

Basilio D., PA

Crossroad
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25

YEARS
SERVING
PEOPLE IN
PRISON

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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 Connection Journal*, 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

Make Your Home a Safety Zone

by H. David Schuringa

A recent story on National Public Radio noted a striking difference in the quality of communication that children were exposed to in a professional/educated home compared to homes of the poor and disadvantaged. By age three, a child in a professional home is exposed to 500,000 positive comments and 80,000 negative ones. In a poor home, it is almost completely the opposite! Kids there choke on a pollution of negative remarks and they tend to grow up to match those descriptions.

Because of the power of words, communication makes all the difference in the world for a child's success. The goal should be to clear the air and make our homes an emotional or psychological safety zone.

There ought to be a place you can go where no one pokes fun of you or calls you names, but you are accepted for who you are, *all the time*; a place where no one screams obscenities at you, but uplifting comments are heard; a place where no one is preaching at you, but you are respected, *all the time*. Sure, there is a need for rules in the house, but rules need to be administered in a consistent, affirming way; in a positive atmosphere rather than shoved down a child's throat.

What? No preaching? Keep preaching and teaching in its proper time and place, as in family devotions when everyone's expecting it.

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Just before “lights out” when tucking kids in bed can be a highly effective teaching moment. I can imagine sharing the story of Noah’s Ark as you and your kids visit the zoo. You see, “preaching” at them on the fly during the day (as in: “Jesus doesn’t like it when you don’t share with your brother!”) will leave a bitter taste in their mouths.

Think of your home as having a “permissive” atmosphere in a good sense. Each family member is permitted to treat each other as they would themselves be treated. Every child *and* parent is given the *privilege* to exhibit the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Gal. 5:22-23). Now wouldn’t that make a *great* place to live!

Children can (and will) easily get negative “junk” on the street, in school, at the job, even on the highway driving. But at home Christ’s love should fill the air like grandma’s home-cooked meals. That is, if you desire to raise emotionally stable, secure and successful Christians who will make a positive contribution to society.

We all know about “child-proofing” our homes. Putting covers on electrical outlets, keeping knives out of reach, locking cabinets with harmful products, ensuring a smoke-free environment, etc., are second nature to us. Indeed, we are determined to keep all our children safe from physical harm or abuse of any kind.

However, equally important, is to *emotionally* child-proof our homes. Create a psychological safety zone to keep kids out of harm’s way. Harness the power of words to make your home a sanctuary of safety. Everyday may it smell like love in the house!



Randall, G., CT



They fit Him
with a
crown
of

thorns
and nailed
Him to the
cross. A
King He is.
He came not
to rule, but to
serve. He
laid down
His life
in
hope
that
we
might
live. And He

promises
eternity
for all who
believeth
unto Him.
As the
scriptures
tell us,
He rose
on the
third day,
making
it clear
that He
is the Key
that will open
the
gates
of
Heaven.

