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Santos T.,
CBI Student, TX

Through This Day

Cynthia H., CBI Student, LA

As I sit behind these walls of steel,
alone and feeling empty inside,
I pray each day for strength and will.
As I hold my head up high, I say,
"Oh please, Lord, help me get through this day!"

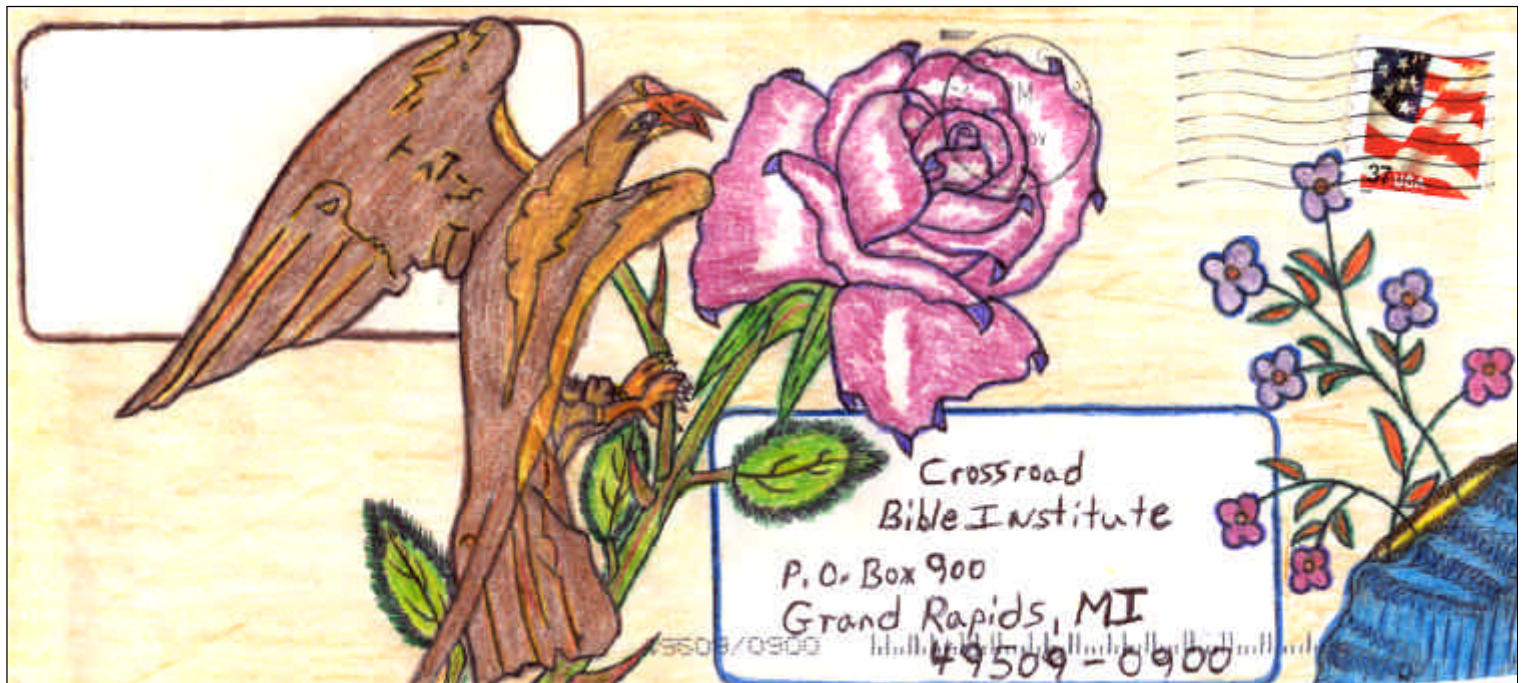
All alone I sit on my bed,
with rushing thoughts going through my head,
thoughts of the past, very disturbed and confused,
often thoughts of getting high and abused.
As I look around this room at what people say,
again I pray, "Lord, help me get through this day!"

As night falls upon me,
I realize I need to let go of my past.
As I look up to the Lord to apologize,
I feel the cleansing of my soul, at last!
Now I lay my head down to sleep and I say,
"Dear Lord, thank you for getting me through this day!"

