

# Crossroad

## CONNECTION

Fall 2005

REACHING THROUGH THE WALLS TO UNITE THE CHURCH

A PUBLICATION FOR CBI STUDENTS

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### STUDENTS WRITE IN...

"As I am writing you my spirit is sky high due to reading the beautiful and anointed poems in the Crossroad Connection."

*Greg, CBI Student, AL*

"(CBI's) courses helped me understand what being a Christian is all about! Your organization also has helped me to understand how we as Christians need to reach out to help others...This course encouraged me, straightened me and opened my eyes. Thank you!"

*Joe, CBI Student, OH*

"Survey of the Bible was an adventure and I learned so much about God's plan for my life. I have even learned to look at many characters of the Bible as inspirational figures in my journey in God's hands."

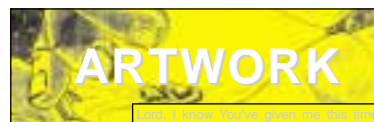
*Carlos, CBI Student, NY*

"One day I saw a Crossroad Connection and really liked what I read. I sent a letter and started receiving lessons. I was so happy with the lessons and roadmaps. They have helped me so much in studying God's Word. I believe they are a blessing from God."

*Edward, CBI Student, MI*

"The CBI courses have been a great help in my understanding of what God's words in His book mean...CBI has shown me how to lead a life as a Christian should."

*Ted, CBI Student, AUS*



### 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.

Milton M., CBI Student, MD



## My Rescue

Michael A., CBI Student, WA

The days are hard when I don't pray,  
when nothing, Lord, seems to go my way;  
when all seems wrong and broken,  
and no one cares but You,  
I will cry out "Abba Father,"  
and You will be my rescue.

So when I'm lost and alone  
and darkness surrounds,  
I shall look inside my heart  
where the light of Christ abounds,  
and He shall lead me on.

# STUDENT WORK

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## Finally Free

Stephen M., CBI Student, MI

My search for life has come to an end;  
I now stand for God, my greatest Friend.  
I asked the great Lord to enter my heart  
and give me a brand new start.

I now live for God, His will and His glory,  
to do His work and spread His great story—  
the true story of how eternal life can be won  
by surrendering to God, His Spirit and His Son.

Once I was lost and unwanted, I thought;  
I resisted the Lord, and for the beast I fought.  
For in my old life, drinking I thought was great,  
I was full of sick pride, rebellion and hate.

I made bad mistakes while in that old soul,  
but God is forgiving, now He's in control.  
You don't have to be rich or be a great man  
for the Lord Jesus Christ to give you His hand.

Yes, He will give life and riches untold  
when you are His sheep and enter His fold.  
Now I'm God's child and stand only for God,  
the greatest of Lights, my Staff and my Rod.

So accept His free gift eternally,  
come be with God and finally be free.

## In Jail with Jesus

Miguel C., CBI Student, NY

Alone one night  
in shame and despair,  
I look for help,  
but no one was there.

No future but prison,  
no past, just pain;  
I looked in the mirror—  
my tears, the rain.

By justice condemned,  
in jail to die;  
my only hope God's mercy,  
for His grace did I cry.

Then a seed that was planted  
somewhere long ago,  
in the midst of my sorrow  
began to grow.

That seed was Christ  
Who died for me,  
in jail with Jesus  
I am set free.

No longer in the hell  
of my sinful ways,  
He made me a new person  
who loves and prays.

When seasons come  
and holidays pass,  
in jail with Jesus,  
my hope does last.

