

Ray's Backpage

What's new? The students in Buimo Prison, Lae, are steaming ahead in their first Course. They'll finish late August. Terry will be in PNG from the 13th of September, spending a day in Bomana Prison, Port Moresby. He'll then fly on to Lae for a special ceremony on the 16th - PNG's Independence Day. In the presence of dignitaries and the Press, the certificates will be handed out to the graduates.

We hope the Commander of the Madang Prison will be there, and allow Terry to connect and familiarize himself with our planned move into Madang. It requires a lot of preparation but we anticipate issuing the first lessons in February next.

ReachOut is on again in Katoomba 10th and 11th of August and we'll be there with a stall promoting CBI. It will be interactive with a DVD continuously rolling, projecting attractive and relevant information on a flat-screen. There will be a large magnetic map of Australia and the Pacific Islands, using colored tabs showing cities and towns where CBI is active. Other signs will help to highlight our stall and a range of brochures will be available for a handout. The stall will be manned by a good number of CBI staff and supporters.

Connect 10 is a Forum hosted by some Christian businessmen in Western Australia and held most recently. It is an

opportunity for those engaged in Christian endeavor - both word and deed related - to promote a specific project and in that way seek financial support for their cause. CBI also presented a project - specifically to do with expansion in the Pacific Islands and our courier costs - and was ably represented there by one of our Instructors, Leo Schoof. At the time of writing, the responses received were most encouraging. It has to be said, we're not in the business of competing with others pursuing their endeavours. God knows which cause is the most appropriate; and He will determine where any support is to be directed. At CBI, we rest in His amazing grace and to say we are grateful, almost seems bland because we were excited, blown away by the response.

Financially, we appear to have turned the corner with another month of income \$15026 exceeding the expenses \$9700 because of the many and some very generous donations and which have gone a long way to eliminating our deficits of the past months. We are so thankful and rejoice in the Lord's blessings. But, in addition to our usual income, Connect 10 brought a response that will ensure we can cover our costs in the immediate term; top up the Courier Costs Fund and underwrite the expansion into Madang and Mt Hagen prisons.

Crossroad

Bible Institute

Networking in Australia and the South Pacific.

July 2013



Jonah 4:11 *"Should I not have concern for the great city?" Nineveh was full of immoral sinful, rebellious people. And yet, our compassionate God had a concern for these people. The odd thing about God's grace is specific for undeserving people. Grace is compassion for people who don't deserve mercy. The book of Jonah ends with the above piercing question..... "Should I not have concern for the people..?" This is really a question for all of us. We all know people who have made a mess of their lives, people who 'don't deserve God's love'. Should we not be concerned about them?*

In the CBI ministry, we are all convinced that we should have love for each other and for those we like to reach. Yes, we are one large Christian community, having a unity that binds us together. Every week at the office we come together as one, we share, we pray for all of you, everyone involved, and also for each other. It is a good time. Jesus also prays for this love, this unity for each other, in John 13:35 "By this everyone, the whole world, will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another". This unites us

across denominational lines and cultures, appreciating one another's sincere desire to follow Christ in His mission. God tells us to treat others well because of Him. Many people may think that 'others' do not deserve our consideration or have earned our respect, but God's love for us compels us to see these 'others' through His eyes. Many times in the Gospels, Christians are encouraged to show real authentic love for God and those we meet. And in the words of the text here, "should we not have concern for the prison inmates....." God did..... for those who are the Least, the Lost and the Last. Thank you each one for being such a wonderful part of the CBI people and the ministry.

From Anne's desk:

It is good to be able to 'update' you again through this Newsletter. Distant worker Rebecca has been away and may be you'll find a double lot of Updates and other articles on the website this time. Kirsten has started working at the office. It will be good when she is able to come more regular. She will be wonderful to have around. Marte, who types out all the

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testimonies, will be leaving when she and husband John retire. They are going to live elsewhere. Sadly we needed to say good bye to Lauren at the office, after been with us for quite some years. She too has moved and finds it hard to travel the distance. We will miss them very much. Thank you both so much for all that you have done for CBI. I have been able to promote CBI in Presbyterian churches here in Sydney through a letter.

An Instructor in Victoria, Jean, together with two other Instructors from the same church, have asked for promotional material to give a presentation in their church. A gesture certainly worth following. They also sent in a donation from a church collection. Thank you!

Different students in PNG have asked to be helped with an English dictionary. These inmates are most sincere, but understanding the words is difficult. Joshua wrote, "I try my best to read and understand what some words say. Please pray for me that I may understand the word of God! My question to you is please send an English dictionary ". Do you have a spare dictionary laying around? Please send to the office.

