

Crossroad

NETWORK NEWS

APRIL 2005



the silent TSUNAMIS

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The Silent Tsunamis

By Dr. David



By now, some of the initial shock of the tsunami disaster in South Asia has been alleviated. But we'll never forget December 26, 2004 when that terrible tidal wave snuffed out the lives of tens of thousands in an instant. The TV images haunted us as we watched subsequent events unfold.

I was touched by it, too. In fact, in the first days after the disaster, Jon Shaw and I put together a video that I used in the worship service where I preached the next Sunday. It was very effective. In fact, it was so effective we were getting requests from churches and schools for weeks following to use the video for their tsunami fundraisers. You can't pinpoint the direct cause, but our little video appeared to help raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for disaster relief agencies.

CBI felt the tremors of the tsunami all the way in Grand Rapids. The week following the disaster should have been our biggest week of the year for fundraising, but things sort of, well, fizzled out. . . We were hit hard and we're still reeling from the effects. Based upon the number of appeals Mary and I are getting at home in the mail and on the phone, I don't think CBI's alone.

On the way home one night I was listening to a commentator on NPR speak of his concern for the "silent tsunamis." He explained that people around the world tend to respond generously and emotionally to disasters. The television pictures transmitted relentlessly tend to be overwhelming, so people want to help. And money pours in. Usually, more money is sent than is needed (as in the case of 9/11). Tragically, he claimed, a lot of the money never gets to the disaster (especially in the case of countries with corrupt governments, or agencies with high administrative costs). And what's worse, he said, is that people tend to forget the "silent tsunamis."

By "silent tsunamis" he meant those disasters that are not currently featured on FOX and CNN, but that are of even greater magnitude, and have even more dire consequences, than a tidal wave crushing 150,000 people. While tens of thousands died in the jaws of that tsunami, he said, tens of *millions* are dying from hunger in places like Haiti, from persecution in the Sudan, from AIDS in Africa and from the rotting of human lives in prisons.

Personally, I thought of the silent tsunami of abortion. The lives of millions of unborn children world-wide ended. Imagine what could happen with a global outpouring of concern, with the help of omnipresent television cameras and the charisma of two ex-

presidents in bringing an end to abortion, and in launching new initiatives so that mothers would never again think that an abortion is their best choice in this broken world.

You'll never see it happen.

And neither will you ever see a world-wide display of love, relentless television coverage and the campaigning of presidents to help . . . prisoners.

I think the commentator is correct to note that the world does forget the silent tsunamis. But I don't think people just forget about them momentarily when a disaster takes place. That's why the poor, the elderly, the orphans and those in prison are called the forgotten ones.

"Help remember the...
countless casualties of
this silent tsunami."

But I also don't believe that the church will forget the forgotten ones just because it responds—as it should—to a disaster. At CBI we stand for the silent tsunami of a devastated criminal justice system no one

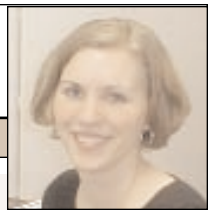
knows how to repair. Millions of lives are affected relentlessly for the worse. Without God's truth and God's love, they are dying a slow, painful and certain death.

But you are making a difference. And your help to relieve the suffering of this disaster is needed now more than ever. By discipling prisoners and providing support you help remember the forgotten ones, the countless casualties of this silent tsunami. If we don't, who will?



Volunteers Lighten Office Load

by Jill Beltman



CBI's office volunteers help make up the center of CBI's ministry, enabling it to flourish and bear fruit. "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise" (Proverbs 11:30). Office volunteers are CBI's "behind-the-scenes" workers whose work will never be forgotten or go unnoticed. By God's grace, and for His glory, they are helping to win souls for Christ. Because April is Volunteer Month, we take this opportunity to salute them.

In 2004, a record 290 office volunteers donated 22,728 hours of labor to this ministry. They addressed tens of thousands of envelopes to students, recorded score reports called in by Instructors, entered new student information into the student database, printed and constructed lessons and manuals, and countless other duties that kept the CBI office humming.

