

Crossroad

NETWORK NEWS



SEPTEMBER 2006



EXCELLENCE IN MINISTRY FOR EVERY INMATE

CBI is not only ministry to people in prison *on behalf of Jesus*, it is also service directed to Him.

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AUGUST 2006

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

EXCELLENCE



Thank you Instructors, office volunteers, prayer warriors, board members, staff members and supporters.



| By Dr. David Schuringa, President

EXCELLENCE IN MINISTRY FOR EVERY INMATE

Last month we discussed the fact that CBI offers holistic ministry to prisoners. This month, in connection with honoring our 5, 7 and 10+ year Instructors, I'd like to explain how, thanks to them, CBI also demonstrates excellence in ministry.

What do we mean by excellence in ministry? It means providing the highest quality discipleship for every student and with every contact. There may be someone new to CBI who wonders why this is so important. After all, these are only inmates, right? They should be delighted with any kind of response and not require the highest quality response every time, some may think. However, we have made promises to each of our students, as well as, to our referral affiliates. We do not promise to provide the best for our students some of the time, or even most of the time. We promise to provide them the very best, all the time.

At CBI headquarters, we seek to present the very best in discipleship materials. We have a team of editors revising and updating courses as well as researching and writing new ones. Our graphic designer makes them look first class. Our lesson processing team seeks to get the lessons out in as timely a manner as possible. Nevertheless, our Instructors are essential in delivering a ministry of ex-

cellence to every inmate. For example, we tell Instructors that if they do not have the time or desire to write a carefully thought out, full-page letter of discipleship to return with every lesson, this ministry is not for them at this time.

Excellence is not about professionalism, although we do seek to be professional in our approach to ministry. We do not want the image of an operation that doesn't know what it is doing. Nevertheless, it is mostly about excellence.

Excellence is not about a legalistic perfectionism that borders on pharisaism. In 17th Century Holland, there was a pietistic movement called precisionism, akin to Puritanism in England. These movements were a call to live more precisely and purely, in accordance with God's Word. Some thought it was pharisaic, but an eminent Dutch theologian of the time, G. Voetius, disagreed. He wrote that pharisaism is holding *others* to a higher standard, and precisionism is holding *ourselves* to the highest of standards. CBI excellence is something we choose for ourselves and something each Instructor promises for him or herself.

In theology, we speak of the excellencies or perfections of God. 1 Peter 2:9-10 calls us to declare God's

praises, but the underlying Greek word there is more accurately translated as God's excellencies.

Excellencies refer to God's attributes such as love, wisdom and omnipotence. He is excellent and perfect in all His attributes. Using the same underlying Greek word, Peter then calls God's people to live to God's glory in accordance with excellence (2 Peter 1:3). In fact, he exhorts us to add excellence to our faith (2 Pet. 1:5).

It is understood, then, that our God deserves our most excellent service in all areas of life, and especially in ministry to the downtrodden. Jesus gave us His all. Our efforts will always be flawed, but in gratitude for what He has done, we strive and settle for nothing less than excellence.

CBI is Jesus' ministry, and the inmates we seek to serve are part of His family. He says in Matthew 25:40, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." This means CBI is not only ministry to people in prison *on behalf of Jesus*, it is also service directed *to Him*. He is worthy of nothing less than our very best, every day, every time. Thank you Instructors, office volunteers, prayer warriors, board members, staff members and supporters, for participating with excellence for His Excellency!

Time Well Spent INSTRUCTOR APPRECIATION 2006



By Karen Loyd

Dear Instructors,

The world cannot help but notice that God dwells within your hearts. This is evident in the time you spend caring about prisoners and other students through the ministry of CBI. You have a love inside that can only be the result of your encounter with God. Your work as Instructors is a testimony to the self-centered and judgmental world in which we live that Jesus Christ is alive in you!

In Matthew 5:43-48, Jesus says, "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

The time you take each week to correct a student's Bible lesson could easily be spent chatting with a friend on the phone, watching your favorite TV show or giving your home a second dusting. But you choose to spend your valuable time encouraging students who are hungry for the Word of God. Most of these students are inmates in a prison far away from you. These inmates allegedly committed crimes that violated another person in some way. Why would you do that? Why would you give them assistance in any way?

