

# Crossroad

## CONNECTION

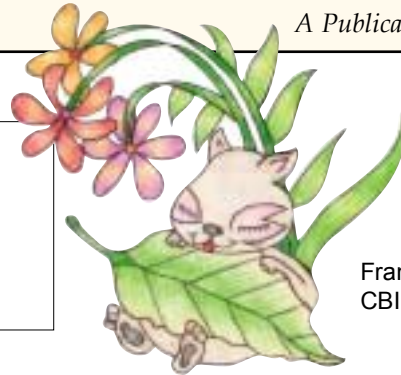


Summer 2004

Reaching through the walls to unite the church

A Publication for CBI Students

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Francisco M.,  
CBI Student, CT

### Untitled

Peter S., CBI Student, OH

From the bondage of ugliness,  
A beauty is released.  
Arises a new creation,  
For the old man is deceased.  
Unknown was the state within,  
Not knowing the reality of sin.  
"Not me, I'm okay."  
This is what I used to say.  
The truth was, I needed Him,  
The truth was, He'd wash my sin.  
Oh how it feels to be white as snow,  
Oh how it feels to now know.  
A secret, I do now possess,  
One I can't hide, I must confess.  
My neighbor, my friend, my enemy too,  
Must come unto knowledge, unto You.  
For it is I who plants, but You who grows,  
Thank you for residing inside of me,  
Thank you, Lord, for setting me free.

### Decisions

Roger H., CBI Student, IL

One simple yes instead of no,  
One moment of temptation wiped out the world I used to know.  
One foolish moment changed forever my life,  
Lost and changed forever, my children and wife.  
One weakness to Satan, the master of lies,  
Has brought so much pain to my heart, and tears to my eyes.  
Why did I give in, why did I dare?  
I had so much to live for, so much for which to care.  
No way to take it back, now there's only pain,  
I had everything to lose, and nothing to gain.  
On my knees, I beg to the Savior that died for me,  
Give me a chance some day, to make it up to my family.  
I've done so much wrong, yet He's willing to forgive,  
He paid the price for me, so that I could live.  
He gives me a peace without which I'd never survive,  
Somehow in this darkness, He's helped me come alive.  
I owe everything to Jesus and hope to one day,  
Lead my children to Him and His eternal way.



