

Crossroad

NETWORK NEWS



MARCH 2006

hOW GOD LED ME TO CBI



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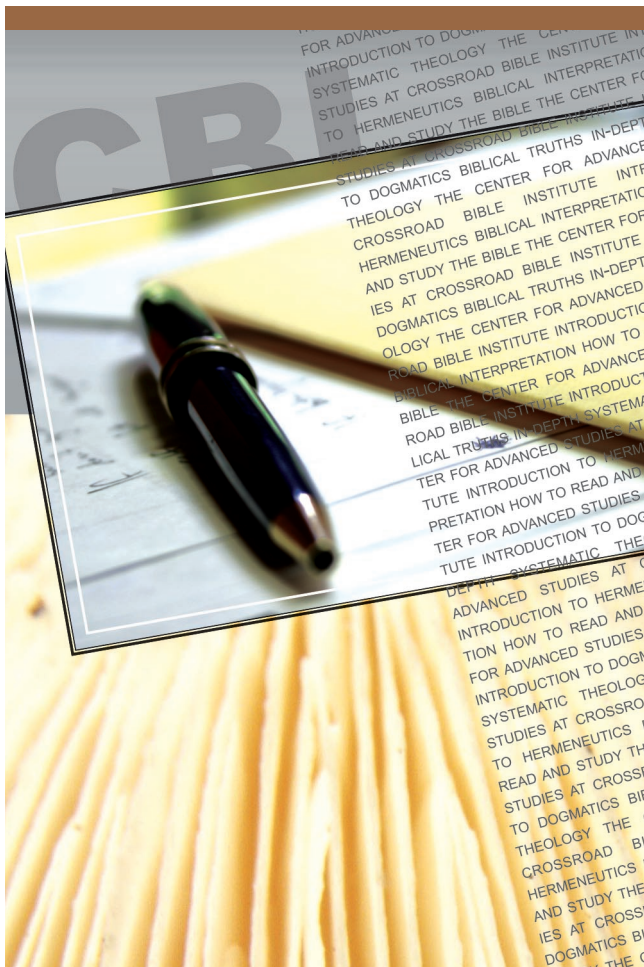
MARCH 2006

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

How

OW GOD

I accepted the call to serve
as the Center's first director.



"I am on death row," a prisoner once wrote in a letter to me, "but since I received Jesus, I am also on life row." Another inmate wrote, "When I went to prison, I was going to kill myself. But after hearing your radio program, I trusted in Jesus, and now I have the will to live." In fifteen years as a radio broadcaster, I have received thousands of letters from prisoners. Not all were so dramatic, but each represented a person precious to the Savior.

In my first years with the *Back to God Hour*, I longed for some way to keep discipling each prisoner who contacted me. Then I came across a ministry that was helping a few hundred prisoners in Michigan. Crossroad Bible Institute provided solid Bible lessons and personal letters of encouragement. This was what my listeners needed!

I asked if Crossroad would enroll students from other states and nations. In a huge step of faith, Crossroad agreed. CBI has taken many steps of faith since. As a result, God has linked the ministry with many affiliates in addition to my former radio program. The Lord has



| By Rev. David Feddes

LED ME TO CBI



moved among churches, raising up thousands of Instructors and generous donors who now enable CBI to disciple more than 36,000 students worldwide.

My love for prisoners is a family affair. My father visits prisoners and mentors them after their release. My mother is a longtime CBI Instructor. My wife has been a CBI Instructor. I have preached to prisoners on radio, in print and in person. Now God has led me to devote myself more fully to prison ministry.

Early in 2005, I announced my intent to leave the *Back to God Hour*. A few months later, Dr. Schuringa phoned me to talk about his exciting vision of establishing The Center for Advanced Studies at Crossroad Bible Institute. After many stirring conversations and much prayer, I accepted the call to serve as the Center's first director. I have long felt kinship in mind and spirit with Dr. Schuringa, so I am delighted to be working closely with him. For the time being, I continue to speak on the radio until

a successor can take over, perhaps next fall. Even now, however, I am phasing into my new task at CBI as I work on my Ph.D.