To give you a better understanding of how much the volunteers help behind-the-scenes, meet Jack and Lois Walburg, from



Jack and Lois Walburg

Dutton United Reformed Church. They have been volunteering at the CBI office for seven years, and have also been CBI Instructors since 1997. Jack is one of our valued production volunteers. He staples hundreds of Spanish and Tier 2 lessons, cuts the various notes we send out, duplicates Roadmaps, enrollment forms, and many other office materials, and then folds many of these materials on the folding machine. Jack also helps keep the folding machine well maintained by taking it apart every week for a thorough cleaning. His work does not stop there. Jack also picks up boxes of shrink-wrapped Bibles from Bargain Books which CBI mails to the students. Several times he has built book shelves and storage cabinets for the CBI headquarters.

His wife, Lois, also does a variety of jobs. Every week she assists Tier 1 staff by helping to process student lessons. She looks for incomplete lessons, questions about obtaining a Bible, requests for more enrollment forms, missing Roadmaps, and many other student concerns. CBI receives tons of mail every day. Lois helps sort the lessons that come in the mail to prepare them for lesson processing. Lois also receives calls from Instructors when they report their students' scores.

Meet another volunteer, eleven-year-old Mackenzie De Kleine, a member of Grace

Community Church. As a homeschooler, Mackenzie has some flexibility in her schedule. She often comes to CBI with her grandfather, Gordon Laninga (a 5-year office volunteer and 10-year Instructor!). Whether stuffing, stamping, labeling or sealing envelopes, she always maintains a cheerful attitude. Sometimes, she and grandpa will work on a task together. They make a great team!



Mackenzie De Kleine

I wish I could introduce you to all 290 office volunteers and tell you about the unique and important ways they make this ministry possible. Every single one blesses CBI in his or her own special way. They frequently claim the CBI office is "Spirit-filled," but it's really the volunteers themselves who bring so much to the ministry.

Thank you, CBI office volunteers, for the dedication and love you so consistently and diligently demonstrate. We praise God for you. May God bless you richly as you continue to give of your time, and of yourselves, to glorify God in ministering to inmates. "Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him" (Colossians 3:17).

Jill Beltman serves as the Volunteer Coordinator at CBI.

This year we recognize office volunteers who have served for 3, 5, and 7 years.

7 years

Lillian De Boer
Joel Mulder
Marian Vander Kuyf
Terry Ver Hage
Jack Walburg
Lois Walburg

3 years

Helen Belder*
Winetta DeJong
Pearl DeJong*
Marie Doornbos
Janet Katsma
Carol Kuipers
Don Kuipers

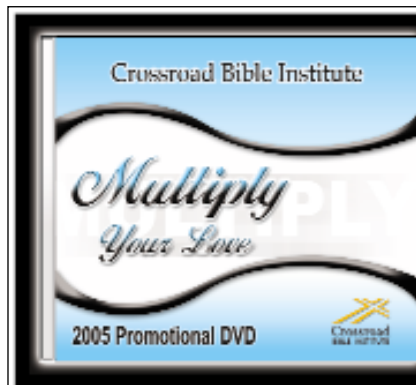
Esther Kunzi
Bill LeBar*
Henrietta Lutke*
Albert Earl Mohr
Donald Molewyk
Mae Mulder
Virginia Ohlman*

Karla Randle
Ron Riemersma*
Ann Slager
Faye Staal
Bud Stehouwer
Catherine Van Dyk
Harry Vriend*

Thelma Walcott
Jeannette Wiersma
David Zylstra*
Harvest OPC
Youth Group*
* On-call Volunteers

5 years

Alma Beltman
Harold Beltman
Dorothy Bonnema
Betty Haun
Maxine Hiemstra
Ron Hillegonds
Fran Huisman
Tom Jansma
Mary Kimber
John Kuipers*
Gordon Laninga
Terry Nyenhuis
Connie Prince
Charlotte Veenstra
Lois Veldkamp*



The 2005 "Multiply Your Love" promotional video is now available on DVD or VHS. This five-minute overview of CBI's ministry is a great way to help others catch the vision for God's exciting work in the prisons. Show it in a worship service or small group setting, send it to a friend, or view it in your own home. Order your free copy today at www.crossroadbibleinstitute.org or call toll free at 1-800-668-2450.