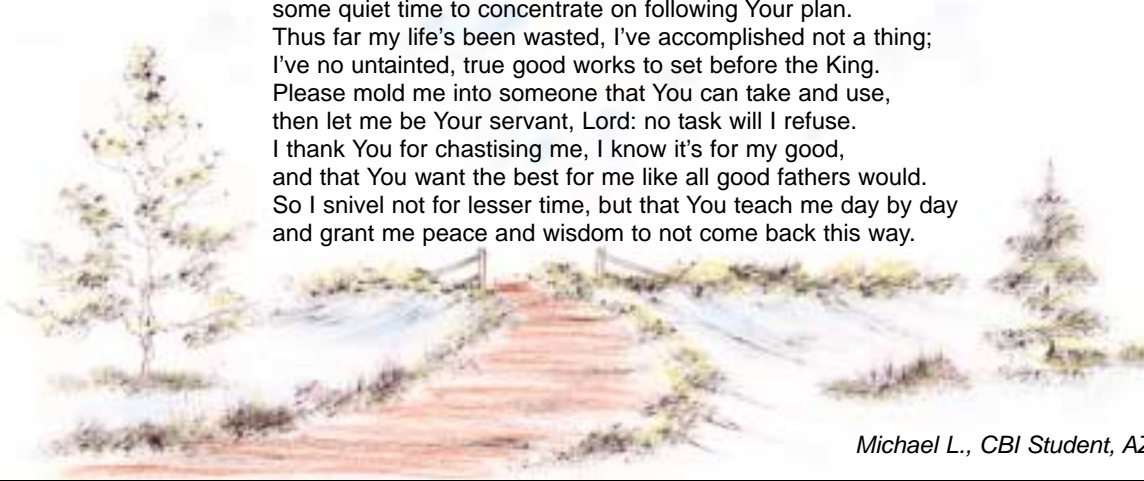


Jerry N., CBI Student, TX

## Quiet Time

Joseph T., CBI Student, CA

Lord, I know You've given me this time to become a better man—  
some quiet time to concentrate on following Your plan.  
Thus far my life's been wasted, I've accomplished not a thing;  
I've no untainted, true good works to set before the King.  
Please mold me into someone that You can take and use,  
then let me be Your servant, Lord: no task will I refuse.  
I thank You for chastising me, I know it's for my good,  
and that You want the best for me like all good fathers would.  
So I snivel not for lesser time, but that You teach me day by day  
and grant me peace and wisdom to not come back this way.



Michael L., CBI Student, AZ

## One Glorious Day

Sharonmarie B., CBI Student, CA

As I sit here inside this prison cell,  
I give thanks to God for at least I am well.  
Scared and afraid I used to cry every night,  
but I knew I had to be strong, I had to fight.  
I know not yet what my future will hold,  
turning to God, giving Him my life to mold.  
He will help me through these difficult days,  
for the Bible tells of His wonderful ways.  
I now read it daily for comfort and peace,  
being scared and afraid has come to a cease.  
I thank Him and praise Him in every way,  
for I know I will join Him in heaven one glorious day!

## Lois' Blessing—written for CBI Instructor

Chad F., CBI Student, IN

You are a blessing from God in love,  
He has sent you to strengthen me from heaven above.

You are a blessing in every way, this much I say:  
I thank you and give God praise for you each and every day.

You are a blessing and shine as bright as a candle,  
my time here in prison you have made bearable and easy to handle.

You are a blessing and this much I know:  
the way you encourage me helps me spiritually to grow.

You are a blessing and a gift from the Lord,  
I appreciate you and want you to know that you are adored.

You are a blessing and these words I speak are true,  
I keep you in my prayers all the day through.

## Untitled

Benny B., CBI Student, MS

Iron bars lock me in a cell of stone and steel;  
forty-eight feet of room, fear is what I feel.

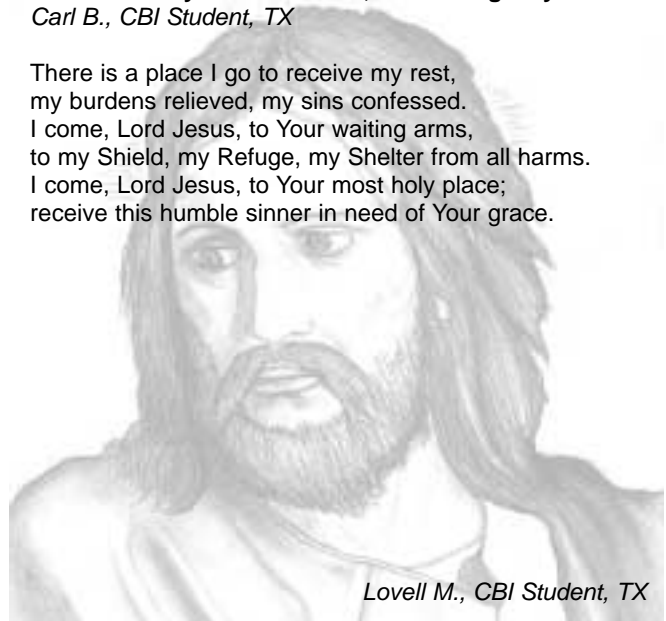
I see the hurt and all the pain in this place each day,  
so why can I smile? What took my fear away?