Untitled

Richard H., CBI Student, CA

"We had to take him down,"
said the prison guard of me,
so they slapped me in the face,
and they beat me 'til I bled.
I thought I'd die before they stopped,
but they didn't seem to care,
and when they finally lifted me,
they all came 'round to stare.
I felt the nails in my hands,
I felt them in my feet,
I felt the throbbing pain of sin,
whose price I came to meet.
And when at last this day was done,
and my bitter chore was through,
I called upon my Father,
to accept it all for you.
-Jesus



James B., CBI Student, GA

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.

Wash My Sins Away

Gloria S., CBI Student, NY

I never thought my sins,
could become so useless and wild,
until one October day,
my sins affected my child.

I've been in and out of the system,
and my family was always there.
I didn't worry about my kids,
I knew they had great care.

As the years went on,
I never once thought it was true,
I needed drugs,
but my children needed me too.

My sons went to the streets,
lost and with no care,
suffering all the time,
because mommy wasn't there.

Now my sons are in prison,
not knowing how to begin,
to solve the problems,
that started from my sins.

But one thing I know,
and my children know too,
God will always be there,
to help us see things through.

Climbing the Mountain

Huseyin B., CBI Student, WI

The journey has been long,
the ride has been rough,
it's time for me to belong,
my time has been enough.

Climbing this mountain is not over,
the work has just begun.
Work with yourself to discover,
the rest of the path you must run.

If you see this as a beginning,
and don't look at it as an end,
You will be rewarded with a peace of heart in Christ,
on whom you can depend.



Mario O., CBI Student, GA

When God Calls

Dean H., CBI Student, FL

When God calls there's no need for you to run and hide,
you can feel Him stirring way down deep inside.
When God calls you should open your heart and let Him in,
then you will experience the true meaning of the word "friend."
When God calls just relax and let go and let God set you free,
for He will truly set your soul on fire spiritually.
When God calls don't make excuses by going back to the hood,
because He wishes to do you no harm, only a world of good.
When God calls it surely is a blessing that He has chosen you,
just think of yourself as rare and special, because you are one of few.
When God calls it was predestined in His master plan,
for me to be His messenger, not just a simple man.

Reminisce

Jewel C., CBI Student, TX

There couldn't be a better time to pause and reminisce,
not about the big things, but the little things I miss.

The cardinal who built her nest just outside my window pane,
the smell of fresh-turned garden earth and the feel of warm spring rain.

A field of bright yellow buttercups, gracefully nodding in the breeze,
the whistles which were made for me from the bark of a willow tree.

The scent of flowering honey suckle mingled with fresh-baked bread,
the sounds of a sudden thunderstorm and the warmth of a featherbed.

Though big things may escape me, it's the little things I miss,
which bring back joyful memories when I pause to reminisce.

Holy Guidance

Joan T., CBI Student, IL

Let me walk with You, Lord Jesus, over all life's beaten trails,
guide me through life's shades and shadows over paths of least travel.
Lead me by life's great temptations to Your Kingdom up above,
lead the way for me to follow to Your world of peace and love.

Don't leave me if I stumble or my steps begin to slow,
for without Your love to guide me I will have no place to go.
Let me follow in Your footsteps to the path that leads above,
and forever know Your blessings of eternal life and love.

When Thugs Cry

Robert R., CBI Student, IL

Our tattooed tears form a puddle in a never ending storm,
as our hearts absorb the pain brought about in this sinful world,
where kids grow up in environments which mold them into thugs,
for them the fruits of life are purchased with the currency of drugs.
So they prosper as criminals with minds that forever remain elementary,
while building the foundation of manhood inside the walls of the penitentiary.
Spiritual development is challenging once you've eaten from the darkside,
because you can only measure right and wrong with a carnal mind.
Therefore, who we really are is trapped in flames on the inside,
but look deeply and you can see a child of God
when you gaze into the eyes of a thug.



Efrain D., CBI Student, PA

Knocking On My Door

David A., CBI Student, Canada

God, You came to me,
knocking on my door,
You picked me up,
up off the floor.

I knew You were coming,
and to You I went running,
God, You came knocking,
knocking on my door.

You knew where I'd been,
my past You had seen,
but You welcomed me in,
despite my past sin.

My deep pain inside,
has no place to hide,
God, You came knocking,
knocking on my door.

Now I'm down on the floor,
please help me once more,
I have no place to roam,
in this my new home.

Will You move on?
That day will never dawn,
You always come knocking,
knocking on my door.

Bangin' for Jesus

Cyril H., CBI Student, NC

I run through the streets,
but I don't carry a gun,
the Bible is my weapon,
and it's a powerful one.
My bullets aren't metal,
but are words of wisdom,
if you die by these bullets,
you'll inherit His Kingdom.