Is this time wasted or time well spent? Most of you have already learned that this small investment of your time in the life of an inmate yields a great return. You sense the fulfillment; you express the joy and satisfaction. Your students convey their thankfulness every day. Moreover, just think how your service pleases the Lord. Someday, you will surely hear Him say, "Well done, good and faithful servant!"

We sincerely express our heartfelt gratitude for giving your precious time to doing the work of the church in reaching prisoners around the world. Thank you for allowing the love of Christ to work through you to the students! Thank you CBI Instructors for your time well spent!

Karen Loyd serves as the Instructor Coordinator at CBI

This year we honor Instructors who have served 5, 7 and 10 or more years. However, we are deeply grateful for all CBI INSTRUCTORS.

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|--|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|--|--|---|--|-------------------------------------|--|---|---|--|--|--|
| — 22 years —
Judy deVries
Gert Rotman
Maxine Verborg | — 21 years —
Doris Koetsier | — 20 years —
Delores DeKok | — 18 years —
Lois Duyser
Hermina Nyhof
Judy VanderArk | — 17 years —
Grace DeBoer
Thomas VandenHeuvel | — 16 years —
Elaine Boone
Ann Bouma | — 15 years —
Harry Stone
Edwin VanEk
Terry VerHage
Alice Verduin
Donald Verduin | — 14 years —
Elsie Friesema
Edna Jones
Annette VanDyke
Mac VanDyke
Sandy VerBurg | — 13 years —
Jill Postema | — 12 years —
Harriet Bierling
Harriet Borgman
Milton Doombos
Betty Dykstra
Larry Lenthe
Lori Lenthe
Bill VanderKooi
Julia Wevers
Theodore Wevers
Iris Wybenga | — 11 years —
Edward Brower
Robert Bulten
William Christensen
Linda Cotton
Frank DeHaan
John Fyneweaver
Gordon Laninga
Mary Newhof
Sharon Postmus
Bob Schuurman
Tom Teune
Norman VanSolkema
Richard Williams | — 10 years —
Bill Acterhoff
La Vonne Apol
Norene Aukeman
Clare Baar
Marlyns Baar
Beverly Berghorst
Michael Boogaart
Grace Bosch
Roger Bosch
Marie Brinks
Harvard Brouwer
Merrie Brouwer
Ethel Brunger
Albert Bytwork
Marjorie Bytwork | Ellie DeVries
Tom Diephouse
Gertrude Driesenga
Morris Driesenga
Jeanette Dyk
Dave Evertsberg
Doug Haveman
Carol Honderd
Ralph Honderd
Jeanette Hoolsema
Fran Huisman
Fred Hulst
Minnie Ipema
William Kamstra
Ken Klaasen
Ellen Klompier
Donald Koning
Carol Kuipers
Harriet Kuipers
Tracy Lobbezoo
Michael Meyers
Elisabeth Mulder
Helen Oostdyk
Roger Otten
Tilly Pasma
Jon Pastoor
Gary Popma
Dorothy Rhone
Shirley Snoeyink
Harold Soper
Stan Stellingwerf
Bob Theule
Marcia Theule
Elaine VanDyk
George Visser
Jan Visser
Wes Vryhof | — 7 years —
Matilda Alons
Gordon Anderson
Warren Anderson
Gail Andringa
