



Dr. David Schuringa

THE CENTER FOR ADVANCED STUDIES

*We are pleased to announce the opening of
The Center for Advanced Studies at Crossroad Bible Institute.*

| By Dr. David Schuringa, President

Those of you who follow Crossroad's ministry closely know that we have four purposes as an organization: (1) Providing inmates with faith-based reentry education; (2) Equipping the church to make disciples; (3) Guiding inmates into reentry agencies upon release; and (4) Educating the church on criminal, restorative and social justice issues.

We thank God for His rich blessings upon CBI as we have seen these purposes unfold in extraordinary ways. We are pleased to announce the opening of The Center for Advanced Studies at Crossroad Bible Institute. This Center will function as the academic and research arm of CBI and will focus on four areas:

First, it will provide advanced education for those outstanding students who have completed the Graduate Studies Program (Tier 2) with honors and desire to continue their studies. Formerly known as Tier 3, this post-graduate program at the Center will provide college and seminary level courses, tuition-free, for those students who show promise as leaders of the church behind and outside the walls.

Second, the Center will provide continuing education for our Instructors. So far, we have only offered the initial training that is required when one first becomes an Instructor. As they disciple their students, we know that Instructors work hard and continue to study, and the CBI staff has done an excellent job of providing Instructor support when help is needed. The Center, however, will do

much more by offering courses and seminars to any Instructors who wish to grow in their understanding of God's Word, as well as the discipleship process.

Thirdly, to accomplish these first two goals, we are moving all curriculum development into the Center. In addition to *Introduction to Hermeneutics*, we plan to add an *Introduction to Dogmatics*, *Christian Worldview I* and *Christian Worldview II*. *Systematic Theology* is scheduled to be released later this year. Revisions and improvements of Tier 1 and Tier 2 courses will also be handled at the Center.

Finally, The Center for Advanced Studies will function as a think tank for criminal, social and restorative justice issues. Attracting scholars and pastors on sabbatical to study at the Center, publishing policy and position papers, providing special lectures and speaking out as a voice for the voiceless in society (cf. Prov. 31:8) are among the goals of the think tank.

As you can imagine, we will need a director to oversee the day-to-day operations of the Center. Future issues of CNN will keep you informed of the results of the search process.

Please join me in a prayer of thanksgiving for the formation of The Center for Advanced Studies at Crossroad Bible Institute and for God's guidance as the Center takes shape. You may also play an important role in the development of the Center by designating special gifts for that purpose.



By Kathryn Shane

INMATE ART GAINING POPULARITY

Tier 2 student Keith in Arizona wrote, "I apologize for the coloring on the card. I cannot afford to buy one, so I had to make it, and all I had to color with were some jawbreakers someone gave me."

From the United States to Australia, prisoners continue to demonstrate to the public their incredible resourcefulness and creativity through inmate art exhibits. Crossroad Bible Institute receives hundreds of pieces of inmate art each year, some of which end up in the *Crossroad Connection*, a quarterly publication of student artwork and poetry.

Much of the work done by CBI students reflects their growing faith and passion for the things of God and His Kingdom. Sister Helen Prejean, author of *Dead Man Walking*, had this to say about inmate art: "Stripped of freedom, beautiful surroundings, and supportive community, these convicts draw pictures of what their souls see." Much of the artwork CBI receives from prisoners around the world reflects just that: the darkness of their souls before Christ, and the light that has been brought into their lives by the Spirit of God. Crosses, the Bible, Jesus, angels and other Christian themes appear on much of the artwork sent to CBI, as do scenes from the inmates' lives before prison and before Christ.

The materials inmates use to cre-

ate their art demonstrates the lack of artistic resources available behind bars. Delicate flowers created out of toilet paper, pen drawings on handkerchiefs, and cross necklaces made of plastic bags are among the pieces of artwork



Artwork by David D., CBI Student, FL

prominently displayed at CBI headquarters. Whether their canvas is an envelope containing a lesson, or a piece of lined paper transformed into a masterpiece, CBI students always find creative ways to make their art into a testimony of God's goodness to them.

