

Crossroad

NETWORK NEWS

A graphic element consisting of several overlapping, parallel lines in shades of yellow and white, forming a stylized 'X' or cross shape that extends from the end of the word 'Crossroad'.

JULY 2005

A large, black silhouette of a Native American figure, possibly a warrior or hunter, stands on the left side of the cover. The figure is wearing a feathered headdress and a patterned tunic, and is holding a long spear or staff vertically. The background is a blue sky with white clouds.

Entitlement
vs. Gratitude 2

And the Walls Came
Crumbling Down 4

Criminal Justice in the News 5

Prayer for Prisoners &
Correctional Institutions

Letters to the Editor

Questions & Answers

In Remembrance



Dr. David Schuringa

Entitlement

Success on the outside for prison inmates can be boiled down to discovering the difference between entitlement and gratitude. An entitlement attitude focuses on what I think I deserve in life. I'm entitled to good health; I'm entitled to a raise; I'm entitled to be happy. I deserve all this, and much more. People with an entitlement attitude can never be satisfied.

Our country has entitlement programs. The dominant attitude of participants in these programs is "I deserve to receive these benefits." For example, if I am terminated from my employment, or if I can't find a position I deserve, I'm entitled to be compensated anyway. While everyone agrees that the poorest of the poor must be cared for, few would dispute the fact that an entitlement attitude has ruined the

chances of many to do better.

A recent article in the *New York Times* noted that the number of Africans who have immigrated to the United States in recent years has now surpassed the number of those shipped here against their will in the days of slavery. However, those who recently immigrated are already on an economic trajectory poised to surpass African-Americans who have been here for generations. Undoubtedly, this says something about the devastating long-term effects of slavery, but could it also indicate how entitlement can hold people down?

Prison is an extreme example of where the entitlement attitude can lead. A thief, murderer or rapist believed that he was entitled to something that was not his. Life can't get much lower than a prison cell.

The only antidote to entitlement is gratitude.

A grateful person is, well, thankful for everything he or she has. Like the pop song says, "I'm so thankful, I

Gratitude

VS.

While an entitlement attitude brings you down, an attitude of gratitude helps you soar like an eagle.

| By Dr. David Schuringa, President

have all that I'm allowed." Not too long ago I was told of a CBI Instructor who fell and became paralyzed from the waist down. Do you want to know what his response to this tragedy was? "Well, I can still move my arms!" Or take a patient with a terminal illness who is thankful for every day and each moment left. I also think of CBI students who express so much appreciation for the Instructors who take the time to correct their lessons. Grateful people can be content in whatever circumstances life hands them.

While an entitlement attitude brings you down, an attitude of gratitude helps you soar like an eagle. For example, grateful people tend to move ahead in the workplace. Some employees never say "thank you" for a raise because they feel they deserve it. Others take the time to thank the boss for their job and the raise. And what happens? They get more raises and more promotions because you can't do enough for thankful people. Who do you look forward to visiting more in the

rest home, a cranky curmudgeon, or a sweet old saint who radiates with thankfulness for life? Grateful people spread sunshine everywhere they go.

Of course, we're talking about that which is at the very heart of the Christian faith. Christianity is about gratitude for what God has done in Christ. It's acknowledging that I don't deserve anything from Him, nothing at all. But He generously invites me to drink from the cup of salvation. Incredible! And the rest is gravy, whether it's a sunset, a tasty meal, or maybe even a gift as awesome as a grandchild. But we don't deserve any of it. It's amazing how the heavenly Father wants to pour out even more blessings upon His grateful children. And in the next life, more is waiting for them than they could have ever possibly imagined.

As we seek to help prisoners, let's start by practicing gratitude in our own lives. And then let's spread the light of a thankful life. We don't have to do that in a way that belittles or mini-

mizes a person's difficult circumstances in any way. We need to feel their deep pain. But as we model gratitude, we can rescue them from the dungeon of entitlement and help them discover a whole new way of living in God's beautiful world.



Ray Hoekzema

And the Walls Came Crumbling Down

My prayer was for the walls of hard hearts of inmates and of some of those in authority to come crumbling down and make way for the Gospel to come in.

| By Ray Hoekzema

Many people have been encouraged by the ever-growing number of CBI inmate-students in Australian prisons. Seeing that CBI Australia started only about two and a half years ago, it is pleasing indeed that such a significant number of Tier 1 graduates progress to Tier 2 with a mentor.

