

Crossroad

Bible Institute

Networking in Australia and the South Pacific.

April 2013



Romans 8:25 "If we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently". People these days live for the weekend, doing what they like to do, going to the beach, enjoy this or that. It starts on **Friday**, when the roads are so busy, often with km's of slow traffic out of the city. This is how the world looks on Friday and the weekend.

Recently I saw a title of a sermon, "*It's Friday, but Sunday is Coming*". It was a stirring Good Friday sermon. The disciples lived through these days, Friday and Sunday. But after Jesus' resurrection, they never doubted God again. The dark day of Good Friday can only be called good, because of what happened on Sunday.

The sermon seemed to skip one day, it didn't mention **Saturday** - this is a day with no name. (Although I have known a country where it is called 'Silent Saturday') The disciples lived through this day too - will Sunday ever come? But it did happen. God took that awful and worst day of history and turned it into a day of **greatest victory**.

Philip Yancey has said once: "*It's Saturday. But Sunday is coming*". And some day God will enlarge the miracle of **Easter** to another great event: *The*

second coming of Jesus. In the mean time, we wait in hope with anticipation, "*we eagerly wait for it with patience*", living out our days on 'Saturday', the in-between day with no name - "*Rejoice and be glad! For He's coming again; He'll come in great glory, the Lamb that was slain. Sound His praises, tell with gladness, He now lives again.*"

I love these words. Such great hope for what we do not yet see!But eagerly wait for!

From Anne's desk:

In this last month, Terry has been to Lae in PNG, see report and photo's added to the Update and on the website.

I have been away for a week, earlier in the month, to the Snowy Mountains, enjoying that beautiful area of our state.

Amelia found part time work in a nursing home close by. She is on call. We are happy that she can stay so close to us. Ray's findings you will see in his report.

I have been working on the presentation for the Ladies day on the 4th May to be held in the St. Mary's Christian Reformed Church. An Instructor, Kim who has a wonderful story to tell and our female speaker for CBI, Vicky will give a presentation, as well as a Powerpoint presentation by myself. All proceeds from the sale of goods and the collection will

be donated to CBI. So all ladies in NSW, please take the opportunity and come.

We heard from our last Seminar that the Instructors enjoy hearing Terry talk about the latest news and the progress of CBI. They love to get a better understanding of CBI and what it does. This is very positive. We know that in any Seminar there are many 'new' Instructors and the Seminars are actually called Continuing Education' Seminars. We love to tell you about CBI.

Others asked to have a discussion and question time, and that was a very positive response. How would it be if we had a question and answer area either in this part of the Update or privately? You can send in your questions to the office or to myself.

We also should be reminded, that we are a Correspondence Bible Institute and legally we are not to have contact with inmates outside of our lessons. Therefore we are only known, by "Your Instructor" for Tier 1 and by "First Name" for Tier 2 and 3. So when a study is finished in Tier 2, we need to say Good bye to our student, as the student needs to move on and will have another Mentor appointed in Tier 3. This also came up via the Seminar and also lately at the office.

There are several organisations that help the inmates when released and CBI is one of them to refer the students to different places, if they want help. CBI will also help with finding a Bible believing and Christ centred Church and in NSW this is the work of Stephanie. We hope to have a person like her in every state.

May we serve a crucified and risen Saviour, Anne

Statistics for March:

Lessons received:

AUS=215, FIJI=55, SI=104, TO=39, PNG=162, NZ= 137

Enrolments for March:

AUS=28, FIJI=28, SI=1, TO=3, PNG=137, NZ= 28

We had 159 GT01 lessons this month

From the Fields

Greetings Friends

What a month it has been in the life of CBI. The highlight was my much planned trip to PNG and more specifically to establish the ministry of CBI in Buimo Prison at Lae. The trip started on the 28th of February and I returned to Australia on the 8th of March. During my time away every plan happened and it was obvious to all of us that God went before me. Thanks be to God that His work is now established in Buimo Prison.

The opportunity was there for me to conduct a church service at Bomana Womens Prison – Port Moresby on Saturday the 2nd of March. It was wonderful to meet with these 30 ladies again and to share the word of God. After the service I met with our students, totalling 12 women, answered their questions and just spent time in fellowship with them.

