice and I knew then that God wanted us to have a program like that in Tennessee."

Working with Assistant Commissioner Jim Cosby with the TN Dept. of Corrections and Dr. Ron Turner, Director of Religious Services, Steve received approval to launch the center as part of our Focus Christian Academy for the 2010 fall semester. After

meeting with potential instructors and local Directors of Missions, Steve also received encouragement and guidance from the Seminary Extension office in Nashville.

On September 15<sup>th</sup>, The Roy Wyatt Seminary Extension Program at Morgan County Correctional Complex was dedicated. Dr. Roy Wyatt's widow, Joyce, challenged inmates Gary Hall, Jeremy Ingram, Ronald Martin and Stokley Way to study hard, always ask questions and be life-long learners. Steve was a student in one of Dr. Wyatt's Seminary classes and he was a supporter of the Seminary Extension idea, but passed away two weeks before the final exam. The program at Morgan County is dedicated in his name to honor a man who gave of himself in service to the Lord, having taught Seminary classes all over the world.

Randall Williams, Director of Seminary Extension, was on-hand to present certification from the Southern Baptist Convention and confirm that FOCUS had met all the requirements to open the center, the first one of its kind for a penal institution in the state of Tennessee. Steve shared with the group, "We're taking "baby-steps" right now, but only God knows how He will use this program to evangelize and disciple Tennessee prisons in years to come!"



Left to right: Tom Byrge (DOM for Clinton Baptist Association), Steve Best (DOM for Knox County Association of Baptists), Steve Humphreys (FOCUS), Roger Post (FOCUS), Joyce Wyatt, Randall Williams (Director for Seminary Extension), Mark Moreland (Central Baptist Bearden) and Mason Goodman (DOM for Big Emory Baptist Association)



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FOCUS PRISON MINISTRIES

FCA student John Lambert at  
Baptism with Steve Humphreys



## CHANGE LIVES WITH A WALK IN THE PARK

Our annual "Changing Lives" Walk-A-Thon will be October 30<sup>th</sup> at The Cove/Concord Park in Knoxville. The walk begins at 3pm, with registration starting at 1:30pm.

Our Focus Christian Academy on the outside has been modified to better serve the needs of our students and lay a foundation that will help them 'follow their choices unto success.' This fall fundraiser benefits the work being done not only at FCA, but 'behind and beyond' the walls of all our prisons and jails.

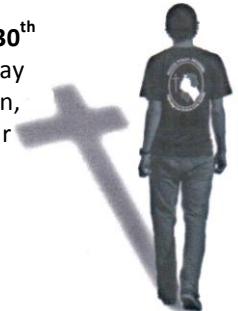
Ask your friends, family, neighbors, co-workers – 9 out of 10 people will be happy to sponsor you and the gift is tax deductible.

There is no 'per mile' sponsorship and you don't even have to walk at the park or on October 30<sup>th</sup>! Find some people to sponsor

you at any given dollar amount, walk any distance anywhere and at any time and we'll even collect the money after you turn in your pledge form. It couldn't be any easier!

There are also individual prizes for pledge totals, including T-shirts, gift certificates, etc. Click [www.focusprisonministries.com](http://www.focusprisonministries.com) for more information and to help you keep track of your sponsors.

Come out **October 30<sup>th</sup>** and spend a great day of fellowship and fun, meeting some of our 'changed lives' in person.



## LOCAL YOUTH MADE 'PEACE AT LAST' A REALITY

The Focus Christian Academy students in Knoxville have a welcoming atmosphere in which to grow and learn due to the hard work and dedication of Nicholas Yeo. As a Boy Scout, Nicholas chose FOCUS Prison Ministries as his Eagle Scout project, specifically our Peace at Last residence hall on Wells Avenue.

Beginning in late 2008 and working many months through 2009, Nicholas focused his work on beautifying the exterior of the house and creating a special room inside.



Left to right: FOCUS Director Steve Humphreys, Eagle Scout Nicholas Yeo and David Elkins, Transition Director for FOCUS

He completely landscaped the yard, including installing flower beds and building a picnic table. Nicholas made 2 sets of bookshelves for one of the rooms upstairs and also painted, which allowed the students to have a prayer room in which to study and meditate on God's word.

On September 12<sup>th</sup> of this year, The Eagle Scout Court of Honor was held to celebrate all of Nicholas' community service achievements and honors received. Steve Humphreys and David Elkins were on hand to present Nicholas with a plaque from FOCUS that read:

"In recognition and appreciation to Nicholas Yeo for outstanding work done for Focus Group Prison Ministries Peace At Last Residence Hall. Congratulations on achieving Eagle Scout."

We thank Nicholas, his parents and grandparents for the time, energy and dedication in allowing Focus Christian Academy to have a beautiful facility. Nicholas truly embodied Colossians 3:23: "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men."

## ABOUT US

Focus Group Prison Ministries is a nonprofit, 501c(3) organization founded in 1992 to help build a bridge to the community for a segment of society that is often forgotten. We seek to help inmates and their families to know Jesus as their Savior, to mature in their faith, and to help ex-offenders to transition back into society as good citizens through Focus Christian Academy. Our efforts at providing support, hope and encouragement have been recognized by the Tennessee Department of Corrections, twice naming Focus Group Prison Ministries the 'Best Non-Profit of East Tennessee.'