

Ray's Backpage

Instructors and students at work in and with the Word of God are the heart of the ministry. The student body is growing but so is our army of instructors. I'm glad that some folk, other than Terry, and who have previously been equipped for it, are also training potential instructors who have indicated a desire to be part of the ministry. We welcome them in more ways than one because it has been necessary to put out an appeal for instructors to take on an extra lesson to mark. We have been inundated with lessons a few times - such as in the last week or two of April with three batches of lessons from the Solomon Islands, two from Tonga and also one from Fiji - in addition to the Australian lessons of course.

Finances continue to take centre stage because for the fourth month in a row, our income has been below par and expenses in excess of income. We have approached some particular people and groups for substantial means to support the ministry and to keep it viable. CBI is the Lord's ministry and he has never failed us in providing what we need to run the ministry on His behalf. It is as I told someone - we have to do our part

i.e. research ways and means to manage the ministry wisely and place the needs before the people but it is up to God to stir their hearts. So, when you read this, ask yourself whether or not you sense Him stirring your heart. Let me also say that I'm merely asking you to do this objectively, remembering *it is more blessed to give than to receive*; and not to send you on a guilt trip.

Specifics are what they are. April income was raised by Sponsors \$1915, Donors \$3965 and Churches \$6227. We're always grateful for every measure of support. We're especially grateful for the faithful monthly giving by sponsors - it is such a vital part of the ministry's income. We hope that many churches are putting CBI on their budget for a gift or an offering. But to now put things in true perspective, our income for April totalled \$12107 but our expenses surpassed that at \$17070. The deficits for the four month to date now exceed \$22,000. It has largely eaten up the little surplus we had gathered up last year. No ministry can run on empty; and so we continue to pray and trust the Lord that He will supply all our needs. Ultimately, prayer is the heartbeat of all religious activity.

Crossroad

Bible Institute

Networking in Australia and the South Pacific.

May 2013



John 6:35 "I am the Bread of Life". While the Jews were arguing among themselves, Jesus said these words. They asked Him for "a miraculous sign, so they may believe Him". They then pointed to the manna their forefathers received when in the desert travelling to the Promised Land, bread that came down from heaven. "You do the same", they said to Jesus, "and we believe you". Jesus told them it was not Moses but God the Father, who gave them the manna. This manna only lasted while they were travelling, it was temporary.

It satisfied the body, but did not give them eternal life. In comparison with the manna, "Jesus Christ is the living Bread that came from heaven down to earth".

He Himself is the sign they were asking for. Whoever eats this bread will have eternal life. Besides this bodily hunger there is another hunger, a spiritual hunger. Since Paradise people left God. They seek satisfaction in the world and not with the true Fountain of life, Jesus Himself. All the earthly pleasures, do not satisfy, they stay hungry and thirsty

always looking for more.

Christ came to change this deep need through His death and resurrection from the dead, He gives true life. He makes people hungry for this new life. They will never be satisfied until fed with Christ.

He will never pass by a thirsty soul. Come as hungry and thirsty people. He will accept anyone who believes.

This is the message that we bring to the prisoners and their families.

The Instructors take part in this, they encourage them to continue to do their lessons, discuss the lessons and write a personal letter.

They bring the same invitation as Jesus did to these hungry souls.

Jesus declared in verse 35: "He who comes to Me will never go hungry, and he who believes in Me will never be thirsty."

From Anne's desk:

Three of our Instructors had a loved one pass away, one of them was her Mother, who also was an Instructor. We express our condolences to the families. May the Lord's love surround you and comfort

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you greatly.

The new President's Reports are out with extremely valuable reading. Every page shows how God is at work in the prisons everywhere. A record number of people in prison are being served. More Satellite Campuses were established. Just to think that Australia was only the second country after Canada to become part of CBI America. We can only praise the Lord for all that He is doing. So much more could be done if we had more money to work with. You will receive the Report later in May.

I made some entries of Upcoming events for CBI on the website. This is so that you can pray for these events. An Instructor asked, if we could have a prayer chain for the requests that inmates make in their lessons. I will be working on this; perhaps with some short prayer requests.

Recently, we had an increase in postal charges.

One Instructor asked if we could explain the postal charges to the Pacific islands.