Krista Arendsen
Tony Baar
Karen Baker
Mary Berardi
Barbara Boersma
Martin Boersma
Nina Bolkema
Yvonne Bolkema
Ida Boss
Leona Botting
Edith Brink
Johanna Brink
John Brink
Gary Bronsink
Bernice Brummel
Karen Buikema
Les Bundrick
Carl Burgess
Gerri Bush
June Bustraan
Pauline Charters
Bill Curry
Andrew Dahl
Eleanor DeBoer
Marie DeGraaf
Norman DeJong
Josephine DeJonge
Diane DeRoos
Alma DeVries
Marilyn DeVries
George Devries
Joe Ditta
Chuck Dykstra
June Dykstra
Gladys Eason
Bernice Ebels
Agnes Euwema
Wilma Eylander
Eileen Fedders
Deb Feddes
Karen Fischer
Joyce Flikkema | Matt Flikkema
Karen Fullalove
Dona Fynaardt
Kay Gesch
Dick Glazebrook
Mildred Griffin
Diane Groenewold
Mary Groenewold
Blanche Haverdink
Grace Haverhals
Jake Hekman
Kathy Hekman
Edith Hoekstra
Brian Honeck
George Hoving
Shirley Hoving
Glenn Jasperse
Mary Joyce
Pat Kamerick
Harriet Kamps
Allie Kempenaar
Esther Kempers
Alaine Knoll
Wilma Knoll
Berdine Kok
Ray Kok
Darrel Kraayenbrink
Peter Kranenburg
Cornelia Kroondijk
Linda Krystiniak
Delores Kuipers
Jacob Kuntz
Maria Kuntz
Grace Lankheet
Howard Lankheet
John Lanser
Lois Lanser
Jaci LeFebre
La Roy Lefers
Louise Leugs
Mary Leusink
Delmar Markus
Gert Meendering
Clarence Meinders
Dianne Meyaard
Joyce Meyerink
Merle Meyerink
Arnie Mulder
Joan Mulder
Evelyn Munneke
Barbara Nicholas
Jean Nienoord
Jackie Niewenhuis
Juella Niewenhuis
Kenneth Niewenhuis
John Nydam
Michael Patterson
Chris Peters
Ken Peters
Ray Ponstein
Lois Postma
Luella Rens
Daloris Rensink
Clarice Ribbens
Bertie Roels
Florence Sall
Luke Schaap
Elsie Schafer
Peter Schipma
Cheryl Scholten
Lori Schoolland
Diane Schreur
Jim Schreur
Lorraine Schuitema
Alida Sewell
Norma Shannon
Richard Shannon
Andrew Sjoerdsma
Julie Sjoerdsma
Nelson Slager
Lammert Slofstra
Sandra Smith
Warren Snieder
Marcia Solecki
Del Spronk |
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Jo Spronk	Thelma Boonstra	Don Faass	Bonnie Huenink	Deb Meyer	Jan Schoen	Marjorie VanderPloeg
Bill Spurrier	Helen Borgman	Anne Faber	Dennis Huenink	Ruth Michiels	Shirley Scholten	Allen VanderPol
Joyce Star	Wanda Bos	Bette Faber	Janel Huisman	Barb Mikuszewski	Grace Schotanus	Marcia VanderPol
Donna Start	Deb Bosch	Glenn Faber	Norman Huisman	Frederick Miller	Marjorie Schryvers	Patsy VanderSchaaf
Herb Start	Larry Boss	Larry Faber	Tena Huizenga	Nancy L. Miller	Gerardine Schultz	Chris VanderSloot
Eileen Stehouwer	Glenda Bossenbroek	Robert Faber	John Huizer	Reba Miller	Bill Schultze	Dorothy VanderTuin
Juliet Sterenberg	Margaret Bossenga	James Fedor	Ruth Hulst	Walter Miller	Mary Schultze	Glenda VanderTuig
Clara Stob	Carol Bousema	Terr Fetters	John Hurley	Carolyn Mills	Sheryl Schwitters	Arnold VanderWall
