

Crossroad

CONNECTION

Fall 2004

Reaching through the walls to unite the church

A Publication for CBI Students

INSIDE	Student Work	1-3
	Students Write In	4
	Instructors' Remarks	4
	President's Corner	4



Matt W.,
CBI Student, TX

The Storm

Anthony G., CBI Student, SC

Gaining wisdom in the midst of the storm,
Holding on to the hope that is always warm,
Staying positive no matter how severe the pain.
Sometimes it's hard to do what's right,
When we stumble and fall within the night.

Yet, there's a prize for us all up ahead,
Desires of our heart, peace of mind in our head.
So never surrender or wave the white flag,
Stay focused, don't give into the enemy of sad.
Things will get better, the storm will pass,
Safe and secure in the shelter that will last.

Divine ointment for the wound to heal,
A living hope that no one can ever steal.

Soon there will be tears of joy,
No longer living a life of void.
Song and dance with a merry heart,
The storm will never take us apart.

Without A Word

Mark R., CBI Student, NV

Without a word, Jesus Christ comforts me,
Without a word, He keeps me strong.
He shows me what I ought to see,
And teaches me my whole life long.
And though sometimes I wander off the path of righteousness,
Far from all,
Chasing wistful dreams,
God picks me up each time I fall.
It seems my hunger finds a loaf of bread,
My thirst a cooling spring.
He guides my steps to rest my head,
I wake to hear the snowbirds sing.
I call on Him by night or day,
Whenever it may be.
He never is too far away,
And His will be done in me.



Harvey S., CBI Student, OH

WE WELCOME YOUR MATERIALS!
 When submitting artwork, poetry, and letters,
 please include your name, ID #, and full
 address. CBI is overwhelmed with the amount
 of wonderful work submitted by CBI students.
 Therefore, we regret that we cannot publish
everything we receive.

God Helped Me Find Prison

Nathan B., CBI Student, UT

From the depths of hell
 I have risen today.
 God helped me find prison
 And showed me the way.

The way to be free
 Inside these cement walls,
 He handed me the keys,
 And asked me to call.

Very weak and very sick,
 On the way, heroin to kick.
 To get to my knees it took awhile,
 But once there, I started to dial.

God answered, I felt His grace
 To make miracles happen, inside this place.
 Now it's time, to get it together,
 I've allowed you to hurt, so you get better.

I sent help, meetings to attend,
 Words of comfort, from a new friend.
 I'll always be there, even unseen,
 Just pray, read and keep your heart clean.

All your pain will soon disappear,
 I send you My Spirit, you have nothing to fear.
 Seeing the cement walls, still on my knees,
 It was jail where I was set free!

Prayer

William S., CBI Student, CA

Pray continually – Morning, Noon and Night,
 Realizing that God wants to communicate 24 hours a day.
 Ask with a sincere heart by seeking God's will for
 Your life and He will provide exactly what you need.
 Experiencing God's peace in our hearts
 Requires a daily relationship with Him.

The Beauty of God's Glory

Robert S., CBI Student, TX

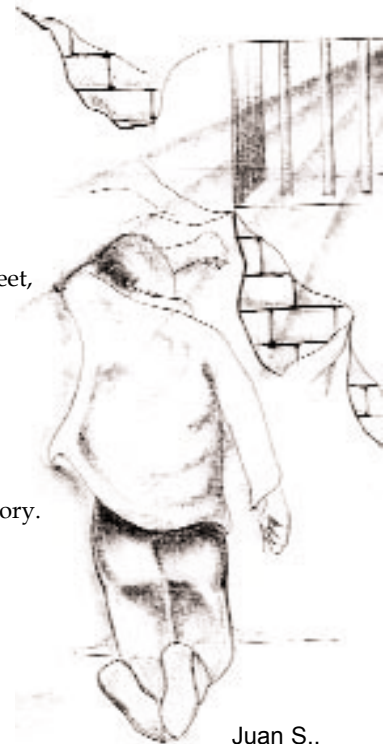
When I close my eyes,
 I see the darkness of God's glory.
 When I open my eyes,
 I see the light of God's glory.
 When I look toward the sky,
 I see the beauty of God's glory.

When I look at the earth beneath my feet,
 I see the life of God's glory.
 When I look to my left,
 When I look to my right,
 I see God's glory everywhere.