I don't wear flags,
but I will throw signs,
signs of love and the Word,
because it is truly divine.

The streets fear me,
but I'm not there to harm,
I'm only warning Satan of His presence,
I'm just His alarm.

For my deeds will be judged,
and the judge is He,
I repented and He forgave,
I know He truly loves me.
He loves all His creations,
and He'll continue to lead us,
so get out of our way,
Cause we're bangin' for Jesus!

STUDENTS Write In . . .

"The Instructors' remarks inspired and encouraged me so much. I thank God for their understanding, wisdom and ability to do the work. Their letters gave me confidence and the quest to crave for better study and dedication to my work."

Christian, CBI Student, NY

"Sometimes we go through dry spells with our incoming mail from family and friends. Receiving encouragement from all of you helps more than you know. The fact that I am in this program helps me not to forget and not be ashamed that I am a Christian. I save every corrected lesson because when I get out I plan to use them to help teach God's Word to my 3 year old son!"

Leigh, CBI Student, IN

"CBI, you bestow a wonderful gift on us as students, but more than that, as sinners looking for Jesus! How does one thank another for helping lead him to my Lord! I wish I knew because you people and the love you share are making lives better and more peaceful."

Larry, CBI Student, TX

"I know many will be blessed and saved by and through your Bible study because the Spirit of God uses your studies to awaken many lost souls."

Ozell, CBI Student, IL



Angel O., CBI Student, CT

INSTRUCTORS' Remarks

"The lessons give my wife and I biblical topics to discuss, which strengthens our relationship. Keep them coming!"

Shane, CBI Instructor, CA

"I thank God for CBI and I want you to know that it is a real blessing to be a part of this ministry. God is using you—big time—I can see it in the responses to the lessons I receive from the inmates. The lessons are so well-written and it is such a joy to hear from the inmates that they are so thankful for CBI. I'm grateful to God for leading me to CBI because I am really blessed every time I correct a lesson. Keep up the good work!"

Wilma, CBI Instructor, FL

"I feel blessed to be a part of this ministry because I keep learning more. You're never too old to learn or refresh your memory."

Ruth, CBI Instructor, MI

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Celebration Report

Dr. David Schuringa, President of CBI



At the beginning of last year, I informed you that 2004 marked the Twentieth Anniversary of Crossroad Bible Institute and provided you with a short history of the ministry. Last Fall, we sponsored two anniversary celebrations, one in the Great Lakes region and the other in the Great Plains region. One of your Instructors thought you'd appreciate a report on the celebrations.

The celebrations were wonderful events. Both churches were filled with Instructors and friends of the Institute. The two hour program consisted of a multi-media extravaganza with something for all ages. Hymns and praise songs, testimonies, proclamation, drama, sacred dance and live music videos were employed to celebrate God's goodness to Crossroad for the last twenty years.

My son, Dr. Greg Schuringa, and a praise team started the evening off by leading the audience in a few songs. After introductions of the founders, staff, board members, office volunteers and Instructors, inspiring testimonies filled the next portion of the evening. On your behalf, Christy Bobo shared what Crossroad meant to her during her incarceration and upon her release. On behalf of all Instructors, Delores and Marion expressed their appreciation of the prisoners and for CBI. Operation Starting Line platform guests, Don Grier and Leslie Kent, shared their testimony in word and song of how Crossroad is powerfully impacting the prisons. This moving section of the program concluded with the audience singing, "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing."

The keynote speaker was Rev. David Feddes, radio minister of The Back to God Hour. Leading up to his address, a drama, *The Story of Rachel*, was performed, a story focused on diametrically opposed views people have of the down-and-out. Many have a "hands-off" approach. Others, however, will take the risk to reach out and help. Following the drama, the praise team sang "Lord of the Poor" during a video which powerfully depicted the hopeless plight in which the world's suffering find themselves today. Rev. Feddes warmed our hearts by sharing why he loved CBI and how God works through it to reach so many people in need.

The program drew to a close with more music and a grand finale of "Multiply Your Love" which included a video depicting the joy of the ministry, a sacred dance team from Hope College, and the praise team joined by Kent and Grier. The evening ended with everyone singing, "Step by Step," a song which attested to their commitment to continue following Jesus in reaching prisoners with God's truth and God's love. The celebrations made clear that there are so many out here who care for you and are committed to helping you find your way. It was also clear that you are an incredible blessing to your Instructors, and to CBI.



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