On Monday the 4th of March I travelled with a delegation of Corrective Services officers to Lae. Included amongst these was my dear friend Assist Commissioner, Michael Mosiri, who has been invaluable

in CBI's activity in PNG. Also, travelling was Corrective Services Director, Dennis Piandi, who has control over PNG's northern prisons. In Lae I stayed with Tim Sikkema and family who, together with Ian Wildeboer and family, lead a church in Lae and are supported by the Free Reformed Churches in Australia. I thank Tim and Ian for their friendship and support.

The program was rolled out in the Womens Prison at Buimo on Tuesday the 5th. Of the 30 women prisoners, 9 enrolled which represents 100% of the ladies that have the literacy to do the studies. The program was rolled out at the mens/remand/juvenile sections on Wednesday the 6th. Again we had a 100% uptake from those interested inmates that are literate in English. Friends, Buimo Prison is a first for CBI in that prisoners from all sections enrolled and included 5 officers. We had 150 lessons despatched to Buimo Prison and we had 150 enrolments!

Please continue to pray for the ministry in Buimo Prison, that the students will come into a rich relationship with our Lord and Saviour. Pray also for the Commander, Madam Judy Tara, that she will remain diligent in the running of CBI at Buimo Prison. Friends, I have never talked of money before but the establishment of CBI in Buimo Prison did come at a cost and with some unexpected costs. This remains Gods work and He has the hearts of Buimo Prisoners on His mind. Please do consider supporting CBI in our current financial need.

Also this month I had a meeting with a Grafton Pastor on the 13th of March to discuss his church's involvement in CBI and also new Instructor, Ginette from Maclean, was trained on the 14th of March. We welcome Ginette to the ministry.

The following prison visits were made this month, Wolston CC (Brisbane Qld) on the 19th of March and Arthur Gorrie CC (Brisbane Qld) on the 21st of March.

Finally, whilst in one of the Brisbane Prisons this month, one of our students told me a familiar story of a loveless and fatherless upbringing and how he had been in and out of prison for the last 25 years. This man signed up to do CBI studies in December last year and as he said, for the wrong reasons, but he told me of the hope he now has. The new attitude and faith he puts down to two things. The first is the studies and how faithfully Jesus was introduced to him. The second is the letters of discipleship. Our student told me of one particular letter that he received from an Instructor who wrote the letter on her 21st birthday! This impacted our student and especially showed him that if an Instructor thinks that much of a prisoner on her 21st birthday then there must be something in this Christianity. Our student continues to delight in his learning and delights in receiving your letters.

Our continued appreciation for your prayers, support and generosity
Terry and Chris

Ray's Backpage

Time to publish the audited financial results for 2012 is now here. Comparing it with the previous year, you'll note some glaring variations. There's no doubt that the revenue enjoyed a special boost from a number of quarters with all categories showing an increase and the addition of a new category, that of the Pacific Mission as well. We are particularly grateful for the enormous response we have enjoyed from churches, sponsors and individual donors. We continue to trust the Lord to provide for what we believe is His ministry to the least, the last and the lost - in prisons in Australia and the Pacific.

With the expansion of the ministry come an increase in expenses; and the addition of new categories - office rental and Pacific Mission. The latter includes our share of employing Chaplain Japhlet Folia at the SWIM base in Honiara and the cost of couriering the lessons to and fro Sydney. The surplus in that category has been substantially reduced over the last three months and will need to attract continued contributions to be able to meet the budget for the remainder of the year.

Furthermore, the overall surplus has well and truly been eaten into by offsetting

the deficits of the last three months - \$20442. In addition, the cost of establishing the office \$9959, replacing computers \$2617, and establishing the ministry in Lae, PNG \$5057. I won't bore you with the details but it would shock you to learn that the costs of getting our Bibles and lessons through Customs was three times the freight we paid on shipping them, which was covered by a donation. The cost of transferring our lessons from Port Moresby to Lae was a 'learning curve' shock. Breaking new ground can be trying and costly but, that's ministry and that's jail. But praise God, the ministry has started and the first batch of 136 lessons have come and gone.

| Revenue | 2012 | 2011 |
|------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Donations | 94221 | 50583 |
| Church Offerings | 38955 | 29305 |
| Sponsors | 19415 | 12762 |
| Pacific Mission | 11600 | - |
| Other | 1734 | 1362 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 165925 | 94012 |

| Expenditure | 2012 | 2011 |
|------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Lessons Processed | 24136 | 18694 |
| Postage | 14814 | 13381 |
| Office Expenses | 8639 | 8466 |
| Office Rental | 1715 | - |
| Pacific Island Support | 4869 | 2958 |
| Pacific Mission | 3370 | - |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 125327 | 110337 |

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