When I look into a mirror,
 I expect to see my reflection.
 But instead I see the beauty of God's glory.

God's glory is near,
 God's glory is here,
 God's glory is there,
 God's glory is everywhere.

Even in you and me it shows,
 The beauty of God's glory.



Juan S.,
 CBI Student, TX

The Dream

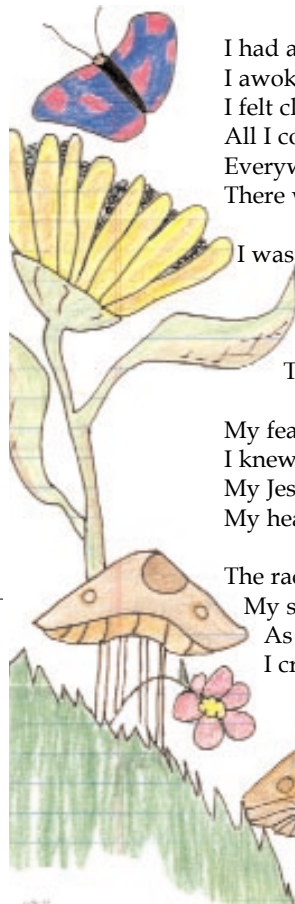
Bobby H., CBI Student, SC

I had a dream again last night,
 I awoke so afraid, just full of fright.
 I felt claws and wings brushing me,
 All I could think of was where to flee.
 Everywhere I turned,
 There was torment and strife.

I was running and running afraid for my life.
 And just as I thought I could run no more,
 I heard a growl, then a mighty roar.
 It was the Lion of Judah, the demons they parted,
 They all hit their knees, up the stairway we started.

My fear had fled me and my torment was gone,
 I knew in my heart it wouldn't be long.
 My Jesus had saved me, the demons were mad,
 My heart was lifted, my soul was glad.

The race I had run had been completed,
 My soul was saved, the devil defeated.
 As I awoke from my dream I hit my knees.
 I cried, I begged, Oh Jesus please!
 He did what He said,
 My nightmares were over,
 My sins were dead, I was saved.



Joscelyn C.,
 CBI Student, NV

I Am All You Need

Steven B., CBI Student, MI

However much of Me you need,
You will get that and more.
Do you realize the love for you My heart has in store?
If you have any questions,
Just ask and I'll answer every one.
If you need Me for a favor, consider it done,
No matter what the circumstance,
I'm there by your side.
If you get lost in life then I'll be your guide,
I'll be your shield and protect you from all your fears.
I'll be there when you're happy,
Throughout all the years.
I will come in the form of soft hugs and kisses,
And I'll guarantee you've never had a love like this.
I will be your soul provider whenever you need My help,
I'll be everything in life that you deserve for yourself.
All these things I promise can be found in Me,
You just have to ask and you will see.
I can make things happen you've never dreamed of,
And it's not done to impress you, but strictly out of love.



Phillip E., CBI Student, GA

Always

Melvin C., CBI Student, IA

I will always be with you,
Even with pain in your heart,
Even while you search for me,
No matter where you are,
I will always be with you.

I will always love you,
Even though you're not perfect,
Even when you do something wrong,
No matter what you do,
I will always love you.

Addicted to Him

Scotty N., CBI Student, AZ

Mankind became addicted to sin,
Rather than being addicted to Him.
"Addicted to whom?" you say,
"His name isn't hope, for that's not the way."
This is all about man's own pride,
He decided he no longer needed a guide.
He said, "I've got it all under control,"
Before he knew heads began to roll.
Down the hill of despair he went,
He said, "Hey wait this isn't what I meant."
He realized addiction was not made for dope,
Now man had no hope.
Then God came as a man, to show us the way.
His name is Jesus Christ,
He came to show us how.
Man could turn to Him now,
We have hope again.
We are finally free from sin.
Yes, addiction is a natural thing,
But for Jesus we can sing,
That awesome song of victory,
And our sin is now history.
Remember we don't know,
What tomorrow will bring,
So, turn to God,
For He is the only way.

My Prayer of Consecration

Peter B., CBI Student, TN

Lord, I give myself to Thee,
To be all that You want me to be.
Take my heart, my heart of stone,
Make it soft, tender like Your own.
Take my hands, my callused hands,
Make them move at Your command.
Take my eyes, my roaming eyes,
Make them seek Thee beyond the skies.
Take my feet, my wandering feet,
Make them move when You speak.
Take my body, my body of clay,
Make it a place for Your Spirit to stay.
Lord, I come before You, and humbly pray,
That Thou would consecrate me today.