Edward T., CBI Student, CA

## 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.

### Ride

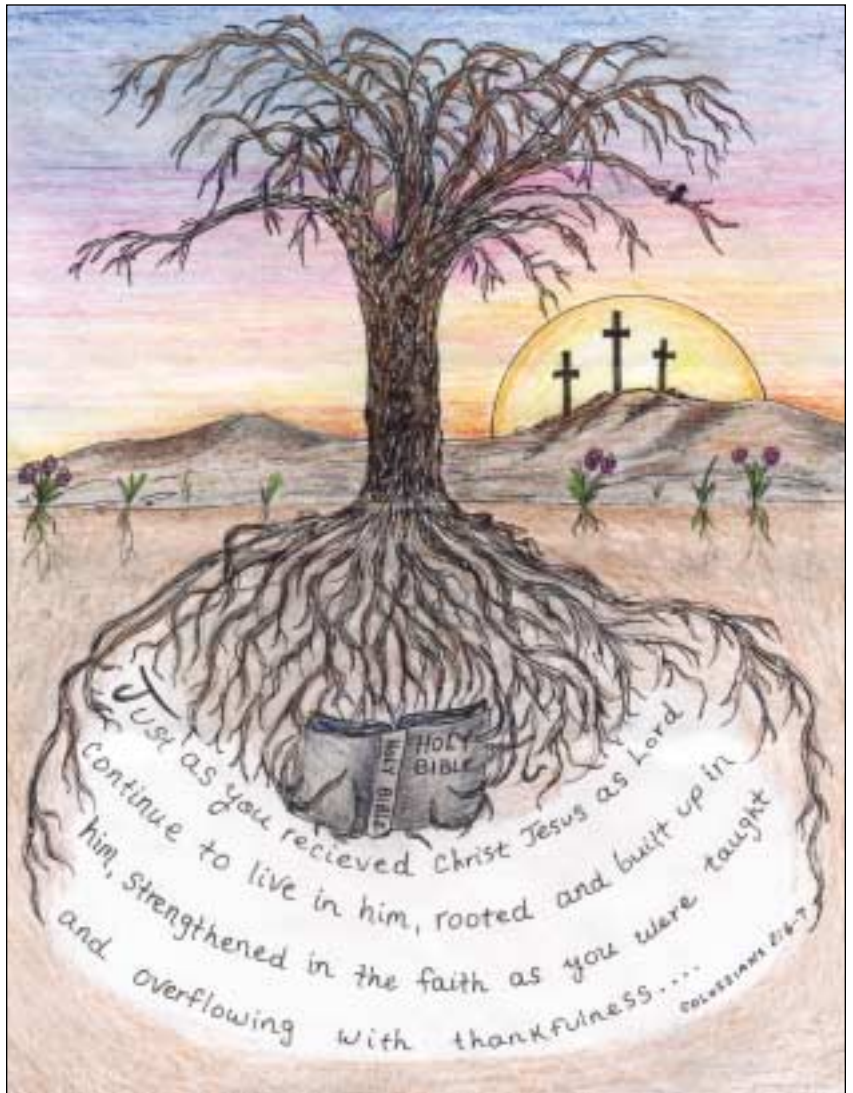
Terry H., CBI Student, TN

Hello there, stranger, would you like a ride?  
I must tell you, that in Christ I do abide.  
This to you may sound a little odd,  
But my wheels only turn for God.  
I'm on my way to heaven up above,  
If you want to ride, you'll have to hear of His love.  
And if you want, with me you can go all the way,  
Upward to God's promised celestial bay.  
I must warn you, if hell is your route,  
No need riding with me; please get out.  
Because in this car's soul Christ does abide,  
So, if you want to go to heaven,  
I'll give you a ride.

### Safe Landing

Megan R., CBI Student, TX

Through the storm that is raging around me,  
Being tossed to and fro',  
By the bashing of the waves.  
Visibility is a zero,  
The rain beating down is icy cold.  
I try so hard to keep on course,  
But I just can't do it anymore.  
He is here, guiding me,  
Guiding my weary soul,  
Shining His light from above,  
Like a beacon through the winds and the rains.  
Leading me, knowing that I'll come out on top,  
'Cause Jesus is here,  
Providing me with a safe landing.  
Though I know I can't do it by myself,  
All I have to do is ask my Father above.  
Knowing the turmoil,  
Seeing the ravages of this world,  
So there is nothing left for me to do,  
But let that light shining down,  
Lead me to a safe landing.



Gregory S., CBI Student, CA

### Like the Water Lily

Darrel L., CBI Student, LA

We can take a lesson from the precious water lily, for no matter what outside force or pressure is put upon the lily, it always rises back to the water's surface again to feel the nurturing sunlight upon its leaves and petals. We must be like the lily, steadfast and true in the face of every difficulty, that we too may rise above our problems and feel God's light upon our faces again.

### Take Jesus' Hand

Gregory F., CBI Student, CA

The twists, turns and currents of the river known as life,  
Can pull you down, turn you around and cut you like a knife.

It is a foolish man who thinks that he, alone, can stand,  
Against the water's raging race, without a helping hand.

So let Jesus be your life-preserver, your anchor to the land,  
And you will find the peace you seek, by taking Jesus' hand.



Rodolfo M.,  
CBI Student, AZ

## Keepin' the Faith

Kenneth M., CBI Student, TN

In the years to come,  
We don't know where we'll be,  
But one thing is for sure,  
Jesus will take care of me.  
Because in this lifetime now,  
Believing in Jesus and keeping your faith,  
Will bring you love and peace without hate.  
Once it enters your heart,  
You will know the truth.  
The feeling of love,  
And how Jesus cares for me and you.  
Don't resist the power of the one and only King,  
Being born again is a very spiritual thing.  
So in the event you don't know where you stand,  
It is not to late until we see the Son of Man.

