

Crossroad

NETWORK NEWS

WINTER 2011

INSIDE

Launch of CBI Kenya

CBI Australia expands to
Papua New Guinea



PRISONERS IN LUSAKA CENTRAL PRISON, ZAMBIA

How Many for Heaven in 2011?

by H. David Schuringa

More precisely, how many people can we get ready for heaven this year? I know, that sounds arrogant. Only God's grace can prepare people for the afterlife. However, the fact is that He uses the Good News of Scripture to proclaim the way of eternal life. And Christ uses us, His church, to get that message out.

And nowhere is that message more desperately needed in this world than in prisons and jails, where men and

women devoid of hope long for forgiveness and hunger for a better day—and, whether they know it or not, need to be prepared for the biggest Day of their lives.

“People are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment” (Hebrews 9:27). Let there be no mistake about it! The Bible teaches that the Day is coming, and then we will spend the rest of eternity either with God or far from Him.

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Since 1984, Crossroad has been bringing the message of eternal life to God's people in prison. By His grace, CBI has become a vital part of the Great Commission, bringing the Gospel to inmates around the world. This issue of *CNN* tells of yet another CBI distribution center opening in Africa!

I pledge to you that we will never forget this foundational purpose of our existence: to prepare people in prison to meet their Maker.

But, of course, there's more to it. We do not simply prepare people for eternity and then leave them to wait patiently until they die or Jesus comes again. The Bible teaches us to live with a view to eternity *and* to live out a worldview.

The Christian worldview not only shapes our destiny but also shapes our journey on the way.

For this reason, we work ardently to equip people in prison to live Christian lives while incarcerated and to prepare them to continue living this way upon release. We believe that Christ is Lord over all of life, so our

work ethic matters, our families matter, our personal walk with God matters and our investment in our communities matters.

Because of the importance of living for Jesus in this world, Crossroad not only provides discipleship courses in key areas of Christian living but also actually helps inmates upon release as they search for housing, a job and a church. This is also why we advocate for ex-offenders, making it possible for them to have a fair shot at a job interview and to vote as returning citizens. It's all part of that worldview thing.

So as we dive headfirst into this new year, it is my prayer that, worldwide, more inmates than ever before will be ready for heaven in 2011. By God's grace, we have a role to play in preparing them for their ultimate destination—as well as the journey to that wonderful place by Jesus' side.



Dr. Schuringa serves as the President of Crossroad Bible Institute



Ivan Mulder Makes New Recording

GLORY BE TO JESUS
FEATURING VOCALIST AND PELLA RESIDENT,
IVAN MULDER

The recording includes eighteen hymns and songs of the Christian faith expressing praise and adoration to God for new life and salvation through Jesus Christ. "As you listen to the recording," Ivan says, "you will be reminded of God's awesome promises that are fulfilled in Jesus, His Son, and the abundance of joy and peace that can be yours in every area of life."

Ivan Mulder has offered to donate all sales of his CD to Crossroad Bible Institute when ordered from the CBI website at www.cbi.fm/shop.

PLEASE PROVIDE A SPECIAL GIFT FOR CBI TODAY!



Continuing Education Seminars Edify Enthusiastic Constituents

by Stacy Ladenburger

The Continuing Education Seminars held in 2010 covered a vast array of issues, from the psychological effects of incarceration to public defense reform to writing excellent encouragement letters. Staff at The Center for Advanced Studies at CBI hope these seminars renewed the passion of those present and led to action. Looking ahead, the 2011 seminars promise to bring new information, inspiration and opportunities for growth.



Instructor Rallies, which provide ministry updates, encouragement and a forum for Instructors to ask questions, remained a highlight for attendees in 2010. Dr. Schuringa, CBI president, led many rallies during his travels throughout the country, and CBI Australia offered several as well.

CBI headquarters hosted two rallies in November, and West Michigan Instructors enjoyed speaking with Dr. Schuringa and encouraging one another in their shared ministry.



