

Crossroad

Bible Institute

Networking in Australia and the South Pacific.

October 2013



2 Corinthians 5 : 1, 5 “... we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by humans hands”. vs5 “Now it is God who made us for this very purpose and has given us the spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.”

In our busy world many people travel to and from work. They also travel for pleasure. Even now as I write, the school holidays are on; many people are on the way.

A trip often takes a lot of preparation and planning. We may use a GPS or a Roadmap. The GPS guides us in the most direct way to our destination. If we make a wrong turn, it quickly lets us know. On the other hand, with a Roadmap, we get a wider view and we have more choices.

When it comes to knowing God's will for our lives, we, more often than not, prefer specific directions as from the GPS. But seeking God's directions for our lives is more like reading a map. In His Word we find directions for our lives. He promises to guide us and to always be with us.

The Bible often describes our life as a ‘journey’. The first Christians were called ‘people of the Way’. (Acts 9:2) Jesus is the way to eternal life, **John 14: 2, 5, 6** “... I am going there to prepare a place for you” “... Lord ... how can we know the way?” “... I am the way, the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father except through Me.”

While we are travelling to our eternal home, we need to pray. We need to offer our-

selves “as living sacrifices”. We need to talk to as many people as want to travel with us. We should encourage each other and have fellowship with fellow believers.

May we again follow His way this month and encourage those who are in contact with us through CBI and the lessons. May we see our calling as workers in the Lord's harvest field and look forward to our citizenship in heaven. (Philippians 3: 20)

From Anne's desk:

Thanks for your support and encouragement for the Update and the Prayer list.

It is wonderful to have a third computer at the office. It is a tremendous help and a much needed advancement. (I have made full use of it.)

Terry and Chris have sent some really great photo's from PNG. They will soon be posted on the website and Facebook, together with a report. I thought the photos were very colourful; especially those depicting 'Independence Day' celebrations near Buimo prison.

Linda accompanied me to the Children's Ministry Network (CMN) meeting in Epping. Many items were discussed: CBI's ministry in particular and the Manga Messiah Children's Course - all explained at length. **New Zealand's** Director, Peggy, in her Newsletter mentioned that the Manga Course is working well in NZ.

Peggy's Newsletter is placed on the American CBI website, as are our Updates every month. **Graham**, also from CMN, is continuing talks with the Chaplain and Management of the Youth Detention Centre in Sydney.

While listening to CBI TV, I heard two interviews with Ted Boers. Ted wrote a book called, *Three Simple Rules*. This book gives valuable insights into the correct way of handling, saving and spending money. A theme of the book is "Give some, save some and spend some". The book is written in a way that is easy to understand. This book is given to the students who have finished the 'In God We Trust' Course. Our office will receive a copy.

An email was sent to me from the Care pages of Greg Schuringa, the President's son. He is very thankful to God about the continuing good progress and results of the brain MRI's. It is still looking good and he wrote that in a couple hours he would have swallowed the final three chemotherapy capsules. It is certainly something to rejoice about. Greg is happy to be able to share this milestone.

"Kenyan Mall Massacre Shakes Crossroad's Prison Ministry", was the headline from an America press release: Jefferson Gathu, director of Crossroad Bible Institute's satellite prison ministry in Kenya, has gathered his family and fled Nairobi due to the recent violence in the region. Gathu reported that his family is safe, as is the CBI Kenya staff, all of whom are Kenyan nationals.

"But we are affected as a ministry because some of our friends and partners are among the victims," said Gathu.

One of those friends is Mark, a member of a prison ministry that partners with CBI

Kenya. Mark was hospitalized and also lost his two children in the massacre. "Our brother Mark is our close associate and is involved with almost all of our programs in prison," said Gathu. Gathu also reported that one of CBI Kenya's ministry partners has a cousin who was taken hostage and is still missing as of that Tuesday. "Continue to remember us in your prayers," Gathu requested.

Crossroad Bible Institute's international prison ministry in Singapore is active, thriving and expanding. After establishing the program in Cambodia last year, CBI Singapore is now extending into the island of Bali in Indonesia.

Paul Tan, director of CBI Singapore, is coordinating the effort with several churches in Bali. He travelled with two local pastors and their ministry teams to the prisons in Denpasar, Tanbana and Gianyar, where he shared about the CBI Bible study program. Tan has also identified a local pastor to act as the coordinator for the CBI program in Bali. The new coordinator is active in prison ministry and outreach in the community.

New Instructors this month are: Amanda and Danny from Victoria; Carla, Erica, Kym, Wassili from WA; Janet, Art, Tony, Shirleyann, Stuart, Blake, Mark, Paul, Melissa and Paul W from NSW. We welcome each of you warmly.

