

Fall 2007

Cover Credit: James C., CBI Student, MO

A child is shown from the back, wearing a blue baseball cap and blue and white striped overalls over a white t-shirt. The child is standing on a dirt path with green grass on the left. In the background, there is a large red building with vertical panels.

**Student
Artwork,
Poems,
Testimonies
and More**

Crossroad 
CONNECTION JOURNAL

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Crossroad Connection Journal

Senior Editor: H. David Schuringa
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PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

TIPS FOR SUCCESS ON THE JOB

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%

Tip 5: Don't Bounce Around

Tip 6: Become a Change Agent

Tip 7: Find a Mentor

Find a Mentor

By Dr. David Schuringa

The last "tip" for success in this series is to find a mentor. I am surprised by how many people try to go it alone when having a mentor is one of the most important things you can do to be successful on the job. A mentor is someone with more experience than you, someone who can become your coach and your confidant to guide you and help you quickly learn how to succeed in life.

You need a mentor, no matter what kind of work you will do either when you are released or if you have a job on the inside. You may think your job is not important enough to need a mentor. Wrong! Everyone will do better in life under a good mentor. Sometimes your mentorship can be more than one person, each who has a special area of expertise for different areas of your life.

A good mentor is open enough to counsel you out of his successes and his failures. A mentor who shares wisdom from his failures is invaluable because he can help you avoid unnecessary mishaps. If you take time to learn from your mentor's mistakes, you can avoid

similar mistakes in your own life. This is a certain way to get on the fast track to success.

Where do you find that mentor? Keep your eyes open and look for a person you would like to emulate. When I was in college, I met a professor/pastor, Dr. Alexander De Jong, whom I deeply admired

and loved to hear preach. We got along well and I began to ask for his advice. He gradually became my mentor and mentored me through seminary and in the ministry right up until his death. Most of my life we were not even living in the same area of the country, but we carried on our relationship by telephone. Face-to-face meetings were rare but deeply treasured.

Dickie C., CBI Student, MI



As we end this series, I want to note that it is no secret that the disparity between the wealthy and the working poor is increasing every day. Sure, there may be systemic reasons for this, but you can't do much about it. You can do something about you! These seven tips for success that I have shared will provide tools you can use to increase your worth in the workplace.

If you master every tip, it will make a huge difference in your life. You may not retire a multi-millionaire, but God will provide you with all that you need, and you will experience immense satisfaction from a job well done.





Deceiving Demon

Benjamin D., CBI Student, MI

Deceiving demon, down deep inside,
Why is it you in whom I abide?
You made me do a terrible thing.
You said I would be treated like a king.

Now I am like a long lost dove,
Far away from the ones I love.
The ones I hurt were close to my heart.
So far away from them I had to part.

Deceiving demon, down deep inside,
You talk too much and you lie.
I sit alone and make this vow:
NEVER again to you will my head bow.
Leave me now and don't look back.
Your voice is one I can afford to lack.



Raul R., CBI Student, TX

Peace Flows Like a River

Thomas S., CBI Student, AUS

Peace flows like a river, like a river calm.
I'm sitting at that river, flooded by its charm,
Holding fast to the promise of eternal life.
There is joy and glory, no more death and strife.

Peace flows like a river, what more can I say?
Grace and grace alone, nothing more to pay!
Peace flows like a river, for all who will receive
Mercy, grace and kindness, and in Him believe.

Peace flows like a river, who can understand?
No more tears and sorrow in the Promised Land.
River clear as crystal, flowing from God's throne,
Tears, pain and sorrow are forever gone.

Peace flows like a river, calm and stillness pure.
For those whom God has chosen, salvation is for sure.
Just behold its beauty, can it ever be?
Yes! His love and passion paid the price for you and me!

Peace flows like a river, can you hear its bliss?
Loved ones, friends and pilgrims never more to miss.
Glory be to Jesus, Who has set us free
Evermore to worship and with Him to be.



God's Handiwork

James S., CBI Student, CA

The Nile River, the Grand Canyon, Niagara Falls,
God's handiwork; He created it all.
Vast amounts of knowledge, more than we can understand,
Piled up before you, like mountains across the land.
Greenery and beauty, for all of us to see;
God's handiwork made for you and me.

He took His time, created it all,
Forethought every detail, be it great or small.
Different types of flowers, custom for the land,
Scattered around the world, like colored grains of sand.
Different types of creatures, big and small.
He gave us dominion to stand over it all.

He let us name them, let us be free
To enjoy the natural beauty He created for you and me.
Oh, Father, what a vision You must have had
When You created us and this beautiful land.
We thank You, Father, for the gifts we adore.
If this is a glimpse of Heaven, I can't wait to see more.



