

Ray's Backpage

Lae – PNG! From the last bit of Terry's "From the Fields" you'll note that Buimo Prison in Lae is now high on our agenda. As I write this (26/2) we learned that the Bibles shipped in from Australia and the lessons flown in from America have finally been received into the prison. That was not without heartache – with documentation, key people not available and telephone communication very poor and all too often non-existent, it was a cause for constant frustration. Suffice to say, it was a matter of much intense prayer; and of course we know that God hears and answers prayer.

In God's time, it is now all coming together and by the time you read this, Terry will have flown out to Port Moresby (28/2). There he packs up any surplus stock of lesson material from Bomana Prison and have it moved to Lae by DHL the next day or so. Then fly to Lae himself on Monday (4/3) where he'll sort and shelve all the materials for distribution.

The following Wednesday, together with a number of dignitaries from the Corrections Department he will attend a special chapel service attended by male and female inmates. The Assistant Commissioner, Michael Mosiri will address this gathering to promote the benefits of CBI's ministry and encourage inmates to enrol and follow the courses offered by CBI. Well, this whole matter has

been on our minds for some time now and as a serious focus in our prayers. And they have been heard. Praise God!

Technology! As far as I know, things have settled down a little but computers being what they are, there's always something. Bruce, our IT man has selected a new model to replace our old one which after nearly ten years is showing signs of wear and especially lack of power and capacity to meet the increasing demand on processing our work. But the new models will have the latest version of software and will prove to be a testing time for our operators. However, the long term benefits are going to be incalculable.

Financially! Our income continues to lag behind expenses. February income has followed January in not providing a sufficient cash flow to meet our expenses \$17719. In addition, we are facing a substantial establishment expense for the ministry to get of the ground in Lae. I would love it if someone could find it in their heart and bank account, and underwrite this cost. It is estimated to finish up at around \$3000. Furthermore, replacing of our computers (just a tad short of \$3000) included in this month's expenses also calls for a generous giver to underwrite that expense. Any takers? Any 'part-akers'?

For the record, our income of \$5385 represented \$1910 from sponsorships, \$1000 from churches and \$ 2475 from gifts and sundry. We're very thankful to everyone who in this way supports this ministry and the significance of it - is clearly evident from Terry's opening spiel.

Crossroad

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Networking in Australia and the South Pacific.

March 2013



Mark 11:10 "Blessed is the coming Kingdom of our Father David!"

It is the final week of Jesus on earth here in this passage, the most important week in history. **Jesus is a King** and He enters Jerusalem on a colt, with this He demonstrates humility and gentleness, as well as He fulfils a prophesy from Zechariah 9:9. He proclaimed who He was — the Son of David, the King of Kings, the One who conquered sin and sickness. Conquering generals at that time were given a "triumphal entry" upon their return to their home city. Palm branches were waved and coats and branches were put on the roadway. As Jesus enters Jerusalem on a colt, the crowds cry out: "**Blessed is the coming Kingdom of our Father David!**" Jesus said at the beginning of His ministry, "**The time has come, he said, 'The Kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the Good News!'**" (Mark 1:15). The crowds don't understand this, they expect Jesus to free them from the Romans. People these days mostly don't understand that 'prisoners' are set free through believing in Jesus, although they are still in jail. However what the people are saying is true: the Kingdom of **God is near**, it is Jesus, sitting on a colt, entering the Holy City

of David, this King has the power to conquer a much bigger and far more dangerous enemy than the Romans ever could be. Jesus is doing so through *love and sacrifice*. This King is willing to give His life as a ransom, a payment for the sin of the whole world. "**Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!**" This King is our King and He claims His soldiers for His Kingdom from every Church, including from every Prison.

From Anne's desk:

How quickly has another month finished. All work is back in full swing. Lessons are coming and going. New Instructors are joining, Welcome to them! Stood over computer and data work has been finished. We have had some **working bees** to catch up with other outstanding jobs at the office. This was wonderful, we arranged that we continue to do this once a month. We anticipate a lovely time of fellowship while jobs are being done. The jobs keep on coming.

From the Seminar in Perth this month, some Instructors expressed: "The need for more people going into prison." We should realise that it is very hard to gain excess into any prison, the same

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counts for literature going into prison. **Every** state has different regulations as well. In NSW the only material that is allowed in are CBI studies and the Emmaus lessons. With the Chaplains, only Prison Fellowship members and Terry, CBI's representative, are allowed to go into the prisons. They have been approved and have done training. In Queensland even our material needs to be "approved by Prison Fellowship". So CBI people in general have their relationships with prisoners only through letter writing. We know that all mail is opened and sniffed out by dogs, for drugs and things where drugs can be made from, like glue.