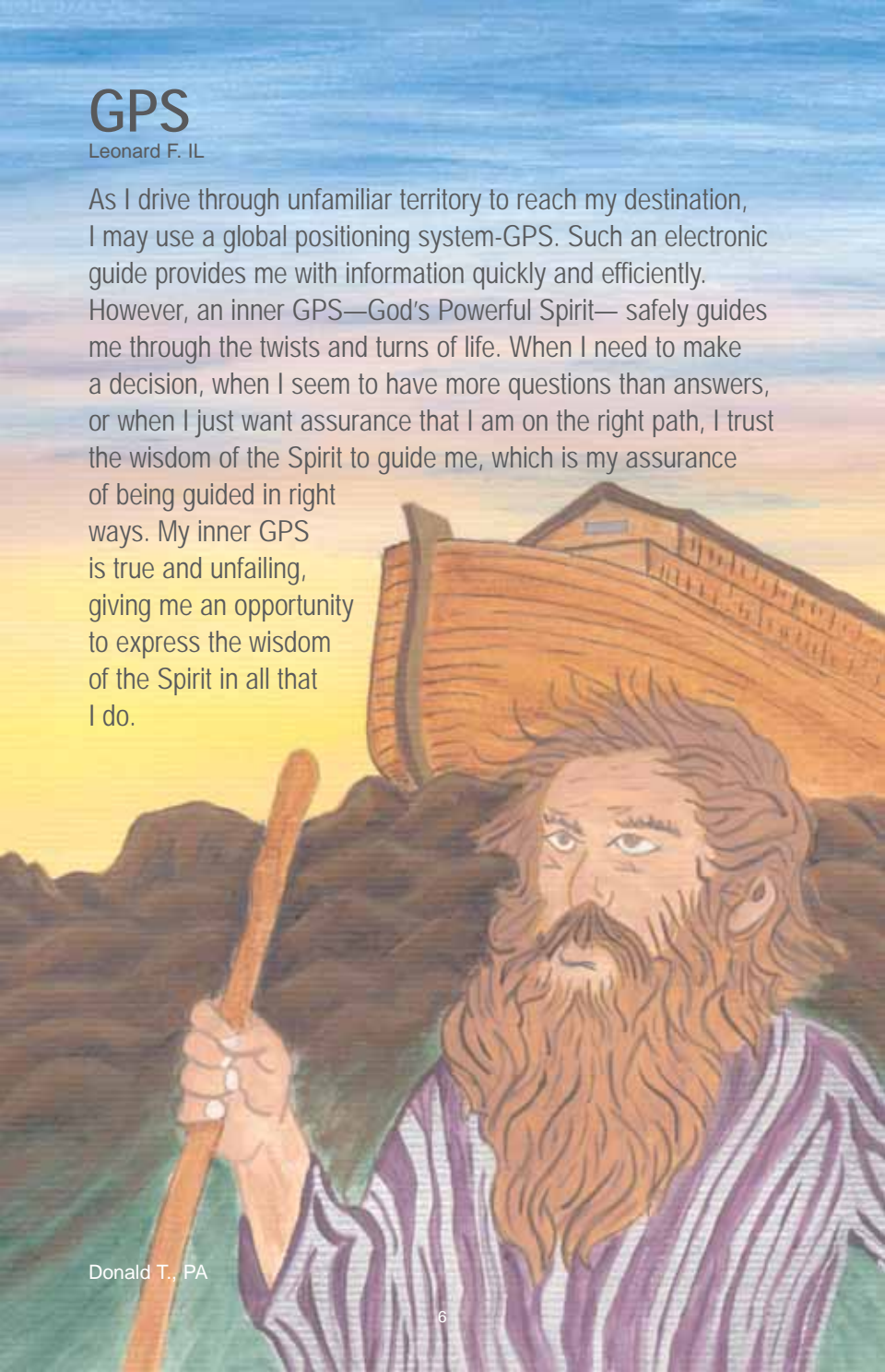
And He,
alone, is the
way to the
Father, for
all who believe.
Praise His
glorious Name. Amen.

GPS

Leonard F. IL

As I drive through unfamiliar territory to reach my destination, I may use a global positioning system-GPS. Such an electronic guide provides me with information quickly and efficiently. However, an inner GPS—God's Powerful Spirit— safely guides me through the twists and turns of life. When I need to make a decision, when I seem to have more questions than answers, or when I just want assurance that I am on the right path, I trust the wisdom of the Spirit to guide me, which is my assurance of being guided in right ways. My inner GPS is true and unailing, giving me an opportunity to express the wisdom of the Spirit in all that I do.

Donald T., PA



Santa Biblia

José G., TN

Santa Biblia! Para mi
Eres un tesoro aquí.
Tú contienes con verdad
La divina voluntad;
Tú me dices lo que soy
De quien vine y a quien voy.
Tú aprendes mi dudar;
Tú me exhortas sin cesar.
Eres faro que a mi pie
Va guiando por la fe
A las fuentes del amor
Del benigno Salvador.
Eres la infallible voz
Del Espritu de Dios
Que vigor al alma da
Cuando en aflicción esta
Tú me enseñas a triunfar
De la muerte y el pecar.

Translation:

Holy Bible! For me you
are a treasure.
You contain in truth
the divine will of God;
You tell me what I am
Where I came from
and where I am going.
You reprimand my doubting;
You exhort me without ceasing.
You are a lamp that at my feet
Guides me in faith
To the fountains of love
Of the gracious Savior.
You are the infallible voice
Of the Spirit of God
That gives the soul strength
When afflicted
You teach me to triumph
over death and sin.



LOVE

HOPE

PEACE

LONGSUFFERING

KINDNESS

goodness

faithfulness

GENTLENESS

SELF-CONTROL

adult

UNCLEANNESS

out

SIN

LUST

REVEAL



God's Hands Are Around

Dawn H., MO

Well isn't it weird, I thought to myself,
As I sit here in jail, all I own on one shelf—
I'm forced by the silence to relive what I've done
And to countdown my sentence each day one by one.