Wishing you a blessed journey, till next month, Anne

Statistics :

Lessons received for September:

AUS=191, FIJI=53, SI=176, TO=6, PNG=150,

NZ= 129

Enrolments for September:

AUS=27, FIJI=6, SI=5, TO=1, PNG=38, NZ= 43

We had 63 GT01 lessons this month

From the Fields

Greetings Friends

The highlight of the month of September was the much-planned trip to PNG from the 13th to the 19th. I know there were people praying from all over Australia for my time in PNG. Several chaplains have told me that inmates in Australian prisons were also praying. God in His mercy heard the prayers of the faithful and blessed my time there.

Briefly, in PNG, I visited Bomana Women's Prison in Port Moresby twice, and Buimo Prison at Lae, also twice. It was during my first trip to Bomana Prison that God answered prayer. A good friend of mine had donated 10 pair of reading glasses for the prisoners at Buimo Prison. I happened to take one of these to Bomana Prison. After the service I asked the ladies if anyone needed some reading glasses. About 8 hands went up. I gave the glasses to the first hand raised. As I was leaving the prison, this lady said to me, with tears rolling down her cheeks, that she had been praying for glasses for the last 2 months so that she could continue to read the Bible. On my second trip to Bomana the rest of the ladies received glasses.

In Buimo Prison, Lae, we had a ceremony to present 94 certificates to our students who had completed 'Great Truths of the Bible'. The ceremony lasted 3 hours and was a most moving affair. Photos of the ceremony will soon be posted on the website. Also present at the ceremony was my good friend Mr Aho Baliki, who was instrumental in CBI being placed in PNG prisons. Instructor Keith Bruning and his wife Brenda from Western Australia who were visiting the Free Reformed Church missionaries in Lae took the opportunity to

attend the Buimo ceremony. The manager of the Lae BSP Bank attended, as well as Pastor Ian Wildeboer from Free Reformed Churches missions.

After the ceremony I had a lengthy meeting with the Commander from the Madang Prison. His presence at the ceremony was certainly an answer to much prayer. The groundwork has now been done for the placement of CBI studies into Beon Prison, Madang, early next year.

There are many people that I would like to thank for my time in PNG, Director Piandi, Madam Judy Tara, Commander Buimo Prison; Commander Keko, Bomana Prison; Commander Wada, Beon Prison; Sgt Juvai, Sgt Eko, Pastor Ian Wildeboer, Keith & Brenda Bruning and to all who prayed.

Also, I have had the following Australian prison visits: MRRC, NSW: Oberon CC, NSW: Long Bay CC, NSW; Arthur Gorrie CC, Qld; Palen Creek CC, Qld; and lastly, Glen Innes CC, NSW on the 22nd September.

There were a couple of other events that are worth reporting and that is that CBI was asked to have a display and information table at the NSW Prison Chaplains Conference at Baulkham Hills. It was great to catch up with old friends and explain the ministry to new chaplains.

Finally, I had been invited by Instructor Alan to address a quarterly meeting of retired ministers and missionaries. The meeting was held at Blaxland in the Blue Mountains with 20 persons attending. This was a wonderful time of fellowship and we pray for those that have shown interest in joining CBI.

Thank you for your prayers, support and generosity

Terry and Christine

Ray's Back Page

PNG calling - Terry's report speaks for itself. It remains for us to ship in the materials from America and Bibles from Australia for the inmates in Beon prison to come on stream as students.

Terry mentioned Keith Bruning, a CBI Instructor representing the Free Reformed Churches Missions attending the ceremony. He asked him to write up his impressions and forward them to me.

Allow me to quote a little:

From an instructor's point of view it was a great opportunity to put names to faces and to experience the real joy and thankfulness to God in these students. It is also humbling to see the grace of God not only at work in the PNG prisons but also in the community of Lae itself. It was also very moving to see the genuineness of the Commander and her staff, all pointing the gathering back to God and the Scriptures as the only source for comfort, security and hope that we have through the precious blood of Jesus Christ. CBI is a very worthwhile cause to have in place. Clearly, it reaches the hearts of many prisoners as well as those around them. May God our Father, continue to bless PNG where the need is great, as well as the efforts of all who are involved with CBI.

Finances are a big concern for me. I'm 'holding the fort' for our treasurer Samira,

holidaying in Canada. What concerns me in particular is that our income for September being one of the lowest on record (\$4500) and expenses including PNG somewhat high (\$11000).

Several times I have made the point that apart from donations which tend to vary up and down but gratefully received, sponsorships and church offerings underpin our income, and thus the ministry. I'm more than thrilled and grateful for the many sponsors committing themselves to a monthly amount - auto-depositing it into our bank account. But in terms of Church offerings, I'm appealing to our readers to give some thought to our immediate shortfall. When did you last talk to your pastor and posed the question: "In view of Scripture's exhortation 'remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoner' what can we do as a church to pledge support for this vital ministry?"

I'm always the first to declare: "This is the Lord's ministry, He cares and provides, we need to trust Him." When I sounded some **alarm bells** in my email to Samira, she immediately reminded me to take my own words to heart. Yes, but we do have to pray and make our needs known. Now that I've done that, it remains for you as readers to respond as you see fit, as well as spread the news of our need, and pray with us.

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