

## Ray's Back Page

**Excitement is in the air** with Terry going back to PNG early December to establish the ministry in the Beon Prison in Madang. The trip was brought forward, because the officers in Beon are working right through January and February. More about that next month!

**2014** promises to be another year of sustained growth and strength for the ministry of CBI. We'll be starting with an "Instructors Refreshment Seminar" – this time in Sydney. The exciting thing is that we will have it in the conference room of the building we partly occupy. This will give 'all' NSW Instructors an opportunity to see our office facilities – that is exciting! Terry will be sending out the invitations well in advance. In the meantime, please note the date in your diaries – Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

**Christmas is coming** and as we have done every year, we'll be sending Christmas cards to our student inmates from the middle of November. Positive greetings are written on the front and back of the seasonally and beautifully decorated card, and together with the poem God has inspired me to write, it serves as a message of hope for our students. Terry's response: This is professional!

**Finance** is something I love to write about in glowing terms. And I should, because the Lord has blessed His ministry. We've had some testing moments over the years but we have continued to trust the Lord, and He has always provided. We're now seeking to lift our level of income to match the increasing demands of the ministry. In that regard, it was encouraging to note a timely response to our appeal in last month's Update.

Yet, October is another month when we pay CBI America for lessons processed during the past three months. In addition, our quarterly commitment to employ the local chaplain in the Solomon Islands; as well as our regular ministry support for Fiji and courier costs for the Solomon Islands and PNG were due. Combine that with the regular expenses of the ministry, it all added up to \$20,966.

You don't have to be a great mathematician to work out the negative difference, when comparing it with this month's very good income of \$17433. From donors \$10345, sponsors \$2855 and from churches \$4233. A heartfelt "thank you" one and all. Two sure promises received will ensure a good start for November. And, a gift in kind – 20 reams of copying paper – was also gratefully received.

# Crossroad

## Bible Institute

Networking in Australia and the South Pacific.

November 2013



**John 8:31 – 32** "if you hold to my teaching ..... you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

*No one is perfect. We'll always be sinners in this life. It is a fact that Jesus makes us new; He sets us free from our sins. Are we stuck in sin or are we freed from sin?*

*I look in the Bible and read about David. King David was a sinner: he arranged the murder of a soldier to cover up an affair he had with the man's wife (2 Samuel 11) Yet God called David "a man after His own heart" (1 Samuel 13:14 and Acts 13:22) Was David a sinner or a man "after (God's) own heart"? How can we explain that?*

*Jesus said "If you hold to my teaching" and in John 14:6, He said, "I am the way, the Truth and the Life, No one comes to the Father except through Me". Jesus is the Truth. These days' people say: "What is truth"? We find it in the Bible and only through Jesus we can come to God. No other way. To know the truth is to know Jesus. To know Jesus is making us free. He takes care of our sin, of our guilt, of our anxiety. This is so freeing. We are free indeed!*

*The more we get to know the sinners of the Bible, the more we begin to see what it looks like when God changes someone. We can see better how God is working to make changes in our lives and in the lives of the prisoners. It is incredible to read their testimonies of how they are really free, although they are*

*locked up in jail. So again they are free and they are locked up. By God all these things are possible.*

*God works that process of sanctification in us. In this life, we are never done with sin, neither we ourselves nor the prisoners we deal with. But God is not done with us either. He continues to make people new and set them free, through Jesus, who is the Truth. This is His teaching.*

### From Anne's desk:

**Greetings to all!** During this month our thoughts and prayers have gone out many times to the people affected by the huge bushfires in the Blue Mountains. Particularly in the Winmalee area as we have Instructors and CBI workers located there. As far as I know they have escaped the 'very bad news' of their houses being destroyed. We wish them much encouragement and insight in their needs. Our hearts go out to each and every one.

**We hope** to be able to send the Update and Testimonies from the office from now on. Jack has been very busy transferring the 'contact list' to the office computer. If you hear of anyone, who has missed out, please let us know at your earliest convenience.

**At the office** they are kept on their toes with the great number of lessons coming in. However staff shortage at times takes Jack away from his administrative duties as at those times he needs to process the lessons. We have some volunteers on holidays

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and some have been sick with the flue.

**In this column**, could I urge you, if you have not filled in an application to become an Instructor, to please do so. CBI needs you. You are the heart of the ministry. In December another big amount of students will be added. In one way, the Lord is great and blesses us, but we need people to match this.

**Several packages** come in from the islands each week. Also the lessons and enrolments from Australia are increasing in number. This makes us stand in awe. The Lord is keeping the inmates close to His heart and the Instructors are encouraging them greatly.