I say to myself, "It's alright, I'm okay."
Each time I feel lonely on my knees I do pray.
I ask for God's patience, forgiveness, and love,
And in that split second, come those hands from above.

They're always so kind, so gentle, so true.
I don't think twice, God I know it is You.
I may be locked up and I may be locked down,
But I'll always be free where God's hands are around.

Christians Together

Demetrius S., OH

I will hold hands and have fellowship with Christians
Together,
We will spread the Good News,
Feed the hungry,
Clothe those without shoes.
Not with our heads held down—
We know that Christ is coming soon.

I Live Still

Carline B., CA

Lord, through it all
I learned to trust in You.
There are good days and hard days,
But You've always seen me through
Just when I thought the storm had passed
Another comes along.
Rain pounds on me, wind tosses me
Sometimes I hardly can hold on.

I'm tired, Lord, I'm weary.
This time I feel like I can't fight.
I surrender it all to You now.
I know You'll turn the wrongs to right.
The just I was seeking
This time that has not been found.
But I know You know my heart
And that You'll turn it all around.

Though I might not know what tomorrow brings,
I know who holds it in His hand.
And all these things serve His purpose,
Which one day He'll help me understand.
So, Lord, I pray please lead me.
Let me live according to Your will.
I place my hope in You, my God,
Because in You, I can live still.

My faith will not be shaken,
I continue to sing songs of praise
For Your loving kindness and Your mercy,
Your power and Your grace.
No matter what the outcome was
Or whatever comes my way,
I know God's purpose is much bigger
And this pain will pass away.



Tammy M., VA

The Greatest Mother

Michael S., AR

Can I be worth all the pain and tears
I've caused my mother throughout the years.
A mother who worried with great despair,
Was all because I didn't care...
All the sleepless nights wondering if I'd come home,
Or if I was somewhere hurt all alone...
There never was a limit to the things she did,
Her whole life spent raising a hard headed kid...
And even now after the crimes I've done,
I'm still her loving son.
I remember when a scraped knee brought the fear of death,
All it took was one of her kisses to restore my health
And when darkness brought the fear of night,
Just her appearance brought a shimmering light.
Mother, what I'm trying to say is this,
You're the greatest mother there is.



Coming to Terms

Joshua C., MA

You try to live life like there's no tomorrow,
Wondering if you'll ever reach your dream,
Only to find pain and sorrow
Saying, "Why does this always happen to me?"

Like a newborn child, we have a fresh start,
We learn sound, feelings and cry a lot.
As we get older, we learn even more,
The life we choose sometimes has a closed door.

They say life is what you make of it. Not true.
We know right from wrong, I know I do.
Sometimes things happen that we can't explain,
But come down to it, we're all the same.

We need someone to guide us and show us the way.
We need someone to hold us when things go affray.
We need someone to talk to us and give us hope,
Older we realize, we're still a dope.

Only God can judge me for what I've done.
I live everyday in here, seeking a place to run,
But coming to terms as my life is shown,
This is not the life, that I can call my own.



Santos H., CA

Sam I Am

Samuel L., NC

Oh Heavenly Father, thank You for the answered prayer.
When I cried out, You were already there.

The prayer of repentance, my Lord I confess to be saved.
Your forgiveness and Holy Spirit to me You gave.

Having assurance of God's eternal protection,
I long to live under His mighty wings of everlasting affection.

Only by God's perfect knowledge of man,
I pray He search my heart and help me understand.

With a song of God's majesty and love,
I'll lift my voice every day in praise to my Father above.

Sam I am,
A saved lamb.