Order Your Free Copy Today

CBI Instructor Jennifer Bosscher 1981-2004

by Karen Loyd



Jenny Bosscher was a quiet girl, intelligent and mature beyond her years. She had a deep love for the Lord and made a profession of faith at a very young age. Jenny was born with cystic fibrosis (CF), a congenital disease which had limited her physically, affected her ability to breathe and eventually caused her to develop diabetes. Despite her difficulties, Jenny always kept a positive attitude, never once questioning why she was born with the disease. She would say, "If it wasn't me it would have been someone else".

Jenny was full of determination and had high expectations for her life. She skipped a grade and entered Calvin College at seventeen. However, Jenny soon found that her frail body could not physically keep up with her peers; the busy, high-pressure college life was too much for her and Jenny's plans and dreams came crashing down. Her strong faith wavered. She fell into a deep depression and stopped treating her diabetes. As friends with CF passed away, she wondered why she was left living.

Jenny's aunt, Barb Bosscher, felt the Lord tugging at her heart to mentor Jenny. As they started reading a book on discipleship and studying God's Word together Jenny began to blossom again. She once more became the bubbly and fun girl people knew her to be. As they studied together they were reminded that once you are a disciple of Christ, you must learn to disciple others. Jenny found this difficult because others did not understand her condition—so it was always hard for her to form close relationships.

Jenny and Barb prayed together, asking God for some way to serve Him through discipleship. Within a few weeks of their prayer, an announcement for CBI Instructors appeared in the church bulletin. It struck a cord with Barb because she was involved with Prison Fellowship. So Barb called CBI and ordered Instructor Training materials for her and Jenny. They became Instructors on February 3, 2003.

Initially Barb and Jenny corrected lessons together, comparing their comments and discipleship letters. Barb said, "It was an easy

way to mentor Jenny. Then, after about six months, she was doing it on her own."

Jenny loved sharing the truth of God's Word and her love for Jesus with the inmates. Jenny's mom, Linda, often found Jenny in her room reading her Bible. "The CBI lessons got her thinking about something and she had to dig deeper to find the answer. CBI made her think outside the box. It might not have meant that much to the outside world, but it meant the world to her. It gave her a purpose."

Jenny diligently corrected Tier 1 lessons and eventually requested a Tier 2 student of her own. Jenny was assigned a student named Stephanie, a young female prisoner just



Jennifer Bosscher

about her own age. As they developed a relationship Stephanie grew very close to Jenny's heart, and she found that she could truly understand Stephanie's fears. Because of her own limitations, Jenny felt that she could identify with Stephanie's struggles in a way many others could not.

Jenny was very sincere when correcting her students' lessons; she never wanted to sound trite. She wanted her words of encouragement to be heartfelt, so it always took her a while to figure out what to write her students. Jenny's ministry to inmates was effective because she was a prisoner too, a prisoner in her own body. Jenny penned these words to a Tier 1 student, "We serve an amazing God. Exactly like you said, He is Perfect and Just. Time and time again He has shown us His mercy through Jesus and the forgiveness He gives us. We would be completely lost without Him. I am so thankful that He never gives up on us or turns His back on us." With powerful words like these, God used Jenny to touch the lives of more than 60 inmates in the time she was able to serve as a CBI Instructor.

On October 5, 2004, Jenny's Aunt Barb called Crossroad to tell us that Jenny had been hos-

pitalized with the flu. Although this is an illness most people would recover from in a few days, for Jenny and her CF, it was life-threatening. Jenny's condition deteriorated rapidly.

In mid October Aunt Barb visited Jenny and learned that her niece was about to come under hospice care. Jenny asked Barb to mentor Stephanie for her. Barb agreed. On October 29, Barb called CBI to inform us that Jenny had received her ultimate freedom, and had gone home to be with Jesus.

Karen Loyd serves as the Instructor Coordinator at CBI.

More and more churches are discovering the Crossroad Curriculum for use in their Bible study groups (Middle School through Adult), as well as in discipling new Christians.

