

# Crossroad

## NETWORK NEWS



APRIL 2006

# EASTER,



# THE ONLY ANSWER

# Crossroad

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# APRIL 2006

The Mission of *Crossroad Network News* is to promote partnership in the ministry of CBI through communication

# EASTER,

## The Strife Is O'er

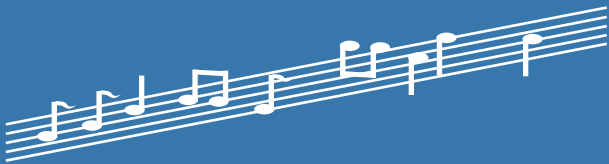
*The strife is o'er, the battle done;  
The victory of life is won;  
The song of triumph has begun: Alleluia!*

*The powers of death have done their worst;  
But Christ their legions hath dispersed;  
Let shouts of holy joy outburst: Alleluia!*

*The three sad days are quickly sped;  
He rises glorious from the dead;  
All glory to our risen Head! Alleluia!*

*He closed the yawning gates of hell;  
The bars from heaven's high portals fell;  
Let hymns of praise His triumphs tell! Alleluia!*

*Lord, by the stripes which wounded Thee,  
From death's dread sting Thy servants free,  
That we may live, and sing to Thee: Alleluia!*



First and foremost, I want to thank you for your cards, emails, letters, phone calls and even memorial gifts to Crossroad in response to the stillbirth of our grandson, Jacob David, on January 25. My wife, Mary, and I are so touched and appreciative of how the family of God has embraced our own family during this difficult time. Faith CRC in Elmhurst, IL, the church where my son, Greg, is pastor has been phenomenal to him and his wife, Sarah.

Undoubtedly, Easter will have new meaning for our family this year. Tied to the holiday is the only hope we have that we'll ever see Jacob again, as well as the only answer to our many, many questions.

I'm writing on this subject because so many of you have experienced similar feelings of the finality and sadness, the helplessness and the profound questions that the death of a loved one brings. As a minister, I have conducted the funerals of many, including many who died in infancy. I empathized with the bereaving family members, but it's clear to me now I



| By Dr. David Schuringa

didn't have a clue to the pain they bore or the utter profundity of the questions they were asking.

I know that Mary and I don't grieve in precisely the same way Greg and Sarah do. Grandkids do seem like your own children, but it's difficult to discern what hurts more—losing a grandson or seeing your adult children in pain. Why did this happen? Any attempt at answering this feels trite.

According to the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 16, our hope for the future is grounded in the Easter event of the past. Liberal theologians have held that Jesus' resurrection was not a literal rising, but a metaphor indicating that He lives on in the hearts of His followers. Not good enough. If Jesus did not really rise from the dead, then, as Paul states, our faith is futile and we are to be pitied. However, the fact is that Jesus did rise from the dead. And so the question is not "*Will* we see our loved ones?", but "*How soon?*" Jesus is the first-fruits of a great resurrection harvest that is sure to come.

The day before Jacob's funeral, Greg, Tim and I were talking in the kitchen when Greg pondered out loud, "I wonder what he'll look like? Will he be raised an infant like when he died, or will he be raised a young man who will tap me on the shoulder and say, 'Hey Dad, it's me! I'm Jake!'" Someday we'll have the answers to our questions.



Today, however, there is no question that we will see our loved ones in Christ again. Easter is the answer to which we can cling for dear life.

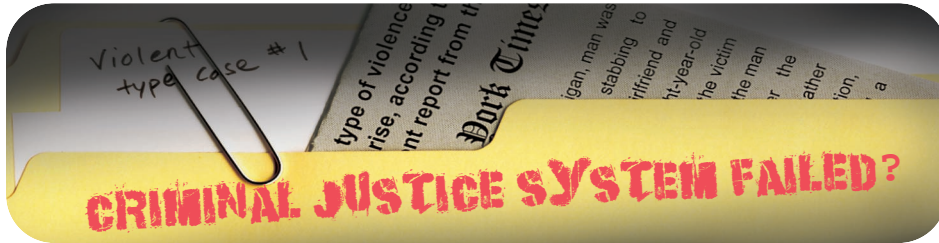
In the meantime, Jacob is with the Lord. Though it feels like we're moving on and leaving him behind, we know he actually has gone ahead of us and is waiting to greet us when we finally arrive. No believing parent whose children have died in infancy should question this fact, for they already have the answer: Easter. That's good news for all of us, and for our students.

