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Filimon R.,  
CBI Student, IL



Ted M.,  
CBI Student, CA



John K.,  
CBI Student, PA



Levi W., CBI Student, TX

## STUDENTS WRITE IN...

"During my six years of being a student in the Crossroad family, I've come to really enjoy everything it has to offer, from the wonderful lessons to reading the *Crossroad Connection*. It brings joy to my heart when I read what all my brothers and sisters in Christ have to say. So here I am, doing the same. Keep up the good work and continue to recognize the connection of the crossroad."

Freddie, CBI Student, IL

"I have really enjoyed doing your Bible study. It teaches me things about the Bible and God that I never knew before. The encouraging letters from my Instructors lift me up... The Crossroad studies have helped me find my way."

T.W., CBI Student, OK

"CBI Bible studies give me much more incentive to study God's Word. I also enjoy reading the *Crossroad Connection*. Dr. Schuringa's *Tips for Success* are inspiring, and I can't wait for the next issue. Thank you and God bless."

Michael, CBI Student, CA

## INSTRUCTORS' INPUT

"It is a real blessing to be involved in this ministry. Oftentimes when I give, in the hope of encouraging an inmate student, I receive far more as God graciously challenges me through the students' humble faith."

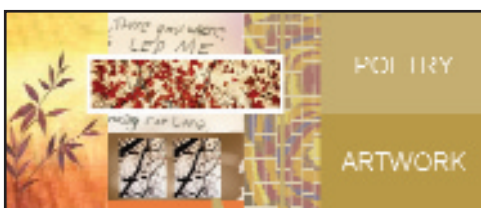
Mark, CBI Instructor, NC

"Thank you for all your hard work at CBI. I enjoy correcting the lessons very much, and it has really helped me in my own walk with God."

Lori, CBI Instructor, MI

"I just wanted to let you know that I am impressed with the quality of this new course, *Survey of the Bible*. I enjoy it. As I was going through the student lesson, I found myself studying it too! Keep on producing high quality Bible courses that point us to God and our Savior."

Robert, CBI Instructor, NY



### WE WELCOME YOUR MATERIALS!

When submitting your poetry or artwork to the *Crossroad Connection*, please include your name, ID# and full address. Only poetry and artwork that you yourself have produced will be reviewed for publication. CBI is overwhelmed with the amount of wonderful work submitted by CBI students. Therefore, we regret that we cannot publish everything we receive.

# Student Work

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Donald M., CBI Student, KY



Chris S., CBI Student, IN



Chevelle L., CBI Student, MI



Benjamine M., CBI Student, VA

**Elected** (based on Romans 9:10-25)  
Tom E., CBI Student, MI

Two little boys were born to her,  
one chosen, one not;  
Rebekka had to wonder why,  
but knew the choice was God's.

God's mercy falls on whom He wills,  
on whom He wills, He hardens;  
He knows the number of those He calls,  
His redeemed are those He's pardoned.

So, who's to say God's plan is wrong,  
or that mistakes are made?  
We are the Master's lumps of clay,  
in whom His will is played.

If you have heard the Spirit's call,  
it's you He has selected;  
with Gentiles, Jews, and nations wide,  
we're chosen, we're elected.

## What I Know

Carrie W., CBI Student, SD

The waves in the ocean  
brush the shore in perfect time,  
and if we listen very closely  
we'll hear a perfect rhyme  
of God telling us He loves us  
with each beat of every wave.

He proved it so uniquely  
with the tomb, an empty grave.  
He sent His Son to die for us  
to take away our sin.  
He lived a life of holiness  
so salvation we would win.

He healed the sick and prophesied.  
He made a blind man see.  
And then when He was done with that,  
He stopped, and He healed me.  
He gave me everything I need  
to live my life for Him,  
and I ask the Spirit daily,  
"Fill my cup up to the brim."

My faith now rests in Christ,  
I choose to let that be  
my decision every morning  
when I drop down on my knees.  
I know that I love Him,  
and I know that He loves me  
because He sent His only Son  
to set my spirit free.

## The Middle Cross

Jonathon H., CBI Student, NY

Three men hung on three crosses,  
each one condemned to die.  
One prayed for others,  
one ridiculed, while one cried.

These three men and their each response  
can sum up all of human history.  
One man demanded proof,  
while one cried, "Remember me."

But what about the third?  
What role did He play?  
That man on the middle cross,  
what did He have to say?

"Father forgive them,  
for they know not what they do,"  
cried the man in the middle,  
with the superscription, "King of the Jews."

His role is simply this,  
history was and is His story.  
And to die on that middle cross  
is the very reason why He left Glory.

His death is the only bridge  
God made for sin sick man.  
We can either respond by faith,  
or we can stubbornly take a demand.

Each one of us must take our place  
on one side or the other  
of that cross in the middle,  
which requires an answer, now, or never.

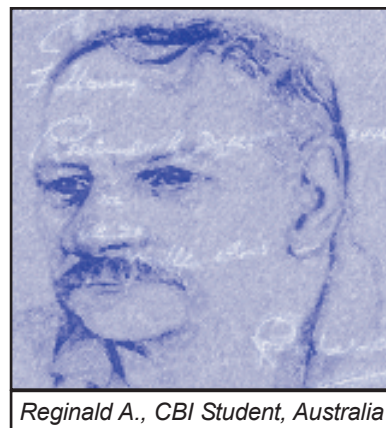
One man said, "Prove yourself,"  
while the other cried, "Remember me,"  
and the man in the middle is still asking today,  
"On which side of My cross are you living?"