The Center for Advanced Studies seeks to help the church *outside* prison to partner with the church *inside* prison. CBI Instructors, already highly capable, will have access to seminars and other opportunities for continuing education. Intellectually-gifted Christian inmates will take a range of courses designed to equip them for leadership in both churches. The Center will develop strategic new courses and refine the old. It will also research criminal justice, family and social structures, helping church and society pursue approaches that are *redemptive* rather than *destructive*. Of course, these dreams are too big for any person or ministry, but not too big for God. I look forward eagerly to what the Lord will do through CBI's Center for Advanced Studies.

Rev. Feddes serves as the Director of The Center for Advanced Studies at Crossroad Bible Institute.



CBI Opens First “DC” in South America!



| By Kathryn Shane



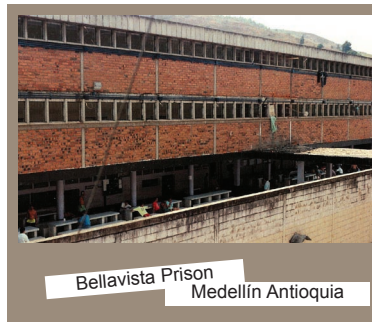
Scars from past fights mark an inmate at Medellín's Bellavista

After the successful launching of international distribution centers in Canada in 1998 and Australia in 2002, Crossroad Bible Institute is pleased to announce the opening of its first South American distribution center. The newest center is located in Villavencio, Colombia—a town strategically located at the heart of the country and near the capital, Bogotá.

A particularly dangerous mission field, Colombia has been a hotbed for the international drug trade and political unrest for decades. The *World Factbook* (a publication of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency) states that “large swaths of the countryside are under guerrilla influence,” and although violence has deescalated as of late, various illegal groups still aggressively vie for power at civilians’ expense. In addition, Colombia is the world’s largest coca cultivator and subsequently the world’s largest processor of coca derivatives into cocaine. The United States receives roughly 90 percent of its cocaine, as well as a substantial supply of heroin, from this country.

Essentially, the Colombian Distribution Center has its work cut out for it. The

country is home to some of the most violent prisons in the world, including the infamous Bellavista Prison where, according to a report in *Christianity Today*, “inmates once played soccer with a severed human head.” The U.S. Department of State reported in 2001 that “only three prisons... appear to meet international standards for treatment of prisoners. In the country’s other prisons, inmates pay to eat, drink, sleep on a mattress, wash



Bellavista Prison Medellín Antioquia

clothes, or make telephone calls, and also pay protection fees to fellow inmates or to corrupt prison guards.... Private sources continue to provide the majority of prisoners’ food.” However, Christian inmates and volunteers with Christian organizations on the outside have used the peace of Christ to transform the hearts of even the most hardened criminals in even the most violent and deprived prisons.

Antonio Luis Prieto Surmay, head of the Colombian Distribution Center, is one such volunteer. A missionary to his country’s inmates for over 30 years, he has worked with many of the terrorists, drug traffickers and guerrillas who disrupted Colombia during the 1990s. It was watching inmates come to know the Lord and His transforming power that inspired Prieto Surmay to seek even more help for them, which eventually led him to CBI.

Rather than require students abroad to send their lessons to North America, a process which can take months, CBI plants international distribution centers so that indigenous church members may be equipped to send lessons and disciple the prisoners in their own country. Besides, due to developing-world conditions, lessons usually need to be hand-delivered to inmates, something Prieto Surmay is already accustomed to doing.

He first approached CBI in 2002. After almost four years of preparation, the newest center has finally opened. Prieto Surmay has already trained 19 Instructors with our Spanish training videos, and dozens of inmates have enrolled and begun completing CBI lessons. With God’s grace, the number will continue to rise in this needy place.

Kathryn Shane serves as the Spanish and International Programs Coordinator at CBI.

Now is the Time

2006 Three-Minute Promotional DVD

Now Available
in DVD and VHS



Youth Convention in Australia

| By Bob and Anne Bruinsma

Imagine a beautiful, densely-grown park, native trees and shrubs everywhere, and right in the middle of that, the Stanwell Tops Conference Centre—all just an hour's drive from Sydney. Imagine also 400 young conventioners hidden in this lovely area, housed in five "Blocks" all named after well-known Australian flora: *waratah*, *banksia*, *boronia*, *grevillea* and *melaleuca*.