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Criminal Justice in the News

Note: This new column will keep you informed, in a fair and balanced way, of important and interesting criminal justice issues and stories in the news.

Supreme's Lead Singer Gets Special Treatment

GREENWICH, CONN – Diana Ross, former lead singer for the Supremes, was arrested for drunk driving in Arizona. With her blood-alcohol level at 0.20 percent, well over the legal limit of 0.08, Ross was sentenced to two days in jail. She was granted a request to serve the time in her home town of Greenwich. Police Chief James Walters allowed the singer to have a cell phone,



have food delivered and gave her permission to go home in the middle of her sentence. "I made some poor decisions and I accept responsibility for them," confessed the Chief of Police.

Terrorist Recruitment on the Rise in U.S. Prisons

WASHINGTON – According to a report by the Federal Bureau of Prisons, prisons world-wide are becoming breeding grounds for Islamic terrorists, including those in the United States. Authorities suspect that Jose Padilla, arrested for attempting to detonate a dirty bomb, converted to Islam while incarcerated in Florida. Reports from other states show that terrorist recruitment in their prisons has also been on the rise. FBI counterterrorism officials state that "inmates are logical targets for terrorist recruitment because they may be predisposed to violence, feel disenfranchised from society, desire power and influence, seek revenge against those who incarcerated them, be hostile towards authority and the United States." To counter the movement, the BOP recommends hiring more Muslim



chaplains to reduce "Prison Islam," i.e. unsupervised practice of the religion in which inmates distort Islam and are open to radicalization.

Puppies in Prison

NEW YORK – Puppies are now being incarcerated in American prisons. They haven't committed a crime, but are part of a new program for training seeing-eye dogs, as well as bomb-sniffing dogs that help prevent terrorist acts. The Puppies Behind Bars program, or PBB, engages volunteer inmates to get the dogs ready for service. The animals participate in the prison phase of the program for about a year. Currently, PBB has 83 dogs in six prisons in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. There were initial hesitations about exposing the puppies to inmates and prison conditions. However, the program has since been lauded a success. After several years in development, 87% of prisoner-trained dogs succeed on the outside, while only 50% of those trained on the outside by volunteers make the grade. The NYPD bomb squad has been making considerable use of the inmate-trained dogs since 9/11. Inmates take great interest and pride in how their dogs turn out. It helps them feel that are doing something useful for society, and it may even contribute to lowering recidivism rates. According to inmate Houston, "Many men are doing all they can to make amends, and this is one way to help."

U.S. Prisons Ending Boot Camp Program

WASHINGTON – The Federal Bureau of Prisons announced that it was discontinuing its Boot Camp program in federal prisons across the country. So named for its use of drill Instructors and simulated military style training, the program was designed especially for young and non-violent offenders in the belief that lack of discipline was the underlying cause of their incarceration. Developed in the 80's, and at their peak in the 90's, boot camps are now getting the boot in light of budget deficits. When analyzed for effectiveness the 90-180 day programs were found to be ineffective. Bureau of Prisons Director Harley Lappin





said the boot camp programs are no more successful than ordinary incarceration when it comes to preventing released convicts from returning to crime.

Reasons to Remember

CBI in Your Will

- So you can help **REMEMBER** those who are in prison
- So you can make a lasting **IMPACT** on our churches and communities
- So you can leave a **LEGACY** of stewardship to your children and grandchildren
- So your **LOVE** of coming to the aid of inmates lasts well beyond your years
- So you can **GIVE** that large gift you always dreamed of giving
- For when the **MASTER** thanks you and says, "Well done!" (Matthew 25:21,40)

Remember Those in Prison!
Hebrews 13:3



IN REMEMBRANCE

Gifts "In Memory Of" and "In Honor Of" are appropriate and meaningful ways to remember a special person in your life and to support the ministry of Crossroad Bible Institute.

