

## Ray's Back Page

**ReachOut** has been and gone. With thanks to Terry, Jack and Steve, we manned our rather attractive and prominent stall. Despite having some interesting conversations, we are the only agency among the 40 odd, who do, not send out 'missionaries'. Over the years, we have promoted CBI to these agencies and to several thousands of people. Since approximately 2/3 of attendees return every year, we won't attend for a few years at least. Yet, it has been a worthwhile exercise and experience.

**Bible versions** are of concern. The NIV 1984 is now out of print, and we have to adapt to the NIV 2011 version. Head Office is working to adjust the lessons to make sure the fill-in questions are compatible with both versions. That will take some time so in the meantime; Instructors should use discretion when marking such questions. CBI USA bought up as many of the 1984 version they could. We are blessed with the Bible League securing and donating 500 of them.

### **CBI's International & Spanish**

**Coordinator**, Cynthia Williams, our most immediate and supportive contact at the US Head Office for many years has moved on, joining her husband to serve the Lord in Sweden. We welcome Sandra Chang Raak in the position, wish her well and

look forward to connecting with her on a regular basis. Thank God for the internet. Sandra was born and raised in Peru and is a graduate in Communications of Calvin College, Grand Rapids, USA.

**PNG** - By the time you read this, Terry will almost be there, facilitating the issuing of certificates but importantly connecting with the Commander of Beon Prison in Madang. They will spend a day together to lay the foundation for the ministry to begin in Beon Prison in very early 2014. He and many other dignitaries will also attend the ceremony. Please make this a matter of prayer.

**Finances** would have shown a little turn around, little being the operative word if it had not been for some unbudgeted Government fees of \$6660. Apart from that, our income (\$10613) exceeded our expenses (\$10027). With offerings and sponsorships (\$ 6243) being such a substantial part of our income, we are very conscious that these items are extremely important and we really value the generous hearts of our contributors. The invitation to become a sponsor enabling prison inmates to study the Word through CBI's Courses is always open.

Samira our treasurer is visiting her brother and family in Canada for part of September, please keep the donations, offerings and sponsorships flowing. Will she get a surprise on her return?

# Crossroad

## Bible Institute

Networking in Australia and the South Pacific.

September 2013



**Romans 5:3-5 : "Suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us".**

*Perseverance is inspiring! Trying to live a Christ-honouring life while experiencing hardship can leave us frustrated and discouraged. But when we depend on God to help us through our difficulties, we are empowered to keep going even when we can't always see the resolution of our problems.*

*Galatians 6:9 reminds us not to become "weary in doing good" and encourages us not to give up. Dr Schuringa and his co-Producer were reading out letters from prisoners on 16<sup>th</sup> August, stating how prisoners need to be encouraged to persevere, He mentioned Winston Churchill's saying, "Never, Never, Never give up".*

*Prisoners are helped so much by the letters from their Instructors, by the "Tessa" reminders from the Office, and when they receive a Certificate showing that they have achieved to finish a study. With that we hope that they will persevere with the lessons.*

*I received a letter this month from Reg, who has been with us since July 2005. He is now doing the Advanced Studies in Tier 3. He is also a talented artist. He wrote: "I only live these days for my art and my Bible studies(CBI)". He likes writing letters but*

*he further writes: "I have no more living family to write to.." and then "I've no idea what I'll do in 2015 when I will be given parole, I am too old to go back to the bush and I do not know anyone in Sydney". This student has persevered for many years with his CBI studies. He is still making it true that he will "never, never, never give up". I am sure this is largely due to the perseverance of the Instructors and Mentors.*

*We know about the perseverance of God for the saints. God won't let us go. Trusting in God we know, that "He who began a good work in us, will also carry it on to completion" (Phil 1:6). On the reverse side, our responsibility is that we should not give up on God. We should show gratitude and see that the perseverance of our students pay off.*

*In this way, with the help of Instructors from many Churches, we can help the prisoners grow. When the WORLD says: "Give up," HOPE whispers, "Try it one more time!" "Never, Never, Never give up" and persevere!*

### **From Anne's desk:**

**We** welcomed Linda at the office. She is taking up every Wednesday at the office. She is very keen and is already teaching us many short cuts on the computer. Great to have you, Linda.

**I met** with Graham McDonald on the 15<sup>th</sup> August, it was very good to discuss the opportunities for Children's Ministry and

## **CROSSROAD BIBLE INSTITUTE**

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P.O Box 84 Pendle Hill NSW 2145

Phone: (02) 8014 6485, email: [cbiaus@tpg.com.au](mailto:cbiaus@tpg.com.au)

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ongoing talks are happening. He has a good connection with the Youth Detention Centre. (Prison)

**Photo's** from the Reach-Out Mission Display have been posted on the Website and on Facebook. From Reach-Out I added 10 new contacts to the Update list. Welcome on board, people.

**We** also received lovely **Art** on an envelope. It has been posted on the Website and on Facebook with the added comment, that we are hoping that the mail sorter and the postman of this letter received the message of the Gospel through the art.

