



Spring 2009

Peter R., NY



Crossroad
Journal of the

Arts



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Perry P., TX

25
 YEARS
 SERVING
 PEOPLE IN
 PRISON

CALL FOR ENTRIES: ART CONTEST 2D (TWO DIMENSIONAL) AND 3D (THREE DIMENSIONAL) WORK ACCEPTED

CBI is accepting submissions of artwork to display in the gallery located at the headquarters in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Each selected piece will include the artist's name, location, title (if given),

medium (materials used) and be placed in a gallery space specifically designed to showcase the work of CBI students.

When submitting your poetry or artwork for the *Crossroad Journal of the Arts*, please include **your name, ID# and complete address**. Only poetry and artwork that you yourself have produced will be reviewed for publication. No pictures of Jesus or copyrighted images (such as Disney characters) will be published. CBI is overwhelmed with the amount of wonderful work submitted by CBI students. Therefore, we regret that we cannot publish everything we receive.

All submissions become the sole property of Crossroad Bible Institute.

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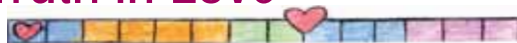
President's Perspective

Tips for Success in the Family

- 1 Do Family God's Way
- 2 Husbands, Love Your Wives
- 3 Wives, Respect Your Husbands
- 4 The Family That Prays Together
- 5 Make Your Home a Safety Zone
- 6 Speak the Truth in Love

Speak the Truth in Love

by H. David Schuringa



Though you've done everything possible to make your home a psychological safety zone, tensions inevitably arise between family members that threaten the peace. How do you settle disputes in a way that splashes the fragrance of love into the air rather than spewing the stench of a barroom brawl?

A tip to guarantee successful communication is to speak the truth in love. Paul says that as we learn to do this, we all grow up in Christ (Eph. 4:15).

When a problem turns up between you and another family member you must get at the truth of who owns the problem. I don't mean who has the problem in your opinion, but who is *taking ownership* of the problem at that moment.

Three-year-old Billy locks his lips and turns his cheek, refusing to take his vitamin. Dad might conclude that this is *Billy's* problem because he needs vitamins. Dad could then beg him, scold him, spank him or just shove the vitamin into Billy's mouth. But these options would contaminate the loving atmosphere dad and mom are trying to preserve.

The fact is, it is not a problem for Billy! The truth is, it is a problem for *mom and dad* because they strongly believe in the value of vitamins. So they own the problem.

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When the problem is *your* problem communicate truthfully, in love, with "I" messages rather than "you" messages. Don't say, "What's wrong with you, you naughty boy!" Rather, "I feel it is important to take vitamins, Billy. This is a big problem for me. I would be so relieved and feel much better if everyone would take their vitamins."

When dad owns the problem and communicates truthfully, in a heartbeat the little guy pops the vitamin into his mouth.

Delores is upset with husband, Jim, who after a long day of construction work has the annoying habit of leaving his dirty socks on the bedroom floor. Delores is tempted to see it as *his* problem. They are his socks. Her first impulse is, "You despicable pig of a man, you leave your dirty socks on the floor. Would it kill you to get your act together and toss them into the stinking hamper?"

Jim is caught off guard. It never dawned on him that this might be a problem. Naturally, he's going to dig in his heels and launch a counter-offensive.

Let's rewind and try to clear the air. Now, whose problem is it?

Delores owns the sock problem, and this truth needs to be spoken in love before this escalates into an international incident. In so doing, she's going to avoid "you" messages and concentrate hard on "I" messages.

"My dear," begins Delores as she clears her throat, "finding dirty socks on the floor has become a problem for me. I appreciate everything you do for our family, but having to pick up those socks makes me feel like I'm a second class citizen. Could we work together to find a solution to my problem?"

Jim is devastated, he hurt his honey. In fact, he feels like such a heel, he'll not only cheerfully pick up his socks from now on, he'll bring home flowers tonight. Everyone wins when speaking the truth in love.

So when it is *your* problem, the secret is to communicate that truthfully, in love, with "I" messages. This is the first rule of thumb for successful, problem-solving communication in the family. Next time we'll share a second rule that is worth gold.



I Used to Be Lost

Kris P., PA

I used to worry and struggle within,
Not satisfied with sin after sin.
Lost in the world,
Chasing desires of flesh,
Not giving much thought to life after death.

I used to wonder what could stop the pain,
Or what made the sun shine after the rain.
Satan was lurking,
People around me were hurting,
I never understood why my choices weren't working.