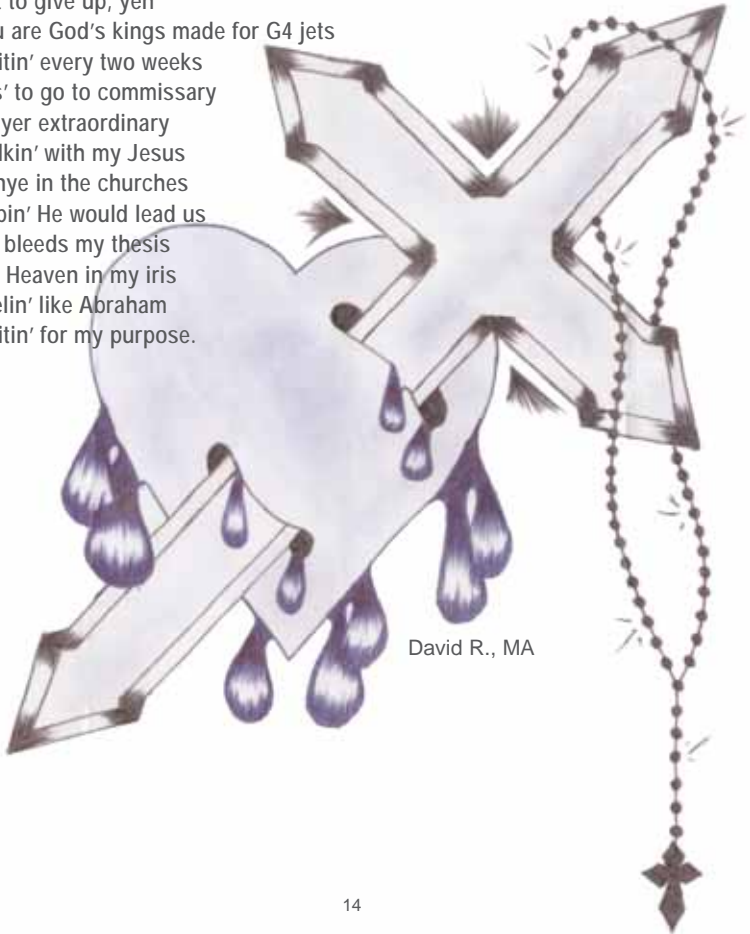


Allen V., PA

Waitin' for My Purpose

Pedro M., NY

Since I've been in God's reach I let 'Em hold me
Open up my heart and let Omega touch me
Soon I will understand, open up mentally
Wipe me down spiritually
In water dats holy
Now I'm facing this time, reaching for the sky
Prayin' to the clouds, feelin' my soul rise
Life changes drastically
Livin' thru convict eyes
Feel like Tom Cruise chasin' false dreams in Vanilla Sky
Faith tells me otherwise
Not to give up, yeh
You are God's kings made for G4 jets
Waitin' every two weeks
Jus' to go to commissary
Prayer extraordinary
Walkin' with my Jesus
Kanye in the churches
Hopin' He would lead us
Ink bleeds my thesis
Wit Heaven in my iris
Feelin' like Abraham
Waitin' for my purpose.



David R., MA



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Is more education in your future?

The Colson Scholarship for ex-offenders provides qualified candidates with the funds to complete their undergraduate or graduate education at Wheaton College. (Wheaton College is located in a suburb of Chicago).

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- be out of prison for at least one year
- be willing to relocate to the Chicago area (Wheaton College does not offer distance education and the scholarship is not available for study at other colleges)

Contact:

Institute for Prison Ministries
500 College Avenue
Wheaton, IL 60187
www.bgcpisonministries.com
ipm@wheaton.edu

Students Write In...

I always feel like I'm not just a name and a number, but that my Instructor really cares about me personally.

Larry M., CBI Student, OH

I sometimes have tears in my eyes to know that someone I never have met cares for me, loves me and prays for me as you all show me the true meaning of Christ.

Kareson C., CBI Student, IL

I sometimes note questions on things I'm not sure of. CBI Instructors have never failed to answer my questions.

Stephen B., CBI Student, TX

I feel like I have been cared for and counseled by some angels (messengers) because the words and the encouragement I get from the letters and comments keep me strong... This is the first Bible study that I actually feel excited about completing. I like knowing that when my completed lessons come back, somebody took the time to carefully read and understand where I am in my Christian walk. I feel cared for and guided in my growing up in the Lord.

Wendi H., CBI Student, FL

Instructors' Input

The insights of my student were so helpful and encouraging to me that I wondered again: Who is receiving the blessing from this ministry, my students or me? I pray that my insights are as beneficial to them as theirs are to me.

Harriet B., Instructor, MI

I just LOVE correcting these lessons and writing the letters. What a wonderful ministry you provide!

Donna S., Instructor, CA

I am thankful for the opportunity to join with my brothers and sisters in Christ to reach those who may feel unworthy of His love.

Patrick M., Instructor, SC



Jose S., TN