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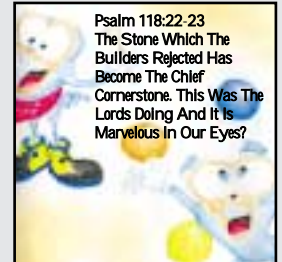
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*Miguel C.,
CBI Student, NY*



*Gerardo B.,
CBI Student, TX*



*Michael B.,
CBI Student, TX*



Terry A., CBI Student, IN

This free-standing sculpture stands 4.5 inches tall and was carved from three bars of soap. Terry used paper, tape and string for added detail.



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.

STUDENTS WRITE IN...

"I have been studying with CBI for a little while now, and I've found the studies to be very helpful in my Christian growth. Also, I really appreciate the *Crossroad Connection* newsletter; it's a binding fellowship allowing us, as God's children, to share with one another the thoughts of our hearts."

Albert, CBI Student, MO

"To my CBI Instructor: Thank you so much! Your words of encouragement and strength really mean a lot to me! You do make a difference!"

Maria, CBI Student, CA

"When I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior, I never knew how much I would feel like part of a family. Thank you all at CBI for caring and being there for me and all the rest of the believers."

Jesse, CBI Student, CO

"Sometimes it gets hard in here, and whenever I feel like just giving up, then a letter from my Instructor comes in the mail and I am encouraged to not give up, but to reach forward into the future, keeping my faith in Jesus."

Allen, CBI Student, CA

"I'm sure I speak for everyone: I myself really enjoy the *Crossroad Connection* and look forward to it."

Anthony, CBI Student, OK

Roland L., CBI Student, WI

Student Work

2



Roger P., CBI Student, WI

The Unworthy Recipient

Carl B., CBI Student, TX

Even still it's hard to believe
what You did for me at Calvary.
Even still it's hard to accept
that You love the sinner that I am
enough to become the sacrificial Lamb.

How can I ever repay the loss
that you suffered upon the cross?
Is it possible to fully thank You
for the grace that forever saved me,
for the mercy that comforts my pain,
for the love that meets my every need?

I will never cease to be amazed
by all the wonders You do.
I cannot fathom how One
can be so faithful and true.

My love is not perfect,
but I pray it's always real;
my praise is not glorious,
but to You it's freely given;
my faith is not the strongest,
but it will never be concealed.

My gifts cannot be worthy
for a Lord so perfect and holy
to surrender the life You redeemed—
even up the hill to Calvary.



Jose H., CBI Student, FL

Rejoice Always

John L., CBI Student, PA

Rejoice in the Lord always—
yes, in Him always rejoice!
Let your faith be known to all
so they may know your choice,
in hopes that they will follow you,
for the Lord is at hand.
They'll give their hearts to Jesus Christ;
amongst the saved they'll stand.

Rejoice in the Lord always—
yes, in times both good and bad—
so all can see His grace in you
in times happy and sad.
May all around rejoice with you
when blessings come your way,
and they'll see when the hard times come,
true to the Lord you'll stay.

Rejoice in the Lord always—
yes, your joy becomes your voice,
your testimony to all those
who have not made their choice
to give their hearts, their all to God.
You may just be the one
to convince them to accept God's gift:
salvation through His Son.



Rafael M., CBI Student, FL

Flight of Soul

Chadwick W., CBI Student, IL

To my Lord God I pray
and give undying thanks for my life on this new day
I ask forgiveness for all my sins,
some of which seem to have no end.

I know I am not perfect,
though in Your image I am created.
In light of all my wrong,
Your praise is my eternal song.
Forgive me, oh Lord, for my pride—
for all my anger, which I try to take in stride.

I repent of my jealousy—
which extends further than my own eyes can see—
and for my envy.
For far too long,
these have been parts of what it means to be me.

Though I don't deserve You, I know I have You.
I walk within Your love and revel in Your light.
Your forgiveness is all I ask;
for this I need to complete my life's task.
Thank you, oh Lord, for giving me this chance,
another chance to against evil take my stance.

On this day I pray in thanks:
for the Name of God,
the Most High,
my soul flies.

Marcos V., CBI Student, GA



Shawn W., CBI Student, MI

A Mansion Prepared for Me

Andrew M., CBI Student, PA

There is a mansion being prepared for me—
how big it is I'll have to wait and see.
I want my family to live next door
so we can praise and worship the Lord.
There will be no more time and no more clocks—
life will go on and never stop.
I long and wait for that glorious day,
to move to the heavenly home that awaits my stay.
I didn't receive a place there for my good deeds—
I'm only welcome because Jesus Christ set me free.



Harold O., CBI Student, TX

My Constant Reminder

Randy C., CBI Student, NH

I remember it well, the day they fell,
my eyes staring toward the floor.
I couldn't hold my kids that night;
I prayed to see them just once more.
It hurt to watch those people die
in the buildings, on the planes,
leaving behind family and friends
to live a life forever changed.
I thought of the people still trapped inside,
asking God to get them out.

Here is what I think about:
those towers could have been this prison,
me that was trapped inside;
mine could have been on board those planes,
among all of those who died.
I wonder if they hugged their kids
or kissed their wives goodbye.
They thought they were going home that night—
no one thought they were going to die.

If God would give them one more chance:
knowing what they know today,
would they live life any differently
or love more along the way?
That dreadful day changed my life,
seeing things I'd failed to see.
I'll live this day like it is my last,
knowing well it might just be.

