



Proves Program's Effectiveness

By Dr. David Schuringa, President



Three separate studies have confirmed the effectiveness of faith-based reentry education for prisoners. Barna Research, Prison Fellowship and New York University all discovered a 60 percent reduction in the recidivism rate when prisoners have been disciplined during incarceration. While most released prisoners will return to a life of crime, most *disciplined* prisoners will never commit another crime again . . . ever.

Since Crossroad's personalized program lasts up to five years—far longer than any of those researched in the three studies—and the Instructors can maintain an uninterrupted discipleship relationship with the inmates no matter how many times they are transferred, and even upon release, we can be confident of the effectiveness of CBI's faith-based reentry program.

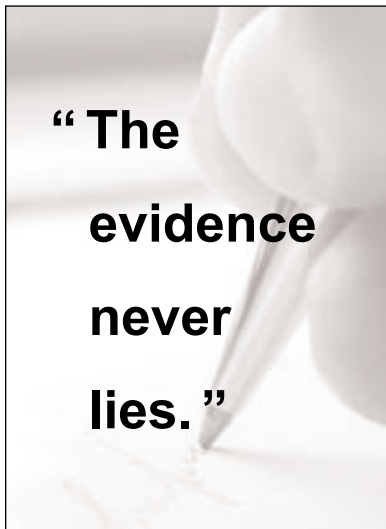
However, the effectiveness of Crossroad's ministry can also be determined by simply listening to the *testimonies* of the participants. Though some might consider personal experience less scientific than university research, it is difficult to argue with what those personally involved in the program have to say about its effectiveness in their lives.

While each issue of the quarterly student newsletter, *Crossroad Connection*, contains a handful of testimonies from students and Instructors, this month's issue of *Crossroad News* contains many more for you to enjoy. Such testimonies pour into the Crossroad headquarters daily.

I'm amazed at the letters we receive from the prisoners. They know all too well that they are among society's "forgotten ones."

No one seems to care about inmates. But then they come into contact with Christ's church through CBI.

Each lesson is prayerfully corrected with a positive comment on every page. Each is also accompanied by a full page letter of discipleship to encourage the student. The inmates are blown away by the kindness of the Instructors and can't believe anyone would do such a thing for them. They discover that Christ's church really does care as it shares God's truth and God's love.



But such blessings are a two-way street. Equally powerful is the effectiveness of this ministry in the lives of the *Instructors*. It is not uncommon for Instructors to wonder out loud concerning who is really getting the most out of all this. Indeed, many Instructors indicate that their lives have been changed. As in the case of the inmates, so too with the Instructors, personal testimonies prove the effectiveness of the Crossroad program.

The overwhelming conclusion of the "evidence" is that CBI is making a positive, tangible difference in the lives of thousands. And as a popular TV crime show star is fond of saying, "The evidence never lies." I trust you will enjoy this special issue of *Crossroad News* as we thank God for twenty years of the church's ministry of remembering prisoners (Heb. 13:3).

INSIDE

Evidence Proves Program's Effectiveness	1
Student Testimonies	2
Instructor Testimonies	3

"I GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR BIBLE STUDY AND I CANNOT EVEN BEGIN TO TELL YOU ALL THE WONDERFUL THINGS THE LORD HAS DONE IN MY LIFE. I THANK HIM EVERYDAY FOR LOVING ME AND FOR TEACHING ME TO LOVE OTHERS."

Sydney J., NE

STUDENT TESTIMONIES

When I first began to read the Bible I was like a child in a library. There is so much information to process, where do I start? That's when I found out about the Crossroad study. CBI's studies have helped me find my way through the Bible with solid direction and encouragement from the Instructors who so kindly give their time to correct and personalize each lesson. I have received many blessings and answers to my prayers.

Edward O., CA

When I first came to prison I was an atheist and very depressed. I started going to church, reading the Bible, and then doing these study courses and my whole attitude has changed. I'm happier, no longer curse, and much nicer to be around When my family comes to see me now they see a different person and we are all very thankful. I hope to keep up with these courses when I go home next year and get my family involved as well.

Cynthia H., OR

My knowledge of the Lord and my walk with Him have become more intimate. The letters of encouragement I received from you have been uplifting and extremely helpful. They gave me courage, reassurance, and hope to never give up. I have gone from jail to a Salvation Army Hostel to a rehab center and the lessons and letters from you followed me. Your support in helping me to learn and grow is deeply appreciated. I thank you for all your kind, supportive and caring words.

Brian M., ON

Praise God for another wonderful lesson! I really enjoy your letters and comments on my work. It means so much to me to have that special correspondence with you! God is really working on me and I am just so blessed. Continue to pray for my family, the other women here and for me, because you know I'm praying for you. I'm looking forward to hearing from you and my next lesson.

