

Crossroad

CONNECTION



Spring 2004

Reaching through the walls to unite the church

A Publication for CBI Students

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Albert V., CBI Student, WI

My Letter To The Lord

Jason S., CBI Student, MI

Spiritual lyrics are so heavy on my mind,
I had to let them shine in search for truth.
I'm living proof of my tribulation as a youth,
Knowledge is the key, open the Bible so you can see.
Read it carefully, then turn the page, it gets more deep.
You see, the flesh is locked up, but your soul can be set free,
Let us rise, wipe that tear from your eyes.
It's gonna be alright, just keep faith through the night,
In these hardest times He will wake you up with sunlight.
Brightness is there, but you say life ain't fair,
A lot of time it seems like nobody's up there.
Feelings of grief, getting weak in disbelief,
The devil's doing a dance, join him in misery.
Misbehaving is his way, full of graves and burning days,
He just can't compare to the power that really saves.
So open up your heart, He will listen if you want to start,
Genuine sincerity changed my way of thought.
Pray for my enemy, love is what I'm taught.
I know it ain't easy but, "hey," I got to start,
'Cause I keep on getting caught with a serious crime,
Retaliation's what I brought, so now I'm doing time.
I wish I would have thought with a heavenly state of mind,
But I didn't because I didn't know any better.
Dear Lord, can you hear me as I write this letter?

A War Lost, A Battle Won

Tommy J., CBI Student, TN

There's two sides of a story; right and wrong,
The devil gets the weak side, God has the strong.
When lust takes over, the devil has done his job,
We do things we should not do, for instance, kill like the mob.
Things we know are wrong we do, 'cause the devil pushes us to follow,
Evil insures us then, but what about tomorrow?
The war between the sides, is one we have to choose,
Take God's path, a battle won, a war you cannot lose.
But yet we do the opposite, the long run seems too long,
Get it quick, fast and in a hurry, cause any time is too long.
The devil wins a war every time we fall victim to sin,
But God will bring light if you're sincere and your heart is true.
When all else fails and life seems meaningless,
You can turn to Jesus Christ, ask for forgiveness and still be blessed.
God is good and never changes for anybody or anything,
You can call on Him anytime, He will always be the same.
There is no need to be nervous nor should your legs rattle,
With God on your side, you're sure to win the battle!



Ramon G., CBI Student, TX

WE WELCOME YOUR MATERIALS!

When submitting artwork, poetry, and letters, please include your name, ID #, and full address. CBI is overwhelmed with the amount of wonderful work submitted by CBI students. Therefore, we regret that we cannot publish everything we receive.

Barry W., CBI Student, PA



Untitled

Kelly M., CBI Student, MO

When I woke up this morning,
I was sitting in my cell.
I did a double-take,
Thinking maybe it was hell.
I got down on my knees,
And to God I did pray.
I said, "What did I do,
To deserve things this way?"
When I was out on the streets,
I always tried to do my best.
But the answer God gave me,
Was like a bullet to my chest.
"So you tried to do your best," He said,
"Well your best just won't do.
I gave you Ten Commandments,
Which seven of them you blew.
But this is not the end,
And since you came to Me now.
Let's dust off that old Bible,
And I'll show you how.
I sent down My Son,
To atone for your sins.
So confess what you've done,
That's how you begin.
Read and study my Word,
And live a good Christian life.
Because when you do that, my son,
I'll take away all your strife.
Love me only as your God,
And your rewards will be many.
Love one another,
And I mean all and any.
If you do all these things,
Your riches will be in heaven.
Just don't relapse,
And go back to your seven.
I promise life after death,
And of this you can be sure.
A land of milk and honey awaits you,
And everlasting life that's clean and pure.

All Grown Up

James W., CBI Student, VA

All grown up and on my own,
It's painful and sometimes sad.
There are times I feel all alone,
Living in a world gone this bad.

I find myself wearing many faces,
Some that I'm even afraid of.
Taking me to all the wrong places,
In search of that one, true love.

I tell everything that's nothing,
And nothing of what's everything.
Don't be fooled by what I'm saying,
Try to hear what I'm not saying.

