

Ray's Backpage

The Hub – Our new facilities are becoming the hub of CBI with work done at home by volunteers now processed at the office. We're looking at a couple of people offering their time and skills with one of them starting early June and another in mid-July. They need to be trained in the various functions and that's where Jack with the patience of Job comes to the fore. The Volunteers Working Bees achieve so much to facilitate the flow of things in the ministry.

Chaplains are key people in prison ministry. Being on the spot they can make a significant difference in an inmate's incarcerated life. They can also avail themselves of valuable assistance from members of Prison Fellowship. For the past ten years I have been involved in weekly chapel services in Parklea Prison. Chaplaincy can also make a difference when they, among other things, stimulate inmates to take up CBI's Courses. They have seen the commendable results when inmates study the Scriptures. Terry has worked hard to gain the respect of chaplains he visits right around Australia. He connects, takes a chapel service here and there and follows up. He genuinely attempts to satisfy chaplains' needs and keeps them informed of their students' progress in the Courses they have undertaken. In drawing attention to this important part of the ministry, I'm

highlighting the need to keep these people in our prayers.

Finances – The thing that thrills me now is that the focus on our recent deficits has shifted since we have received a most heart-warming response to our appeal in the Update. Those of us at the helm are moved by the wonderful and broad response. It confirms that CBI is God's ministry and that He meets its needs. We're grateful for God's provision and for the generous support of the many donors. As to the individual amounts, every gift has been acknowledged and every dollar goes to fund CBI's thrust to reach prison inmates with the Gospel. For the record, our income of \$17975 exceeded expenses \$9265 and came from donors \$14720, sponsors \$1950, and churches \$1305. **Mindful always**, God has not forgotten the inmates, underwriting His ministry from every angle. On the one hand, using Terry's input, getting around the jails meeting with chaplains, key people from Prison Fellowship and others; and on the other hand, the Spirit working in the hearts of inmates - it must ultimately bear fruit. Then, there's the Instructors representing Him, marking lessons and writing edifying and encouraging letters. And they can stimulate their students to spread the Good News to fellow inmates. All our endeavours need to be served by administrators. And so, we're all doing our bit - privileged and blessed to be God's instruments.

Crossroad

Bible Institute

Networking in Australia and the South Pacific.

June 2013



Romans 15 : 30 "I urge you, brothers, by Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, you join me in my struggle by praying to God for me".

The apostle Paul seemed to have a desire to be surrounded by prayer. In most of his letters to the churches, he requested to be remembered in prayer to the Lord.

During the last few months, I have received letters and emails from Instructors for a more effective way to help and pray for the inmates. Just recently I have bundled some prayer requests together from inmates, who also asked for corporate prayer. I have sent these to our Instructors.

The prisoners too, like Paul, know the power of prayer, for their family, for themselves or court cases, or to be effective in their own ministry. And so it is a real comfort for the inmates to be surrounded by prayer.

We know because the Bible tells us that Jesus also prays for His people and for us (John 17:20, Hebrews 7:25), and that the Holy Spirit does pray for us too, the prayers that are according to the will of God (Romans 8:27). They are absolutely essential when

leading people to the Lord Jesus Christ. Only the Holy Spirit can convict the lost person. The Holy Spirit has to do a work of grace in a person to bring him to repentance and belief in Christ. The Holy Spirit also empowers us to witness to people in prison and faithfully share the Gospel with them.

May we pray for the power of Satan to be broken in the prisons so many more lost souls may come to know Jesus. May we pray that the Holy Spirit will prepare our hearts to surround the inmates with the prayers they have requested.

From Anne's desk:

It has become cold here in the East, but our office is warm and cosy, and so are our hearts. The staff has been busy with a record amount of lessons again this month. Thank you, Instructors, for your help to get all those lessons marked. We love to train more Instructors. If you can make this known in your Church, please do so. We need them.

When starting to exchange emails about the above prayer needs of the prisoners, one Instructor wrote : "I will start praying for a prayer group/chain tonight". I am hoping to send a list out monthly. Many

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positive remarks have flowed in already. Among them were, "These prayer points say a lot about the way the Lord is at work through CBI", "It's a great reminder of the unity we have in Jesus, to be praying for these brothers!"

We also need frequent prayer for our Office and Staff, as we know, a lot of you do already. One Instructor couple wrote: "We shall be praying again in a few moments for all in the CBI work."

A question arose from a Mentor, who was unsure about some answers in her Manuel. It can happen that you have an older type Manuel, which in the mean time has been updated. If you have this experience, please contact us and we will help. This is mainly for some who have been long time Mentors.