The event was the National Youth Convention of the Christian Reformed Churches of Australia. It had as its motto "FREEDOM – 'The truth will set you free' (John 8:32b)." A most appropriate subject in relation to our student prisoners, as well, who indeed have been set free....

Crossroad Bible Institute: Australia had been invited to run two workshops and explain why CBI was so important to thousands of inmates world-wide. As the three principals of the ministry—Bob and Anne Bruinsma and Ray Hoekzema—we ran the workshops under the heading "Ministering to Prisoners."

Of late, this ministry has become widely-known in the Christian Reformed Churches of Australia, and it was a relevant time to include these young people in the ministry to the roughly 30,000 inmates of our correctional centres.

We wanted to make clear to the young conventioners that we were

bringing the truth of God's Word through the Bible studies to inmates and, at the same time, showing them the love of God's people through the Instructors' corrections, prayers and encouraging letters. Essentially, we were making real the call they heard in Hebrews 13:3: "Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners."

We spoke to young people from all over the country, and they all seemed sincere in their desire to help those in prison. One had a university degree and was considering a job in the prison environment. Another lad's grandmother had written to a prisoner, and the lad felt curious about what else could be done for these prisoners who love to receive a letter from an old lady. Most exciting, however, was when

afterwards an 18-year-old girl from Tasmania came up to us and asked to be part of one of our training sessions for becoming an Instructor.

The event was encouraging and made us realize that it is important to reach the young people of our churches, making them aware of the need in the correctional centres where God is working His mighty deeds of transforming people. In his address, Bob challenged the conventioners with the words of Jesus from Matthew 9:37-38: "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field."

Anne and Bob Bruinsma serve as Co-Directors of CBI's South Pacific Distribution Center in Australia.

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.

IN THE NEWS...

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Situationistisk
Internationale, A
Movement Group
Workers' Coalit
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Feddes Installed into New Position

MONEE, IL—On January 8, 2006, Rev. David Feddes was installed into his new position as Director of The Center for Advanced Studies at Crossroad Bible Institute. The service took place in his home church, Family of Faith, in Monee, Illinois. David's pastor, Rev. Henry Reywinga, led the service, Dr. Schuringa preached and Dr. Gerard Van Grongingen gave the installation prayer. Rev. Feddes, after some appropriate words, led the Lord's Supper. In his message based on Hebrews 13:3, Dr. Schuringa charged Rev. Feddes to be "a prophetic voice for the voiceless in society and to jog the memory of the church to remember that it is to exist as an advocate and help for the poor and needy."

"Scarlet Letter" Plates for DUI Offenders

CLEARWATER, FL—For those Florida residents whose driving privileges have been restricted due to a DUI conviction, a Republican state senator wants to customize your vehicle: instead of the standard white background, your license plate would be bright pink and the first three letters would read "DUI." Sen. Mike Fasano introduced the bill this past November, and, in addition to the license plate stricture, police would be permitted to stop any vehicle that bears this plate without probable cause. "Maybe it will embarrass people and keep them from drinking and driving," said Fasano to the *Associated Press*. "Maybe they'll think twice." This bill mimics similar laws in Ohio and Michigan, where

vehicles of such residents must bear a yellow plate with red letters (dubbed "scarlet letter plates") and a paper license plate, respectively. In related news, a Tennessee law went into effect this past January that requires convicted drunk drivers to perform 24 hours of community roadside service, all while wearing orange vests that bear the phrase "I am a Drunk Driver."

Severe Prison Overcrowding in Nigeria

ABUJA—Nigerian Justice Minister Bayo Ojo announced that his country would soon release roughly half of its prisoners in an effort to relieve gross overcrowding. Currently, there are approximately 40,000 prisoners held in Nigeria. Ojo said he hoped to reduce that number to "between 15,000 and 20,000." The ones to go? The sick (including those with HIV), the elderly and those who have been awaiting trial longer than the time they would have served if they had been convicted. According to the BBC, 65 percent of the current prison population is awaiting trial. CBI has hundreds of students in Nigeria.