I used to think I was better off alone.
God brought me to jail to make Himself known.
He opened my eyes,
And answered all my questions.
It's by His grace I'm learning His lessons.

Only His blood caused my debt to be covered,
All I want now is to share this with others.
Oh what joy!
I used to be lost,
Now I know Jesus paid the cost.

I Cheated

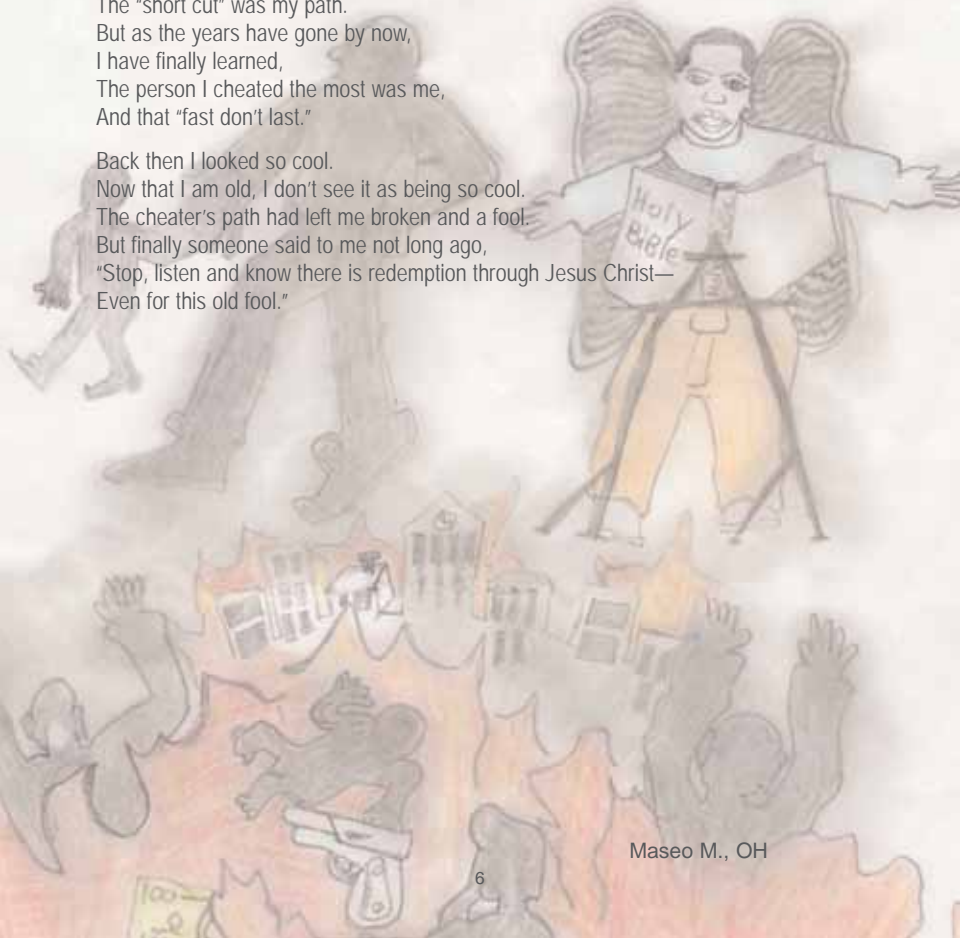
Tonya W., TN

I cheated through life.
I cheated to get things,
Material things
That took others time and hard work to achieve.

They sent me to jail.
But, no, that was not enough,
Then they sent me to prison too.
I must have liked it, being a cheat,
Because cheating is what I continued to do.

I often reminded myself that I was a cheat,
That is what I chose to be.
I wanted things fast and easy,
The "short cut" was my path.
But as the years have gone by now,
I have finally learned,
The person I cheated the most was me,
And that "fast don't last."

Back then I looked so cool.
Now that I am old, I don't see it as being so cool.
The cheater's path had left me broken and a fool.
But finally someone said to me not long ago,
"Stop, listen and know there is redemption through Jesus Christ—
Even for this old fool."



Maseo M., OH

New Beginning

Jack M., LA

As I look towards the heavens above, my skies are no longer gray,
I see a new light.
My heart starts burning for that of a new beginning.
I can feel my feet planted firmly on the ground now.
My mind is clear for the first time in years,
My eyes no longer see that of sin,
My hands have no urge to do evil,
My body now begs for new life through baptism,
My skies are no longer gray.