Erma Stursma	James Breidenstein	Dave Fields	Howard Hutchens	Barbara Minner	Fleta Scripps	Dirk VanderWall
April Toomstra	Gertrude Brink	Kim Fields	Johanna IntVeld	Jerry Minner	Dorothy Seven	June VanderWall
Mildred Tripp	Joyce Brink	Debbie Finley	Nelvin Jager	Jane Misner	Raymond Seven	Elizabeth VanderWeele
Thelma Vaandrager	Maxine Brink	Lois Fisher	Audrey Jansen	Irene Monsma	Joanne E Sharon	Elizabeth VanderWeerd
Bonnie VanDeBrake	Thelma Brink	Irene Formica	George Jasperse	Cindy Moore	Verna Sheaffer	Joan Vandenwey
Betty VandeGriend	Maryls Brouwer	Faith Fosheim	Nancy Jasperse	Linda Morris	Helen Sheets	Vera VanderZee
Anne VanDeKieft	Beverly Brouwers	Dorothy Foucher	Donna Jennings	Ernest Moss	Steve Shelley	Ken VanderZwaag
John VanderDeen	Anthony Brown	Emma Jane Frazier	Denis Delbert Johannes	Barbara Moyer	Jeanne Sheppard	Don VanDyke
Inez Vanderhill	Virginia Brown	George Frazier	Eva Johnson	Duane Moyer	David Shold	Cal VanEe
Geneva VanderKolk	Jane Buiten	Joyce Frens	Suzanne Johnson	Helen Mulder	Martha Shold	Judy VanEss
Betty VanderMeer	Don Bulthuis	Eliza Fung	Robert F. Jones	Doris Mullins	Debra Siegersma	Renae VanEss
Karen VanderMolen	Elaine Bulthuis	Doris Gartman	Marjorie Kalmink	Laurie Munneke	Ralph P. Sikkema	Richard VanEss
Dorlene VanderPloeg	Sharon Buwalda	April Geist	Marcella Kamper	Shirley Nagelkirk	Ann Sims	Stuart VanEss
Larry Vanderploeg	Vern Byers	Gladys Genzink	Thomas Kane	Ronald Nagy	Arthur Sjoerdsma	Fred VanGeest
Lois Vanderploeg	Dottie Calhoun	Marvin Genzink	Ivamarie Kelley	Raymond Negris	Hennie Sjoerdsma	Dale VanHaitsma
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Mary VanDeWege	Bob Carigon	Nathan Gibson	Diane Kelvington	Dan Neumann	Stanley Slagter	Fem Ida VanHouten
Ivan VanDusseldorp	Jeff Cisar	Doris Gill	Catharine Key	Doug Newcomb	Jeneva Slenk	Dick VanLoo
Lois VanDusseldorp	Kathy Cisar	George Gillen	Laura M. King	Eileen Newcomb	Joan Slenk	Louise VanLoo
Helen VanDyke	Julie Clason	Virginia Gilley	Diane Kleinhesselink	Marjory Noffke	Corinne Smies	Joan VanMaanen
Cherie VanEck	William Clason	Ron Gingerich	Wanda Kleinjans	Lynnette Nolan	Donald Smies	Trudy VanManen
Karen VanHaitsma	Stanley Cole	Wilbert G. Glauser	Judy Knapp	Carol Noteboom	Lawrence Smith	Cornelius VanTol
Evelyn VanHeukelom	Richard Cooper	Johanna Goslinga	Jeffrey Knox	Leona Noteboom	Bev Smothers	Janet VanVliet
Harold Vankley	Shirley Cooper	Lewis Grant	Jean Kok	Phyllis Noteboom	Julie Smothers	Klaire VanWingerden
Hazel VanKoevinger	Billy H. Cossey	Marjorie Gray	Laura Kok	Martha Nydam	Truman Smothers	Nancy VanWyk
Grace VanKooten	Cathy Cotter	Ernestine Gremillion	Marie M. Kok	Betty Nyenhuys	Michael Spencer	Minnie VanWygarden
Harris VanKooten	Michael Courson	Vera Grimmius	Terry Kok	Nelvina Nyhoff	Brian Stack	Anna VanZee