There are three categories for postage overseas. One is for postage to New Zealand, the cheapest, and is \$ 1.75; next is the ASIA PACIFIC, and is \$ 1.85; and lastly, there is the postage for THE REST OF THE WORLD, which is \$ 2.60. This is for letters up to 50 gram, which will fit our lesson and Roadmap and a letter. Instructors will only need to be aware of the postage to Fiji and Tonga of \$1.85 as the lessons are sent direct.

Another Instructor asked: "Please explain the new mail procedures. I didn't know they had changed over the last year". The new procedures have come about from the way we receive and send the lessons

from the Solomon Islands and PNG. In these centers we have a person going into the prison. We send lessons to these persons in bulk by Courier (DHL). New lessons are sent to the office the same way. This solved the problem of the lessons taking too long. This is more efficient. So PNG and SI lessons are to be sent back to our office and Tonga and Fiji, to the usual addresses.

Seven additional Instructors have been trained in WA in Bunbury. Jocelyn from Canberra and Margaret from SA joined us also. Fantastic! and welcome.

As we remember Jesus ascension and His Spirit being poured out on the believers, may we thank the Lord for all His benefits to us.

Blessings in Him, Anne

Statistics for April:

Lessons received:

AUS=196, FIJI=44, SI=146, TO=21, PNG=115
NZ=111

We had 31 first lessons for April.

Enrolments for April:

AUS=49, SI=9, TO=4, PNG=3, NZ=25

From the Fields

Greetings Friends

At a Queensland Prison this month, one of our students said to me that God did not make sense to him when he was younger. His life was about drugs and using people for his advantage. Our student said a common thing to me, he said "I thank God that I was caught and came to prison". He believes that if he was not caught then he most certainly would not be alive today. The other re-

markable thing our student said was that by coming to prison he was able to meet God. Mind you, God had been pursuing him all the time. Our student's first encounter with God in prison was through prayer, prayers of grief and loneliness. God answered these simple prayers of our student in the most powerful ways that have drawn our student closer to God. Our student delights in your letters of encouragement and thanks you.

In your personal prayer time please pray for another student John (name changed but God knows who he is). John was handed a very harsh sentence last week. Pray that John seeks the comfort of God as he comes to grips with his situation and the years of separation from his family.

This month I have had visits to the following prisons, St Heliers CC NSW on the 27th of March, Wellington CC NSW on the 28th of March, Fulham Prison (Sale) Vic on the 4th of April, Nowra CC NSW on the 6th of April, MRRC (Sydney Remand) NSW on the 7th of April, Grafton CC NSW on the 14th of April, South Queensland CC (Gatton) Qld on the 21st of April and Arthur Gorrie CC (Brisbane Remand) Qld on the 25th of April. May I voice my continued appreciation to the chaplains for the access and their friendship.

En route to the prison at Sale, it was good to have lunch with Instructors Geoff and Margaret from Orbost Vic. These are certainly CBI's most isolated Instructors. It was good to have prayer and fellowship with them.

Also this month, I visited with the new chaplain from Lithgow CC NSW in Lithgow on the 8th of April and visited

with the new chaplain from Kempsey CC NSW in Kempsey on the 15th of April. It was also wonderful to have lunch with the chaplains from Grafton NSW and Glen Innes NSW in Grafton on the 9th of April.

Two new Instructors were trained this month. Arthur from Mt Victoria, NSW, who was holidaying in Yamba, NSW, was trained on the 16th of April. Michaela from The Gap, Qld, was trained on the evening of the 21st of April. We welcome both to the ministry.

Chris was invited to speak on CBI ministry at the monthly combined churches women's breakfast in Grafton on the 6th of April. Over 60 women from many of the Grafton churches were in attendance. They were all enthusiastic with Chris' presentation and the following fellowship. May many new Instructors and supporters be raised from this event.

A major trip is planned for South Australia and its prisons from the 17th to the 26th of May. Much planning has gone into this trip. Please pray for my time in SA; for the various functions and meetings and for the prisons I will be visiting.

I leave the most important to last. An Instructor and very dear friend from Hervey Bay, Qld, is facing surgery on the 15th of May. I ask that you pray for this man of God earnestly and that he can resume his family and civic responsibilities quickly.

Our continued appreciation for your prayers, support and generosity,

Terry and Chris