IN MEMORY OF:

Henry Bordewyk
Ronald & Ivamarie Kelley

Leon Bultman
Henry & Winifred Schuringa

Dr. Alex De Jong
David & Beatrice Zylstra

Norman Hahn
Grace Streich
Charles & June Dykstra

Andrew Haverdink
Blanche Haverdink

Connor Killingham
Judi Betancourt
Tuan Tran

Myra Dykema McNary
Eleanor Dykema

Gerald Michmerhuizen
Eleanor Dykema

Glenn J Regts
Dale & Gert Dykema

Shaun M Saur
Carol Wichers

Shirley Sikma
Herbert & Johanna Roos

Gertrude Smith
Eleanor Dykema

Betty Strong
Ivan & Ruth Mulder

Donald Van Wyngarden
Helen Van Wyngarden

Gerben Veldt
Donald & Genevieve Veldt

IN HONOR OF:

Matilda Alons
CBI Instructor
Norma Geels

Grace & Dean Bos
Christmas
Terri & Kim Weeks

Henry & Carolyn Bouma
50th Wedding Anniversary
John & Sharon Bouma
George & Gert Jousma

Richard & Vida Burgess
CBI Instructors
Anonymous

Sidney Bush
In Lieu of Christmas Gift
Kenneth Bush

CBI Student Lorraine D
Release from Prison
CBI Instructor Linda Cotton

Pat Eikenhout
Christmas
Close Air Support, Ltd

Dr. & Mrs. Calvin Eshbaugh
Christmas
Barbara Eshbaugh

Missie Eshbaugh
Christmas
Barbara Eshbaugh

Henrietta Hubers
Birthday
Henry & Carole Vos, Jr

Bert & Dena Joling
Christmas
David & Karen Van Vuren

Ken Klaasen
CBI Instructor
Katharyn Venhuizen

Doris Koetsier
Birthday
Bernice & Jeff Roshak

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Langer
For their faithful care
Marie & Heimen Bosman

Martha Nydam
CBI Instructor
Bob & Elaine Titze

Deana & Reuben Otten and family
Christmas
John Spykman

Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Siegersma
For their faithful care
Marie & Heimen Bosman

Lowell Slagter
Christmas
Jeffrey & Beth Genzink

Dorthea Smits
CBI Instructor
CBI Student, Danny H

Betty Spykerman
Christmas
Stephen & Lori Hungerford

Mildred Tripp
CBI Instructor
Bill & Mary Curry

Lois Vanden Bos
Christmas
Arlan & Jackie Vanden Bos

Agnes Vander Molen
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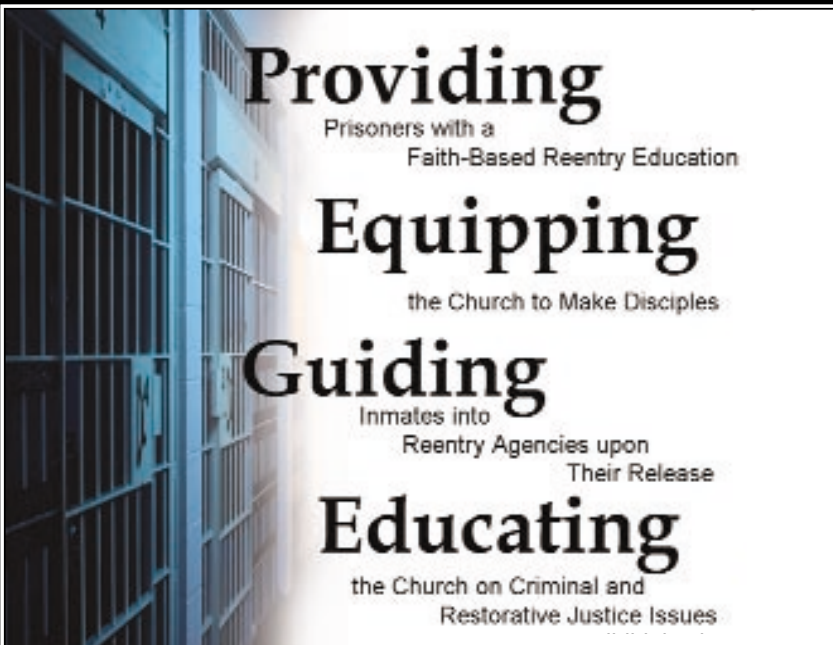


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