Deb VanMaanen	Danna Coy	Harold Grissen	Lori Kolean	Jan Oeverman	Gail Steenwyk	Tena VanZee
Muriel VanVuren	June Crake	Virginia Grissen	Simon Koning	Mark O'Keefe	Miki Stewart	Marvin Veldhoff
Sharon VanWieren	Connie Crama	Colleen Griswold	Marge Kool	Joan Olsen	Ross Stewart	Helen Veldhorst
Larry VanZee	Jackie Cruzan	Geri Gritters	Karen Koopmans	Helen Opperwall	Donna Stone	Cheryl Veldman
Lois VanZee	Robert Cryslar	Vernette Guthmiller	Sherwin Koopmans	Richard Orrell	Virginia Stone	Tom Veldman
Jerry Veldkamp	Barbara Cusumano	Holly Haan	Bernard Koops	Gertrude Paap	Connie Stonehouse	Mary Vellema
Lois Veldkamp	Loreen Damhof	Barb Hamlin	Janice Koops	Jerry G. Palma	Ralph Stowe	Jean Veltema
James Veldman	Tom Davis	William S. Hammack	Jeanne Koops	Dennis Palombo	Gerald Stravers	Martin Verel
Harv Verbrugge	Karen Day	Maria Hansen	Joyce Koops	Denise Papotto	Joe Stravers	Joyce Verhaar
Madalyn Verliare	Sarah DeBoer	Judy Hansum	Lynn Koops	Richard Parisi	Lucille Stravers	Donald Verhulst
John VerMeer	Sheila DeHaan	Judy Harlan	Pearl Kortenhoeven	Kathleen Pasma	Pearl Stravers	Debra VerMeer
Bill Viss	Tress DeHaan	Jill Harrigan	Evelyn Koruna	Sharon Patterson	David Sudnick	Erma VerSteege
Judie Visscher	Elizabeth DeJager	Sheila Harris	Mark Kranich	Shirley Pearson-Hendrickson	Beverly Sullivan	Patty VerSteege
Randall Voorn	Carol DeJong	Becca Harrison	Alvina Krikke	Miriam Peckman	Mary Jane Sullivan	Catherine VerVelde
Marilyn Westerhof	Ellen DeJong	Jackie Hartman	LuAnn Kruijs	Tami Pickart	Judi Suren	Mae Veurink
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Dorothy Yonker	Janet DeJong	Orville Hauck	Violet Kuiken	Robert Poel	Anne Tamingel	Arloa Visser
Wendell Yonker	Pearl DeJong	Sharon Hauck	Margaret LaDow	Bob Pohler	Frederika Tamingel	Effie Visser
	Ted DeJong	Arlene Haverdink	Marie Lambuth	Halo Polerecky	Ileen Tanis	Cheryl vonDrehle
	Vonda DeKleine	Gordon Haverdink	William W. Lambuth	Winifred Pommer	Fran Tatina	Eunice Voortman
— 5 years —	Alice DenBesten	Cindy Heckenlaible	Joan Landis	Janice Poppema	Darlene Teerink	Annette Vos
Lois Aalderks	Helen DenBoer	Shelly Heckenlaible	Henry Lanning	Junior Poppema	Darrell Teerink	Elva June Vos
Chris Adams	Dean DenUyl	Ann Heerema	Twila Lanning	Bea Porter	Vivian TenBrink	Erma Vos
Bill Adams, Sr	Virginia DenUyl	Joanna Heerema	Mary Lappala	Marian Postema	Aida Terpstra	Marion Vos
Bonnie Admire	Lori DeRitter	Joseph Heinz	Pamela Laviolette	Marian Postema	Barbara Thewes	Sherie Vredeveld
Ralph Alexander	Sid DeRuiter	Kevin Heisey	Irwin Leavitt	Judy Postma	Bob Thewes	Bobbi Weber
Judith Andersen	Elizabeth DeTroye	Paul Heitzmann	Charlene Ledebor	Will Powers	Stephanie Thomas	Elaine Weber
Sharon P. Anderson	John DeTroye	Marlene Hekman	Grace Ledebor	Isaac Price	Joyce L. Thompson	James Weber