Jerry G., CBI Student, AZ



Gerald F., CBI Student, AZ

Mercy and Love

Henry F., CBI Student, AL

Coming to prison seemed like a demise,
Only to have my soul to rise.
Rise to heights I've never known,
The way to salvation I've been shown.

This may sound crazy but I have found
God's mercy and love are all around.
Even in prison God can't be denied,
Though many a times it has been tried.

Mercy and love and God's saving grace
Are ever so present, even in this place.
Evil and temptation are always here,
But mercy and love are also near.

Near to the heart, close to the mind,
God's mercy and love are easy to find.
Go into your closet, and close the door,
If there's no answer, pray some more.

There's a lot in prison that one can fear,
Yet mercy and love are ever so near.
Take a look around and you will see
God's mercy and love are there for me.



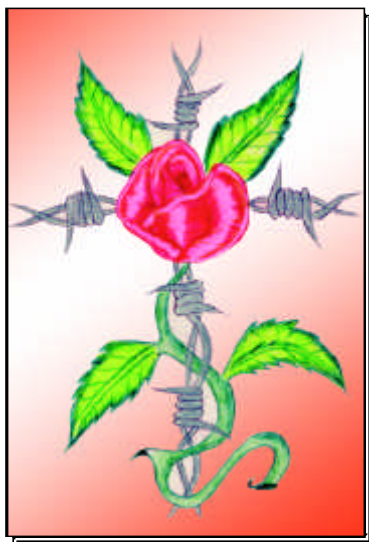
Christopher A., CBI Student, KY



Randall E., CBI Student, CA



Abel B., CBI Student, FL



Donald A., CBI Student, FL

Unchanging Subject

Travis W., CBI Student, IL

No matter how many of these I write
One subject always seems so right.
There's one thought that always comes to mind
As I put the pencil on paper and try to find
Something that makes sense,
Something that will not change in the rinse.
That is the fact that I am loved
By the One Who died and ascended above.
Of course, the Bible tells me so,
But let me tell you how else I know:
He has been with me through so much;
He's still with me, I can feel His touch.
He's the One Who told me that I don't have to crawl,
He has already taken the fall.
I must show my appreciation for the pain He's endured
By letting others know they can rest assured
That He already paid the price,
So we don't have to live with sin in our lives.



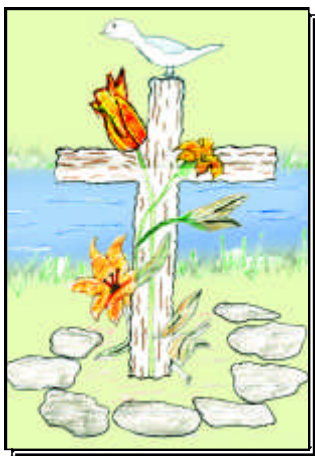
Denise K., CBI Student, FL

Learning to Lean

Rob C., CBI Student, VT

On You, Jesus, I'm learning to lean
With burdens too great to bear.
In You my slate is wiped clean.
I'm thankful that You are not fair;
For I know that I'm undeserving,
I know that I've done wrong.
When I pray I know You're hearing,
When I seek You and praise You in song.

I know, Jesus, You love me.
To You I commit my life.
I give to You my family,
My precious children and my wife.
I kneel here, humble and broken
Before Your throne of grace,
Trusting the words You have spoken;
Draw me near and show me Your face.



Frank M., CBI Student, PA

Comfort us in our sadness;
Fill us instead with Your joy.
Give to us hope and gladness
And faith like a little boy.
Give us strength to keep on going;
Grant us mercy in all our days.
Let Your love through us be flowing
As we seek to follow Your ways.

Freedom

Kevin R., CBI Student, TX

Although my feet are shackled,
And my hands are cuffed,
I represent Jesus—
I can't give up.
I won't let this place
Cuff and shackle my soul.
My faith is in Jesus,
His freedom I truly know.
I live for that day,
Waiting in faith,
No cuffs or shackles can keep me
From entering Heaven's gates.
God's salvation is my freedom;
His Spirit lives in me.
I have to be patient,
For Jesus holds the key.
Freedom—I am so free!
These cuffs and shackles can't imprison me.



Jerreck H., CBI Student, WI



Bobby C., CBI Student, TN

Who Cries for the Sinner?

Steven M., CBI Student, FL

Who cries for those who are lost,
For those who reject the blood, the cost?
God will, for it breaks His heart
To see His creation fall apart.