## It's Me Again, God

Dean T., CBI Student, CO

Remember me, God?  
I come everyday.  
Just to talk with You, Lord,  
And learn how to pray.  
You make me feel welcome,  
I never need to explain,  
For You understand.  
I come to You frightened,  
And burdened with care,  
So lonely and lost,  
And filled with despair.  
And suddenly, Lord,  
I'm no longer afraid.  
My burden is lighter,  
And the dark shadows fade.  
Oh! God, what a comfort,  
To know that You care,  
And to know when I seek You,  
You will always be there.

## God Can

Anthony W., CBI Student, GA

I observe life around me.  
As I live,  
Everybody is talking,  
And nobody is giving.

But every now and then,  
You meet an angel,  
And it's no one you know,  
But a perfect stranger.

So God has His way,  
Of blessing us all.  
Through ways unknown,  
He answers our call.

It may not be,  
When you think it should.  
But trust in Him,  
Because He surely could.

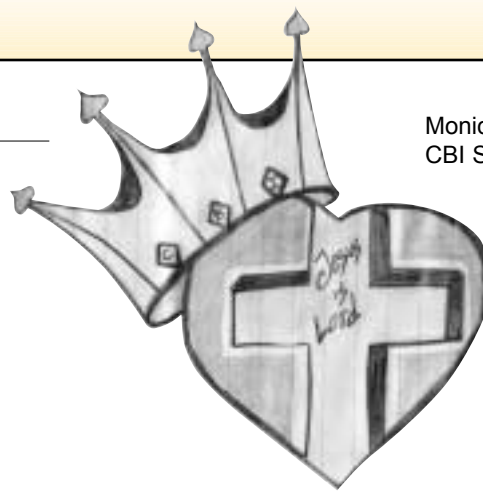
Make your prayers come true,  
No matter how hard it may seem,  
God can handle,  
What you can't do.

## Against All Odds

Leon F., CBI Student, FL

Against all odds, this is the way my life used to be,  
Wrestling, not against the flesh and blood, but principalities.  
Lord, have mercy on me in every one of my sins,  
Please don't hide your face from me, because without You, I can't win.  
I give You all praise, honor and glory each and every day of my life,  
Having faith in Your Word, I can do all things through Jesus Christ.  
I'll trust in Thee as Elijah did with enemies camped around,  
Knowing that, just as You did for him, You'll send fiery chariots down.  
God's Word is based on 'Love,' the greatest commandment of all,  
And just by following His plan, even if you fall.  
Be patient, my brothers and sisters, and wait on the coming of the Lord.  
When against all odds, just remember,  
He'll equip you with the whole armor and sword.

Monica D.,  
CBI Student, NC



## In The Hole, In The Light

Ronald P., CBI Student, CA

Unpainted and stone-cold concrete,  
I am only able to step just a few feet.  
Gazing out my steel door, at more that is gray,  
The window's been frosted, so I can't see the day.  
In the wee hours of night, it can get real quiet,  
Then the day becomes a horrendous riot.  
This other world that most don't even know,  
Of misery and pain, I swear it is so.  
It's hard to explain this other reality,  
Locked in this prison, that's none other but me.  
Way too much time and so many years,  
Its been such a long time, I've shed all my tears.  
So many times my world has fell apart,  
But to pick up the Bible was, for me, a new start.  
I don't really know if this prison system is right,  
But it helps me find the Lord and His guiding light.



Felipe R., CBI Student, CA

"CBI's *Great Truths of the Bible* course has helped strengthen my walk with God and has shown me that there are people in the world who know how to *love*. CBI has helped me start to trust in a world and society I thought was dead. CBI's Instructors have offered deep insight and support in all my lessons. I pray God will continue to use CBI to teach others about God's love and perfect design for their lives as they have helped me."

*William W., CBI Student, NY*

"Coming to prison is probably one of the worst experiences; yet being in prison, where I can accept God's grace, has given me more freedom than on the outside. I used to think the Bible was hard to understand, but Crossroad has made it easy to understand because they take time to help you. This course is preparing me for my future work for the Kingdom!"

