

Crossroad NETWORK NEWS

JANUARY 2005

What's in a Name?

By Dr. David Schuringa, President



Beginning with this issue there's a change in the name of the monthly newsletter from *Crossroad News* to *Crossroad Network News* (CNN). We believe this new name more accurately reflects the vital service that Crossroad Bible Institute provides so well: networking within the Body of Christ to accomplish God's Mission together, by His grace.

Networking truly is our middle name. The task of discipling prison inmates belongs to the church, and CBI is privileged to network with over 1,000 churches in the U.S., Canada and Australia in order to equip members for this important ministry. Crucial to this networking, of course, are the church coordinators who function as liaisons between the churches and the Institute.

But that's only the beginning of the networking process. In 1992, Rev. David Feddes of the Back to God Hour approached CBI with the idea of referring his inmate respondents to the Institute for discipleship. He also suggested that there may be other broadcasters who would be interested in such an arrangement. Subsequently, many broadcasters, publishers and even other prison ministries have become affiliates, graciously referring their inmate respondents to CBI for our long-term discipleship program. In addition to the Back to God Hour, we are grateful to partner with RBC Ministries, Words of Hope, Prison Fellowship, Focus on the Family, Zondervan Corporation, Baker Book House and Youth Direct, to name just a few. And this is not to speak of vital networking relationships CBI has with hundreds of prison chaplains.

Most recently CBI has launched another venture in networking with reentry ministries and agencies! In the same way various organizations refer their inmates to Crossroad for discipleship, CBI helps its graduates to connect with reentry agencies for assistance during the difficult transition from prison into society. This

new reentry program guides them into organizations which help them to secure housing, find a job, join a church, and get help with any other needs they have. Andrea Grasiewicz has a report for you on this new program elsewhere in this issue of CNN.

With this last networking link the circle is complete. CBI networks with broadcasters, publishers and other prison ministries to recruit students, networks with churches to disciple them and networks with reentry ministries to place them. So inmates are coming to Christ, getting disciplined, and receiving vital help upon release so that they can reenter as productive members of society.

Crossroad Network News is the new name for the communications vehicle that keeps you informed of the exciting news of networking within the Body of Christ. We believe the King of the church smiles on cooperation rather than competition among His people. As we begin another year of networking for the greater good, may

Christ bless His church as it reaches the last and the least with, as Rev. Feddes so aptly put it at the anniversary celebrations, "the lessons of truth and the letters of love." May CNN be a blessing to you this year as you rejoice and participate in what God is doing!



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Reentry Program Update By Andrea Grasiwicz



Three months ago CBI launched its new reentry program to help graduates connect with reentry ministries upon their release. Since then the program has developed rapidly—we've already provided almost 500 students with reentry assistance! We thought you might be interested in some details of how the program is working.

A graduate who is interested in CBI's reentry program has heard about the program from his Instructor, another CBI student or through the student newsletter, *Crossroad Connection*. He then informs CBI of his interest, letting us know of his expected release date and destination. Once a graduate inquires about the program we reply with a "thank you" letter and inform him that we are researching his anticipated area of release and will be in contact with him.

CBI then goes to work researching and investigating prospective reentry ministries for the student. We are searching for ministries with programs that adequately address today's reentry issues. In that light we determine whether the reentry ministry focuses on things like housing, employment and locating churches, as well as providing case management services, family services and professional counseling. Naturally, CBI cannot vouch for any reentry ministry, but we do look for certified agencies which appear to have solid offerings and a good track record.

When we locate a reentry ministry that looks suitable the student is informed by a letter which provides all the necessary information regarding the recommended agency. Sometimes more than one agency is recommended. If a program looks like a good fit to the inmate, he will then write the agency of choice to indicate his interest in participating in the program. We inform all graduates that we are willing to help them get into a program in any way that we can, including writing recommendation letters on their behalf. We also ask each student to keep us informed of his post-prison progress.

