

# Crossroad

## NETWORK NEWS



OCTOBER 2006

“Let’s Go



# Fishing”

Crossroad NETWORK NEWS

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OCTOBER 2006

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



| By Dr. David Schuringa, President

# “Let’s Go Fishing!”

A couple of years ago in *Crossroad Network News* (October 2004), I shared the story of taking my granddaughter, Olivia, fishing for the first time. This past summer, we went again. To my surprise, the little six-year-old asks, “Grandpa, can I put the worm on the hook?” She learned to handle it like a pro. However, my story this year is not about my grandkids. If I promise not to write too often about fishing, will you kindly indulge me as I tell a story about my dad and me?

Mom and dad were staying overnight this past July. The following day, we were going to celebrate dad’s 78th birthday with the kids and grandkids. Dad and I had planned to go fishing the night before the party. We agreed to go after bluegills off the dock on our small inland lake.

When I was a kid, dad often took me fishing. I remember him coming into my bedroom before dawn, shaking me on the shoulder and saying, “Dave, let’s go fishing!” What a thrill! I still think of that when I’m out on the lake by 6:00 on Saturday mornings. He also took me to Canada a couple of times where we trolled for walleye and cast for northern pike. With my ministry causing me to move all over the country and the world, however, I think this was the first time we fished together in over 35 years. We were long overdue.

As a recently revised hobby, I have fished this lake many times. I generously let dad in on the “secret” that the blue gills are to the right or to the left of the dock. Simple enough, right? So, of course, he casts his line straight ahead into the deep water. (Dad has always had an independent streak.) “Ok,” he challenges, “let’s see who catches the first fish.” (He has also always had a mildly annoying competitive streak.)

I roll my eyes, thinking, “Well you’re not going to catch anything out there in the boondocks, pops.” Neverthe-

less, I don’t say anything as I toss my line out to the left side of the dock.

So there we sat, side by side.

Almost as soon as my line hits the water, a fish latches on. My chest puffs up a bit as I reel in a respectable-sized bluegill. “So,” my dad comments rather sadly, “you caught the first fish.”

Before my pride can go to my head, however, my dad’s bobber (out there in the middle of nowhere) goes down, and I mean **hard!** I sense that something is on his line that is going to dwarf my wimpy bluegill. (Though, remember, I’m not competitive!) You can tell he has been fishing his entire life because he stands up and starts hauling that puppy in like a pro. His pole bends down so far that I’m afraid it is going to crack in half, or worse yet, drag my aging father in. He negotiates the line with whatever is down there: the fish takes some line, and dad patiently takes a little more back.

“You’re working to tire him out, aren’t you,” I observe.

“And not to break my line,” he adds. As I watch him, Hemingway’s novel, *The Old Man and the Sea*, crosses my mind. Did my dad and that fish ever fight it out!

Eventually dad maneuvers it close enough to the dock for us to sneak a peek. Folks, this is the mother lode, especially when you’re expecting bluegills for your bobber and worms. Fortunately, I brought the net along. It’s going to take two to bring this fish home. (At CBI we call this networking!) It *barely* fits into the net as I scoop it up. He is big, and he is *scary* looking. “That’s the story of my life,” dad later deadpans, “I’ve always been lucky! I mean, blessed.”

Anglers who fish Michigan inland lakes know all about the longnose garpike. You can see that this catch was almost