Geographically, Australia is about the same size as the United States. But when it comes to populations—regular and incarcerated—they are miles apart. The USA has many densely populated cities and country areas. However, with only twenty million people spread throughout the vast Australian continent, there is quite a different set of dynamics at work here. It's exciting to see the inroads CBI has made, and the interest aroused among Christians, chaplains and Christian workers in prisons—despite the differences between the US and Australia. Almost daily we get the kind of surprises that lift our spirits.

One of these "surprises" was a hostage crisis at the Risdon Prison near Hobart, the capital of the island

state of Tasmania. Just a month or so ago I visited this prison and met with the chaplain there—the first full-time chaplain ever appointed to the facility. At the time, I remarked that Risdon seemed more like a concentration camp than a prison, and that even the chaplain was having a tough time there. Risdon has no facilities for religious activities, and, worse still, the new \$90 million prison being built next door won't have such facilities either. I asked CBI supporters here in Australia to make this issue a matter of prayer at that time.

Then, in early May, there was a crisis at Risdon when a warden and several inmates were taken hostage by the prisoners, the end result of tensions that had been building in that prison for some time. At the outset the inmates demanded, in what may be considered an audacious claim, that the state's Attorney General and Director of Prisons resign. But in the end they settled for a written guarantee that "the shocking conditions" under which they were incarcerated would be thoroughly

reviewed. They then released the warden and the inmates unharmed, but not before they had fifteen pizzas delivered to them.

The Director of Prisons has since indicated that many of the twenty-four points raised by the captors have already been agreed to. Many reports in the media highlighted the fact that Risdon is a sub-standard prison—Australia's worst jail. Even the Tasmanian Director of Prisons himself, Graeme Barber (whom the inmates want to resign), said, "We've known for a long time that it's not up to current maximum security rating standards and...it's the goodwill of the inmates and of the custodial staff who operate in there on a daily basis that keeps this place running."

One may not condone unlawful behavior such as hostage taking—please say a prayer for the warden and his family—but I cannot help thinking that the outcome of this crisis is an answer to prayer. There are 480 inmates in the very overcrowded Risdon Prison, but we already have two CBI students there. We will continue to look to the Lord for more "surprises" from Risdon and from throughout Australia.

Ray Hoekzema is the Executive Officer of CBI's Australian Distribution Centre.

Criminal Justice in the News



Australian Government Official Meets with CBI Leaders

BLACKTOWN, Australia—The Hon. Peter Costello, MP, Australian Treasurer, met with ministry and non-profit leaders at the Blacktown Workers Club to discuss a new proposed budget and tax cuts and to speak with attendees. Rumors abound that Costello could become Australia's future prime minister, and his visit to Blacktown gave ministry leaders the chance to meet this influential figure. Anne and Bob Bruinsma, Co-Directors of CBI's Australian Distribution Centre, were among those in attendance, and they had the unique opportunity to share about CBI's ministry and give informational materials to Costello. Anne Bruinsma commented, "We were privileged that he was near us. He spotted our CBI badges and he addressed us right then, wanting to know what we were all about." She was shown in a photo highlighting Costello's visit that was in the Sydney Morning Herald the following day.

Radio Minister Steps Down after 15 Years



PALOS HEIGHTS, IL—Rev. David Feddes, the radio minister of The Back to God Hour for the last 15 years, has stepped down in order to pursue doctoral studies. Rev. Feddes was the hand-picked successor of Dr. Joel Nederhood and shared his reputation for being a solid, conservative radio presence world-wide. Feddes has been accepted into the Ph.D. program in missiology at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School near Chicago. David has had a close relationship with Crossroad Bible Institute for most of his 15 year tenure at the BTGH and has demonstrated a strong personal interest in prison ministry. In fact, through his efforts the BTGH became the first referral affiliate of CBI, and almost overnight catapulted Crossroad into a national and international ministry. "We look forward to an ongoing, close relationship with the BTGH," says CBI President David Schuringa. "But we also trust in God's good plan that this is not the end of Rev. Feddes' long and fruitful involvement in prison ministry."