Leslie M., TX

I feel so overwhelmed to know my Instructors are using their time to write someone like me who hurt many lives out there. There were times when I was hoping for a letter from a family member or loved one, but it didn't come when I needed it. Then I would get a letter from Crossroad that refills all lost hope, joy and meaning to life. Please don't ever give up on the lost souls and Christians in prison. The personal letters and comments make all the difference.

Carlton C., NY

I would like to thank you for your letter of congratulations [from the president] in which you commend me for finishing what I set out to accomplish. I read the letter with great pleasure and it was an encouragement for continuous studying of God's Word. I am extremely happy for the Certificate of Achievement, it really is an achievement. I wish to commend the CBI Instructors for their tireless effort made so far to see that I have achieved what I am achieving today. The ways they treated my lessons/letters was very encouraging to me.

Hogan O., Nigeria

Thank you so much for writing me back. I was in the county jail when I first had the pleasure to be enrolled into your institute. It seemed as if as soon as I finished with Tier 1, I was on shipment to the penitentiary. I thought to myself, I will never be able to finish my Bible lessons. But thanks to the grace of God and a little bit of patience I have finally been able to catch up with the mailing address and even received a NIV Holy Bible so that I can continue in my spiritual growth in Christianity and become closer to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Kyle G., IL

Well, brother, I want to take advantage of this opportunity to tell you that it was a beautiful experience for me to have finished my work, since I have never before read even one page of the Bible. I thank God for giving me this opportunity, and I think it's the first step for a change in my life. I ask God that my faith always stays in Him and that I grow spiritually more and more and that from here on out He would change my life for the better. I'm really happy because I finished something that I never imagined I would, and I thank God for giving me the strength to complete my work with CBI. I fulfilled my promise of finishing what I had started, and it was a good experience to have fulfilled this work.

Ramiro R., MI (*Trans. from Spanish*)

“I MUST SAY THAT EVERY TIME WE GO THROUGH THE INMATES’ LESSONS, IT IS ALWAYS A GREAT BLESSING TO US. I JUST HOPE THAT THEY RECEIVE AS GREAT A BLESSING.”

Ed and Betty, MN

INSTRUCTOR TESTIMONIES

I have certainly enjoyed correcting the Crossroad lessons since I started a little over a year ago. It also helps me to delve deeper into God’s Word.

Lois, FL

My brother and his son are in prison, as is my cousin. I’m trying to influence them to take these studies because they are so essential for their lives. As an Instructor, I see the benefit and the change that the Word of God makes in them. For me, it has been a pleasure and a blessing to be involved with CBI.

Alba, OH (*Trans. from Spanish*)

My experience with this ministry is that the blessings just never cease. They just get more and better. Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Instructors, God will use you in mighty and powerful ways in this ministry to the least, the last, and the lost if you only ask Him. I feel unqualified; I don’t have the education of a pastor. I am only an ordinary person who God chose to use in extraordinary ways. God doesn’t always call the qualified but He always qualifies the called.

Delores, MI

I have appreciated and enjoyed going over students’ lessons. It is rewarding to have them witness to their faith as well as show that they really want to know their Bible well. I grow by reviewing their materials. I praise God for the work your staff puts into the Bible studies. We pray for your staff and also for continual diligence on the part of the students to continue in the Word and God’s service.

Juliana, CA

What a challenge God presents to us, His church. Being an Instructor for six years has helped me to grow spiritually. I recently had a successful cornea transplant. My reading vision is restored, I can drive, I can disciple prisoners. How long? I am 88 years old. As long the Lord gives me strength.

Nellie, IA

I enjoy studying the Scriptures and sharing what I’ve learned through the years as I have depended on the Lord and found Him to be all that He says He is. A faithful High Priest, a Comforter, Savior, Friend, and Guide. It has been so meaningful to me how the Holy Spirit directs my thoughts as I write to each student. No two are alike. Their depth of understanding blesses me so very much. The lessons are so clear with the gospel truths. It is truly a blessing and source of great joy for me.

Hilda, AB

I recently joined Scottie Barnes and the Forgiven Ministry at the Pasquotank maximum and minimum security prisons in Tennessee. It was a true blessing to meet CBI students. It was a joy to hear how they enjoyed each lesson and how they looked forward to receiving their lessons, and most of all the letters from their Instructors. What was even more of a blessing was helping and watching others sign up to take our studies, each one eager to study and learn more about God. To all Instructors and workers at Crossroad, please know we are making a difference, keep up the good work.