Only CBI graduates receive reentry assistance at this time. We consider a graduate in this context to be any student who has completed Tier 1 of CBI's discipleship program. We require this

in order to participate for three reasons:

- 1) By completing courses, inmates prove they are serious about being successful in reentry.
- 2) Tier 2 courses deal specifically with reentry issues.
- 3) With a proven track record we can provide the reentry ministry or agency a profile of the candidate and letters of recommendation.

As a practical matter, we simply are not in a position at this time to fund a reentry program that would be open to the entire inmate population of over 2.3 million.

“We've already provided almost 500 students with reentry assistance!”

Students are informed that the more courses they successfully complete, the stronger the recommendation we can provide for them. Inmates who ask for reentry help but who are not CBI students are encouraged to enroll in the Institute's discipleship program. Already many new students have enrolled with CBI in order to qualify eventually for reentry assistance.

As another element of the reentry program CBI also writes letters of recommendation for parole boards upon request. Parole panels like to see that inmates are making good use of their time, finishing projects they start, and actively preparing for reentry. Our computer files, which include Instructor evaluations, provide a detailed record of each student's progress. We also reserve the right to provide these letters of recommendations for Tier 1 graduates

only. However, if a Tier 1 student requests a recommendation, we will write a letter that states that the inmate has enrolled with CBI and has completed a certain number of lessons thus far.

If you are a Tier 2 or Tier 3 Instructor, be sure to encourage your students to connect with a reentry ministry upon release. Assure them that CBI's Reentry Program will provide assistance for them during this vital transition in their lives. Pray for our students as they study God's Word, prepare for reentry and as they actually reenter society.

Andrea Grasiwicz is CBI's Reentry Programs Coordinator

CBI is pleased to announce the arrival of the new 20th Anniversary Celebration DVD/Video!

Crossroad Bible Institute
20th Anniversary Celebration

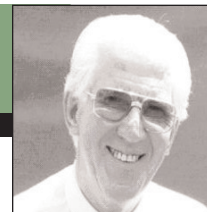
Yours free for a donation of any size!

Lift up your Spirits...

DVD or Video
Bonus music videos included!

P.O. Box 900 Grand Rapids, MI 49509-0900

Report: CBI Australia by Ray Hoekzema



As CBI celebrated 20 years of ministry, another milestone was reached at CBI Australia. The Australian Distribution Centre has been developing nicely, and we can now reflect on two years of ministry with special gratitude.

When we began, there were just a handful of students and only two Instructors. These were the two people—Bob and Anne Bruinsma—who by God's leading expanded CBI's ministry across this continent, begun in America twenty years earlier.



Bob training new Instructors

They did the hard slog of traveling around Australia visiting just about every prison on this continent. Together with other trips, they have clocked up some 35000 km just this past year.

This has allowed us to build up a network with the people who are so important, Governors, Chaplains and members of Prison Fellowship. These are the people who largely facilitate the enrollments of inmates. By the grace of God, we now have dozens of students—even some graduates—and a band of dedicated Instructors and Mentors to match. We thank God for them all.

When it comes to funding the operation we are, as yet, not self-sufficient. We're blessed to have CBI Headquarters in America carry us for all our materials—lessons, brochures and printed stationary. We also receive the warm and unstinting support from their staff; in particular, from their International Program Coordinator, Kathryn Shane. Much of the encouragement we receive from the Lord comes through this sister.

We now look forward to an ever-increasing student body, students graduating; and many of them going on with a Mentor. We are thankful for our volunteer staff, those who keep this operation afloat from day to day. Praise God for this time of joy, reflection and thanksgiving; for sending His Son. May He bless us all with the joy of knowing Him.

Ray Hoekzema is the Executive Officer of CBI's Australian Distribution Centre.

What Students Are Saying about CBI's New Reentry Program

"I was pleasantly surprised and quite excited to learn that Crossroad had developed a reentry assistance program. I would like to thank you for your continued support. Because of Crossroad Bible Institute's dedication and commitment, I have been able to learn and grow in ways I never thought possible. I am sure that I join with thousands of other CBI students when I say my life has been truly blessed."