The rains are like His tears
When a sinner fails to adhere.
The storms are like His pain
When a sinner says God is to blame.
The heat is like His anger
When a sinner scoffs at the danger.

But a day of bloom and cool breeze
Is a sinner saved and at ease.
Who will cry for those who repent?
God will—tears of joy will be spent.



Erick C., CBI Student, IL



Edgar A., CBI Student, CA



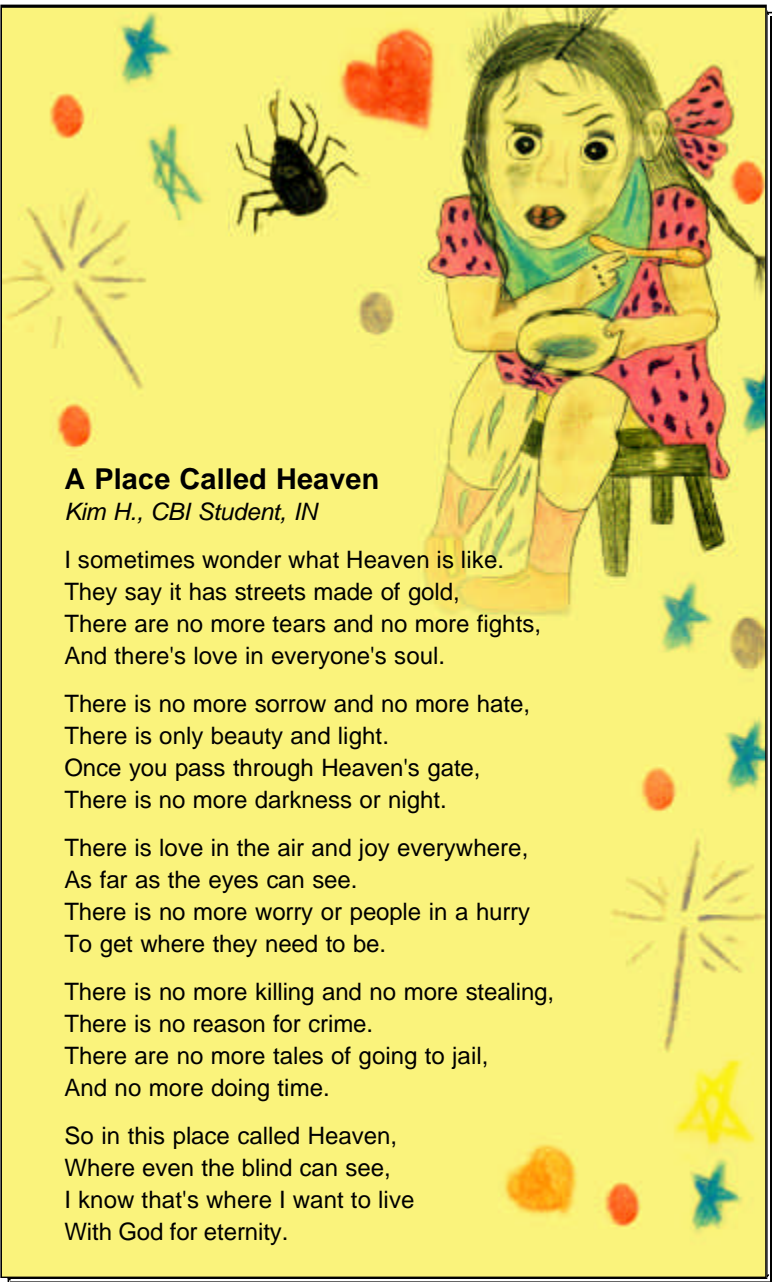
Miguel G., CBI Student, TX

Finally Found

David T., CBI Student, VA

Lost in a world of darkness
 With nobody to trust;
 A world full of confusion,
 And also sinful lust.
 With many paths to choose from,
 And one for me to find:
 A path that leads to righteousness,
 And leaves this world behind.
 Lost in a world of darkness
 From the path I walked along,

I was led into addiction,
 For the path I chose was wrong.
 Inside the pain was deadly.
 I could not bear any more.
 To my Savior I surrendered,
 As a tear fell on the floor.
 I slowly bowed my head,
 My knees lowered to the ground,
 I looked up toward the heavens,
 And praise God, I was finally found.



A Place Called Heaven

Kim H., CBI Student, IN

I sometimes wonder what Heaven is like.
They say it has streets made of gold,
There are no more tears and no more fights,
And there's love in everyone's soul.

There is no more sorrow and no more hate,
There is only beauty and light.
Once you pass through Heaven's gate,
There is no more darkness or night.

There is love in the air and joy everywhere,
As far as the eyes can see.
There is no more worry or people in a hurry
To get where they need to be.