Senator Proposes Plan to House More Inmates

BOISE, ID—An Idaho state senator made public his plan to have inmates sleep in shifts, thereby doubling the population each prison could contain. "Why does every inmate need his or her own bed?" asked Sen. Robert Geddes, as quoted in Reuters. "The military does it all the time." Currently, his state has nearly 7,000 inmates,

including CBI students, and this number grows by roughly 7 percent each year. Geddes argued that one popular alternative, transferring Idaho prisoners out of state, was both prohibitively expensive and disruptive to family members who wished to maintain contact with their inmate relatives. On the other hand, Idaho Corrections Division Director Tom Beauclair told Reuters that "I don't have the staff to handle it. If you have an emergency, where do you put people?" Robert Sigler, criminal justice expert, concurred. "It's not how many times you rotate that bed," he told Reuters. "It's how much living space you provide."

"The Mission of the Church"

30 Meditations

by Dr. David Schuringa

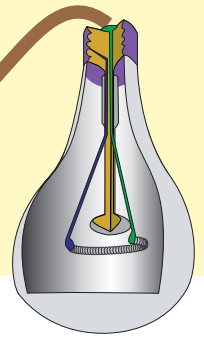
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Student May Be In Denial?

Q. My student's answers show that he is trusting God in his life. I am concerned that he is also trusting that God will deliver him from his incarceration. How do you handle that? I quoted Romans 8:28-30 and assured him that God would keep His promises.

Instructor in Louisiana

A. When God's children go through difficult times, they can experience denial and be convinced that the suffering will soon go away or isn't happening. When it doesn't disappear, they can experience a crisis of faith, wondering why God seems to have abandoned them. Your job is simply to *be there* for your student—not judging, not preaching. While Romans 8:28-30 demonstrates a marvelous truth that your student will hopefully come to experience as true also for him, use it sparingly, as the passage can sound glib coming from someone who is not in prison. Thanks for your loving concern for your student.

How Does My Student Get an NIV Bible?

Q. I just corrected a lesson from a student who does not have the New International Version of the Bible. I know that CBI offers a free NIV Bible to students who provide a \$2.00 donation to help cover postage and handling. How do I instruct him to send in his request for a Bible? Can he send in stamps for the postage?

Instructor in New Jersey

A. Please have your student send a note requesting the Bible to CBI, along with \$2.00 to help cover the cost of postage and handling; however, *never* mention to the student that they can send in stamps as substitute payment. This was something that we did allow in the past but has now become a problem! Many prisons do not allow inmates to save or send stamps, and CBI has received calls from these facilities complaining about Instructors who have mentioned sending in stamps. If your student is unable to pay the amount, we suggest they contact their chaplain to see if he/she may be able to assist them in finding an NIV Bible. If you desire to help your student receive a Bible, you may send in a donation to CBI earmarked for that purpose (please include the student's name, ID number and address).

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the editor are always welcome. Not all letters can be reprinted, and those selected may be edited for space. Thank you for sharing!

Appreciates Timely Article

I appreciated Karen's article in the January *Crossroad Network News* ("When Your Tier 2 Student Doesn't Write") about Tier II student Anthony. It was a very timely article, and I trust it will be an encouragement to other Instructors. What a change when my student opened up and even shared that he cried. He wrote that he has been a rough, tough career military man, but the Lord has reached down through Crossroad and softened his heart. (My husband) Dick and I both appreciate being part of Crossroad.

Vida, CBI Instructor, FL

Ditto!

Saw the interesting article in *CNN*, so I thought I would just pass along my experience. I really have enjoyed reviewing (my Tier 2 student) Robert's lessons. He has written a let-

ter with almost every one. He is a wonderful Christian trying hard to live a life in accord with the teachings of the Bible. He appears to be in a rather unique position, driving a fire truck and responding to some of the rural forest fires in western California. He is committed to his wife and two sons, and is looking forward to his release in 2008 when he will be able to provide his family with Biblical directives for everyday living. It is always a thrill to read his letters. It is a blessing to pray for him each day, that God will protect him from evil and walk with him every step of the way.

Harv, CBI Instructor, MI

Favorite Ministry to Support

Because you give us the opportunity to be involved in this ministry beyond just writing a check, it is my favorite ministry to support, and I thank you. I may not be able to give every month, but I will try.