**Dr** Schuringa told us in his CBI-FM broadcast that CBI is celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This is reflected upon by preaching arrangements in several churches that he will have during the month of September and beyond. In God's grace, the anniversary is a wonderful achievement. Thousands and thousands of inmates have sent in their lessons and received God's wonderful Gospel message and have grown in their Christian walk. As well, they receive encouragement letters from a grand total of 5300 Instructors. This surely gives me goose bumps. It makes me realise that perseverance is essential and Churchill's motto to "Never, never give up", has worked! Congratulations President and CBI team.

**We** will miss Cynthia in Head Office (see Ray's backpage). This is what she wrote this week: "It has been so much more than just working together, and I have been greatly blessed in every way with the connection that has grown in these years of working together."

**Thank** you all for supporting the Prayer list that comes out every month. Thank you for all your prayers. We know that Catharine has greatly appreciated it. She wrote,

"Thank you, everyone who is praying. Bless you all, Catharine".

**From** the office comes the cry, Please Instructors, only mail from the Solomons and PNG are to be sent to the office. Address the mail with the student's name, ID and country. This will save us much time in sorting the mail. Lessons from Fiji and Tonga are to be sent to the addresses stamped on them. Lessons from Australia are to be sent directly to the students.

**Please** be patient when marking lessons from illiterate students. They are so keen to learn more about Jesus and from the Bible. This is not only so for students in the Pacific Islands. We also know that there are many inmates, who did not have a good home and did not have much schooling. It has also been proven that when the inmates do our studies, their literacy level becomes much better. When students are still in prison, we should do our best to keep them enthusiastic about the CBI studies. This past week I came across two students, who are 'lifers', in prison for life. Shouldn't we **persevere** with them, no matter what?

**This month** CBI welcomes new Instructors Jeroen and Camille in WA, Jeff in QLD, Shirley-Anne and Helen from NSW. Welcome on board!

**May we** never give up on those who are often the Least, the Lost and the Last and may we sincerely ask for God's blessings on our important work.

**Anne**

**Statistics :**

**Lessons received for August:**

AUS=205, FIJI=16, SI=126, TO=8, PNG=281, NZ= 138

**Enrolments for August:**

AUS=30, FIJI=3, SI=7, TO=1, NZ= 37  
We had 20 GT01 lessons this month

## From the Fields

Greetings Friends

**This** month, a new Instructor sent emails to his Christian friends telling them of CBI and whether they would like to be involved as Instructors. This is part of his email, "I'm not sure I have encountered a more targeted and intelligent ministry and I'm really drawn to it". Sums up CBI beautifully!

**This** month I spent time in Maryborough and Rockhampton Prisons. Great things are happening in those prisons. In Maryborough Prison the chaplain and I sat in on the **daily** get together of the Christian inmates. Thirteen men from that part of the prison meet each afternoon to have a devotional, encourage each other with their problems and victories, and to pray together.

**At** another section of the prison I met with an old friend, a Tier 2 student, who could go to the minimum security section but chooses to stay in maximum security because of the opportunities to witness and proclaim God's word. Another of our students, Ian, is 54 and started Manga (children's course) 12 months ago as an illiterate. As Ian read the bible to me (very slowly) I sensed the joy in his voice. For the first time in his life he can read about Jesus his saviour. Ian told me of his gratitude for the Manga studies and how they are central to his life.

**Friends**, on the 13<sup>th</sup> of July, in my local area, I had the privilege to assist with the funeral of a released ex-student. Todd had problems with drugs. These addictions would end his life with an overdose. Todd left behind a motherless and fatherless daughter. For the weeks after Todd's funeral I wondered deeply what good could come of this and how God may use this wretched scenario. My prayers were answered in Maryborough Prison. At the end of one of the Sunday chapel services ( I

presented the message and talked of Todd) a young inmate pulled me aside and said this to me, 'I get out on Tuesday. The first thing that I intended to do was find the nearest dealer and shoot up. Thank you for telling me about Todd, I choose life and Jesus'. I continue to pray for that young man.

**I** thank the chaplains from Maryborough Prison, Tim, Gwen and Steve for their continuing support.

**Chaplain** Phil from Rockhampton Prison organised a dinner for me to address the other chaplains on the ministry. I thank Phil for going 'above and beyond' and for his support. Whilst in the area I met with most of our Instructors and also had the opportunity to address 23 older folk on the ministry at the home of one of our Instructors. Thank you Diana!

**The** Missions Interlink Conference was held in Katoomba on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of August. CBI had a most eye catching and professional stall along with 43 other mission agencies. We had some interesting enquiries and conversations. Please see Ray's back page for more.

**This** month I have trained new Instructors from the Gold Coast and Rockhampton. We thank those people training new Instructors on CBI's behalf from **all over Australia!**

**Finally**, on the 18<sup>th</sup> of August, I presented the message and a CBI update to a most supportive congregation from the Manilla Presbyterian church (NSW). I thank Minister Vince for the ongoing opportunity to speak and to this small congregation for their most wonderful financial support of the ministry.

**Again**, please pray for my time in PNG from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> of September.

Our continued appreciation for your support, prayers and generosity.

**Terry and Chris**