Janet Apotheker	Nell DeVree	Hugh Henderson	Jo Ann Lee	Carter Protzmann	Susan Tiffany	Thomas Weeda
Michael Asmus	Ronald DeVree	Norma Herder	Darlene Lefers	Jean Pulscher	Linda Timko	Martha Weg
Jill Atchison	Deb DeVries	Mae Heyveld	Marilyn Lefers	Donna Rasmussen	Hubert Timmer	Harold Westra
Fritz Awig	Henry DeVries	Betty Hickey	Jan Leix	Lorna Reinders	Jeanette Timmer	Mary Dana White
David Bailey	Hildy DeVries	Watheda Hicks	Eleanor Liewen	Debra Richie	Tena Timmer	Ralph White
Albert Bakker	Roland DiRienzo	Jane Hietbrink	Kim Lindsey	Irene Ritsema	Dan Timmerman	Sandi White
Henry Baron	Norma Dole	Leslie Hilbelink	Bill Lohstrof	Randy Roper	Marilyn Tinklenberg	Nyla Wieberdink
Ruth Baron	Christina Donato	Cindy Hilbrand	Donna Lomax	Jim Rosenberger	Jim Tuininga	Bill Wilder
Jane Batterink	Jim Dornbush	Debra Hill	Lucille Long	Charlotte Rosenburg	Charlotte Uilenberg	Carol Wilder
Mary Beard	Coby Dragt	Patricia B. Hill	Kim Lopez	Maria Royle	Kay VandeBunte	Mardi Wilkinson
Ruth Beck	Anthony Dubois	Esther Hillers	Louise Lousma	Mary Rudeboom	Dolores VandeMinkelis	Barry Wisniewski
Leann Beimers	Flora Ducharme	Stan Hoekman	Charlotte Lowe	Terry Rudy	Geraldine VandenBerg	Gayla Witte
Alma Beltman	Duane DuMez	Jeneva Hoeks	Merna Lowey	Ann Marie Rumph	Johanna VandenBos	Carolyn Wolbrink
Jeanette Bergakker	Patrick Dunkerley	Ed Hoeksema	Geneva Lubbers	Arnold Rumph	Orville VandenBos	Robert Wolfswinkel
Leonard Berghoef	Domenic Durante	Gerald Hoeitge	Steven Lund	Glenda Runyan	Fred VanDenBosch	Greg Wood
Lois Bergsma	Cherie Dykstra	Susan Hoeitge	Harv Lutke	Leah M. Rupp	Sylvia VanDenBosch	Judy Worobel
Jan Berkenpas	Evelyn Dykstra	Cora Hoffmeyer-Dykema	Joy Lutke	Kristina E. Ryan	Linda VanDenHoek	Linda Yanega
Vera Berwick	Kathy Dykstra	Kay Hoitenga	Kathryn Lutke	Dolores Rylaarsdam	Dorothy VandenBrink	Robert Yanega
Esther Betten	Donna Dykxhoorn	Junella Hoksbergen	Ruth Lutke	Scott Saeger	Henrietta VandenBrink	Roger Yelle
Duane Beukelman	Karen Eck	Beverly Holland	Lavonne Maas	Cherie Saurwein	Ethel VandenHoek	David Yu
Gloria Beukelman	Beverly Eckhoff	Jan Hollander	Renee Magee	Carol Schaap	Margaret VandenHoek	Donna Zeeb
Bonnie Bizzanelli	Don Eggebeen	Debra Holmen	Cheryl Magill	Alfred Schaeffer	Corrie VanderHelm	Janna Zeilstra
Frances Blom	Julie Eggebeen	Calvin Hoogstra	Patrick Maloney	Leona Schaeffer	Allan VanderLugt	Andrew Zylstra
Alyce Jane Boender	Dona Emmert	Dee Ann Hoordyk	John Masters	Linda Schaeffer	Lynette VanderMeer	Tom Zylstra
Walter Boerman	Norman Ericson	Dave House	Donald Matthews	Wayne Scheeringa	Agnes VanderMolen	
Hazel Boeve	Emma Ervin	Marguerite Hubers	Caryl McCormick	Everine Schipper	Elaine VanderPloeg	
Hester Bolkema				Dale Schmidt		