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# FISHERS

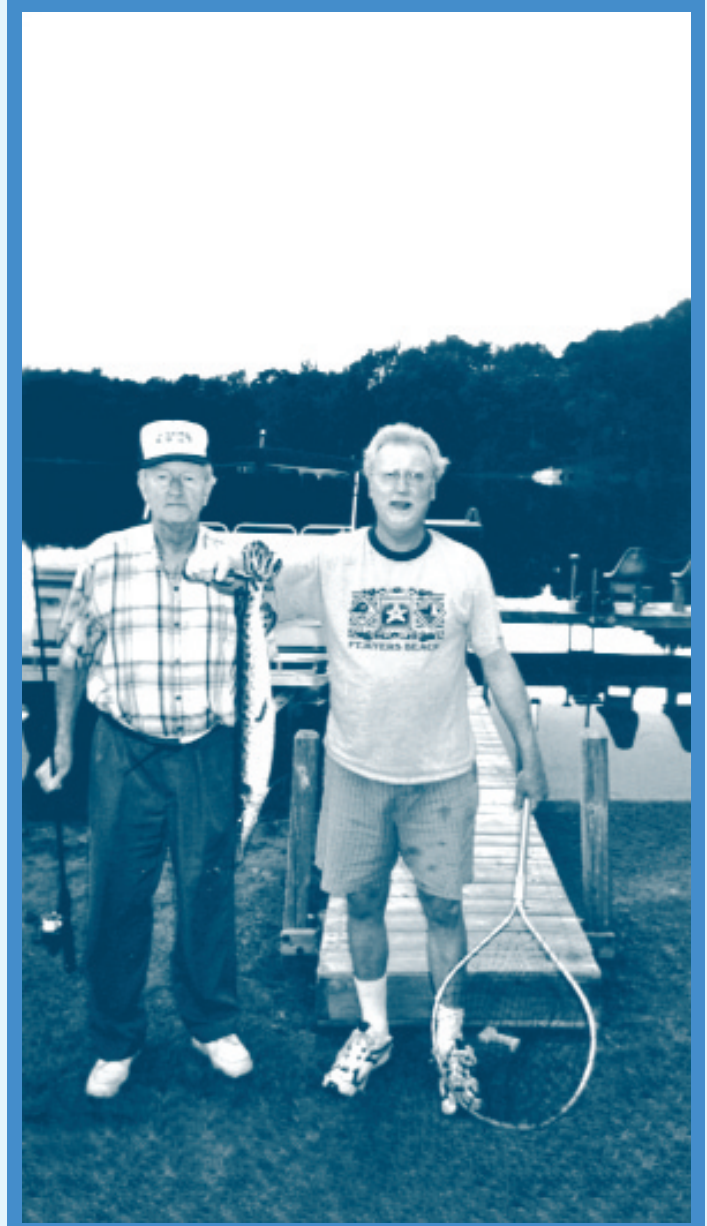
three feet long. (I included the picture so you won't think I'm making this fish story up.) Its long mouth is shaped like an alligator's, with gargantuan teeth. (That's why I'm holding it by the tail, you're not supposed to handle them without heavy gloves.) Close up, it looks eerily prehistoric and gives you the chills.

I have subsequently researched that garpikes are the meanest fish in the lake, and they will take on any prey. With body scales as thick as armor, they do some serious damage by rushing into a school of fish, thrashing back and forth and picking off the victims. I have also learned that they are quite difficult to catch, but, if you can, it is easily the most exciting fish in the lake to conquer.

We felt like heroes that night. I was actually somewhat proud of my dad. The next night, after mom, dad and everyone else left, I caught a 21-inch bass. Dad must have brought me some luck (I mean, blessing). As I have written previously, I wish I had taken my kids fishing. We did enjoy many other activities as we moved about with my schooling and ministry. Nevertheless, I'm still going to make up for not fishing with my own children by fishing with my grandkids.

Ok, while I don't claim to be a world-class fisherman, I do know something about ministry and we have to draw some lessons from this story. First, it is likely that few inmates grew up with fathers who woke them predawn to say, "Let's go fishing!" Of course, there is never an excuse for immoral behavior, but I have to wonder how life may have turned out differently for a prisoner with a dad who was invested in his life. I know I have a lot for which to be thankful.

Second, we are called to be "fishers of men" (Mark 1:17). Maybe some would consider inmates as the garpikes of the lake. They may look mean and scary and have done some serious damage, but thanks to you, together we are reeling them in, one at a time. No one is too large, too mean or too sinful to be scooped up into the net of God's love! Your involvement in CBI proves that, every day.



"...together we are reeling them in one at a time. No one is too large, too mean or too sinful to be scooped up into the net of God's love!"

David Schuringa

# ISLAM AMONG PRISONERS



| By Rev. David Feddes

reaches out to non-Christians of every race

**M**ore conversions to Islam occur in prison than anywhere else in America. An estimated 30,000 prisoners per year become Muslims. The impact extends beyond prison. Many, upon release, form a growing part of the Muslim presence in their neighborhoods. African American Muslims now exceed two million. Prison ministry is the most successful part of Muslim missions in the United States and aids expansion into communities outside prison.