Tier 2 student Stacy in Illinois recently explained to his Instructor how he gets the colors he needs for his artwork. He wrote, "All I have are these cheap ink pens to work with. I create my colors on the drawings by simply using the cotton from a Q-Tip and the oil on my face. I take the Q-Tip cotton off the stick and rub it on my face to get some oil. Then I find the color I want to use from the pages of a magazine, rub the oily cotton on that color and color my drawings." This incredible resourcefulness is seen in almost all the art done by inmates. On a Mother's Day card sent to his Instructor, for example, Tier 2 student Keith in Arizona wrote, "I apologize for the coloring on the card. I cannot afford to buy one, so I had to make it, and all I had to color

with were some jawbreakers someone gave me."

Recently, Australian CBI student Garry had his work featured in an exhibit entitled "Inside Art," held by an arts council in New South Wales. Ray Hoekzema, Executive Officer of CBI's Australian distribution center, had the opportunity to visit the exhibit and view Garry's work. He also left a copy of the *Crossroad Connection* for the art teacher who instructs Garry and other inmates in a local correctional complex. The art teacher wrote, "I enjoyed reading the beautiful poetry from the heart, so full of sincerity, in the *Crossroad Connection*. What a fantastic envelope on the front cover. It is a beautifully produced publication."

Certainly, CBI students and other Christian artists behind bars manage to find a way to express their faith to others through the art that they create out of nothing. As CBI student Richard in New York wrote, "I delight in reading the poetry and seeing the artwork of such talented people who take your Bible course. Your Bible course inspires us all to share what talents God has given to us, which we discover as we look more closely at ourselves." CBI students continue to use art to express their commitment to God's call to excellence in 1 Corinthians 10:31: "Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."

Kathryn Shane serves as the Spanish and International Programs Coordinator at CBI.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN THE NEWS

Judge Sentences Offenders to Attend Church



LONDON, Kentucky—A Kentucky judge is raising some eyebrows by offering drug and alcohol offenders the option of going to church instead of going to jail or attending rehab. Judge Michael Caperton said his goal is “to help people and their families.” He has reportedly offered this option 50 times to repeat offenders. Though alternative sentencing is growing in popularity across the country, legal experts said they didn’t know of any other judges who give the option of attending worship services instead of going to jail. The judge is under attack by the American Civil Liberties Union of Kentucky which claims the option raises “serious constitutional problems.” According to Judge Caperton, “I don’t think there’s a church-state issue, because it’s not mandatory and I say ‘worship services’ instead of church.”

Teens Accused of Killing Homeless Man “FOR FUN”

HOLLY HILL, Florida—Two teenagers who found a homeless man in the woods allegedly beat and kicked him to death. According to Volusia County Sheriff’s investigators, the kids committed the crime “to have something to do.” When the body was found, its condition indicated that the man had been dead for a number of days. Sheriff’s spokesman, Brandon Haught, said the autopsy showed that the man died from blunt force trauma to the head and body. According to the teens, they went back to the woods three times after the initial attack to beat the man again. They did it “for fun” and “to have something to do.”



Meth Users Raising Jail Costs

ALLEGAN, Michigan—Inmates in the Allegan County Jail are losing their teeth and driving up dental costs. Known for its high numbers of drug users, Allegan County houses more than its share of methamphetamine related felons. Meth is highly addictive and allows bacteria to build up in the mouth that attacks the teeth. In fact, the damage goes well beyond the teeth eventually causing damage to the whole body. It’s an “horrendous drug,” according to Allegan Police Chief Rick Hoyer. The County is responsible for the health and dental costs of prisoners and is worried that the extra costs associated with the growing tooth decay is breaking the budget.