Others have asked, "More on helping people when coming out, or on people leaving prison, And how we might assist in re-integrating released prisoners".

In answer, I like to mention, that every prisoner, who has let us know that he/she is going to be released is sent a CBI letter, asking them first of all to **continue** their study, then they are asked to find a Bible believing Church and Christian Friends and they are encouraged that if they need help to contact us. Quite often they may already have a Church to go back to, but other times, we have helped with contacting a Church for them and a **Mentor** in this Church may be appointed, just to be there and available when needed. This is a great idea and something that a Church is asked to do and the thankfulness of the inmate is overwhelming. But we would like to know the Churches who are wanting to be involved. **Every** inmate eventually

will be released at some time. Stephanie has started to make up **lists** for NSW churches and that is just so wonderful and great to have. We could have such a person in every State. We know there are many organisations that can and will help prisoners when released in many other ways.

Please keep praying for the hardship the Christian inmates endure.

Please watch our website for articles placed on it. Some photo's from the Perth Seminar and an article from Dr Schuringa are some.....details see back.

Serving our King with you, Anne

Statistics for February:

Lessons received: AUS=197, FIJI=80, SI=140, TO=20, PNG=2, NZ= 105, NZ for January=91

Enrolments for February:

AUS=49, FIJI=3, SI=17, NZ= 30, NZ for Jan=11
We had 40 GT01 lessons this month

From the Fields:

Greetings Friends

It never ceases to amaze me the **impact** of CBI in our students lives. Also the impeccable timing of God. This month was my annual trip to Western Australia. On one particular prison visit, I was talking with our students outside the chapel. Another student came up to me and said, 'Are you from Crossroad Bible Institute?' I said, yes! The student said that he wanted to shake my hand because CBI had **saved** his life. Instructors, he was shaking your hand, not mine. Now, I automatically assumed that he meant his eternal life which I rejoiced in. The student then went on to say how about 9 months previously he did his first CBI lesson and posted it away. About a

week later he received a phone call from his son saying that his sister had committed suicide. This news of course devastated our student as he was very close to his sister. As many negative things had accumulated in his life he could see no point in continuing his existence and vowed to take his own life that evening after muster. **Two** hours before he was to take his life he received his marked lesson and letter back from our Instructor. For the first time in his life our student had **God's grace** explained to him. He marvelled at the words in the letter and decided then and there to let God run his life, he **continues** to do so. He is due to be released in April, a completely different man to the one who entered prison. Praise God! The Instructor who marked his lesson has been informed. Extreme situations like this I hear about from time to time. We may not always hear of these instances but it does prove the point that CBI is making an impact. **Keep up** your wonderful work Instructors.

During my time in WA, a very successful **seminar** was held at the Gosnells CRC on Saturday the 9th of February. There were 71 Instructors and interested parties present. We had Instructors from Albany make the trip and I thank them for their support. I would like to thank our speakers, Graham – Chaplain from Casuarina Prison, Frances – Chaplain from Bandyup Women's Prison, Alan – Chaplain from Acacia Private Prison; and Leo – current Tier 3 student. All Chaplains gave most informative and

challenging addresses and I do publically thank them for taking time out of their busy schedules to be there. Also student Leo gave a most frank and informative talk on prison life and how our Instructors can better communicate through the letters. Thanks Leo! **My thanks** to the Chaplains from the Prisons I visited for their support and friendship. The following Prisons were visited whilst in WA – Acacia Prison on the 3rd, Albany Prison on the 4th, Bandyup Prison on the 5th, Perth Immigration Detention Centre on the 7th, Karnet Prison on the 8th, Casuarina and Wooroloo Prisons on the 10th and Bandyup Women's Prison on the 11th. Also, on the 6th I had a meeting with the new Prison Fellowship Director, David, in Perth. We discussed better ways for PF to complement the work of CBI and we continue to pursue this. My thanks to David for his friendship and vision. **Also, late** last month there was a visit to Arthur Gorrie CC (Qld) and new Instructor Jude from Maclean was trained and we welcome her to the ministry. This month, apart from WA, there have been two visits to Parklea CC (NSW) on the 19th and MRRC (NSW) on the 20th. **Finally friends**, as you read this I will be in PNG, placing CBI into Buimo Prison in Lae. Much planning has gone into this so please do pray for the officers, inmates and myself, particularly from the 28th Feb to the 8th of March.

Our continued thanks for your support, prayers and generosity. Terry and Chris