We have had several Instructors write in. They found some mistakes in the answer keys in their Manuals. Where they were correct, the mistakes have been forwarded to CBI headquarters. From time to time our manuals are altered and revised. If this is the case I will let you know. We can update our own manuals.

The second lot of prayer requests has gone out. In answer to a question, I hope to get them out in the middle of the month. This prayer chain is another corporate item where all of our Instructors can be involved in. A 'tie' that binds us together.

Being encouraged by Chaplains is really

great. Chaplain Christina wrote, "So great to receive the copies of Challenge Magazine. I read it with interest myself as well as having inmates in the Main and Protection units lining up for a turn to read it. There are 3 other distinct areas of the Correctional Centre where inmates would be interested in the magazine and currently have no opportunity to be exposed. Many thanks for the wonderful ministry you pursue on behalf of Jesus."

We welcome Andrew from QLD as a new Tier 2/3 Mentor, having come from New Zealand, where he has been a Mentor for quite some time. Their loss is our gain. Also very welcome are new Instructors, Ginette from NSW, Jan and Chai from WA.

From America: Dr Schuringa reported that Kimberley McCarthy would receive a lethal injection. She was convicted of murdering her neighbour, retired professor Dorothy Booth, in 1997. McCarthy broke into Booth's house with the intent of robbing her to pay for cocaine. The execution would be particularly sad for the Crossroad Bible Institute community, as McCarthy is a CBI graduate who earned her certificate in 2006. He asked prayer for Kimberly and her family during this difficult time. We now know that Kimberley McCarthy has received this lethal injection. May we as CBI community take comfort that she was helped to become a child of God during her stay in prison through CBI lessons.

From the SI: "CBI program leader, Rev. Japhlet Folia is really enjoying his new prison ministry. He splits his time between three prisons, Rove and Tetere, and also travels to Auki in Malaita province. Japhlet has invested significant time and effort in his prison role and we thank God for the opportunities he has provided to bring the hope of Forgiveness in Christ.

Statistics for June:

Lessons received:

AUS=182, FIJI=51, SI=132, TO=6, PNG=281, NZ= 106

Enrolments for June:

AUS=39, FIJI=2, SI=14, PNG=1, NZ= 31

We had 31 GT01 lessons this month

From the Fields

Greetings friends

On the 4th of June I attended the funeral of long term Instructor Ruth at Manilla in NSW. Ruth was 84, a woman of God, and will be missed by her family and by CBI. Her send off was one of the most God honouring funerals I have been to. To show how much CBI meant to Ruth, during his address to those present, Minister Vince mentioned CBI three times and he also said that, at times, he had taken some essay questions and answers into his scripture class to emphasise the message he was presenting. My personal condolences to Toni and family of this wonderful woman and friend.

At a Qld prison this month, I spoke with a young man who gave his life to the Lord on the 17th of March. His conversion was prior to going to prison and his crime happened last year. The young man was excited to learn of CBI and how he could continue his walk with the Lord whilst in prison. This reminded me of the importance of CBI as many inmates do not have regular chapel services they can attend to worship. Certainly in times of the chaplains absence or lockdowns, in can be weeks or in some cases, months, before a chapel service is held. This is where CBI fills the gap and you become the church and Pastors.

Whilst at a southern NSW prison this month I met with our student Luke. He likes to be called Luke but being a Chinese national, this is not his name. Luke was brought up in a Christian home in China.

When he came to Australia he had very little English. Luke started CBI for two reasons, firstly to renew his relationship with God, which had obviously waned, and secondly to improve his English. It is quite remarkable to think that Luke taught himself to read and write in English by using only a bible and CBI lessons. He asked that I apologise to you the Instructors for his poor literacy level in his early lessons. Luke is to be deported in November. He now has a clear mission for his life and that is to witness, back in China, to all English and non English speaking country men. Luke has it on his heart to become a missionary within China. This has its obvious dangers and obstacles but he remains on fire for the Lord and is willing to serve Him this way. Please do remember Luke in your prayers as he fully realises that God never gave up on him no matter how far he ran from God.

I would like to thank those people who have been training new Instructors on my behalf. As the ministry continues to grow so the need for more Instructors. Please do continue to promote CBI in your churches and to your fellow Christian friends. Contact the office or myself if there is a new Instructor to be trained.

Following are some upcoming events that I wish you to pray for. Pray that the events will go well for CBI but most importantly that God will be glorified – 21st July at the Ulladulla Baptist Church, Maryborough and Rockhampton Prisons at the end of July, Katoomba Missions Interlink Conference on the 10th and 11th of August and the NSW Prison Chaplains conference on the 26th – 28th of August.

Our sincere appreciation for your support, prayers and generosity

Terry and Chris