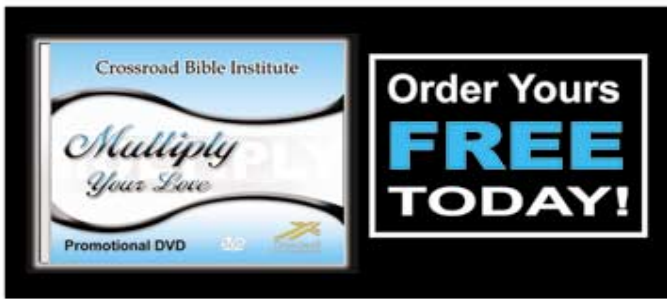
Jury Acquits Ex-Prison Guards

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana—A jury acquitted two former guards at the Indiana Women’s Prison of sexual misconduct against female inmates. Demetrius Spencer, 32, and William Sanders, 42, were fired in August of 2002 after being accused with having sex with at least three prisoners. According to defense attorneys, it was clear that the jury did not believe the testimony of the inmates who claimed to have been violated. Deputy Prosecutor Shari Blessing said she believed the women were telling the truth, but that it was difficult for the jurors to look beyond their crimes. “I think it was hard to get over that credibility issue,” Blessing said.

The 2005 “Multiply Your Love” promotional video is now available on DVD or VHS. This five-minute overview of CBI’s ministry is a great way to help others catch the vision for God’s exciting work in the prisons. Show it in a worship service or small group setting, send it to a friend, or view it in your own home. Order your free copy today at www.crossroadbibleinstitute.org or call the toll free number below.

1-800-668-2450

www.crossroadbibleinstitute.org



Fall OSL Events



Operation Starting Line kicks into full gear again this Fall and you are invited to participate. If you live in these states, or would like to travel there to participate, call the CBI offices today for more information. From September 22-October 2, the prisons of Rhode Island and Massachusetts will be visited. Our OSL collaboration will visit the inmates in Region Five of Texas from October 6-17. Finally, you can visit the prisoners in Region II of Florida from November 8-20. Volunteering for OSL events is a great way to meet and encourage current CBI students as well as help to recruit hundreds more.



By K. Aaron Van Oosterhout

SAFE HAVENS

the classroom, this man would have nothing to do with the other students (relations were difficult enough within the classroom). Once inside the room, these inmates would put aside their differences and sit together.

The situation is no different in U.S. prisons. According to a study in 2004 by the National Gang Crime Research Center, roughly 10 percent of male inmates (3.7 percent of female inmates) became gang members while incarcerated. Adding this number to those inmates who were gang members before being incarcerated, roughly 24.8 percent of male inmates were gang members in 2004. Of the inmates surveyed, 73.6 percent responded that “yes’... they believed that the prison experience did in fact increase the strength of the affiliation or tie to the gang.”

With this in mind, one can see that development and formation certainly occurs within the prison’s walls. If safe havens do not manifest in inmates’ lives, these men and women are sure to “find themselves” among the omnipresent negative influences. With no “English class” (or a Bible study, prayer group, chapel service, etc.) in which to feel welcome, inmates stand a greater risk of falling prey to their pursuers.

Aaron Van Oosterhout serves as an Assistant Editor at CBI.

The door at the back of the classroom burst open. Two young men ran inside, sweating and breathing heavily. Pausing for a brief moment, they found two empty chairs and leapt into them. At that moment, another man walked in. He was clad in a black uniform, wore a black, floppy-brimmed sun hat and gripped a semi-automatic rifle with both hands, barrel pointing to the floor.

He motioned to the teacher and asked, in Spanish, if anybody had just run into the room. The teacher, confused and sweating by now, replied, “No.” The guard walked closer to him, squinted and asked again, was he *sure*. The teacher’s face flushed red, and he swallowed hard as he gripped the edge of the desk to keep from shaking. He shook his head and again said, “No.” The black-clad man gave a slight nod, turned, glared at the two intruders, and walked out.