One factor for the large number of Muslim conversions in prison is the staggering level of incarceration. Almost one-third of African American men in their 20s spend time behind bars. More go to prison than college. This was not always so. In 1980, one-fourth as many black men were in prison (143,000) as in college (463,700). However, by 2000, the number of black inmates had increased fivefold (791,600), surpassing the number of college students (603,000).

Some see America (with Christianity its foremost religion) as a system more eager to lock them away than to provide access to good schools, jobs or other opportunities to support a family. At the same time, some sense that they need to change their own ways. Islam seems to address both needs: a different system than the one that imprisons them and personal transformation expressed in a new name, clothing, diet, worship practices and a disciplined lifestyle.

In addition, many prisoners want protection from violence and homosexual rape. Islam rejects homosexuality and encourages help for fellow Muslims. Some Muslim groups may function like other race-based prison gangs that help members and harm opponents.

**CBI is privileged to be on the front line of countering Islam and advancing God's kingdom.**

No doubt this motivates some conversions to Islam. At the same time, longings to overcome an oppressive system and to transform one's life remain key factors.

With prison such a hotbed for Muslim conversion, and with so many going to prison and then returning to influence their community, some scholars expect the majority of African American males to be Muslim before 2020. However, this is not inevitable. Christians should note Islam's growth among prisoners and the reasons for it, without giving in to fear or defeatism.

Love must overcome fear. Rather than racial separation, Christians must live and worship together in a love that unites Christians of all races and reaches out to non-Christians of every race. Rather than regard Muslims only as adversaries, Christians must see them as persons loved by God and sought by Jesus. Rather than regard prisoners only as threats to society, Christians must demonstrate the Lord's love for them.

Faith must overcome defeatism. Prison is a prime mission field for Muslims but also a ripe opportunity for Christian missions. Many inmates are either seeking Christ or wanting to grow stronger in Him. They need teaching and support from the church inside and outside prison. As prisoners receive lessons of truth and letters of love from CBI Instructors, they experience the transforming power of God's Word and Spirit.

The strategic importance of prison for Muslim missions means that CBI is privileged to be on the front line of countering Islam and advancing God's kingdom.

*Rev. Feddes serves as the Director of The Center for Advanced Studies at Crossroad Bible Institute. Visit [www.crossroadbibleinstitute.org](http://www.crossroadbibleinstitute.org) and click on The Center button to find the link to an in-depth analysis by Rev. Feddes of Islam among African American prisoners.*

I am a divorced father with three children and am currently serving time in a federal prison for bank robbery.

Aboard a flight in April 2000, from Detroit to Oklahoma City's Federal Detention Center, I felt the still small voice of the Holy Spirit speaking to me. Sitting in leg shackles and handcuffs, I sensed the direct question: "Do I have your attention now?" In that moment, I knew I'd better stop playing around with God, whom I'd taken for granted.

I contacted Focus on the Family for resources to deepen my walk with Christ. The person who took my call sent a helpful book to me. He included an application for study with Crossroad Bible Institute in Grandville, Mich. My hometown is the neighboring city of Grand Rapids! I can be dumb at times, but I'm not stupid—I applied for the study program.

It has been a blessing beyond measure to complete all three tiers of the Crossroad program—from the basics of God's Word to biblical hermeneutics. My hunger increases each day for His Word and truth.

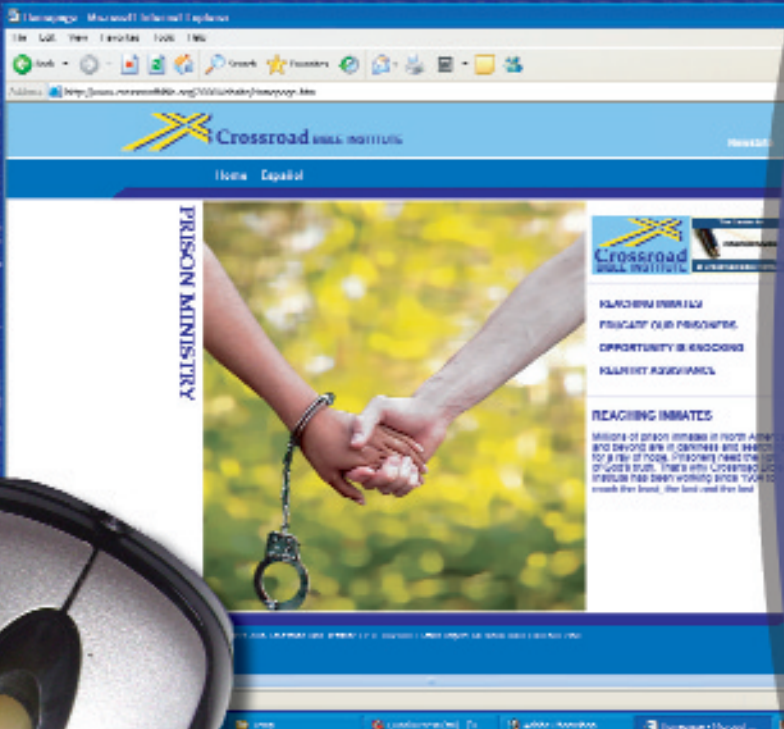
I pray that someday I will be able to give back what I've taken from society. In Galatians 4:4-7, Paul reminds me of the fullness of Jesus Christ, God's Son. My heart celebrates His wonderful gift!