IN THE NEWS...

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With Jobs to Do, Louisiana Turns to Inmates

LAKE PROVIDENCE, LA—At barbecues, ballgames and funerals, cotton gins, service stations, the First Baptist Church, the pepper-sauce factory and the local private school, the men in orange are everywhere. Many people here in East Carroll Parish, as Louisiana counties are known, say they could not get by without their inmates, who make up more than 10 percent of its population and most of its labor force. They are dirt-cheap, sometimes free, always compliant, ever-ready and disposable. You just call up the sheriff, and presto, inmates are headed your way. “They bring me warm bodies, 10 warm bodies in the morning,” said Grady Brown, owner of the Panola Pepper Corporation. “They do anything you ask them to do.” It is an ideal arrangement, many in this farming parish say.

New York Times

Man Released After Serving 22 Years On a Wrongful Rape Conviction

NEW YORK—After serving 22 years in prison, Alan Newton was released this July due to DNA evidence that proved his innocence. Newton, now age 44, was convicted in 1985 for kidnapping and raping a woman in an abandoned Bronx building in 1984. Earlier this year, the nonprofit organization Innocence Project, along with prosecutors from the Bronx district attorney’s office, asked New York authorities to search an evidence warehouse in Queens once again. The evidence bin was found in its original storage space, precisely where authorities previously searched at least three times. In 1994, Newton began his

pleas for DNA testing, which was unavailable at the time of his original trial. However, authorities were unable to find the kit containing the evidence taken from the crime scene. Newton had a glimmer of hope in 1998, but authorities could only locate the victims clothing and were unable to find any DNA evidence.

New Life for Death-Penalty Debate

LANSING, MI—Michigan is considered to be one of the first English speaking governments in the world to ban the death penalty. There hasn’t been a state government-run execution in Michigan since before it was admitted to the union in 1837. The formal law blocking capital punishment for all crimes except treason took effect about a decade later, and that exception has since been closed. State Rep. Dan Acciavatti, a Republican from Macomb County’s Chesterfield Township, would give Michiganians a chance to decide if they want to keep their status as one of the 12 states that doesn’t allow capital punishment. Last month he proposed a constitutional amendment that would allow the death penalty to be considered in first-degree murder cases. A person convicted of first-degree murder under current state law is sent to prison without the possibility of parole.

The Grand Rapids Press

U.K. Prison Drops InnerChange Out of Diversity Concerns

United Kingdom—A month after a federal judge called Prison Fellowship’s InnerChange Freedom Initiative “pervasively sectarian” and ordered the program in Iowa’s Newton Correctional Facility to close, comes word

that a sister program has been kicked out of Dartmoor prison in England. “There are two reasons for the closure,” Prison Fellowship England and Wales chairman Lady Georgie Wates tells The Church of England Newspaper. “First we don’t comply with the diversity policy of the Prison Service because we teach the sanctity of heterosexual marriage as the Bible says, which is seen as homophobic. And secondly, because we don’t fit in with the multi-faith agenda. They think we should be teaching a bit of every religion and that what we’re teaching offends other faiths.” Bishop of Rochester Michael Nazir-Ali tells the paper he worries that the decision could indicate a broader marginalization of Christianity in chaplaincies.

Christianity Today

Police May Have Been Closer to Fugitive Conwoman than They Thought

VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA—A fugitive who has assumed the identities of several women and stolen hundreds of thousands of dollars from their bank accounts was issued a police gun after she fooled crime department officers into believing she was an undercover officer from interstate. Sources have said that the woman, known as Jodie Harris among several other aliases, was welcomed into the crime department’s inner sanctum about four years ago and since then has been privy to confidential details of several investigations in Victoria. Harris is understood to have told officers from the department’s St Kilda Road headquarters that she was an undercover drug operative from Queensland after she produced a stolen police badge.

Sydney Morning Herald

MUSLIM GROWTH IN AMERICA

THE CENTER FOR ADVANCED STUDIES AT CROSSROAD BIBLE INSTITUTE



| By Rev. David Feddes

Europe will have a Muslim majority in this century if present immigration and birthrate patterns continue. Native Europeans have too few children to replace the population—only 1.3 per couple. The aging continent needs immigrants to prevent population decline. Muslim immigrants average four children per couple, triple the rate of non-Muslims. Even though barely one percent of Muslim growth comes from converting non-Muslims, Europe is on track to becoming predominately Islamic.