This occurred mid-way through the fall of 2003, and I was the teacher. I was studying abroad in Puebla, Mexico, at the time, and had volunteered to teach English at the local prison during the semester. The two newcomers were former students of mine, and while this episode lasted no more than three minutes, it effectively illustrated my purpose there at the facility.

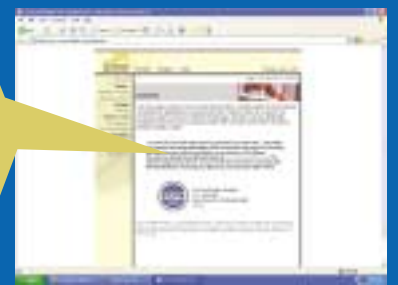
Namely, I was there to provide a safe haven (albeit unwittingly) for any inmates who wished to escape whatever persecuted them in the prison yard: gangs, smugglers, guards and even boredom.

For instance, one of my students was Nicaraguan and claimed that he had fought in that country’s civil war during the 1980s. Whether the result of his white skin, his distinguishing accent or any other cause, he was often the brunt of other inmates’ ridicule. In English class, however, he was one of the better students. The point is that outside

Secure On-Line Giving Now Possible

For some time CBI has been receiving donations by credit card. Every week, more people are taking advantage of this convenient way to give by returning the response card with the information or by calling the CBI offices.

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More and more churches are discovering the Crossroad Curriculum for use in one-on-one and small group Bible studies (Middle School through Adult), as well as in discipling new Christians.



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QUESTIONS FOR CROSSROAD

TIER 2 STUDENT IS BEGINNING TO SHARE

Instructor in California

Q. Dear Crossroad,

For the first time, my Tier 2 student has really opened up and asked for prayer. This delights me as it shows some trust developing. She is asking prayer for her husband, Dan, who has cancer. I don't know if they have any children or what the relationship is between Dan and her. I don't quite know how to respond to this request. I am of course praying for his healing. But how can I best minister to her, knowing that she will be unable to personally be with him?

A. Dear Instructor,

I'm sorry to hear that your student is going through such a difficult time, but glad to hear that she has begun to open up and share with you. I truly believe that the best comfort you can give to her is your "listening ear," and also the assurance that you will be praying for her and her husband. By asking others to pray for them and then letting her know that she now has many people praying for her, would show that you truly are concerned for her and her situation. Ask her to keep you informed and to let you know if there are any other specific areas that come up for which she would like prayer. Showing that you are interested will speak volumes to her! Also, without getting "preachy," share with her a few special comforting Scripture verses—reminding her that her Heavenly Father is her All in All, that He cares for her and her husband and knows their every need. Thanks for showing so much sensitivity and care for your student!



Instructor in Minnesota

Q. Dear Crossroad,

I just corrected a lesson for a student and I have a concern. *Great Truths of the Bible*, Lesson #9, essay question 5, asks, "If you could make whatever changes you wanted in your marriage or in your family, what changes would you make?" She answered, "For us all to be alive, rich in Allah, and close." Is she a Christian? I'm not sure how to respond to this. In her Roadmap she wrote of Christ's love and example to us, but I'm concerned. Her writing is clear and legible, so I'm sure it says, "Allah." I did write under it, "I'm not sure what you mean here. Did you write 'Allah'?" I'd like to say more, but I'm at a loss for what to say. Can you help me in responding to this?

A. Dear Instructor,

We keep a detailed computerized record of each student's work and previous Instructors' comments. In her record there is no indication that she is a Muslim and it seems that she has a personal relationship with Christ. Of course, we cannot be 100% sure of that especially since Muslims see Jesus as a prophet and good example. I think that your comment was good. If she was a devout Muslim she could not answer the questions as she has. She may simply be confused. You might also want to contact RBC to order the booklet *When East Meets West: Understanding Our Religious Differences*. We will note this answer in her record and track her progress. If she is or was a Muslim, we thank the Lord she's taking CBI lessons to help her come to know more of Christ!

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monetary value of your vehicle
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