*Anthony T., CBI Student, PA*

"I cannot express to you enough how much I have enjoyed my studies. Jesus Christ has become first in my life and no matter how much I've suffered since I've been incarcerated, I believe with all of my heart it was to save me from eternal hell."

*Lori H., CBI Student, AL*

"Studying with Crossroad had been a great blessing to me. I respect the work you are doing for prisoners and may our gracious God be more gracious to the workers at Crossroad. God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have showered toward His name, in that you have ministered to the Saints and do His ministry."

*Eric M., CBI Student, VA*

## INSTRUCTORS' Remarks

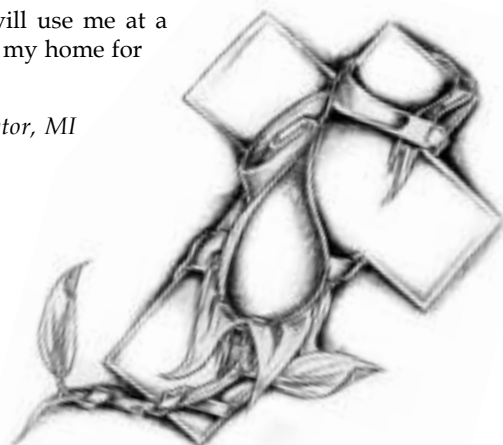
"I enjoy studying the Scriptures and sharing what I've learned through the years as I have depended on the Lord and found Him to be all that He says He is—a faithful High Priest, a Comforter, Savior, Friend, and Guide. It has been so meaningful to me how the Holy Spirit directs my thoughts as I write to each student—no two are alike. The students' depth of understanding blesses me so very much. It is truly a blessing and source of great joy for me."

*Hilda, CBI Instructor, AB*

"I consider it a delight and a great privilege to be giving my time as an Instructor for Crossroad Bible Institute. To think, I can be working for my Lord and learning more every day from His Holy Word by correcting the lessons. I count it much pleasure and that the Lord will use me at a time in my latter days to give my home for His Kingdom work."

*Corinne, CBI Instructor, MI*

David J.,  
CBI Student, CA



### You've Got A Friend!

Dr. David Schuringa, President of CBI



Crossroad Bible Institute's program is designed to assist you in developing and nurturing a life-transforming relationship with Jesus Christ. It is our hope and prayer that this relationship with the Lord will not only provide comfort and guidance during your incarceration, but also prepare you for a successful life on the outside when you are released from prison. I trust that every corrected lesson and personal letter you receive clearly indicates our love and support for you.

In your first lesson packet we mention that we would be happy to write a letter of recommendation for you to the parole board anytime after you complete the *Great Truths of the Bible* course. That's one reason CBI keeps a detailed computer record on each of you, tracking your progress and noting Instructor observations. We also are happy to assist you in finding a church and re-entry ministry to help you get established. You need to let us know when and where you will be released. Most importantly, we want you to know that we are praying for you, daily.

The point is that you've got a friend in Crossroad Bible Institute. We're on your side!

As you can imagine, we get numerous student letters everyday at Crossroad—we try to include a few in each *Crossroad Connection*. I also receive letters addressed personally to me. I read every one. Recently, an encouraging letter arrived from Dan in Arizona. Dan's been a CBI student since 2001 when Operation Starting Line came to his facility and he signed up for the CBI program. He has been faithfully completing his lessons, growing in God's grace, and preparing for re-entry. He recently wrote to thank us for the letter of recommendation we sent at his request to the parole board. Dan's ecstatic that he received a unanimous, favorable ruling. He's going home this summer! He plans to continue his studies with CBI upon release.

We want you to know that CBI really does care. There are thousands here in Christ's church outside the walls who are correcting your lessons, writing the letters of discipleship and praying for you. So keep up your studies! Through Christ, you can have hope in the most hopeless of situations. With Christ, you can make it on the outside as you continue to embrace God's truth and God's love!



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The views, opinions or theological positions expressed in *Crossroad Connection* are not necessarily those of the leadership or staff of Crossroad Bible Institute.