Tom E., MI

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I pray that someday I will be able to give back what I've taken from society.



## Upcoming 2007 Website

Check out our completely revised website @ [www.crossroadbibleinstitute.org](http://www.crossroadbibleinstitute.org)

# IN THE NEWS...

KUNST-ESSAY:  
Situationalistisk  
Internationale, A  
Placement Group  
Weeks' Coalit  
eksempler fra



## Growing Pagan Religion Led Inmates to Commit Ceremonial Murder

**STAUNTON, VA**—Two prisoners murdered a fellow inmate at the foot of an altar during an Asatru religious ceremony at the Augusta Correctional Center. Michael Lenz and Jeffrey Remington attacked Brent Parker, also a follower of Asatru, during the pagan ceremony. Parker was stabbed 68 times. Lentz, 42, said in his court hearing that the victim did not take the religion seriously and therefore had to die to protect the honor of the gods. The two attackers were sentenced to death in 2000. Remington committed suicide in 2004, while on death row, and Lentz was executed this July at the Greensville Correctional Center in Virginia. Prison experts and religious leaders say Asatru, sometimes known as Odinism, is growing in popularity in U.S. prisons. The pre-Christian polytheistic religion has roots in Viking mythology, including gods such as Odin and Thor. There are an estimated 10,000 to 20,000 Asatruists and Odinists in the U.S., according to Stephen McNallen, director of the Asatru Folk Assembly.

## America's First Innocence Committee Passed in North Carolina

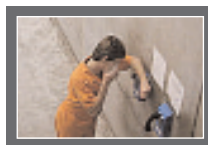
**RALEIGH, NC**—The first ever U.S. committee designated to investigate claims of innocence by convicted felons was signed into law by North Carolina Governor, Mike Easley. The committee consists of eight members that will evaluate new evidence not considered in court. Cases will be brought before a panel of three Superior Court judges if at least five committee members agree the new evidence merits a reversal. The conviction

would then be overturned if the three Superior Court judges unanimously decide to do so. After signing the bill, Gov. Easley said to Associated Press reporters, "Its creation gives our criminal justice system yet another safeguard by helping ensure that the people in our prisons in fact, belong there." The committee will begin accepting claims in November.

## Death Penalty Approved for Repeat Child Molesters in Oklahoma and South Carolina

**OKLAHOMA CITY, OK**—Oklahoma Governor, Brad Henry, passed a law that will allow the death penalty for repeat child sexual offenders. One week prior, the governor of South Carolina passed a similar law. The new Oklahoma law is an option for those convicted twice of sexual crimes with children under 14, and the South Carolina law is applicable for repeat offenders in sex crimes involving children younger than 11. Three other states, Louisiana, Florida and Montana, have similar laws in place. Since the Supreme Court reinstated the death penalty 30 years ago, no one has been executed for a child sexual offense. However, one inmate in Louisiana is on death row for his sexual conviction in 2003.

## Inmates' Toll-free Line to Ombudsman



**AUSTRALIA**—Inmates in Victorian prisons now have a toll-free direct line to the state Ombudsman so they can report corrupt police. A Corrections Victoria spokesman said the 1800 hot-

line to the Office of Police Integrity (OPI), which is attached to the state Ombudsman's office, was now available in prisons. "This number gives inmates the same access to the independent watchdog as everyone else, and is similar to prisons in other jurisdictions," the spokesman told the *Herald Sun* newspaper. The OPI handles complaints against police as well as conducting investigations into a range of systemic issues and police corruption. The office has welcomed the move to allow prisoners access to the toll-free number, but has denied suggestions that it was trying to drum up complaints after failing to prosecute a single officer in 18 months.

