

Crossroad CONNECTION

Summer 2006

REACHING THROUGH THE WALLS TO UNITE THE CHURCH

A PUBLICATION FOR CBI STUDENTS

INSIDE

STUDENTS WRITE IN.....	1
INSTRUCTORS' INPUT.....	1
STUDENT WORK.....	2-3
TIPS FOR SUCCESS ON THE JOB (3)....	4
REMARKABLE PUZZLE.....	4



Daniel S.,
CBI Student, TX



Terry C.,
CBI Student, CA



Timothy B.,
CBI Student, TX



Rodney B., CBI Student, FL

STUDENTS WRITE IN...

"Thanks for your prayers, Bible lessons, and thanks to Norma, my CBI Instructor, who has been helping me grow stronger spiritually. I enjoy reading the *Crossroad Connection* as it shines a light into the work that's being done in the life of others in prison and at CBI."

Whitney, CBI Student, MS

"I have learned a great deal from taking the Crossroad Bible Institute courses. I really have matured in how to understand the meaning of serving God and doing His will to please Him. I know very well now that all my life interests are to serve God and be obedient, faithful and diligent in my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

Willie, CBI Student, TX

"It is after learning and reading the *Great Truths of the Bible*, that despite all the pain and affliction I was going through and the seemingly hopeless situation in which I found myself, my faith and convictions in God's gracious nature grew and the veil I had on me was lifted. My eyes are open to God's will and love for me through the blood of His one and only Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

Stanislas, CBI Student, Australia

INSTRUCTORS' INPUT

"I can't believe there is a more worthwhile endeavor than yours. I always enjoy so much reviewing the inmate lessons you send me and I appreciate the chance to serve my Lord in this small way."

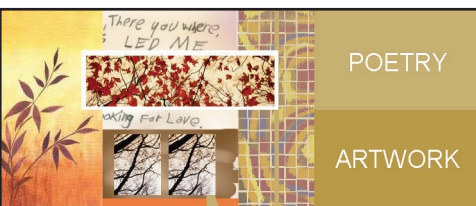
Wayne, CBI Instructor, OR

"I have thoroughly enjoyed this past year of reviewing CBI lessons. The lessons themselves have been good refreshers and students have even taught me a thing or two at times. It's truly a wonderful ministry that CBI has."

Michele, CBI Instructor, SD

"What a blessed day it is in our walk with the Lord when we receive [the inmates'] lessons and letters! Inmate testimonies have made us so much more aware of God's will for us. We now know that many of us are behind bars that keep us from a total commitment to the Lord."

Lee and Kay, CBI Instructors, MI



POETRY

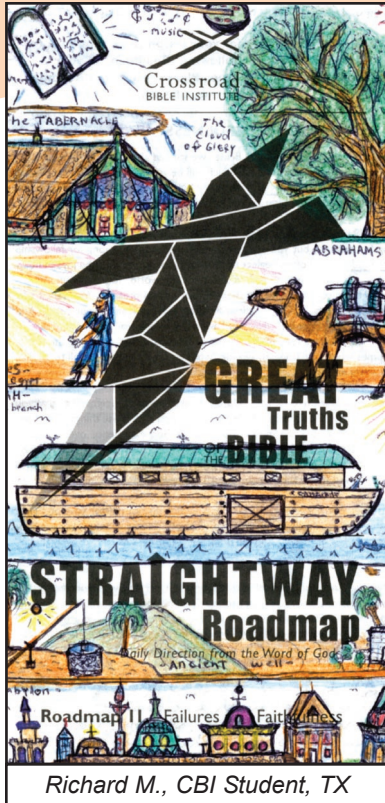
ARTWORK

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

2



Richard M., CBI Student, TX

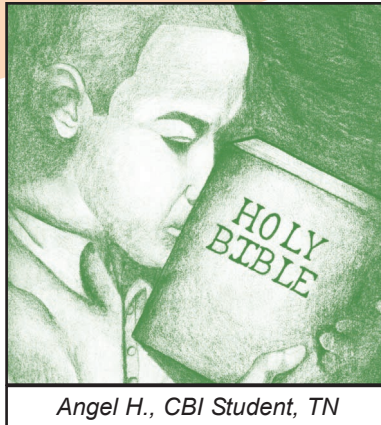
Thank You

Rodney F., CBI Student, FL

Bless all those who give God's Word,
 your message is loud and it is heard.
 The studies you provide us
 have turned many unto Jesus.
 So, your Lord's work is not in vain,
 lives are changing and that's a gain.
 The Lord works through many people,
 not just from under the steeple.
 From home study to prison cell,
 subjects the same, heaven or hell.
 So, thanks to you that really care,
 God's Word you're making us aware.
 The free studies that you provide
 have saved people before they died.
 You've removed their hate and their strife,
 gave them hope and eternal life.
 You have helped and there's no dispute,
 thanks Crossroad Bible Institute.