America is different. Its birthrate is still high enough (barely) to maintain population, and fewer immigrants are Muslim. Still, at least six million Muslims live in America, and the number is rising. The majority of growth comes from immigration and reproduction, but a significant portion—about 35 percent—comes from conversion. The most fertile ground for Muslim recruitment is America's prison system. Therefore, effective Christian ministry among inmates is of utmost importance to curb the growth of Islam in America and to win Muslims to faith in Jesus as Savior and Lord (more about Muslims in prison next month).

Nearly 90 percent of U.S. converts to Islam—about two million—are African Americans, mostly from Protestant background. Some recall past slavery, see ongoing segregation on Sunday mornings, fall for the notion that Christianity is “white man’s religion” and think Islam fits African roots and black identity. Some men find churches overwhelmingly female and prefer the manliness of Islam. Others want more dignity, discipline and achievement. Islam attracts these people because it offers strict standards and opportunity for betterment. While many African Americans remain active members of vibrant Christian churches (a higher percentage than whites), a growing number have become Muslim.

There are two main categories of African American Muslims: black supremacists and mainstream Sunnis. Most black supremacists carry Elijah Muhammad’s influence. From the 1930s until his death in 1975, Elijah taught that African Americans are God’s chosen people, that whites are devils, that a man named Wallace Fard had been

Allah incarnate and that Elijah Muhammad himself is Allah’s prophet. This contradicted the Koran, but it appealed to many downtrodden African Americans and attracted such figures as Malcolm X, Muhammad Ali and Louis Farrakhan.

In recent decades, many black supremacist Muslims have moved toward mainstream Islam, no longer seeing Fard as God or whites as devils. In fact, only about ten percent of African American Muslims belong to black supremacist groups. The other ninety percent are now Sunni, the predominant form of Islam worldwide. Black supremacist groups are splintered and small, but they remain important as a first step for many African Americans to start calling themselves Muslim. Though they may later reject the teachings of Elijah Muhammad or Farrakhan, they often keep the Muslim label and join a more orthodox mosque. Both types of Islam, black supremacist and Sunni, are active among prisoners.

This is a challenge and opportunity for Christians. African American Muslims, as well as immigrants, need the biblical Jesus Christ, the infinite God-man. We must overcome fear and racial division, relate intelligently, pray fervently, love actively and communicate clearly the transforming truth of the gospel.

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

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.

The graphic features the word "PRISON" in large, bold, blue letters on a yellow background. Below it, the text "NEED NOT BE A WASTE OF TIME" is written in white on a dark blue background. At the bottom, a white text box contains the message about recidivism rates and faith-based programs.

CENTER LAUNCHES PILOT PROJECT TO OFFER ADVANCED COURSES INSIDE PRISONS



Rev. Van Wolde (first center) with his CAS-CBI students.

money to fund aspects of the IFI wing has been challenged. CBI's partnership with IFI involves providing free in-prison college level courses for IFI or CBI Tier 2 graduates.

A pastor from nearby Pella, Rev. Art Van Wolde, will be the Center's first on site Instructor in Theology. He will teach the courses at the Newton facility. The Center for Advanced Studies currently offers courses in Hermeneutics and Systematic Theology. In preparation are courses in Church History, Practical Theology and Christian Worldview. Rev. Van Wolde plans to teach the courses on a weekly basis in 10 week semesters.

Newton, IA—The Center for Advanced Studies at Crossroad Bible Institute announces plans to launch a pilot project this month in the State Penitentiary in Newton, Iowa. The InnerChange Freedom Initiative (IFI) of Prison Fellowship has recently been in the news as their use of state

When students are transferred to another facility, they will be able to continue their studies through an on-going correspondence relationship with The Center for Advanced Studies. Students at the Center are being trained as future leaders of the church behind and outside prison walls. These advanced level courses will also prepare them to attend college upon their release.

SUPPORT



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The Center for Advanced Studies
at Crossroad Bible Institute presents

CONTINUING EDUCATION SEMINARS

September - December 2006

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2006 SEMINARS

Helping Inmates

Understand the Bible Better

Mr. Dan Walcott

Bethany CRC, Holland, Michigan

7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 12, 2006

Registration Deadline: September 5, 2006

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

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

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.



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