# THE ONLY ANSWER



# More Ex-Offenders Murder Instead of Mend

| By K. Aaron Van Oosterhout



**A** Grand Rapids, Michigan, man was recently convicted of stabbing to death his brother's ex-girlfriend and suffocating her eight-year-old daughter. His brother and the victim had recently broken up, and the man was apparently angry over the humiliation his brother felt. Rather than seeking a peaceful resolution, however, he sought a knife and a plastic bag.

This type of murder is on the rise, according to a recent report from the *New York Times*. Killings from gang warfare and drug-turf battles are down, perhaps in some measure due to increasing police effectiveness, but even the police are at pains to halt the growing number of "crimes of passion." Like the Grand Rapids man above, more people are resorting to deadly force where one might expect a simple argument.

According to police throughout the Midwest, where murder rates have increased the most, the killers' and victims' profiles are roughly the same: mid-teens to mid-20s with a previous criminal record. The latter point should be the most alarming: *with a previous criminal record*.

How has the criminal justice system failed?

It is clear that these ex-offenders have not reformed, regardless of the

amount of time spent in jail or on probation. While there are other factors that contribute to this problem, one of the principal weaknesses is our attitude toward prison-time. Contemporary society views incarceration solely as a punitive measure, when in fact criminals also need rehabilitation.

Indeed, without behavioral guidance, time in prison is simply time to learn how to be cruel in new and different ways.

"U.S. prison inmates have been beaten with fists and batons, stomped on, kicked, shot, stunned with electronic devices, doused with chemical sprays, choked, and slammed face first onto concrete floors by the officers whose job it is to guard them," wrote Jamie Fellner, director of the U.S. branch of the Human Rights Watch, in a 2004 column. "A culture of brutality has developed in which correctional officers know they can get away with excessive, unnecessary, or even purely malicious violence" (Even in light of this, however, it is important to remember that not all correctional officers treat their position as a vehicle for viciousness; in fact, some CBI Instructors are correctional officers).

In addition, many corrections officials have been forced to cut prison budg-

ets in recent years in an effort to curtail government spending, and consequently prison staff has been drastically reduced along with programs designed to rehabilitate inmates. Instead of prisoner abuse by staff, then, prisoner-on-prisoner brutality has increased, unchecked by adequate authority—note the recent Los Angeles County prison riots.

All of this inevitably spills into the neighborhoods where ex-offenders reside. Threats of violence and even murder abound in arguments over cellphones and clothing. Husbands beat wives and both beat their children. One boy shoots another over pocket change. Each time something like this occurs, many of us recoil and appear genuinely surprised and dismayed that we have "such people" living in our midst.

Are we surprised when inmates kill and rape each other, however? Chances are, we are not. Certainly, there are many inmates who were violent prior to entering any prison. Just as certainly, on the other hand, there are many inmates who have learned from prison life that violence is simply another tool to get what they need or want.

The next time we read of an ex-offender turning to murder, then, let us not be surprised. On the contrary, recognize that this is part of a growing trend, one which will continue to grow as long as we do not truly rehabilitate the imprisoned while they remain a captive audience.

*K. Aaron Van Oosterhout serves as an Assistant Editor at The Center for Advanced Studies at Crossroad Bible Institute.*



# Office Volunteers: Essential to CBI Mission

| By Nikole Wieringa



## 2006 Volunteer Recognition

**C**rossroad Bible Institute is steadily growing in its mission to reach the forgotten individuals of the world. This growth would not be possible without our office volunteers. Many organizations depend on their paid staff to complete the majority of the workload, but we at CBI depend on volunteers in the office and out in the field to keep the ministry thriving. In 2005, there were a total of 319 volunteers working at CBI Headquarters, and we would not have come as far as we have if it were not for the hard work of these men and women.