Juan J., CBI Student, KY



Angel H., CBI Student, TN

I Found the Love of Jesus

Daryl C., CBI Student, CA

Once it was a nightmare
 to close my eyes and sleep,
 and dream about the promises
 of things I could not keep.

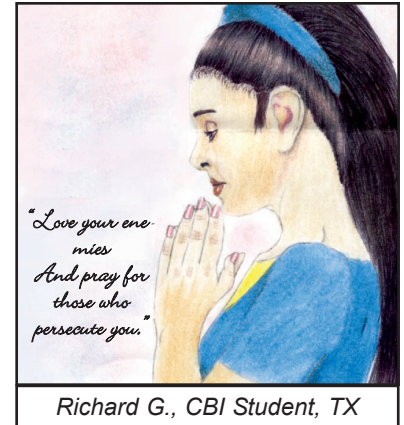
I left a trail of bitter tears,
 the devil had my soul.
 I broke the hearts of loved ones,
 and I had no certain goal.

Then my Instructor gave me a Bible
 and said, "Daryl, that's all you need."
 So, in my lonely little world
 I found some time to read.

From Genesis to Revelation
 I read my Bible through,
 and now I dream of mansions,
 and things I know are true.

The devil is behind me now,
 the bitter tears have dried.
 Now I am a servant
 of the One who was crucified.

Once it was a nightmare,
 and once I was afraid,
 but I found the love of Jesus
 in the Bible my Instructor gave.



Richard G., CBI Student, TX

God Bless You!

Curtis D., CBI Student, OH

I count my blessings everyday,
 giving praise to God for saving my life.
 He saw I needed a rescue,
 from my struggles I could not fight.

Prison is where He placed me,
 locked down within these confines,
 in hopes I would begin to recognize
 the opportunity to clear my mind.

To everyone in prison I say,
 be thankful for what God has done for you.
 Instead of being angry,
 thank God for the rescue.

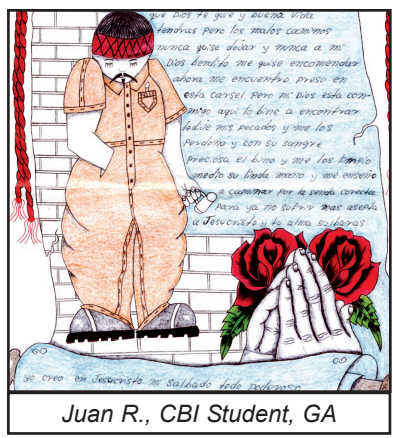
One Wish

Eric J., CBI Student, FL

If I could have one wish,
 I would ask for only this:
 to be with Him on the streets of gold,
 and to walk with Him in heavenly bliss.

I would not ask for riches,
 I wouldn't ask for fame,
 I would only ask for a spot in that book
 where You could write my name.

So if I see a shooting star,
 I will know that You did hear,
 and the time to walk with You in glory
 is oh so very near.



My Friend Jesus

Carole F., CBI Student, AZ

I have a Friend I would like you to meet,
 a brief true story, so please have a seat.
 Mary, a virgin with a child, in a manger he laid,
 three wise men went to see the Savior born on that day.
 His name was Jesus, the new born King,
 peace and goodwill to men the angel would sing.

He became a man, working of God, freed those who were oppressed,
 saying, "Come unto Me, for I will give you rest."
 Spoke the words of God, 5,000 people He fed,
 the religious leaders' bitterness wanted Him dead.
 His first miracle, He turned water into wine,
 they still sought His life; He had committed no crime.

Judas Iscariot whose heart betrayed the Son of God,
 in the hand of the cruel soldier our Lord was flogged.
 They whipped and beat Him; placed thorns upon His head,
 "Crucify! Crucify!" to the King they said.
 Pilate, to the crowd, "I find no guilt in Him."
 The men with a shout, "Then you are not Caesar's friend!"

So on the road to Calvary Jesus carried His cross,
 no one knew for us He paid the cost.
 He hung on a tree, He looked up at the sky,
 "Forgive them, it is finished," then He died.
 As they wept, who knew He would rise again?
 Christ conquered death on the third day, my friend.

So now you know He gave His life for you and me
 to be forgiven, redeemed with God for all eternity.
 He loves you and wants to be your Friend,
 He's knocking at the door of your heart, will you let Him in?

Lost Sheep

Patrice D., CBI Student, IL

Just one of many, I've struggled with addictions,
 the good Lord knows I'm no stranger to affliction.