Pam, NC

Being an Instructor has given me an entirely new perspective on sharing my faith, and it has opened my eyes to a mission field that I never really gave much thought to. At times it will test your faith, at times it will challenge your faith, at times it will cause you to think deeply about your faith—but it will always enrich your faith!

Phil, MI

I continue to receive a blessing and I am also growing in the Lord personally through participating in this mission.

Ron, NE

When I was asked to be an Instructor I had all kinds of excuses to refuse. I truly am a very busy lady, but God kept tugging at my heart and I repented and signed up! You’ll never know the blessing it has been. I now have a Tier 2 student and he is such a blessing. I pray God will use me to further His kingdom.

Carolee, MO

Thank you for the privilege of being an Instructor. I am blessed to be involved with these prisoners and the foreign students as well.

Gerry, NE

CELEBRATE!

CBI's 20th Anniversary Events!



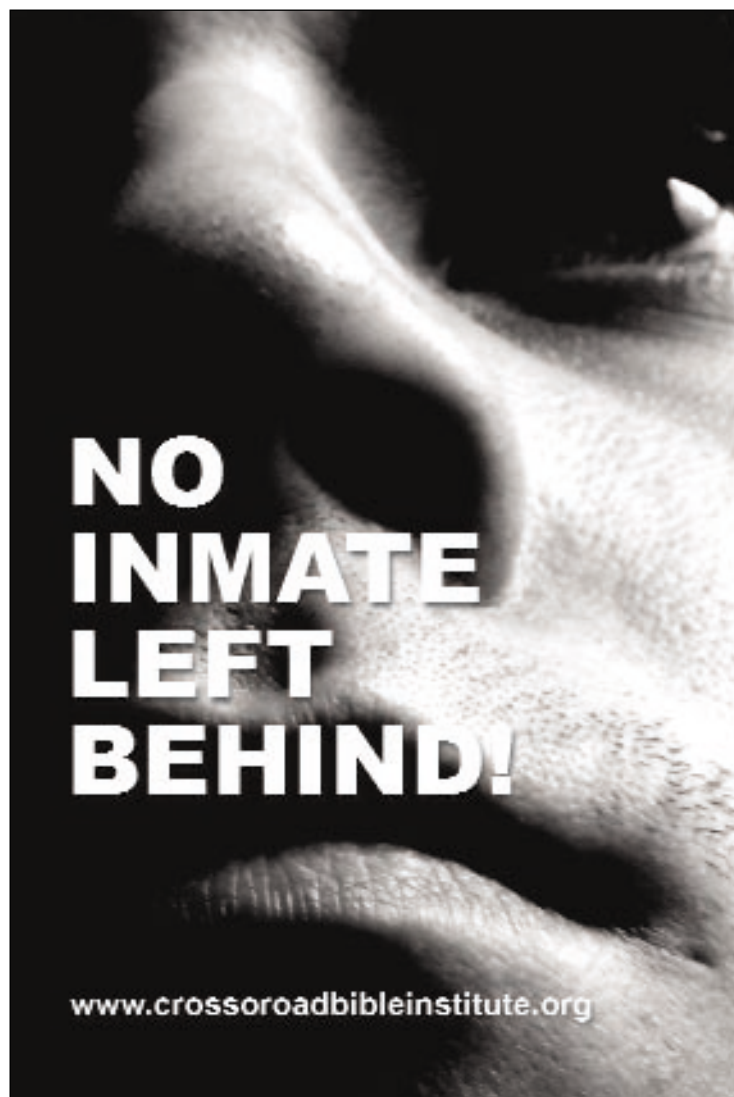
Featuring: Hosts: Revs. Jim Grobstein & Carl Klompien, Worship Leader: Dr. Greg Schuringa, CBI Graduate: Christy Bobo, Operation Starting Line Platform Guests: Dan Griser & Leslie Kent, Speakers: The Bark to God Hour's Rev. David Foddes and CBI President, Dr. David Schuringa

*Great Lakes Celebration
September 10, 2004 at 7:00 pm
First Christian Reformed Church,
Byron Center, Michigan*

*Great Plains Celebration
September 17, 2004 at 7:00 pm
New Life Reformed Church,
Sioux Center, Iowa*

Mark your calendars now, and plan to attend—discount lodging available!

Go to www.crossroadbibleinstitute.org/celebration.htm for the most current Anniversary Celebration information



**NO
INMATE
LEFT
BEHIND!**

www.crossroadbibleinstitute.org

Knowing God

A popular sermon by Dr. David Schuringa, "Knowing God," is now available in printed form for a donation of any size. Contact CBI today to order your copy.

CORRECTION

Howard Stobb's name was inadvertently missed in our June 2004 Tribute to Church Coordinators. Thank You, Howard, for all of your hard work.



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