

By Dr. David Schuringa, President



Of Geese & Men

Mary and I live near a small lake. One of the many delights of God's creation we enjoy is the annual migration of the ducks and geese. Both come through in the fall on the way south and in the spring again, traveling back north. The difference is that some of the ducks stay for the summer, whereas the geese just stop for a couple days before resuming their trip to Canada. The sights of V formations overhead and the sounds of honking geese in the air make the migrations something to look forward to each year.

Doing a little research I have learned that each flock of geese is actually a family: mom, dad, kids, and other relatives such as an aging grandparent. Geese have an instinctual guidance system that keeps them precisely on track during their annual trek—a GPS in the brain, if you will. The phrase, "you silly goose," seems grossly unfair because these birds are pretty bright.

This year, two smaller groups of geese are taking an extended stay on the lake under special circumstances.

One is a mom and dad (geese are monogamous and mate for life) with seven tiny goslings in tow.

They swim around the lake with the folks, waddle along the bank, pick at vegetation—they're learning the ways of a goose. As the sun sets, the family selects a spot on shore to settle in. During the night, mom and dad take turns standing watch like sentinels. When the little ones learn to fly, the family will form the V of a brand new flock.

Three other geese are also prolonging their visit. They are separated from the rest of their flock. One has a broken wing.

When an arriving flock lands in the water, the three quickly swim over to them and honk. They seem to be crying out for help, but eventually the visiting flock takes off. Remarkably, the two healthy geese don't leave with any of the flocks passing through: they refuse to leave behind the one with the broken wing.

Most in our society couldn't care less about the poor, the needy, the orphans, the hungry, the incarcerated—the broken ones. Most

turn their heads the other way and continue their journey. I picture an inmate in his cell with a broken wing. I think of the thousands of enrollments from Angel Tree dads flooding CBI headquarters between now and Christmas, each one a cry for help. Then I wonder how determined we are as a church to not leave *any* inmate behind who wants to study God's Word. After all, they are Jesus' brothers, part of our family.

You understand how important the church's ministry to inmates is. Let us be unflinching in our resolve to leave none behind, however many new Instructors it takes, however much it costs.

The vision of God's truth and love healing these broken lives is what inspires me to do everything I can to leave no inmate behind. Upon release, most inmates will return to a life of crime. They will never get off the ground. Most *disciplined* inmates will never commit another crime...ever. Rather, as "those who hope in the Lord...they will soar on wings like eagles" (Is. 40:31). What a thrilling sight to behold!

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Study Shows Increase in Life Terms

A new report by The Sentencing Project, *The Meaning of "Life": Long Prison Sentences in Context*, finds that 127,000 persons—one of every eleven persons in prison—is now serving a life sentence, at a potential cost of \$1 million for each sentence. Of these 127,000, over a quarter—33,000—have no option for parole and will spend the rest of their lives in prison.

The total number of those receiving life sentences represents a growth rate of 83% since 1992, along with a rising number of sentences to life without parole and increased time served in prison. The report finds that the growth of the lifer population is due to changes in sentencing policy and not crime rates, and that the increase of the population includes substantial numbers of mentally ill persons, juveniles, battered women, and those who couldn't afford an adequate defense.

While one could debate the merits of long term incarceration, the meaning of the study for CBI's mission is clear: Those in prison need to be reached with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Further, while one of every eleven persons in prison is now serving a life sentence, that means that 90 percent of prison inmates will be released. They, too, need your help *right now* for their lives to get off the ground when they eventually get out.



Anniversary Celebration: A Can't Miss Event!

If you've been reading *Crossroad News*, you know that two great events are being planned to celebrate Crossroad Bible Institute's Twentieth Anniversary. The Great Lakes Celebration is scheduled for September 10 and the Great Plains Celebration is scheduled for September 17. Plan now to attend the celebration nearest you. Those traveling from out of town should make early reservations for accommodations.

Rev. David Feddes of the Back to God Hour will be the Keynote Speaker. Rev. Feddes has a long-term relationship with Crossroad Bible Institute. It was his vision back in the mid 1990s for the BTGH to refer its inmate respondents to CBI for discipleship. This launched CBI as a national and interna-

tional ministry, paving the way for many other referral affiliates and the growth of a prison ministry reaching tens of thousands.

“... all glory
will be given
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the church's
twenty years
of ministry ...”

One of those other affiliates is Operation Starting Line, the partnership CBI enjoys with Prison Fellowship to reach every prison in the United States with the gospel by 2010 and to disciple to maturity all who respond. In that light, we will be pleased to welcome two dynamic Operation Starting Line platform guests, Don Grier and Leslie Kent. They have shared their

outstanding talent with thousands. In addition, Christy Bobo, a CBI Tier 3 honors graduate, will be on hand to share her testimony of what CBI meant to her while she was incarcerated and what CBI continues to mean to her on the outside.