The office volunteers are responsible for many different functions such as answering phones to take lesson scores from Instructors, entering student information into the computers, addressing student lessons by hand and putting roadmaps into lessons. A majority of the lessons sent to the students are copied, stapled and assem-

bled by volunteers. Essentially, there are many tasks which can be completed on a daily basis at CBI, and it is a blessing to know our volunteers are there to help in any way we may need.

In conclusion, we would like to extend a sincere and hearty "thank you" to all our office volunteers. These special individuals take time out of their busy schedules to do God's work. Many volunteers commit to helping us one to two times a week, others may come for half a day and still others come when called. No matter how often a volunteer comes to CBI, however, their work is essential to the completion of our mission.

This year we are honoring volunteers who have been serving for 3, 5 and 7 years. Each will receive a certificate, and we will place an acknowledgment in their church's Sunday bulletin.

*Nikole Wieringa serves as the Volunteer Coordinator at Crossroad Bible Institute.*

**This year we honor volunteers who have served 3, 5 and 7 years.**

**---7 years---**

Al Dekker  
Al Dykhuizen  
Elsie Schafer  
Pearl Vander Hart

Marilyn Talsma  
Alida Terpstra  
Ethel Vanden Hoek  
Les Vanden Hoek  
Merle Vis  
Alice Visser

**---5 years---**

Marjorie Alberda  
Gert Boven  
Carolyn Brandsen  
Roger Brandsen  
Jeanette Brink  
Kathryn Bronsink

Neil Vogel  
Howard Weener  
Noreen Weener  
Chris Wielenga  
Hazel Windemuller  
Stan Windemuller

**---3 years---**

Jane Buiten  
Anita Collins  
Ida DeJong  
Marge DeYoung  
Gert Dykema  
Anne Faber  
Barb Francoys  
Dot Hager  
Milly Harkema  
Betty Hoolsema  
Eunice Jonkman  
Jake Jonkman  
Alaine Knoll  
Jane Knoll  
Ken Knoll  
Dan Koetsier  
Doris Koetsier  
Elinor Koetsier  
Al Koning  
Sally Koning  
Dorothy Koop  
Grace Lankheet  
Howard Lankheet  
Millie Lankheet  
Winifred Miersma  
Muriel Norden  
Kathleen Pasma  
Ruth Post  
Louise Randall  
Henrietta Rooy  
Mary Schultze  
Marilyn Smits

Cecilia Bates  
Hermine Besselsen  
Barb Boersma  
Martin Boersma  
Marian Burgess  
Mildred Burman  
Mackenzie DeKleine  
Delores DeKok  
Neal DeYoung  
Mildred Kaan  
Cindy Kanis  
Jackie Kolkman  
Betty Kooman  
Jim Kooman  
Florence Martinie  
Esther Nawyn  
Marlene Nyenhuis  
Pauline Peterson  
Stan Quist  
Betty Scholten  
Kay Sikkema  
Dorothy Tamminga  
Donna Thompson  
Marion Tiemeyer  
Anna Mae Top  
Chester Top  
Carol Van Drunen  
Carol Van Dyke  
Henry Van Dyke  
Marge Woltjar

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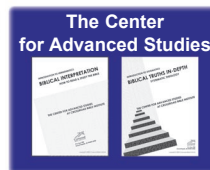
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Sermon on the Mount  
Biblical Interpretation  
Biblical Truths In-Depth

# IN THE NEWS...

KUNST-ESSAY:  
Situationistisk  
Internationale, A  
...ment Group  
Workers' Coalit  
...ampler fra



## Inmates Hide in Prison for Protection

**SNEADS, FL**—Two inmates reported missing from Apalachee Correctional Institution were soon found in an unlikely place: still inside the prison walls. The pair was hiding in a crawl-space in a building on the prison compound, apparently out of fear. One of the prisoners, Michael Fitzgerald, 27, sent a letter to relatives prior to his attempted escape. Although prison officials claimed he had never requested protective custody, in his letter, Fitzgerald explained that other inmates had beaten him for his radio and that he was the target of a prison gang. “Thing is that more than likely I’ll either catch more time for defending myself or get killed before it’s all over with,” he wrote. “It’s just not right.”