STUDENTS Write In . . .

"I first found out about CBI when I ran across a copy of *Crossroad Connection*. I read some good poems and saw some good artwork submitted by CBI students and was interested right away, wanting to somehow become a part of CBI!"

Douglas, CBI Student, IN

"When I first got here almost 4 years ago I was just living for the moment. I didn't have any sense of direction and especially when I was out on the streets I was one of the foulest demons around. I was on drugs very hard and I was also an alcoholic with no dignity. My drug use had some serious consequences and when I got to prison I had given up hope of ever leaving this place alive until I started learning about the Lord. I have repented of my sins and I don't have a desire to do the things I once did. God gave me hope again."

David, CBI Student, NJ

"Not only do I enjoy your lessons and the way they are structured, I especially enjoy the fact that as the lessons went on I began to notice I had learned a lot more than I had thought...I was amazed to see how many Scripture verses I knew in my heart, by heart. So in closing I want to thank you for the dearest part of my life, my salvation. It is people like you that Jesus said would light the way for sinners like me to see."

Larry, CBI Student, TX

INSTRUCTORS' Remarks

"I would like to share with you the joy and blessing that I am receiving when looking over these lessons. So often the students' responses bring such joy and hope knowing that they are experiencing the love of Christ in a prison cell."

George, CBI Instructor, IA

"I have appreciated and enjoyed going over students' lesson material. It is rewarding to have them witness to their faith as well as show that they really want to know their Bible well. I grow by reviewing materials and praise God for the work your staff puts into these Bible studies. We pray for your staff and for continual diligence on the part of the students to continue in the Word and God's service."

Juliana, CBI Instructor, CA

"As I check these students' lessons and study the Word with them, I'm convinced God is leading me on a new spiritual journey of my own. The love that I have for these inmates is something I never dreamed I would have, and is something I myself cannot fully understand or explain. All I know is that it is a love that is real and powerful and full of blessing. It is all of God! I thank and praise God for the blessings of this ministry in my life and in the lives of my brothers and sisters who have found their true freedom in Christ."

Ruth, CBI Instructor, IN

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

REENTRY STARTS NOW

Dr. David Schuringa, President of CBI



Many of you have already responded to our offer in the last issue of *Crossroad Connection* to help you find a reentry ministry, or to write a letter of recommendation to the parole board on your behalf. By far, the majority of you will be released someday. Then you will seek to lead the life of a productive citizen searching for housing, getting a job, finding a church and, perhaps, reuniting with family.

It won't be easy.

The odds for success are stacked against you. From acquiring I.D., to finding an employer who will give you a chance, to dealing with a host of other post-prison issues, it can be an uphill battle. It's no wonder that most released inmates end up back inside.

Your success is the goal of Crossroad Bible Institute's discipleship program. We believe preparation for reentry must begin during incarceration, not at the prison gate. The Tier 1 program prepares you by strengthening your faith in Jesus Christ and in the knowledge of His Word. Tier 2 hits directly on reentry issues such as character development, family, financial management, and a Christian work ethic. Each course also aids in improving your reading and writing skills.

But we're not stopping there.

Because of your wonderful response, I'm pleased to announce that CBI has appointed a Reentry Programs Coordinator to help CBI students connect with reentry ministries. CBI graduates will also receive recommendations. We believe that a reentry program can reinforce the principles taught in our discipleship courses, providing a structure that will help you succeed. Also, if some of you are aware of excellent reentry ministries, please let us know about them so that we can pass the information along to your fellow students.

However, reentry starts today. How seriously you take your Bible studies, how you treat others (inside and outside the walls), the attitude with which you do your job (even if it pays only 10 cents per hour or less), how you are doing with substance abuse issues and, central to it all, your personal relationship with Jesus Christ, will all affect the possibility of success when the day of your release arrives.

By starting on reentry today, your odds for success increase dramatically because most disciplined inmates will never return to prison. That's what I want for you.



Tyrone R., CBI Student, GA



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The views, opinions or theological positions expressed in *Crossroad Connection* are not necessarily those of the leadership or staff of Crossroad Bible Institute.