Richard M., TX

Love Everyone

Paul R., MO

Just try to imagine,
Everyone on this earth,
Surrounded by love,
Understanding and mirth.
Sing to the Lord,

Children everywhere!
He's here in our hearts,
Remember to share!
If we all pray with faith;
Show God our great faith;
Tomorrow love just might be here!

Bouts with Doubt

Robert B., FL

This is what faith is all about,
It took me a long time to figure out,
That every day is a bout with doubt.
Like a spoiled child I wanted to scream and shout,
During times with my bouts with doubt.
Like a baby when they fall and pout,
So was I in my bout with doubt.
With the Creator I thought I had some clout,
It's my lessons with bouts of doubt.
I wanted to give up but could find no way out,
During the rounds of my bouts with doubt.
During my walk I forgot what it was all about,
Until I saw the enemy's name is doubt.
We are in a fight of faith.
So give a shout to the One who has clout,
And do not doubt He is the way out.
Reality is a bout with doubt,
And spirituality is about what God is about.



Leonardo C., TX



Father, Hunger

Susanne M., ME

Forgiveness is what I seek.

Almighty Father, please accept my heart and pain.

Take it away and make me whole and new.

Healing love is what You give unconditionally.

Everyday I pray in our Father's name,

Remembering that Christ died for me.

Heal our hearts; give us peace.

Unconditional love we seek.

Never are we alone.

God walks with us every day.

Eternal life He will give us.

Remember Christ died for us.





Ode to Crossroad Bible Institute

David S., OH

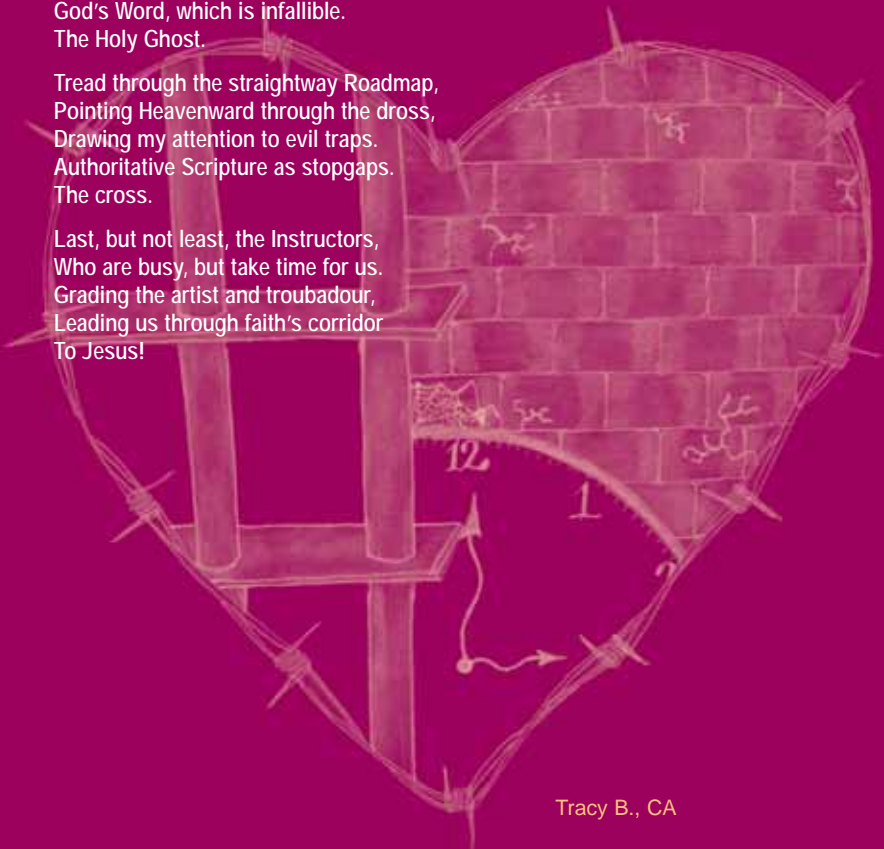
Crossroad Bible Institute,
Changing lives so filled with ire.
This saving grace, my parachute,
A safeguard for the muck about.
The Father.

The *Crossroad Connection Journal*,
Student's collective works well-done.
Excerpts of heartfelt essentials,
So universally inspirational.
The Son.

The *Great Truths of the Bible*,
Arrives swiftly through the post.
A daily direction and scribal,
God's Word, which is infallible.
The Holy Ghost.

Tread through the straightway Roadmap,
Pointing Heavenward through the dross,
Drawing my attention to evil traps.
Authoritative Scripture as stopgaps.
The cross.