Nancy, CBI Instructor, NY

IN MEMORY OF:

Elizabeth Boerman
Walter Boerman

Nellie Christians
Larry & Sylvia Zevenbergen

Joseph Costa
Marlene Costa

Kenneth Doezean
Eleanor Dykema

Henry Edema
Jean Edema

Rev. David Englehard
David & Mary Schuringa

Donald Fopma
Judy De Vries

Andrew Haverdink
Blanche Haverdink

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Rev. Ty Hofman
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Ann Hofstee
David & Mary Schuringa

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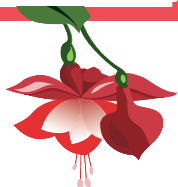
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Gerrit & Ida Huisman

Peter Vander Wall
Terri & Kim Weeks

Robert De Vries
Barbara Buckert
John & Hilda De Vries
Mary Dixon
Grace Newsum
Gerald & Karin Roosa
Dennis & Lois Wilson



MEMORIAL GIFTS . . .



IN HONOR OF:

Lou & Carolyn Bommelje
Christmas
Daniel & Jennifer Bommelje

Henry & Carolyn Bouma
Christmas
Duane & Cheryl Friend

Sidney Bush
CBI Instructor
Kenneth Bush

John & Gladys DeGraaf
50th Wedding Anniversary
Helena DeGraaf
Gerald & Rosella Koetsier
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John & Henrietta Van Tol
Harriet Ykema

June Halma
Birthday
Friends

Henrietta Hubers
Birthday
Henry & Carol Vos

Lois Huizenga
CBI Instructor
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Christmas
Dave & Karen Van Vuren

John & Marciel Kett
Christmas
David & Gloria Kett

Ken Klaasen
CBI Instructor
Katharyn Venhuizen

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and family**
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John Spykman

Mike & Sharon Patterson
CBI Instructors
Dan & Susan Miller

Lois Ritzema
Birthday
James & Jennifer Ritzema

Ernest Roede
60th Birthday
Agnes DeGroot

Lee & Kay Schneider
Christmas
Kenneth & Susan Hasseler

Henry Scholten
85th Birthday
Allen & Ardith Rubingh

Ann Sims
75th Birthday
Ken & Sherry Hendricks

Nelson Slager
CBI Instructor
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Betty Spykerman
Christmas
Stephen & Lori Hungerford

Lois Vanden Bos
Christmas
Arlan & Jackie Vanden Bos

Agnes Vander Molen
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James & Mary Vander Kam

Sue Veenstra
Christmas
Janice Veenstra

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Thomas & Barbara Vos

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Dean & Grace Bos

Doug Williams
Christmas
Nan Wolek

Richard & Donna Williams
CBI Instructors (Christmas)
Paul & Patty Dirkse
Dan & Laural Hilbelink
David & Patty Williams
Grandchildren

Howard & Marlene Kotman
Chuck & Beverly Harper
Andy & Dan Kotman
Logan Thiem
Bridgette Tremaine
Christmas
Helen Stam

MARCH - APRIL 2006 SEMINARS

Instructor Encouragement in Acts 17

Rev. Jack Kapinga
CRC of Elizabeth,
Elizabeth Vale, South Australia
9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Saturday, March 4, 2006
Registration Deadline: February 23, 2006

Making Truth Personal

Rev. David Feddes
First CRC, Pella, Iowa
1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m., Sunday, March 5, 2006
Registration Deadline: February 23, 2006

Helping Inmates Follow in the Footsteps of Jesus

Pastors Russell Huizing and Kevin Jezequel
Hawthorne Gospel Church,
Hawthorne, New Jersey
9:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.,
Saturday, March 18, 2006
Registration Deadline: March 10, 2006

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

Combatar 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

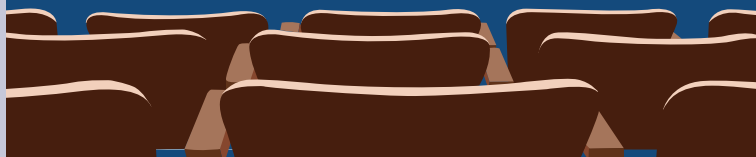
All seminars are free of charge, but advanced registration is required. You can register online at www.crossroadbibleinstitute.org or by calling the CBI Headquarters at 800-668-2450. The seminars are sponsored by The Center for Advanced Studies at Crossroad Bible Institute.

OPEN TO CBI INSTRUCTORS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC

The Center for Advanced Studies at Crossroad Bible Institute presents

CONTINUING EDUCATION SEMINARS

March - April 2006




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