## Guard Convicted of Aiding White-Supremacist Gang

**LOS ANGELES, CA**—This past Valentine’s Day, a former California prison guard was convicted of aiding a white-supremacist gang in illegal activities. Shayne Allyn Ziska, 44, had helped the Nazi Low Riders (NLR) distribute methamphetamines and messages throughout the prison as well as opened cell doors to allow gang members to assault other inmates. In one such instance, a gang member stabbed another inmate in the face. The NLR has recently grown within the California penal system, and now “controls much of the illegal activities

of white inmates in California prisons,” according to the Associated Press. “(Ziska) was on the sidelines of the gang,” said Assistant U.S. Attorney Kevin Lally to the *Daily Bulletin*. “You could call him a co-conspirator.” As a result of his crimes, Ziska faces up to 50 years in a federal prison.

## Suggestions for Alternative Sentencing in New Zealand

**WELLINGTON, New Zealand**—Damien O’Connor, corrections minister of New Zealand, explained this past February his plan to convert the country’s current penal system into an “open-prison” system. Under this plan, those convicted of non-violent crimes (traffic offenses, petty burglary, “crimes of poverty,” etc.) would be eligible for day release, home detention or community service instead of lengthy prison sentences. Critics claimed that he was simply making a poor attempt to reduce the overwhelming prison population. O’Connor disagreed, and told *The Press* that while space was a concern, he wanted judges to have more authority to craft inventive sentences so that the “punishment fits the crime.”

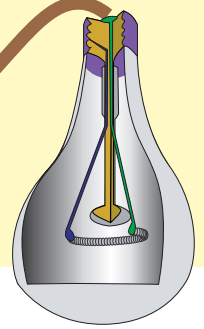
## No Brazilian Troops Serving Time for Prison Massacre

**SÃO PAULO, Brazil**—The prison sentence of an anti-riot police commander just dropped from 632 years to zero after he recently won his appeal this

past February. Col. Ubirata Guimaraes was convicted in 2001 for his role in the Carandiru prison massacre of 1992, in which 111 unarmed inmates were killed by his troops during a prisoner uprising. Some survivors told the BBC that the riot squad continued to kill prisoners after they surrendered or were hiding in their cells, but Guimaraes said that he was merely following orders and that police were acting in self-defense. He was free while his appeal was pending, and was even elected to a seat in the São Paulo state assembly. On the day his conviction was overturned, protesters gathered outside the courthouse, and one held a banner that read, “No one is above the law.” No one involved in the massacre is serving a prison sentence for the incident, but prosecutors are expected to appeal the court’s ruling.

## Kitty Convicts?

**AVENAL, CA**—While most cats hate to be caged, some don’t mind the housing, apparently. According to officials at Avenal State Prison, roughly 100 felines are currently roaming the facility’s grounds. No one knows how the animals got in, but prison administrators speculate that a few snuck in and quickly reproduced. Volunteers have already removed 50 cats to be spayed and neutered, but officials said they will kill the rest in order to quickly comply with state health regulations: they may be in the big house, but they’re certainly not housebroken.



## My Student Appears Suicidal

**Q.** The person whose lesson I am correcting appears suicidal, and I am concerned that something might occur if he is not seen by someone. Who can get in contact with his prison officials to let them know that he is showing these troubling signs?