I was asked via the internet what CBI is all about. It was a real pleasure to explain this. If someone from your church is asking this, please mention that we are more than willing to have somebody come and give a presentation at your Church.

Early this month, I presented with the help of a Powerpoint, a talk about CBI at the Ladies Day in St.Marys NSW, together with the help of two other CBI representatives, Vicky and Kim, who were missionary speaker and guest speaker. We were received very well and we had many positive responses. This was a great encouragement to us. It was reflected in the collection and the proceeds from the day for CBI. Thank you all so much ladies, for having us there.

Five new Instructors have become part of our CBI team this month. David and Andrew from WA and Nita from Qld and Arthur and Barbara from NSW. Very

welcome indeed! Two future Instructors have requested to be Instructors. This husband and wife team has one of them working in the prison. The email said: "I have had the opportunity to work with a prisoner who was doing the Crossroad course. I see firsthand how much benefit there is in the opportunity for discipleship once the prisoner has been reborn in Christ."

Please remember the family of our dear Instructor Ruth from the New England Area, who passed away after suffering a stroke and heart attack last week in the Tamworth hospital.

You may note the website is updated at times, among others, Terry's visit to SA, and a new faint lined Instructor stationery, has been added.

May we all be encouragers by praying for our friends in need,

In Him, Anne

Please pray for continuing blessings on the visit of Terry to SA, that the Lord will open the hearts of prisoners to start the Bible study. Please pray for the Chaplains and other prison workers involved in the work. We at the office will do the same.

Statistics for May:

Lessons received:

AUS=221, FIJI=18, SI=145, TO=51, PNG=235, NZ= 114

Enrolments for March:

AUS=40, SI=15, TO=1, PNG=5, NZ= 25
We had 34 GT01 lessons this month

From the Fields

Greetings Friends

On two separate occasions this month I was reminded of the calibre of our Instructors and your faithfulness to the word of God. At a prison in South Australia and one in

New South Wales, two relatively new students asked me the same question, it went like this, "I was bought up in a strict (certain faith) and was told that if I lead a good life and do good things for God then I will get into heaven. But the lessons and your Instructors letters are telling me that it is only through my trust in Jesus and my life walk with Him that heaven is possible. Who is right?" Before I go on, can I say that both these students have now given their lives to Jesus and are walking with Him. This of course is all the work of the Holy Spirit. As I talked with these men they told me of the love and care that the Instructors gave to them in the letters. How like minded you all were to them as the Gospel was proclaimed and each letter complimented the previous one. Their appreciation to you!

The South Australian student was particularly delighted to see me because I was you. Once he found out that I represented CBI his appreciation was quite overwhelming, but this only reflected his new found joy in the Lord.

My time in South Australia from the 20th to the 26th of May was very intense but such a blessing and answer to much prayer. Each day had either prison visits or prison related functions. An extensive meeting was held with Geoff on the 21st to discuss his involvement with CBI as our new SA co-ordinator, thanks Geoff. On the morning of the 23rd I addressed a prison ministry forum and then in the afternoon presented a power point presentation to the quarterly prison chaplains meeting. Over a planned lunch meeting on the 23rd, Prison Fellowship Manager, Andrew and I discussed what greater involvement Prison

Fellowship could have in promoting CBI in South Australian Prisons. My thanks to Andrew.

On the 25th I attended a most insightful conference on aboriginal culture and incarceration. Having been to a few of these indigenous focussed conferences in the past, this one was the most insightful, educational and challenging.

Finally on Sunday the 26th I addressed a supportive Campbelltown CRC congregation on the ministry, and then afterwards, at that church, met with and updated most of our CBI Instructors from the Adelaide area. Having not visited South Australia for nearly three years it was wonderful to catch up with these faithful folk and to meet our newest Instructors.

My heartfelt appreciation to Instructor Mark and Annette for their accommodation and hospitality whilst I was in Adelaide.

Also, my sincere appreciation to South Australian Principle Prison Chaplain, Ian, for his friendship and the offers he has made for future prison visits. It was great to spend so much time with Ian as we drove to the various prisons but most importantly for him to embrace the vision of CBI and what you do.

Finally friends, last month I asked you to pray for an Instructor from Hervey Bay, Qld. Your prayers have been heard and answered, thank you. Our Instructor came through his operation very well and all is well, praise God. Thank you for your continued prayers, support and generosity Terry and Christine