

Ray's Backpage

ReachOut Mission Conference at Katoomba (10-11 Aug) is looming large and we're excited and geared up to go for it. Terry West, our Field Worker will head up a contingent of volunteers manning our stall. We've got everything to make our stall attractive and interactive. The large map of Australia and the Pacific Islands I mentioned last month is ready and looks even better than first imagined. It came as a donation from a Christian couple who previously supported us with attractive signs that will further highlight our stall. We'll have small CBI logo tabs to show where we are active with our ministry. Just short of a thousand people are expected to attend the conference. By handing people informative brochures, we are able to promote CBI and its ministry. In the brochure is an invitation for people to become Instructors and no less, become regular financial supporters. If you as reader are not yet a financial supporter, please join those who are. Why not sign up for as little as \$15 per month. All it takes for you is to instruct your bank to direct deposit it into CBI's bank account, see below. These monthly donations and church offerings are the substance of our financial base to meet our ongoing needs.

Papua New Guinea is rolling along nicely. Terry is scheduled to be in Port Moresby and in Lae to visit the prisons, the inmates and meet with high-ranking officials when presenting the first certificates to graduates at Buimo Prison. There will also be the exciting prospect of meeting with the Commander of the prison in Madang to lay the groundwork to start the ministry there. We hope to have everything in place to enrol inmates and distribute the first lessons, early February 2014.

Finances for the month, shows expenditure \$ 26231 well in excess of our income \$12802. It included a gift of \$5000 received on the last day of the month and helped to make it respectable at least. On the expense side, a substantial catch-up payment in fulfilling our commitment to CBI America for five months, the falling Australian dollar and other quarterly payments were all items impacting the negative bottom line. As far as future expenses are concerned, we're looking at a couple of easier months ahead and surely some good gifts to restore the balance.

Computers are the core of our operation. With the new ones purchased earlier this year, Bruce, our director and at the same time our IT man has got everything, including all connecting equipment working beautifully now, much to the relief and great joy of our administrative staff.

Crossroad

Bible Institute

Networking in Australia and the South Pacific.

August 2013



"I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow."

1 Corinthians 3:6.

I, was Paul the apostle to the Gentiles. He was "abnormally born" into Christian service (1 Cor.15:8) as he met Jesus on the road to Damascus. This special calling of Jesus could have easily made him think that he was God's army of one!

But Paul knew that he couldn't fulfil his mission alone. So he built teams of workers in all the cities he visited.

Often we give thanks for the "things" God gives us, Paul gives thanks for the "people" God gave him to further his mission!

Paul acknowledges that his teamwork involved not only himself and a gifted preacher, Apollos, but also God Himself. God is the master gardener who brings about the incredible growth of His church!

We at the office give thanks for the more than 250 active Instructors, who help us sow the seed and water it as they minister and write to the prisoners. And then there are the volunteers at the office as they serve and help on different days and those working distantly from their home as well.

It is your faithfulness, blessed by God's grace that makes our mission possible. It is God's wisdom and God has created a desire for wisdom in the work of working with inmate students. We need to cultivate that desire and God helps us in that too, in Christ. In 1 Cor.1:30 we read: "it is because of Him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us the wisdom from God....."

May we ask the Lord to align us to His kingdom as He intended us to be, so His kingdom may grow!" We thank you Lord for our CBI Community.

From Anne's desk:

Greetings, I will be away till early August on my annual trip to the North Coast. Thank you to those who have sent a Dictionary for the students in the Pacific Islands. We received a copy of the NIV Bible dictionary, which we further copied, that is great also. Please keep looking. We ourselves have searched the second hand stores and I have picked up a nice new pocket dictionary at the Salvos. Re: comments made last month about 'Mistakes' in the manuals. Thank you all who had notified us. Erin from CBI in America has told me that some have been reported to the review board. She asked would you, the Instructors, please change

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P.O Box 84 Pendle Hill NSW 2145

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

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the answer key for SURVEY OF THE BIBLE lesson 13, question 20 B: to **Possible and Peace**. According to Romans 12:18 in the NIV Bible, this is more correct. Thank you for attending to this.

Meeting of the Jigsaw Through Care Group: Together with Vicky and Annette, we attended this meeting held at the Corrective Services Building in Sydney. We first were updated on the "prison" news. There is an overhaul of the prison system taking place in NSW. At our next meeting we will know more. The Jigsaw Group, of which CBI is a member, would like the work of the people involved in this group to be wider known, both of what is happening in the prisons for the benefit of prisoner's re-entry and also what outside organisations are doing to reintegrate these people into society. There is a lot done towards the rehabilitation of people in prison in NSW. Health issues and criminology areas in prison and outside of prison are well addressed.