*Australian Associated Press*

## I Just Had This Crazy Dream Where I Woke Up in Jail...

**BELLEVUE, WA**—Police in this Seattle suburb didn't have to go far to arrest a man for investigation of car prowling. He was found sleeping in a special weapons and tactics van. Officer Greg Grannis said a municipal worker reported someone breaking into cars, including his own, shortly before midnight Monday. Officers quickly found burglarized cars, but couldn't determine who might be responsible — until about 4:50 a.m., when two SWAT team members came to the police vehicle maintenance yard to get their van and found a 25-year-old transient asleep in the back, Grannis said. The man, whose last known home address was in Louisiana, was booked into the King County Jail for investigation of burglary.

*Associated Press*

# MEMORIAL GIFTS (GIFTS RECEIVED AS OF 08/18/06)

## IN HONOR OF:

**Dan & Matilda Alons**  
(60th Wedding Anniversary)  
Troy & Michelle DeJongh  
Larry Postma

**Gertrude Donkersloot**  
(85th Birthday)  
Matilda Alons

**Bert & Dena Joling**  
(67th Wedding Anniversary)  
Morris & Rose Blankespoor

**Alice Parker**  
(60th Birthday)  
John & Margaret Meendering  
Mrs. Betty Vander Griend  
Mrs. Stephen Vander Werff

**Henry & Margaret Scholten**  
(65th Wedding Anniversary)  
Allen & Ardith Rubingh

**Herm Sjoerdsma**  
(Father's Day)  
Jack & Cheri Huisman

**Marilyn Vander Weide**  
(Birthday)  
Henry & Ruth DeJong

**Simon & Jennie Visser**  
(65th Wedding Anniversary)  
Michael & Janice Visser

## IN MEMORY OF:

**Marinus Arnoudse**  
Elsie Arnoudse

**Henry Bouwman**  
Howard & Grace Lankheet

**Gladys Cooper**  
Christine Wielenga

**Annette Huizenga**  
Elvera Huizenga  
Ruth Huizenga  
Wallace Huizenga

**Edward Johnson**  
Viola Johnson

**Mryna Koldenhoven**  
Karen Anema  
Trudy Anema  
Martin Breems  
Esther DeBoer  
Jean DeJong  
Liz Elgersma  
Andy & Arlene Haarsma

Arlen & Mary Hofman  
Ruth Vander Hoag  
Dick & Cora Prins  
Velma Verbrugge  
Julie Westerman

**John Kuiper**  
Creative Memory friends  
Luverne Hospital employees  
Ann Rinkel  
Ed VanderWilt

**Dan Piersma**  
Jack & Kathryn Thomas

**Jacob David Schuringa**  
Bernard & Pearl Bandstra  
Matthew & Kelly Day  
Betty Koldenhoven  
Dr. Ernest & Dr. Kathleen Monaco  
Herbert & Genevieve Toringa  
Theresa Woldman

**Marilyn Smits**  
Heritage CRC CoffeeBreak  
Metropolitan Choir of Praise  
Wednesday Morning Golf League  
Eleanor Bos  
Phil & Bette Brink  
Dale & Bonnie Brinks and family  
Ruth Brinks  
Bert Byker Family  
Morrie & Bea DeVries  
Carol Diekevers  
Carolyn Homan  
Roger & Terri Hulst  
Charles & Viki Johnson

Kerwin & Kay Koetje  
Phyllis Kortman  
Elberta Mulder  
Kay Rotman  
Richard & Dorothea Smits  
Gary & Barb Snider  
Jim & Brenda Spackman  
Rich & Barb Toonstra  
Henrietta VanBeek  
Gord & Tena VanSingel  
Joe & Jan Visser  
Joyce Vugteveen  
Joan Waalkes  
Harvey & Lois Winkel  
Paul & Carol Zomerlei

**George Swyter**  
Gerrit & Ida Huisman

**Lois Togtman**  
Christine Wielenga

**Esther Velderman**  
Howard & Grace Lankheet

**Carol Warner**  
Judy deVries

**Walter Wielgus**  
Sally Escott

**Gerard Wynsma**  
Clarence & Harriet Vander Weele

## REMEMBERING PRISONERS IN YOUR ESTATE PLANNING

Make a gift and receive an income for life!