We will hear a report from our President and special awards will be presented. There will also be a few surprises. Inspiring music will fill out these exciting evenings in which all glory will be given to God for the church's twenty years of ministry to the least, the last and the lost. Keep an eye on www.crossroadbibleinstitute.org for more details as they become available.

Knowing God

A popular sermon by Dr. David Schuringa, "Knowing God," is now available in printed form for a donation of any size. Contact CBI today to order your copy.



NEW TRAINING VIDEO RELEASED By Karen Loyd & Kathryn Shane

The much-anticipated Instructor Training Seminar DVD/video has arrived! The video has been completely revised and contains the most up-to-date information needed to disciple inmates. Kathryn Shane is your trainer on the new video. Karen Loyd and Dr. David Schuringa are also featured.

We are excited to offer this thorough and easy-to-understand version of the Instructor Training Seminar that you may use in a small group setting or individually.

Many CBI Instructors have been trained at "live video training seminars." CBI is always eager to send a CBI trainer to lead live seminars.

However, the video is ideal for training a small number of people such as a group of interested church members, retirement home residents, a Sunday school class, or a high school discipleship club.

Church Coordinators frequently spearhead live video training seminars in their areas. CBI supplies everything that is needed to make an Instructor Training Seminar by video as effortless as possible. Crossroad will send you the new Training Seminar DVD or video, along with the number of Instructor manuals you will need.

"... the video is ideal for training a small number of people ..."

If you have a copy of the old Instructor training DVD or video, **please discontinue using it immediately.** Feel free to return or discard it. It's very important that you are training others (or being trained yourself) with the most up-to-date materials available. To request the new training materials, use the CBI website at www.crossroadbibleinstitute.org (click on "Instructor's Lounge" and then "Become an Instructor") or call CBI headquarters. The DVD or video is free, though donations are always welcome to help defray expenses.



We are excited about the release of this 2004 video training seminar to empower more and more believers to disciple prison inmates, preparing them for successful re-entry into society.



Karen Loyd is CBI's Instructor Coordinator



Kathryn Shane is CBI's Spanish & International Programs Coordinator

It's Been a Long Time Coming ...



CBI is pleased to announce the arrival of the new Instructor Training DVD/Video! Order yours today!

Make A Lasting Impact ...

... Through estate planning!


Ask for the free brochure filled with great ideas!



NO ~~INMATE~~ LEFT BEHIND!

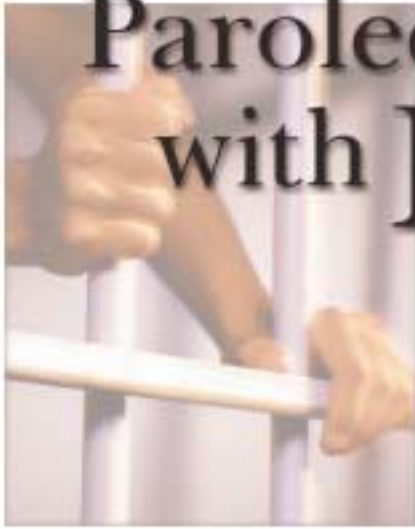
Angel Tree Dad

Pray that we can keep this motto
Please remember CBI this month



MICHIGAN

Providing Parolees with ID



When inmates are released from Michigan prisons it takes up to six weeks to acquire legal identification. Without ID, you can't get a driver's license, get a job, rent an apartment, open a bank account, write a check. If you don't have family to take you in, you're stuck, and likely heading back to a life of crime—and back to prison.

Both Republicans and Democrats are making a move to see that change. Proposed legislation would require the Michigan Secretary of State to recognize prisoner ID cards as one of the three documents required for legal identification. The Department of Corrections would be required to educate inmates about to be released on the documentation needed to secure legal ID.

Crossroad Bible Institute applauds lawmakers for their bipartisan efforts to eliminate the waiting period for prisoners to receive legal ID. We are grateful for any and all structural changes that are conducive to helping ex-offenders re-enter society successfully, in accordance with God's truth and God's love. Wherever you live, you can let your local representatives know where *you* stand on the issues.

CELEBRATE!

CBI's 20th Anniversary Events!



Featuring: Host Pastors: *Revs. Tom Groebema & Carl Kloupien*, Worship Leader: *Dr. Greg Schuringa*, CBI Graduate: *Christy Bobo*, Operation Starting Line Platform Guests: *Don Grier & Leslie Kent*, Speakers: *The Back to God Hour's Rev. David Feddes and CBI President, Dr. David Schuringa*

Great Lakes Celebration
September 10, 2004 at 7:00 pm
First Christian Reformed Church,
Byron Center, Michigan

Great Plains Celebration
September 17, 2004 at 7:00 pm
New Life Reformed Church,
Sioux Center, Iowa

Mark your calendars now, and plan to attend—discount lodging available!

Go to www.crossroadbibleinstitute.org/celebration.htm for the most current Anniversary Celebration information

CORRECTION

In the Tribute to Church Coordinators article in the June issue of Crossroad News, we inadvertently missed **John Zeilstra**.



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