Thomas D., MA

"Andrea, I want to be a part of this new program once I'm released. I am very much interested in attending a reentry ministry...whatever is required for me to do in order to qualify for reentry assistance, I'm for it!"

Ideria S., TX

"Thank you so much for your letter, just knowing that there is someone out there who cares enough to help me out any way that they can is a true blessing from the Lord. May our Father in heaven bless you and all that are involved in Crossroad."

Ronald A., WA

"I'm very thankful for everything that you and CBI do for me. I can trust that the Almighty above will lead me forward in the right direction! That's why I am grateful for your offering the reentry ministry because this is an opportunity and a blessing. Whatever assistance you can provide for my family and me is greatly appreciated."

Betty Jean D., CT

"Last night at mail call, I was blessed to receive your letter acknowledging my request to send the parole board a letter of recommendation. I was equally blessed to know of your reentry ministry. I plan to use all you taught me from God's Word to make my reentry a success. I will be in touch after my board visit. Again, thank you for the blessed letter written with such proficiency and professionalism."

LeRoy H., TX

"I would like to know if you could help me in finding a church and a place to live. My home is in Washington, DC. I want to send my thanks to you and all my friends at Crossroad. You all are the best! Many say they care, only to turn their backs. But when the people at Crossroad say they care, you can feel the love they send. I really do respect all the hard work that you and all the staff at Crossroad do to help us prisoners to know God and His wonderful love for us."

Donver G., TX

"I am writing to you concerning this new reentry program!!! I just found out about it yesterday through Miss Lana, my Instructor. I had just written her a letter telling her that I didn't have a place to call home . . . and then she told me that you are the director of this new program! I do hope you can help me, Lady Andrea! I know that there are a lot of people like me who want to change their lives but have no place to start. May the Lord bless you and all that you do for us, the lost and the weak."

Guadalupe V., TX

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 Beyer
Anne Van De Kieft

Lorrene Breems
Members of Ocheyden CRC
Jean De Jong

Howard Bultema
Howard & Marilyn Bredeweg
Robert & Bonnie De Young
Roger De Young
Marinus & Annette Visser

Curly Caudle
Roger & Hildred Remtema

Shawn Folkerts
Lavonne Meyer

Johanna Jacobsma
Peter & Grace Jacobsma

Eufelia Lucero
John & Susan Vander Schaaf

Jeanette Ostindie
Ann Bouma

Lois Stallinga
Wil Stallinga

Bert Talsma
Grace De Vries

Louise Terpstra
Donald & Alice Verduin

Adrianna Vanden Beldt
Miriam Tolsma
Thelma Zylstra

Willem Vander Mass
Donald & Alice Verduin

Marvin VanderPol
Gene & Phyllis Noteboom

Marie Vanderwal
Ann Bouma

Clarence Vander Weide
Marilyn Vander Weide

Arlene Vliem Bonnes
George & Jean Pulscher

IN HONOR OF:

Gerry Alderink
75th Birthday
Christine Wielenga

Julian & Norma Baas
40th Wedding Anniversary
A Fellow CBI Instructor

Charles & June Dykstra
50th Wedding Anniversary
Grace Streich

Agnes Kamps
82nd Birthday
Dale & Ellie De Vries

Howard & Grace Lankheet
50th Wedding Anniversary
James & Patricia Beals

Sherry Poelstra
Birthday
Ray & Marilyn Vander Weide

Bill & Marge Schimmel
60th Wedding Anniversary
Betty H Huyser

Doug & Audrey Schuller
Hospitality
Marvin & Nell Feddes

Margaret Sweetman-Vis
Birthday
Kenneth Sweetman

France & Joan Vander Wall
Hospitality
Doug & Helen Vander Wall

Wilma Vos
Birthday
Steve & Sharon Van Wieren

Make a
Lasting
Impact



Remember Those in Prison
by Writing CBI into Your Will

Hebrews 13:3

Ask for a Free Estate Planning Brochure



Next Month:

▶▶ 2004 Annual Report
from the President


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