There is no more killing and no more stealing,
There is no reason for crime.
There are no more tales of going to jail,
And no more doing time.

So in this place called Heaven,
Where even the blind can see,
I know that's where I want to live
With God for eternity.



Sherry V., CBI Student, TX



Santos H., CBI Student, CA

Lord Jesus

Christopher F., CBI Student, NC

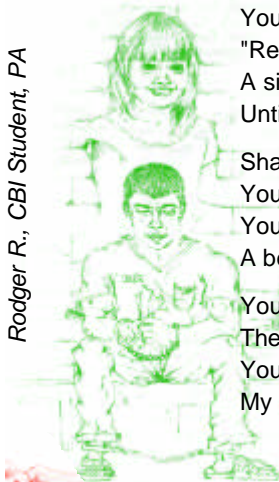
I had been just a lump of clay,
Existing in life, day by day.
Pain and sorrow had followed me through,
That is, until the day I met You.

You gently shaped me with a loving caress.
"Repent and believe; I'll do the rest."
A sinful life was all I had known
Until that day; my mind had been blown.

Shapeless and soft, my future was grim.
Your loving hands changed me from within.
You made me stronger; You made me believe.
A better life, I will live for Thee.

You molded me gently, and now I am strong.
The love You have given has never been wrong.
You gave me a meaning to live out this life,
My life in You will never see strife.

Rodger R., CBI Student, PA



Willie R., CBI Student, TX



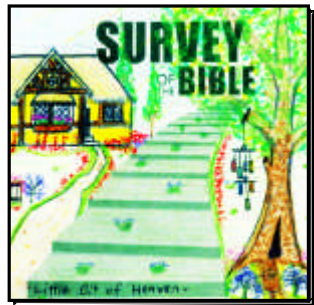
A New Beginning

John W., CBI Student, NC

I'm still in prison,
But thanks to God, I'm free at last.
I'm pressing towards that mark,
And forgetting about the past.
I really didn't know where to go
Until I heard of the lessons from Crossroad.
Oh, what a pleasant thing I learned—
Jesus carries my sins, and that's a big load.
I used to get very angry and upset at other people;
I sometimes would snap.
I promised God that before that happens again,
I will work on my lessons and do my Roadmap.
At one time in my life, I used to be mean,
And I wasn't reliable.
I'm not that way anymore,
Thanks to the *Great Truths of the Bible*.
Thank you for being kind to me,
And not being an enforcer.
For that you are
The world's greatest Instructor.
Please keep doing what you are doing
Because your voice needs to be heard.
There are so many people dying
Who need to hear God's Holy Word.



Tracy M., CBI Student, TX



Richard M., CBI Student, TX

STUDENTS WRITE IN...

"I have been a student of yours for a couple months now, and I'm very glad to be. Your course has taught me a lot of things, and I just can't wait for the next lesson...We as Christians are very lucky to have an institute like CBI to help us grow in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior."

Guy B., CBI Student, NJ

"Your journal is nicely set up. There are a lot of great artists and poets who share their hope with other prisoners and with the Instructors. Thank you!"

Thomas J., CBI Student, MS

"Praise God again for Crossroad. It is bringing so many to know Jesus Christ. I look forward to meeting many of these new Christians someday in Heaven!"

Cheryl W., CBI Student, TN

"Without the Lord, I wouldn't be with CBI. I am truly blessed. The Instructors are very helpful; with them it is easy. Thanks to CBI, my life has turned around for the better."

Theodore N., CBI Student, KS

INSTRUCTORS' INPUT

"I appreciate the opportunity CBI has given me to serve the Lord as an Instructor. My relationship with the Lord Jesus has grown through my time with CBI. The beauty of God's Word grows ever more evident, and the kinship to other believers shows itself ever more real. If it be God's will, I shall continue to correspond with CBI students for many years."

Gerald, CBI Instructor, OH

"I have been blessed over and over since I became an Instructor one year ago. I have enjoyed my experience immensely."

George, CBI Instructor, NJ

"Thank you for the privilege of partnering with you in the ministry we provide to those who may think they have no hope. As an Instructor, I find the task of providing God's truth accurately but with compassion to be challenging and rewarding."

Patrick, CBI Instructor, SC

"It has been a privilege to review the Bible lessons from prisoners. We, as Instructors, are blessed by reading what our friends in prison write. It is never a problem to send them a letter of encouragement, and it has been a blessing to me to notice the work of the Lord in the hearts of those who have enrolled in one of the Bible courses. Time spent with this course is never lost time!"

Maria, CBI Instructor, ON