Also memorable was the summer visit of CBI Nicaragua Directors Emerson and Martina Wilson to CBI's Grand Rapids, Michigan headquarters. With their daughter, Xochil, they discussed the work of CBI Nicaragua with heartfelt passion.



More recently, in fall 2010, Clifford Washington spoke about the church's responsibility to the reentry community. Washington works for Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services as the coordination manager for the Michigan Prisoner Reentry Initiative (MPRI), a statewide effort to provide a support

system for former offenders. With fourteen years in prison and a successful reentry behind him, Washington explained with authority the challenges of reentry and ways to overcome them. He noted the importance of prosocial activities, mentoring, employment assistance and faith-based initiatives, pointing to existing efforts and calling for further action.



CYNTHIA WILLIAMS

The 2011 seminars will continue informing and engaging the CBI constituency. This month, CBI's Cynthia Williams offered an update on the ongoing expansion of CBI International. Mary Mortenson, director of Prison Congregations of America and a June 2010 guest on *Crossroad Connection*, will speak in March.



MARK VANDER MEER

Other familiar voices this year will include Pastor Mark Vander Meer, who will discuss the complexity of working with sex offenders reentering society, and Chaplain John Lamsma, with a presentation about mentoring and restorative justice.



TRACEY BRAME

In September, Tracey Brame of Cooley Law School will explain the importance of speaking up for the voiceless in her seminar about indigent criminal defense.

Visit the CBI website to view the full 2011 Continuing Education Seminar schedule and to purchase recordings of past seminars.



Stacy serves as an Associate Editor in The Center for Advanced Studies at CBI

Grand Opening Ceremony Launches Ministry of CBI Kenya

by Stacy Ladenburger

Continuing its efforts to relieve suffering in the developing world, Crossroad Bible Institute announces the opening of yet another international distribution center, this one in Kenya. This is CBI's twelfth distribution center worldwide and its fourth in Africa.

In Kenya, as in many African countries, prisons are dirty, overcrowded, plagued by disease and lacking adequate health care. Due to these factors, a 2008 report stated, approximately forty-six prisoners die monthly. Mothers often raise their babies or young children in these dangerous conditions.

The CBI program has begun operation in the Naivasha Prison, a tightly regulated facility with 3,000 inmates, and four other prisons. Kenya has approximately 50,000 people behind bars.

The director of CBI Kenya is Jefferson Gathu, who also heads Cistern Materials Translation and Publishing Center, an organization that provides Christian literature for native tribes of Kenya and other parts of Africa. As in other developing nations, CBI Instructors not only hand-deliver the Bible study lessons and letters of discipleship to the students in prison but also provide inmates with basic necessities like food, blankets, soap and toilet paper. Gathu also leads efforts to organize medical camps, construct prison libraries and aid in reentry.

Samuel Kahura Chege, CBI Kenya assistant director, notes the importance of the CBI discipleship program, explaining, "Imprisoned people have heavy burdens of loneliness, guilt, bitterness, depression or confusion. We want inmates to know that they are capable, appreciated and doing a good job." Voicing a perspective shared by those at CBI headquarters, he remarks, "The first step to a successful reentry into society is Christian education during imprisonment."

CBI's international program director, Cynthia Williams, attended the official CBI Kenya grand opening during her recent trip to Africa and the United Kingdom. Among the 120 guests were senior prison officials and chaplains, bishops, pastors and a representative from the Office of the Commissioner, all of them highly supportive of the new initiative.

CBI President Dr. David Schuringa remarks, "We are grateful for the shared vision of our Kenyan brothers and sisters and enthusiastic about the opportunity to work with them to serve God's people in prison and reentering society in their home country."

Several more distribution center openings are pending, and other centers are in the early stages of development. Watch for future announcements as Crossroad Bible Institute carries on its exciting international growth.