**Mr. Steve Baker**

**Date:** Tuesday, October 17, 2006

**Time:** 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

**Place:** CBI Headquarters

2976 Ivanrest Ave SW

Grandville, Michigan 49418

**Registration Deadline:** October 10, 2006

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL  
616-530-1300**

# PRISON

NEED NOT BE A WASTE OF TIME

Scientific research shows that recidivism rates drop dramatically for inmates who participate in faith-based programs during incarceration. You can participate in this church-based program by correcting inmate Bible study lessons, donating and prayer.

# 2006 CHRISTMAS SEND-A-CARD PROGRAM

For inmates, the most difficult time of the year is Christmas. A stronger sense of loneliness and depression can overcome them as the forgotten ones. One way that CBI is being used by God to bring some Christmas joy to them is through the 2006 Send-A-Card Program. Last year alone, friends of CBI sent 43,325 cards to grateful inmates, up from 25,581 in 2004! Last year, for the first time, some inmates were able to receive more than one card! Let's see how we do this year! Small groups, day school and Sunday school classes, Bible study groups, families, neighborhood groups and entire churches are welcome to participate. It's the least we can do for the least, the last and the lost!

**To participate, please follow the instructions below:**

1. Select an English or Spanish Christmas card.
2. You may add a special greeting, encouragement or Bible verse. (CBI will personalize it with a student's name.)
3. Sign only your first name or "A brother/sister in Christ."
4. Place the card in its blank envelope, but **DO NOT SEAL**.
5. Mail the card(s) and blank envelope to CBI between now and November 8.

**Mailing Guidelines:**

1. Each card must fit into a 6 x 9 envelope.
2. Do not include cards or envelopes with foil, stickers, glitter, glue, pop-up parts or paint and please, **NO HOMEMADE LAYERED CARDS**.
3. Do not put postage stamps on the envelopes.
4. No unsigned cards will be accepted.

CARDS THAT DO NOT COMPLY WITH THESE GUIDELINES CANNOT BE USED BECAUSE MOST FACILITIES WILL NOT ACCEPT THEM.



## Students say...

"I would like to say thank you for the inspiring Christmas card. It touched me very deeply. I wasn't expecting one at all, and it gave me the incentive to push on and try harder to get my life on track with society and with the Lord."

*Garry T., CA*

"For Christmas, the card from my Instructor was the only one I received. I cried! When all others had forgotten me during the season, Jesus, through my Instructor, did not!"

*Stephany S., AZ*

"This time of the year is hard for me because I don't have any family. So I want to thank you all for the Christmas card that you sent me. It really lifted my spirits for the holidays."

*Jesse M., VA*

"The Christmas cards you sent are beautiful. I really appreciated getting them. They were thoughtful and colorful in this dark and dismal place."

*Susan G., GA*

The Center for Advanced Studies  
at Crossroad Bible Institute presents

## CONTINUING EDUCATION SEMINARS

October - December 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.

## OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2006 SEMINARS

Teaching Stewardship While Discipling Inmates

Mr. Ted Boers

Crossroad Bible Institute, Grandville, Michigan  
7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m., Tuesday, October 10, 2006  
Registration Deadline: October 3, 2006

Remembering Prisoners in Your Estate Planning

Mr. Steve Baker

Crossroad Bible Institute, Grandville, Michigan  
7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 17, 2006  
Registration Deadline: October 10, 2006

Living in Care and Kindness with Those in Prison

Dr. David Schuringa

Conference on Care and Kindness  
Oakdale Park CRC, Grand Rapids, Michigan  
11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m., Saturday, October 28, 2006  
Registration Deadline: October 20, 2006

How Restorative Justice Aims to Resolve the  
Crisis in Criminal Justice

Dr. David Schuringa

Crossroad Bible Institute, Grandville, Michigan  
2:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m., Tuesday, November 7, 2006  
Registration Deadline: October 31, 2006

How Restorative Justice Aims to Resolve the  
Crisis in Criminal Justice

Dr. David Schuringa

Almond Valley CRC, Ripon, California  
1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m., Sunday, December 10, 2006  
Registration Deadline: December 4, 2006

OPEN TO CBI INSTRUCTORS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC



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