Yes, I'm a prisoner in this jail, but not in my heart, you see,  
because there's someone special who's always here with me.

## Untitled—based on Matthew 11:28: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

Carl B., CBI Student, TX

There is a place I go to receive my rest,  
my burdens relieved, my sins confessed.  
I come, Lord Jesus, to Your waiting arms,  
to my Shield, my Refuge, my Shelter from all harms.  
I come, Lord Jesus, to Your most holy place;  
receive this humble sinner in need of Your grace.



Lovell M., CBI Student, TX



## INSTRUCTORS' INPUT

**4** "It is a pure joy to do this small part in helping the Word of our Lord spread to more people. Each student is so different and it is interesting to hear all the different lives that are represented and the hope that is there."

*Mary, CBI Instructor, FL*

"CBI has been a great opportunity. I became an Instructor to help the inmates in their walk with God and I've ended up growing with them."

*Dawn, CBI Instructor, MN*

"One hundred years from now it won't matter what car I drove, what kind of house I lived in, how much I had in my bank account, or what my clothes looked like. But the world may be a little better because I was important to the life of a CBI inmate."

*Otto, CBI Instructor, NJ*

"It is such a joy I find in doing the lessons and corresponding with [the students.] It gives me something of interest to do. My husband is unable to be alone for too long a time, so we are home a lot...I look forward to the lessons each week, and sometimes the answers touch me deeply."

*Marie, CBI Instructor, WI*

"I have truly been blessed by becoming an Instructor. It's an encouragement to see how many of the inmates have a serious desire to serve the Lord and hunger for the Word. I read their prayer requests and pray along with them for God to answer them."

*Beverly, CBI Instructor, OH*

*Image Credit >> Juan R., CBI Student, NC*



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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.



## GETTING READY FOR REENTRY

*By Dr. David Schuringa*

I just returned from a business trip to the Old Colony Correctional Center in Bridgewater, Massachusetts. Although we have many students at this facility, I was not there to visit them this time. Instead, Associate Commissioner Veronica Madden and Commissioner Kathleen Dennehy of the Massachusetts Department of Corrections invited me and some other ministry leaders to be part of an advisory council on reentry and reintegration.

It was an incredible gathering. First of all, it was amazing to see a D.O.C. deeply concerned about reentry issues and recidivism reduction. Even more amazing was that they sought advice from the faith-based community. After all, Massachusetts is far from the Bible Belt. The meetings were productive and even included a very fine dinner prepared and served by inmates.

Whether or not your prison and D.O.C. are actively working to help you in reentry, however, you know that CBI's chief goal is your successful reentry into society. Keep up your studies, as they are helping you in numerous ways to prepare for life on the outside. Living by the principles we share will help you to succeed and never again return to prison.

And don't forget our new reentry program. Students who have graduated from Tier 1 and are completing lessons in Tier 2 are eligible for reentry assistance. So, be sure to write us as soon as you know when and where you will be released. Our staff at CBI will research that area and mail information to you regarding suitable reentry agencies to contact so that you can connect with them upon your release. These agencies will help you find a job, secure housing and locate a church. It is important, however, that you establish a relationship with them *before* you are released. In addition, CBI staff may also write letters of recommendation based upon your student records.

We firmly believe that every one of you should connect with a reentry ministry so that you can have a structure *outside* prison to help you live by the principles we teach *inside* prison.

When I flew back to west Michigan from Massachusetts, I was grateful that God is inspiring many to help you get a new start rather than to simply throw away the key. And I am more committed than ever to strengthen CBI's program in any way possible so that you are more likely, by God's grace, to succeed on the outside.