We as a group need to build a profile and are working towards a 'Through Care Fair' to be held here in Sydney most likely in Feb/March next year. Each of the organisations connected will be able to display what they are doing and also Corrective Services will take part in this display. I know many of our Instructors and interested parties have asked questions about what is being done for released inmates and as you know CBI is very much concerned for them. We like to do all we can. And so I expect that many of you, if possible would attend on this day.

I also had a meeting with a delegate of the Sentencing Board in NSW. This was very good.

At the same time Vicky and Annette met with Graham, National Children's Advocate and part of the global "Children of the

World" organisation. The Manga Messiah children's lessons, for the children of inmates were discussed and Graham showed much interest in our program.

From Fiji: Operation Foundation developed a Christ-centred 'rehabilitation' work. This is what they noted: "It was the singing that seemed so out of place, bouncing along concrete corridors as we moved into the depths of Maximum prison. This was our third week of working with a unique group of 39 inmates - all sex-offenders and all compelled to do SOSF. As we came into the classroom we were greeted with a chorus that was like no other. The men had their eyes closed, worshipping God with a mighty harmonious voice. We joined in, blending our voices with theirs. One Voice - One Saviour!" This was a remarkable observation.

Great to welcome new Instructors to CBI Community, they are: Dawn, Sharon, Fiona and Joel from WA and Betty, Phillip, David and Annette from NSW, Edwin from SA and Margaret from Qld.

May we thank the Lord for each other and encourage each other, as we are part of growing His Kingdom, Anne

Statistics:

Lessons received for July:

AUS=211, FIJI=69, SI=183, TO=16, PNG=65, NZ=138

Enrolments for July:

AUS=35, FIJI=14, SI=17, PNG=2, NZ=33

We had 68 GT01 lessons this month

From the Fields

Greetings friends

Our students, and indeed all prisoners, facing release are often confronted with two major obstacles concerning their reintegration back into society. The first is a place to stay, a home to go to. Many

prisoners do not have family support upon release and some, to their credit, want to make a fresh start and move from the area where their crime was committed. To move away from the negative people around them and the temptations that this involves. The second obstacle they face is employment. Released inmates find it very difficult to gain meaningful employment. They seem to be branded 'once a criminal, always a criminal'. We know this is not the case. Over the past 12 months I have talked at length with one of our students who has a desire to make a new start, to move away from his old life in western Sydney. He is 30 and to his credit sees that the only way he can glorify God is to move away from 'the scene of the crime' and walk with Jesus in a new life. To this end a very good friend of mine is willing to give him a chance on his farm as a farmhand so that our student, Gavin, will have the opportunity to succeed and honour God. Pray for Gavin as he approaches a parole hearing on the 25th of August and God willing, he will be released a month later. Pray for a fair outcome for Gavin, his reintegration and also for my friend who has taken a step of faith to help a fellow brother in Christ.

On the other side of the coin is our Tier 2 student Mitch (name changed). He was released from prison in early July and has the blessing of the most wonderful family support. Mitch is looking at 3 years of parole and only gained parole because of his loving wife and family. Without a doubt Mitch's testimony is the most powerful that I have ever heard. Perhaps, over time, most of us will be privileged to hear it. I met

with Mitch and his wife just a couple of weeks after his release. After so long in prison, he is finding it hard to adjust to his role as husband and father. Both he and his wife were expecting this. I have asked both of them to speak at next year's CBI seminars in Sydney and Maclean. The invitation has been accepted joyfully.

The planning for my trip to PNG in September is now realised. In my conversations with Director Piandi from PNG this month, he said this to me, 'in time CBI will be compulsory for every new inmate entering the PNG corrective services system'. This is a huge statement to make but it shows us the word of God is the most powerful tool there is. It shows us that CBI is working in PNG (and indeed all over the world) with reduced reoffending rates and a safer society.

This month I have spoken at the South Grafton Presbyterian Church and the Ulladulla Baptist Church. There have been training sessions for new Instructors at Maclean, Grafton and Ulladulla. I especially thank all of you that have trained new Instructors this past month on behalf of CBI.

Please pray for my upcoming visits this month. My time in Maryborough and Rockhampton Prisons, the Missions Interlink Conference at Katoomba, Manilla Presbyterian Church, West Ryde Anglican Church, NSW Prison Chaplains Conference and other prison visits.

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