SAMUEL KAHURA CHEGE, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF CBI KENYA

JEFFERSON GATHU, DIRECTOR OF CBI KENYA



JEFFERSON AND BETH GATHU AND FAMILY



STREET SCENE IN NAIROBI, KENYA

CBI Kenya Launch



HONORED GUESTS LISTEN TO SPEECH AT CBI KENYA LAUNCH



SPECIAL GUESTS GATHER FOR PRAYER OF DEDICATION FOR CBI KENYA



WILLIAMS PRESENTS JEFFERSON AND SAMUEL WITH PLAQUE ON BEHALF OF CBI HEADQUARTERS

Naivasha Prison



NAIVASHA MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON, KENYA



SMALL CHILDREN LIVE WITH THEIR MOTHERS IN NAIVASHA PRISON



NAIVASHA PRISON INMATES LISTEN TO CBI KENYA MINISTRY TEAM



WILLIAMS SPEAKS TO PRISONERS THROUGH TRANSLATOR

CBI AUSTRALIA EXTENDS REACH TO PAPUA NEW GUINEA



COORDINATORS OF CBI PROGRAM IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA: CLIFFORD KIMADE, JEFFREY SINGER AND ALPHONSE SONU

PORT MORESBY, PAPUA NEW GUINEA—CBI Australia expands further into the South Pacific with its recent introduction in Papua New Guinea, starting in the Bomana Prison. In fall 2010, Field Worker Terry West visited Papua New Guinea to set up the program. He provided training for the new CBI program coordinators and met with Correctional Services representatives and the prison commander. CBI enjoys the wholehearted support of these and other senior officials. West also spoke to Bomana Prison detainees at a weekly worship service led by church volunteers and inmates, and 100 men and women signed up to be the country's first CBI students. The CBI program will soon be approved for all Papua New Guinea prisons.

RADIO PROGRAM CONTINUES WORLDWIDE EXPANSION

GRAND RAPIDS—*Crossroad Connection*, CBI's restorative justice radio program, has reached another milestone—the program now broadcasts on more than seventy outlets worldwide! Due to its compelling content, stations air the program free of charge as a public service to listeners. Recent *Crossroad Connection* guests include Burl Cain, prison warden at Louisiana's notorious Angola Prison, and Jill Morrison, senior council at the National Women's Law Center, who discussed the practice of shackling women during labor and other issues confronting pregnant and parenting women in prison. Visit the CBI website or iTunes to download past broadcasts for free, and keep your radio tuned to the stations that air the program in your area!



JILL MORRISON



BURL CAIN

CHURCH GROUPS TOUR ART GALLERY

GRAND RAPIDS—The Crossroad Inmate Art Gallery at CBI's headquarters in Grand Rapids, Michigan has recently attracted numerous church groups interested in viewing the gallery and learning about inmate art. Visiting groups enjoy refreshments, a presentation about inmate art, a tour of CBI's lesson processing center and a gallery viewing. The presentation, which outlines the materials used and themes expressed in inmate art, deepens guests' understanding of the artwork in the gallery and the artists that created it. The tours have met with enthusiasm and appreciation from visitors. Contact the CBI offices to schedule a visit for your church, school or community group.



MEMBERS OF GENESIS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH TOUR CBI ART GALLERY



CORRECTIVE SERVICES COMMISSIONER MR. SIKANI



ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER MOSIRI AND PROGRAM MANAGER EKO INSIDE BOMAHA MINIMUM SECURITY PRISON



BOMAHA PRISON COMMANDER



MR. AHO BALIKI AND MR. MOSIRI, CBI PROGRAM ASSISTANTS FOR BOMAHA PRISON

REVISED MANGA MESSIAH COURSE RELEASED

GRAND RAPIDS—CBI officially released the revised *Manga Messiah* course for the children of prisoners in January 2011. The inaugural course for the Crossroad Kids program, first released and piloted in 2009, *Manga Messiah* was developed to reach the 2.7 million American children with an incarcerated parent. Comments from students and Instructors involved with the pilot were taken into account during the revision process, which also makes the course accessible to a broader audience that includes international students with limited English and literacy skills. Children learn about the program from their incarcerated parents, and this past Christmas, Prison Fellowship's Angel Tree program also distributed enrollment forms to many participating parents and children. Contact the CBI offices for enrollment forms or to become an Instructor.



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CROSSROAD CONNECTION
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(as of December 20, 2010)

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