Jose R., CBI Student, TX



William W., CBI Student, IN



Reginald A., CBI Student, Australia

### My CBI Instructor, Carolyn

Antonio S., CBI Student, TX

**C**are is what is shown in your ministerial work,  
you give to me a great sense of worth.

**A**lways with your red pen, you give me new insight,  
and bring understanding to God's Word in a new light.

**R**ichly you instruct me in the Great Truths of God,  
teaching me the importance of trusting our Lord.

**O**ver and over, you put a big smile on my face,  
having you as my Instructor is due to God's grace.

**L**ooking forward to your letter is a pleasant desire,  
I sit in anticipation waiting the whole while.

**Y**ou've got mail, I wait to hear the boss man say,  
when it is from you, I praise God in a special way.

**N**ever after reading your letter am I made to be sad,  
you have placed in my heart a joy that will forever last.

### The Master Potter

Gerald H., CBI Student, GA

I've watched You work with gentle hands,  
my life upon the wheel,  
shaping here, moistening there,  
Your touch becomes so real.

To some I'm just a piece of clay,  
to You, a work of art.  
Your will is making me what I am,  
an image of Your heart.



Allen B., CBI Student, Solomon Islands

### Reversed and Remanded

Steve M., CBI Student, WA

Reversed and remanded, the decision was made.  
Little did they know how the foundation was laid.  
Not with writs and motions of learned men,  
not with fancy words twisted with pen.

Appeals to the courts were of little effect.  
Void were the questions of great intellect.  
Men tried and tried to convince the judge.  
The results were nil, he wouldn't budge.

Yet something happened to change his mind,  
something unforeseen, his justice was kind.  
Someone stepped in to argue the case,  
a living sacrifice to take your place.

Now his honor had little choice,  
"release the prisoner," said the voice.  
He has been given a lifelong reprieve,  
granted to all who choose to believe.

The verdict rendered, justice is done.  
In a heavenly court, your battles are won!



Elden L., CBI Student, NM



Alejandro G., CBI Student, WI

## The Change

Brandon H., CBI Student, MO

Alone,  
yet surrounded by men.  
Shut-out,  
struggling to fit in.  
Exhausted,  
sleep, it never comes.  
Trapped,  
nowhere to run.

This trouble I've created  
will be the death of me.

Scared,  
danger at every turn.  
Angry,  
like fire my insides burn.  
Shamed,  
the mirror is a terrible place.  
Guilty,  
can't bear to see my own face.

This trouble I've created,  
what'll be its seed?

Sincerity,  
I long to truly change.  
Mercy,  
who can free me from these chains?  
Grace,  
freely it does come.  
Jesus,  
He's the only One.

This trouble I've created,  
only He can take away.

Learning,  
how to live like Him.  
Running,  
this race, with Him I'll win.  
Praying,  
He hears my every word.  
Soaring,  
my soul is like a bird.

This trouble I've created  
has brought about some good.  
I'm finally just now living  
the way I've always should.



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

### TIPS FOR SUCCESS ON THE JOB (4)

- Tip 1: You Need a Christian Work Ethic
- Tip 2: Never Be on Time! (Always Be Early)
- Tip 3: Always Be Positive!

Tip 4: Don't Be an Average Joe: Give 110%

## Don't Be an Average Joe: Give 110%

By Dr. David Schuringa

When I was a little boy, my dad taught me that no matter what I did in life, I must always give 110%. When it came to work, this meant not only doing a job right, but also going the extra mile. The point is to make sure you are doing your job better than the "Average Joe." If it was sweeping the concrete floor of the chicken building, it meant making sure I didn't miss any part, sweeping all the way into the corners and hanging the broom up when I was finished.

Giving 110% also means actually adding something to the job that was not expected. I've shared that I worked at JC Penney while attending seminary in Philadelphia. As a sporting goods salesman on commission, I would, among other things, straighten up all the merchandise on the shelves of our department before I left for the night. It wasn't part of the job description, and I wasn't paid extra for doing so. But when I graduated and was leaving to continue my studies in Grand Rapids, management did its best to persuade me to stay and become a store supervisor.

You can always find something extra to do. Keep your eyes open.

The fact is that Average Joe gives about 80%, or just what it takes to get by. There are some who do give 100%. But only doing your job right, let alone doing it almost right, is not enough. Can you imagine Michael Jordan giving only 80% or even 100%? It is said that he would arrive at practice before anyone else. He would do more stretching and even come alone into the gym after a red-eye flight to shoot for an hour, then another hour. He was "a portrait of excess." As the legend himself says, "I don't do things half-heartedly. Because I know if I do, then I can expect half-hearted results." Jordan was no Average Joe. Those who are successful in life give 110% or more. They are above average, and their work stands head and shoulders above that of the next person. I'll let you in on a little secret: Giving 110% is a slam dunk because bosses just love giving these folks raises and promotions!

Nevertheless, promotions are not the reason you give 110%. You do it because it is part and parcel of a Christian work ethic. In Luke 17, Jesus tells the parable of the servants who were doing what their master required. Then He asks, "Would he [the master] thank the servant because he did what he was told to do?" (vs. 9). The implied answer is "no." Jesus concludes, "So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty'" (vs. 10). Similarly, do not expect a pat on the back for simply doing your basic duty. However, doing something extra, unexpected and unsolicited—well, that trumpets attention!

Wouldn't we expect every Christian to give 110%? After all, Paul says our real boss is the Lord (cf. Col. 3:22-25). We want to give Him our all, and then some, in gratitude for what He has done for us. What more incentive do we really need?

So, you want to succeed in the work place? Then don't be someone who just gets by. It is not enough to be good at your job. Give more, much more, than Average Joe, and watch your career soar like an eagle.



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