Last, but not least, the Instructors,
Who are busy, but take time for us.
Grading the artist and troubadour,
Leading us through faith's corridor
To Jesus!



Tracy B., CA



Psalm
91:4

Prison or Freedom...

Ambrosia A., IN

Which do you choose?

I've been inside my own prison for years,
A prison of bitterness, heartache, loneliness and fears.
The walls we build can lock us up tighter than any concrete or steel,
And there's only one way that we can heal.
But, you have to be tired of all the pain,
Because with a broken spirit and a contrite heart,
God will "make it rain."

- Step 1 Ask for forgiveness for all you've done wrong.
Then peace will come; it won't take long.
- Step 2 Tell God you need Him, "Oh so much."
We can't do it on our own, we need His touch.
- Step 3 Then trust and believe all that's in the Bible.
This is the hardest, but remember now you're held liable.
- Step 4 Surround yourself with Christians and pray all the time.
Read the Bible—it will feed your heart, soul and mind,
And in time, God will break down your walls,
Only then will you be able to answer your call.
As for me I'm still learning and growing every day,
I want to break others free from their prison,
In Jesus' name I pray.



My Savior

Michael V., NY

I may be a prisoner of the world,
But my spirit lives in the light of the Lord.
Through all trials and tribulations,
The Lord has walked with me.
He's held my hand and guided me.
He's strengthened my heart,
And poured knowledge and wisdom unto me.
He's taught me how to understand and have patience.
Through everything He's been my Savior.
I love You Lord.



Anthony M., OK

Divine Guidance

Robert R., NJ

Dear saving Jesus,
Show me the way.
I am Your arrow,
You are my bow—
Wherever You point me,
That's where I'll go.
In Your precious name,
I'll fly through the air,
Knowing wherever I land,
You'll always be there.



Charles G., SC

Students Write In...

Almost all of my biological family has passed away. I'm now in a wheelchair, chronically disabled and getting worse. I'm thankful just to be able to have real, loving, caring people in my life! Our lives are more than enough; to write a personal letter is a huge blessing and keeps us alive.

Michael L., Student, MO

My Instructor gives me personal insight on things that our children and families have in common, as well as personal experiences. She's a true blessing. She makes me feel as though we are family and I believe that we are. We're family through Christ our Lord and Savior.

Kenneth R., Student, FL

Through these studies we have a daily reminder of who we serve, regardless of what the world around us is saying.

Cindy O., Student, CA

No more going back to where I came from. I want to thank God for letting me see another day, and for CBI lifting me in their prayers. My smile will never fade away. I will let God steer my way!

Nora R., Student, TX

The mailman gave me a card from CBI, which brought tears of joy to my face. Now I know even though I have lost my old family, I have found a new one.

Ezekiel B., Student, IL

Instructors' Input

I am really enjoying being an Instructor and find I am benefiting from the lessons as well. It is good to know that I can help spread the Good News of God's salvation in Jesus Christ. I really appreciate being able to do this.

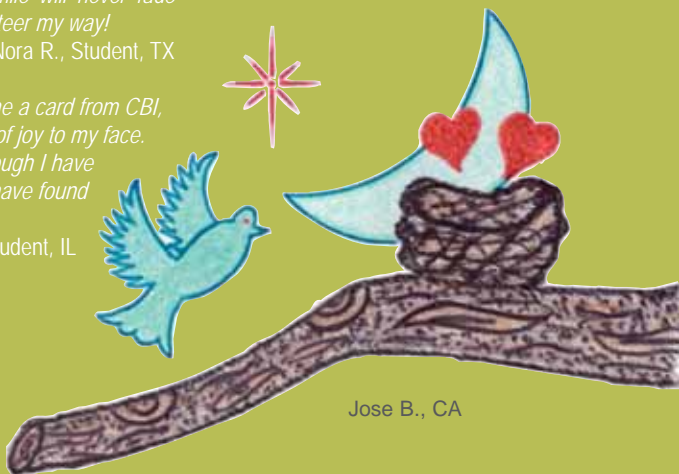
Willa N., Instructor, BC

I know God is using CBI and this program to bless me immeasurably. David said that his cup ran over. I say that my cup ran over and now I am drinking from my saucer! God is so good.

Mary H., Instructor, MI

I digest the beautiful Scripture passages in each lesson, and then I ponder the student's responses (some of which are wonderfully transparent, inspiring and insightful). The entire experience ends up being another sweet time with God!—something I am happy to add to any kind of day.

Marla B., Instructor, WA



Jose B., CA

25

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