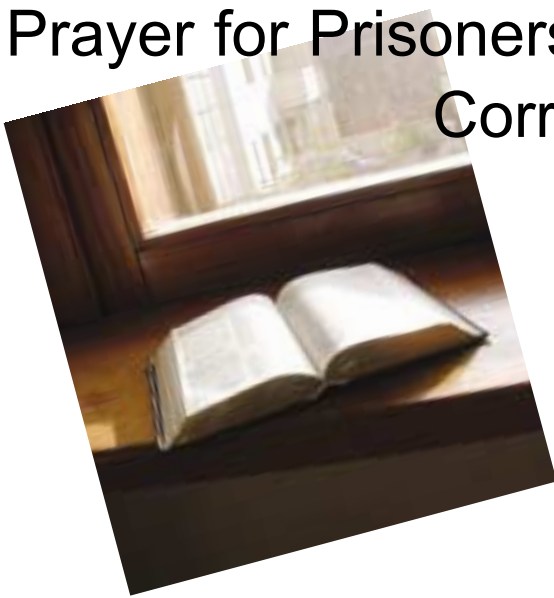
Governor Vows Reform for Juvenile Facilities

SACRAMENTO, CA—Draconian conditions have been uncovered throughout California's youth correctional system, prompting Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to pledge to make changes. Reports indicate that conditions include the use of cages, drugs and pepper spray to subdue the mentally ill or drug-addicted juveniles. According to Elizabeth Siggins, the administration's Assistant Secretary for Juvenile Services, "It is now abundantly clear that the California Youth Authority has been neglected and not able to adequately prepare youths to reenter society." The governor settled a lawsuit related to this issue, and has now agreed to house the children in smaller groups with more staff and to provide them with better treatment, counseling and schooling. Crossroad Bible Institute has thousands of students in juvenile detention centers in California and across the United States.

Toddler Incarcerated for Attempted Robbery

MEXICO—A one-year-old baby was thrown into jail after his father was caught shoplifting. The pair was shopping in a Mexican market when, according to reports, the dad, Roger Segundo, attempted to hide six bottles of vodka in the baby's stroller. Father and son were sent to jail for the night. According to a spokesman for the police, "The policeman who got there first thought it was the right thing to do to list the baby as an accomplice because the bottles were in his trolley." The next morning the officer on duty realized the son was only a baby.

Prayer for Prisoners & Correctional Institutions



Lord Jesus, for our sake you were condemned as a criminal: Visit our jails and prisons with your pity and judgment. Remember all prisoners, and bring the guilty to repentance and amendment of life according to your will, and give them hope for their future. When any are held unjustly, bring them release; forgive us, and teach us to improve our justice. Remember those who work in these institutions; keep them humane and compassionate; and save them from becoming brutal or callous. And since what we do for those in prison, O Lord, we do for you, constrain us to improve their lot. All this we ask for your mercy's sake. Amen.

Book of Common Prayer

Letters to the Editor

We've received many letters, emails and phone calls from you regarding the "Faith-Based Cash for Crossroad?" article in the May issue of CNN. Here are a few examples. Letters have been edited for size.

West Olive, MI

I congratulate you on your [stand on] faith-based [government grants]. I want to support only those ministries which are uncompromised in their commitment to our Lord Jesus and the financial liberties of free people that this country was founded upon. My wife is one of your Instructors and we will increase our free-will donations, with prayer to your ministry.

Columbia, SC

I applaud your decision not to accept federal funds to assist God's work through CBI. There is no way to escape the reality that with government funding there will be government control. Thank you, sir, for allowing me the privilege of partnering with and supporting the work of CBI. If we will stay true to God's work, He will provide the means to accomplish the task. Stay the course, sir!

Hudsonville, MI

I just want to say "thanks" for not giving in to this faith-based federal program. I've had my doubts about this program. I've even heard people speak on this topic to beware of it. None of these speakers were from the West Michigan area. So it's refreshing to see and hear that someone in this "religious" region can see through this thing.

Hull, IA

Great! No government money. Stay the course!

Prospect Park, NJ

Like a captain of an ocean liner, stay your course at Crossroad! Getting money from the government may be tempting, but look out, there are strings attached. If CBI accepts monies from the government, they in effect bought you. Don't let this happen!

Providing Equipping Guiding Educating



Providing
Prisoners with a
Faith-Based Reentry
Education



Equipping
the Church
to Make Disciples



Guiding
Inmates into Reentry
Agencies upon Their
Release



Educating
the Church on Criminal
and Restorative Justice
Issues



Questions for Crossroad

Instructor Requests Help with Mormon Students

Instructor in MI

Q. Dear Crossroad, I recently corrected a lesson from a woman in Utah. She is on Lesson 7 of Tier 1 and still describes herself as a Mormon. How direct should I be in explaining to her that she cannot be both a Christian and a Mormon? I do not want her to feel judged or persecuted, but the Book of Mormon denies truths central to the teachings of Christ! Can you please provide me with a little guidance on how to approach this?