I want to be able to say what I can't say,
To be more genuine, spontaneous and me.
I dislike this superficial game we all play,
I just want You to be a part of me.

Though I feel to You I am nothing,
Nothing more that maybe a friend.
Though this does not stop the feeling,
The feeling of being with You to the end.

God Bless Us All These Holy Days

Lenny V., CBI Student, LA

God bless us all these holy days,
As our hearts are filled with praise.
We glorify and bow to You,
And pray that we can follow through.

Your footsteps lead us on the path,
Which saves us from the devil's wrath,
Your compassion and Your graciousness,
Will let us know that we are blessed.

We pray You guide us with Your truth,
Your Son, He was our living proof,
As our hearts are filled with praise,
God bless us all these holy days.

Damon M., CBI Student, KY

Sin No More

Aaron A., CBI Student, NC



James W., CBI Student, PA

It's the longest hour,
Of the darkest night.
On the cold steel,
Under the dimmest light.
Nurturing the greatest pain,
My heart can bear.
Watching as many stars,
Our galaxy can spare.
Thinking various thoughts,
As they race through my mind.
Shedding so many tears,
As I stroll back in time.
Counting all the people,
Whose lives I have wrecked.
All the family and friends,
The wife . . . the pet.
The mountains of drugs,
The prostitutes, the beer.
All the crimes I've committed,
The nervousness, the fear.
All the lies I've told,
All the trust I've lost.
All the pain I've caused,
And all it has cost.

Who can relate,
To this sinner from birth,
The loneliest man,
On the face of this earth.
Is there anyone to love me,
Who can forgive what I've done?
Written off by so many,
But I've heard there is One.
He's the Son of the Most High,
From what I am told.
So I flipped through a Bible,
To see what it holds.
A miraculous story,
But it claims to be true.
Of a miraculous Man,
Who will see me through.
If I call on His name,
And turn from my ways.
So dry up those tears,
Cause you can be saved.
There is One who loves you,
If it's no one but me.
Close your eyes and relax,
Go to sleep and be free!

Bridges

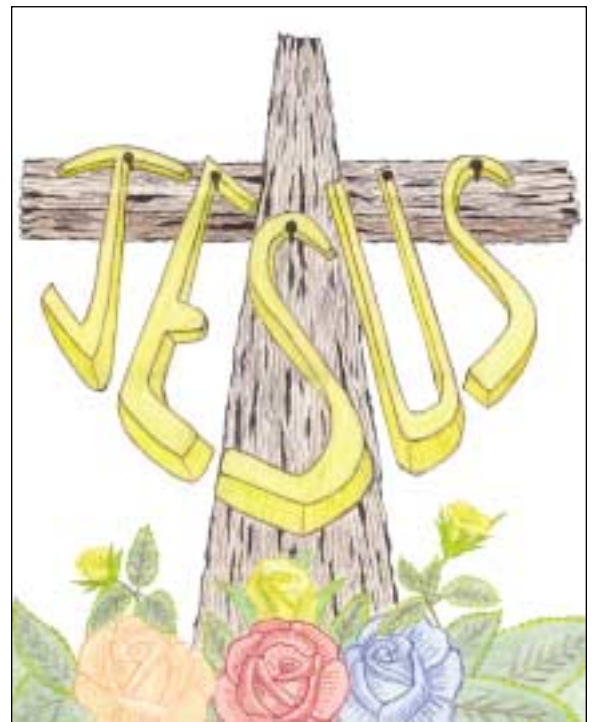
Ulana B., CBI Student, NC

I decided to build a bridge to God;
Start with a prayer,
And use the tools of truth and love to rise it to the air.
But in despair I saw that I could not make it right,
I couldn't get it high enough to reach into the light.
My heart was heavy-laden and I felt so all alone,
I couldn't build my bridge so it would reach God on His throne.
So I told God of the bridge I saw, while on my bended-knee.
Then I saw a light and knew God has built the bridge to me.