**I would** like to make a plea to have a dozen or so, very patient instructors on hand. At times it happens that an inmate is very enthusiastic about advancing to Tier 2 but has problems with literacy. CBI in America has reservation about approving these students unless **a very patient and considerate and loving Mentor is willing to assist**. Could I have some of you volunteer?

**Vicky, Tony and I** attended the annual Jigsaw Throughcare Networking Breakfast in the Visitor's Room, formerly the Stranger's Room of Parliament house. It was sponsored by the member for Pittwater, Mr. Rob Stokes.

**The President**, Rev Rod Moore, Coordinator of *Corrective Services Chaplaincies*, and Mr Stokes spoke briefly at the Breakfast. Our main speaker was Mr Paul Cowley from the UK. He is the Executive Director of the William Wilberforce Trust, the Director of **Alpha for Prisons and Caring for Ex-offenders**. It was a pleasure to listen to his talk.

**Afterwards** we had an exciting meeting

with Richard Feeney, Prison Fellowship' State Executive Director for NSW and ACT. He is also the treasurer of the Jigsaw Group. Some exciting developments may come from this.

**I had a lovely** talk to a representative of the Kairos Organisation, Mavis. This wonderful lady will bring our conversation and emails to the annual meeting of Kairos. This will be great for the Women's prisons.

**Dr. Schuringa** has given nearly 15 years of service as President of CBI International. CBI Australia congratulates him and wishes him well for the future. You can see the article on the CBI America website.

**The website** of CBI in America has posted the last visit of CBI Australia to PNG and this is titled "God answers Prayers in the South Pacific". Have a look!

**We have** received the book 3 SIMPLE RULES. It is a practical Manual Guaranteed to Improve Your Finances! It is a very helpful booklet for the students who have finished certain courses. Even Dr Schuringa has given his children a copy. I am thinking of doing the same.

**New** Instructors this month are: From QLD Jan and Maureen, from NSW Chelsea, David C., Vennis, Linda and David O. Wonderful to have you on board.

**Besides** the Update and the Testimonies, the upcoming events are on the website. Rebecca and Chloe have placed a few pictures from the Breakfast event and some Art from PNG on the Web and Facebook.

**Free** in Jesus, Anne

**Statistics :**

**Lessons received for October:**

**AUS=210, FIJI=78, PNG=112, SI=222, TO=2, NZ= 163**

**Enrolments for October:**

**AUS=46, FIJI=5, PNG=2, SI=18, NZ=24**

**We had 47 GT01 lessons this month**

## From the Fields

Greetings Friends

**This** month I received a phone call from one of our students who had been released. This happens regularly, but this call was different. It came from Nigeria! Ifeanyi Onkonkwo is a Nigerian national. He was deported after he served his sentence here in Australia. He was near completing Tier 2 when he was sent home. Ifeanyi was glowing in his praise for CBI, its Instructors, and for the effect you all had in his life, and especially the effect you had in disciplining him and walking with him. The sole reason for his call was to thank you.

**In** a Queensland prison this month, I again met with a student and good friend, Les. He is about to start on Tier 2, and looks forward to that. Les' story is remarkable. He is aboriginal and was brought up in a more traditional aboriginal settlement in North Queensland. Les told me how he ran from God all his life and the only time he talked to God was when he wanted something. God pursued Les into prison and placed CBI before him. That was a number of years ago. Les told me, in all honesty, that without CBI he would have died long ago. Les has a deep desire to study theology when released and to serve God wherever He may put him.

**Recently**, many Instructors have commented to me on the high literacy standard and obvious faithfulness of our students from PNG. Over the six years I

have been the CBI Fieldworker, I have reflected on the difference in crimes between what we see in Australia as compared to the Pacific Nations. Mostly (not always) the crimes committed in Australia are crimes of **want** as compared to the majority of crimes from the Pacific Nations being crimes of **need**. Particularly in PNG, they are people of faith, but the need to survive and the need to feed their families sometimes drive people to do things that are against the law.

**This** month I visited Windsor Prison (Sydney), MRRC (Sydney), Nowra Prison, Kempsey Prison, Tamworth Prison and Arthur Gorrie (Brisbane).

**Also** this month, Chris and I did a CBI presentation at West Blacktown Presbyterian Church (including preaching), Yamba Presbyterian Church and Ballina Presbyterian Church. From these, many new Instructors are to be trained or have already been trained. I thank the ministers and session for allowing me to speak to their congregations.

**Friends**, Ray will have more to say on this but plans are well underway for CBI to become active in Beon Prison in Madang, PNG. Please start to pray for God's blessing on this and for my proposed trip there in December.

Thank you again for your ongoing support, generosity and prayers,

Terry and Chris