A. Dear Instructor, Dealing with people who are involved with cults can be tricky. Although I can't tell how deeply she is buried in this false doctrine without reading her lesson, I think it's best to let the lessons speak for themselves, and remember that discipleship is a process that takes time. As she continues her studies, she will gradually realize that the lessons are teaching something quite different than what she learned from the cult. Making a transition from Mormonism to Christianity can be a lengthy process, especially because of the severity of the shunning, or excom-

munication, that students may experience from their family and community. I suggest calling RBC Ministries and having them send booklets like "What We Believe", "What is a Personal Relationship with God?", or "Can I Really Trust the Bible?" which would help supplement what she is learning in her studies. If she still professes to be a Mormon when she becomes a Tier 2 student, her one-on-one Mentor will be able to be more direct in exposing the deception of Mormonism to her.

Instructor in CA

Q. Dear Crossroad, I recently received a "little yellow note" from CBI which states, "Please note that CBI policy is that all student-Instructor correspondence be submitted in conjunction with your student's Bible Study lessons." Does this mean I cannot even acknowledge that I received his letter in which he pours out his agony about having no communication from his wife or kids? I want him to know I feel his pain. Would I be breaking policy if I did?

A. Dear Instructor, Thanks for your question about the "little yellow note" and your concern about not breaking CBI policy. It is important that students keep their correspondence to Instructors limited to the Bible studies alone. We could never handle the volume of mail that would be generated if we allowed students to write their Instructors outside of the lessons, and yes, there would be a danger of the ministry losing its focus on Bible study and discipleship and becoming a pen pal organization. We do want Tier 2 and 3 Instructors to send cards or notes to encourage their students when they have not heard from them in a while, if it is their birthday, a holiday, or if the student is going through a particularly hard time. So the "yellow note" is our way of asking you to help us remind the students to send their correspondence in with the lessons. However, Instructors do need to be careful to only write to students for the reasons listed above. If an Instructor writes to their student too much outside of the lessons it can create a problem for students who, understandably, wish to respond.



CBI: GIVE-A-CAR PROGRAM

**GIVE-A-CAR
MAKE-A-DIFFERENCE**

Call for more information 616.530.1300

In Remembrance

Gifts "In Memory of" and "In Honor of" are appropriate and meaningful ways to remember a special person in your life and to support the ministry of Crossroad Bible Institute.

In Honor of:

Cherie Andriese

Birthday

Henry & Ruth DeJong

Henry & Carolyn Bouma

50th Wedding Anniversary

Den & Jan Oeverman

Evert & Maxine Joling

60th Wedding Anniversary

Bert & Dena Joling

Sharon Van Wieren

Birthday

Elmer & Wilma Vos

Wilma Vos

Mother's Day

Megan & Mark Van Wieren

Barry Wisniewski

CBI Instructor

Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Co-op

In Memory of:

Richard Bonnema

Claire Vander Weide

Dorothy Brinks

Theodore & Julia Wevers

Mildred Dirksen

John & Margaret Meendering

Rena Hoogterp

Claire Vander Weide

Edward Johnson

Viola Johnson

Mrs. Koch

Claire Vander Weide

Stanley Leusink

Jean DeJong

Otto Mans

John & Margaret Meendering

Harry Nickles

Dorothy Nickles

H. David & Mary Schuringa

George Pittsenbarger

Dick & Vida Burgess

Bernard Roetman

Dennis & Sharon Den Hartog

Edgar & Phyllis De Vries

Robert & Bonnie Dixon

William Hengeveld

Myrna Long

Anonymous

Helene Schermer

Grace Smith

Marie Van Zyl

Gerrit & Ida Huisman

Nellie Vander Hart

Godert & Grada Vander Hart

Crossroad Needs Your Church's Financial Support
Ask for a special offering or to have
CBI listed as a line-item in your church's budget.

"Remember Those in Prison." Heb. 13:3



**International
Headquarters**

P.O. Box 900
Grand Rapids, MI
49509-0900
U.S.A.

ph: 616.530.1300
fx: 616.530.1302
www.crossroadbibleinstitute.org
mail@crossroadbible.org