To My Son

Thelodis S., CBI Student, PA

This trip was necessary, can't you see,
In order to bring you closer to Me.
This trip was necessary, can't you see,
Through adversities there's victory.
This trip was necessary, can't you see,
Just like Moses, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Adam and Eve.
This trip was necessary, can't you see,
And understand there's a blessing waiting on Me.
So hold on my son and endure the ride because,
There's eternal life in Christ Jesus on the other side.



Joseph B., CBI Student, NE



STUDENTS Write In . . .

"I believe God has sat me down here to learn and grow in my faith. I feel as though I have come along way in faith yet I know I need to be a lot closer. I have a family that I want to be able to teach as I learn. I have one year left to do and I hope to get all the knowledge I can while I have the time to spend on it."

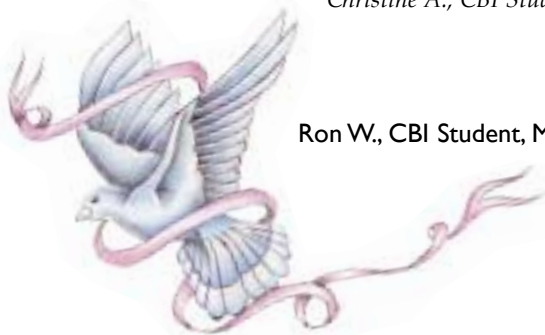
Robert W., CBI Student, IL

"Words cannot adequately describe the opportunity I have had to be one of your students. I want to thank you all for making it possible for me . . . I am happy about it. I give God all the glory. My prayer is that God Almighty will give all the Instructors the strength to help us to grow in our spiritual life and in the understanding of the Word of God."

Abu S., CBI Student, Nigeria

"I really enjoy your Bible studies. They are a blessing to me and others. Thank you so much for acknowledging the little people like us inmates. We are people too, but the world don't seem to think so, they look upon us as scum and worthless. Thank you for making a difference in our lives with your love and concern."

Christine A., CBI Student, PA



Ron W., CBI Student, MT

INSTRUCTORS' Remarks

"You may believe me when I say that Crossroads has given me an opportunity to serve that I could never have found on my own. God is faithful and so kind!"

Barbara, CBI Instructor, MI

"I have enjoyed my beginning relationship with Crossroad; I am impressed with how well many of the students do and the knowledgeable essay answers that they give. Your lessons are well-structured for gaining a good foundation of Jesus and His role in our lives."

Robert, CBI Instructor, PA

"[As a CBI Instructor] I thought I was going to be a blessing to someone in prison. Turns out blessings are a two way street, because every time I do a lesson I feel blessed by my students. It has been a joy for me to be involved in this ministry. How can I ever thank you? God bless the Crossroad Bible Institute!"

Connie, CBI Instructor, MI

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Tier 1 & Tier 2

Dr. David Schuringa, President of CBI



Some of you students have asked why in the Tier 1 course, *Great Truths of the Bible*, the Instructors don't sign their names. You wonder why they sign "Your Brother in Christ" or "Your Crossroad Instructor." There's a simple explanation, and it has to do with the difference between Tier 1 and Tier 2.

In Tier 1, you don't have the same Instructor correcting your lessons. A different Instructor corrects each one. In the same way, Tier 1 Instructors correct a different student lesson every week. At the end of the course, twelve different Instructors have corrected your lessons, and you will have received twelve letters of encouragement, one from each of them.

We structure it that way for a good reason: When you begin your studies with CBI, we want you to know that MANY people are involved in this ministry. We want you to feel that the church really cares for you and that many are praying for you and your studies.

We ask the Instructors not to sign their names in Tier 1. Otherwise, students will begin to write letters to that person because they think that they have a personal Instructor. But that doesn't happen until Tier 2.

When you graduate from Tier 1 and earn your certificate, you can apply for Graduate Studies in Tier 2. In Tier 2 we will assign to you your own personal mentor. That mentor will be your Instructor for all the rest of the courses. Tier 2 Instructors do sign their names, you will get to know each other on a first name basis.

When you are on a first name basis, you can imagine that your relationship with your personal Instructor will certainly grow as together you study God's Word and grow in the likeness of Christ. To have your own personal mentor in Tier 2 should also serve as a strong incentive to finish Tier 1!



Raymond W., CBI Student, CA



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