Untitled

George D., CBI Student, KY

As the days go by I miss my loved ones more;
this cage I'm in, it's like a war.
They do what they can to break down our pride;
there's only one rule: the strong survive.

You try not to show the pain that you feel,
but the hurt inside is definitely real.
I try to keep my sanity the best I can—
how much can I take? I'm only one man.

My little brother is just down the hall,
but I can't see him and we can't talk at all.
The nights are long, the days are longer;
what doesn't kill me will only make me stronger.

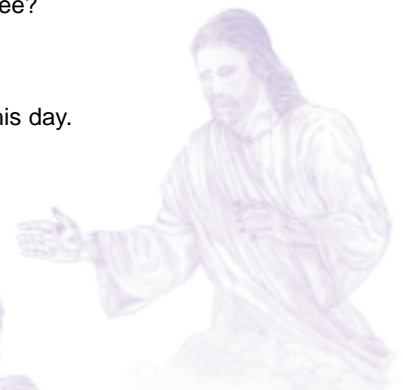
I have people that love me and want me home;
I pray this time I won't do wrong.
All my life I've been in these kinds of places
and every time I see the same faces.

I'm tired of lawyers, judges and guards—
it's time to play with a new deck of cards.
What will happen this time when they set me free?
I know for certain the Lord will be with me.

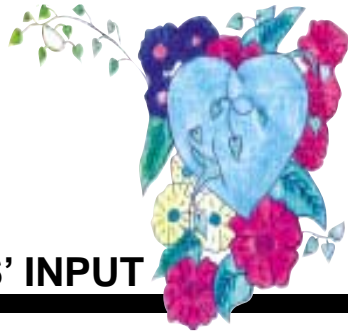
I pray to God to lead me in the right way,
and I pray for the strength to make it through this day.



Shari M., CBI Student, KY



Lawrence D., CBI Student, IA



INSTRUCTORS' INPUT

"What an awesome privilege to be in contact and minister to those in need in a way I probably would not have thought of. This opportunity has brought growth in the lives of inmates as well as my own."

Steve, CBI Instructor, NY

"I am currently a corrections officer, and I have talked to quite a few inmates about your lessons. Since I can't visit my jail with a church because of employment, I figured this might be a good way to serve the Lord in an environment I see with my own eyes. This program is needed so badly."

Gerald, CBI Instructor, PA

"Thank you for the great privilege of reaching out to the prisoners in Christ. I am blessed by their testimonies and inspired by their faith. This ministry has enriched my life and added a dimension of compassion to my personality that had thus far been undeveloped. I love the Lord more because He is teaching me through CBI, and satisfying my need to serve Him more intensely."

Nancy, CBI Instructor, NY

"I just want to say what a great program it is, and what a blessing it has been to me. I thank God for the privilege of being even a small part of seeing prisoners turn their lives over to the Lord. Perhaps only eternity will show how far-reaching the effects have been for many inmates. I know there are many who have been given hope and a new lease on life by learning of Jesus' love and sacrifice for them. I'm looking forward to a wonderful "Crossroad" reunion in Heaven."

Lois, CBI Instructor, SD

Image Credit >> Kieren D., CBI Student, Australia



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TIPS FOR SUCCESS ON THE JOB (I)

By Dr. David Schuringa

One of the most important factors contributing to your successful reentry into society will be to get and keep a job. I have read somewhere that roughly 80% of current inmates were either unemployed or under-employed (earning annual wages below the poverty level) when they committed their crimes. In the next few issues of *Crossroad Connection*, I'm going to discuss with you some tips that will help you succeed at work. For my incarcerated readers, I hope you have a job in prison and can practice some of these tips right now.

The tips that I'm going to share with you flow from a *Christian* work ethic. Those of you who have taken *In God We Trust* in the Tier 2 Graduate Studies Program understand what I mean by that. Also, if you have read *Work: The Meaning of Your Life*, the book we send to you to prepare for that course, you understand the vital importance of getting and keeping a job. God wired us for work, to contribute in a positive way to society and to make a living. Work both honors Him and gives us a sense of fulfillment.

You may be surprised to learn that it does not take a degree in rocket science to get ahead. On the contrary, all you need is a Christian work ethic. These days, many seem to drift aimlessly from job to job wondering why they don't get anywhere in life. So when someone comes along who "gets it," he usually moves ahead fast because employers don't want to lose someone like that. Since excellent workers are hard to find, employers can spot them a mile away.

For instance, when I moved to Philadelphia to attend seminary, I couldn't find a job right away so I signed on with a temp agency. At the end of the first week at the first job I was assigned, the boss invited me to stay. I didn't even have to fill out a job application or go through the interview process. As a sporting goods salesman on commission, I did pretty well for a young man. I'm not bragging—it's just the way my dad taught me to work. Now I want to teach you.

I've learned something about success on the job not only through personal experience as an employee, however. I can also tell you what employers are looking for because I myself am an employer with a growing staff, and I've consulted with other employers as well. Guess what? We're all looking for the same basic things in an employee.

Think of each tip in the next few issues of *Crossroad Connection* as an ingredient of a recipe for success. I hope you will study this column carefully because I can guarantee that if you follow this recipe, you *will* succeed at work. Most today seem to be following a recipe for disaster instead. It doesn't have to be that way.