Instructor in North Dakota

**A.** Many inmates seem to struggle with depression. Thank you for your concern for this student. According to his record, he seems to experience a lot of ups and downs. I suggest you thank him for sharing his feelings, and encourage him to talk with his prison chaplain (if one is available) or with a strong Christian brother. He will receive extra support with his own personal mentor in the Tier 2. In the meantime, there are also a couple of helpful booklets you could order for him from RBC: *When Hope is Lost: Dealing with Depression* (RB-CB973) and *When We Don't Measure Up: Escaping the Grip of Guilt* (RB-CB971).

**Q.** My student's handwriting this week was difficult to read. The initials for his state were impossible to decipher. I searched in the atlas until I found his city. I hope it's correct!

Instructor in Montana

**A.** We try very hard to make sure the addresses are complete and legible. However, if you ever have trouble reading an address, you can always email or call us and we will gladly look up the current address for your student. Also, if you report your scores on our webpage, [www.crossroadbibleinstitute.org](http://www.crossroadbibleinstitute.org), we now have this handy tool that you can use to look up your student's address on your own once you log in. It's worth taking the time to check if there is any hint of uncertainty, as prison mailrooms are strict and usually will reject mail with any incorrect address information.



**MAKE A  
LASTING IMPACT**

**Remember to  
Include CBI in  
Your Will**

"Remember Those in Prison"

Heb. 13:3

**ASK FOR A FREE  
ESTATE PLANNING BROCHURE**

# PRISON

NEED NOT BE A WASTE OF TIME

Crossroad Bible Institute provides inmates faith-based reentry educational programming. Scientific studies show that recidivism rates drop dramatically for inmates who participate in faith-based programs during incarceration. Please "remember those in prison" (Hebrews 13:3) by supporting Crossroad Bible Institute's church-based discipleship program. Your tax-deductible gift will change lives.

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## APRIL - MAY 2006 SEMINARS

### Making Truth Personal

Rev. David Feddes  
Orland Park CRC, Orland Park, Illinois  
7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m., Thursday, April 6, 2006  
Registration Deadline: March 30, 2006

### Combatir las sectas tras las rejas

**Combating the Cults Behind Bars**  
Sr. David P. Wilson  
Standing Stones Church, Tinley Park, Illinois  
9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  
sábado, el 22 de abril de 2006  
El plazo de entrega para la matrícula: El 13 de abril de 2006

### Instructor, Student and Law Enforcement

**Perspectives of Crossroad Bible Institute**  
Pastor Henry Perez and Ms. Pauline Kuiper  
Racine CRC, Racine, Wisconsin  
7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 25, 2006  
Registration Deadline: April 18, 2006

### Responding Helpfully to Muslim Students

Dr. Raymond Weiss  
First CRC, Sioux Center, Iowa  
7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 2, 2006  
Registration Deadline: April 25, 2006

### How Restorative Justice Aims to Resolve the Crisis in Criminal Justice

Dr. David Schuringa  
Bethel CRC, Waterdown, Ontario, Canada  
10:00 a.m.-11:30 p.m., Saturday, May 6, 2006  
Registration Deadline: April 27, 2006

### Teaching the New Survey of the Bible Course

Dr. Greg Schuringa  
Faith CRC, Elmhurst, Illinois  
7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 9, 2006  
Registration Deadline: May 2, 2006

### A Day in the Life of an Inmate

Chaplain Bill Wilder  
Lorain Correctional Institute, Grafton, Ohio  
9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Saturday, May 13, 2006  
Registration Deadline: April 27, 2006

### The Healing of Abba Father

Dr. Tim Spykstra  
Haven CRC, Zeeland, Michigan  
7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 16, 2006  
Registration Deadline: May 9, 2006

## The Center for Advanced Studies at Crossroad Bible Institute presents

# CONTINUING EDUCATION SEMINARS

April - May 2006



All seminars are free of charge, but advanced registration is required. You can register online at [www.crossroadbibleinstitute.org](http://www.crossroadbibleinstitute.org) or by calling the CBI Headquarters at 800-668-2450. The seminars are sponsored by The Center for Advanced Studies at Crossroad Bible Institute.

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