Caused my share of pain, I've also been hurt a lot.
 Through all of my adversity, there is something I never forgot.
 A promise that was made, a promise I believed:
 when Jesus died, He died for me.

With all of my mess, with all of my ills,
 two-faced backstabbing, and shady deals.
 Even at my lowest, my most unfavorable times,
 He gave up His life in exchange for mine.

A solitary sheep, one of a flock, that's all I am.
 I'm nothing special, just a flawed man.
 Yet my Creator saw fit to save my soul,
 He gave me the opportunity to reenter the fold.

Today it feels good to say,
 I'm no longer a lost sheep, I've surely found my way.

A Poem Based on Psalm 23

Luther B., CBI Student, SC

The devil tried to lead me astray,
 but the Lord fought my battle every day.
 Once I was blind, but now I see,
 'cause Jesus is the staff that comforts me.

The days of my toil only God will know,
 He anoints my head and my cup overflows.
 His goodness and love are with me to stay,
 I'll dwell in His house all of my days.



Andrew J., CBI Student, OH



Carlos N., CBI Student, MD

REMARKABLE PUZZLE

There are thirty books of the Bible in this paragraph. Can you find them? This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket, on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much he passed it on to some friends. One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his john boat. Another friend studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involving, she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a fact. Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized. Truthfully, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or scholar to see some of them at the worst. Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph. During a recent fund raising event, which featured this puzzle, the Alpha Delta Phi lemonade booth set a new sales record. The local paper, the Chronicle, surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As Daniel Humana humbly put it, "The books are all right here in plain view hidden from sight." Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation that may help is that books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. Also, keep in mind that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mad exodus, there really are 30 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph waiting to be found. God Bless!

Answers: Amos, Mark, Luke, John, Joel, Judges, Job, Hebrews, Esther, Acts, James, Ruth, Romans, Titus, Matthew, Genesis, Philemon, Chronicles, Daniel, Nahum, Hosea, Lamentations, Revelation, Timothy, Samuel, Numbers, Malachi, Peter, Exodus, Kings.



P.O. Box 900
Grand Rapids, MI
49509-0900

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

Crossroad Bible Institute seeks to credit only original authors. However, the authors of the poems and artwork in *Crossroad Connection* cannot be guaranteed.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

TIPS FOR SUCCESS ON THE JOB (3)

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

Always Be Positive!

By Dr. David Schuringa

When it comes to your job, attitude has everything to do with success or lack of it. The fact is that successful people are positive people. You might think that they are positive because they are successful. The truth is, however, they were likely positive prior to their success.

It is important that you have a positive attitude all the time, not just most of the time. Even when your boss gives you a task you don't particularly enjoy. Accept it with a smile and go at it with gusto, no matter what you are asked to do. As a teenager on the egg ranch, I shoveled more chicken manure than I care to remember. I confess that we didn't always refer to it as "manure." But I learned to shovel that stuff with a song in my heart.

Especially be positive around fellow employees. It's quite typical in the work place to complain about management or the job. It can be quite contagious, so be on your guard against this plague and NEVER do it. If someone around you starts grouching, be sure either to counter the comment with something positive, or just walk away. If you value your success, don't hang out with negative people.

The fact is it's just plain dumb to complain because your grumbling WILL eventually get back to your supervisor. And then, there goes your raise. I doubt negative people realize how often their promotions have been postponed or cancelled because of remarks that got back to management. The only thing worse than being late to work, is being grumpy on the job. Employers love to have positive people around them, and love to promote them!

I know you might think I'm crazy because studies show that 90% of people hate their jobs! I can assure you that it shows up in their work. And then, is it any wonder that most people are not very successful on the job? You can choose to be part of the grumpy 90% or the successful 10%. It's up to you.

To be positive requires an attitude of gratitude. If you have an entitlement attitude or a victim attitude, you will be a whiner rather than a winner. A positive, grateful attitude is an essential virtue of a Christian work ethic. Paul writes, "Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (1 Tim. 5:18). Elsewhere he writes, "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!" (Phil. 4:4). We are to work as if Christ Himself were our boss because, at the end of the day, He is. And He WILL reward you (cf. Eph. 6:5-8).

There was a conference in Omaha that distributed helium-filled balloons to every attendee upon arrival. And they were told that when they felt like expressing joy, to let their balloon go. At the end of the conference, fully a third of the participants hadn't let go of their balloon.

Come on, let go of your balloon! Have a positive attitude at work and everywhere else and your success will soar like an eagle. Practice it also if you are in prison preparing for successful reentry. I would think that if you can muster up a positive attitude behind bars, you can be positive anywhere!