

Crossroad

NETWORK NEWS



OCTOBER 2005



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The Mission of *Crossroad Network News* is to promote partnership in the ministry of CBI through communication.



Dr. David Schuringa



Rev. David Feddes

Feddes Accepts Appointment at CBI

It is my privilege to announce that the Rev. David Feddes has accepted the appointment to serve as the Director of The Center for Advanced Studies at Crossroad Bible Institute.

| By Dr. David Schuringa, President

The Center is the newly-formed academic and research arm of CBI, and houses the Advanced Studies program (formerly Tier 3), develops our theological curriculum, will offer continuing education for Instructors and, as a think tank, provides education and research for criminal, restorative and social justice issues.

Rev. Feddes comes to the Center after serving as the radio voice of The Back to God Hour for the last 15 years. The successor of Dr. Joel Nederhood, he had large shoes to fill. As the program spanned the globe, however, he quickly became a popular conservative radio presence to whom millions of listeners eagerly tuned in. Earlier this year, David stepped down from that position to work on his Ph.D. at the Trinity Evangelical Divinity School near Chicago. He will be phasing into his new position at CBI as he completes his doctoral program.

Born and raised near Bozeman, Montana, David graduated from Calvin College (B.A.) and Calvin Theological Seminary (M.Div.) in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Before going to the BTGH, he served as pastor of the Westmount Christian Reformed Church in Strathroy, Ontario. He met his wife, Wendy, in college, and today they are the parents of seven children. The family will be relocating to West Michigan following the sale of their home in Illinois.

David has had a close relationship with Crossroad over the years. At his suggestion in the early 90s, the BTGH became our first referral affiliate. CBI became a national and international ministry overnight as his listeners enrolled. When preaching all across North America,

David vigorously recruited Instructors, including his parents, wife and children. It was also his idea for CBI to contact other ministries with which to partner. This networking has become a cornerstone of our success in reaching so many prisoners with God's truth and love. Rev. Feddes was the featured speaker last fall at the 20th anniversary celebrations in the Great Lakes and Great Plains regions.

After leaving the BTGH and with the providential timing of the Center's opening, then, it became clear where God was leading David to begin his new academic career. I am enormously grateful and pleased that he is coming to Crossroad. As the Director of The Center for Advanced Studies, his theological depth, academic rigor and personal godliness will serve the church well.

David is eager to take up his work at the Center. He explains, "One of my great joys during my time as a gospel broadcaster has been partnering with Crossroad. In recent years, CBI has grown and developed beyond my wildest dreams. I applaud the vision and faith to establish The Center for Advanced Studies. I am thrilled to be joining the Crossroad team. I look forward to working with pastors, Instructors and staff in this vital new endeavor. I trust that God will use the Center to accomplish amazing things for the prisoners He loves, and I know that the Lord is able to do 'immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine.'"

The installation service will take place after the first of the year. Next month's CNN will have the details. The public will be cordially invited to attend. You can reach Rev. Feddes at djf@crossroadbible.org if you'd like to congratulate him on his new position with Crossroad Bible Institute.

Criminal Justice in the News



Jury Finds Inmate No Longer Retarded, Hands Him Death Penalty

Yorktown, VA—Daryl Atkins, 27, has been on death row for nine years. Three years ago, the Supreme Court determined that it was unconstitutional to impose the death penalty upon the mentally retarded. As reported in the May 2005 issue of *CNN*, Atkins had scored only 59 on his I.Q. test, and Virginia law holds that those scoring less than 70 fall into the protected category. However, in subsequent tests he scored 74 and 76, raising questions of whether he would now be eligible for execution. According to his psychologist, the higher scores simply reflected the intellectual stimulation of the case itself. His defense needed to prove that he was retarded before age 18, which would be difficult since he was never tested as a youth. After deliberating for 13 hours, then, the jury determined that Atkins was not retarded. His execution was immediately set for December 2. Daryl blew his weeping mother a kiss as he was led from the courtroom. The family met for prayer.

San Quentin Has Largest Riot in 23 Years

San Quentin, CA—In mid-August, a riot broke out at San Quentin State Prison, the culmination of a feud between white and Hispanic prisoners. This was the largest riot San Quentin has seen since 1982; at least 70 inmates were involved, and 42 were injured. It took 50 corrections officers six minutes to subdue the tumult. "We did spray a lot of pepper spray," said a spokesman for the Department of Corrections. Six homemade

weapons were confiscated, and officers imposed a prison-wide lockdown. While the feud apparently began a week earlier in a gang-related assault, authorities have ruled out gang relations as the primary motive for the final riot. Instead, they claim that during the subsequent week of tension, non-gang members joined sides along racial lines, and the opposing groups simply did not respect each other.

San Francisco Chronicle

Group Claims Thousands of U.S. Prisoners Are Converting to Islam

Potomac, MD—Inmates in the United States are converting to Islam, claims the Islamic Education Center of Maryland in Potomac. This is in part due to Muslim chaplains, but especially due to the fact that the IEC sends free Korans and study materials to inmates. According to Arlene "Raheema" Pater-Rov, who heads the IEC, the purpose of their program is "to educate those that are in prison about Islamic knowledge." She gets the largest number of requests from inmates in Michigan. More than 30,000 U.S. prisoners convert to Islam each year, according to Ibrahim Abdurrahman Farajaje, a professor of Islamic studies at the Starr King School for the Ministry. The IEC was founded in 1981 by Dr. A. S. Hashemi and is funded by a New York foundation that was begun by the Shah of Iran in 1979.

The Connection Newspapers

Supreme Court Justice Blasts Death Penalty

Chicago, IL—Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens made surprisingly

strong statements against the death penalty during a recent speech before the American Bar Association. Other justices have spoken out on the subject, but none so harshly as Stevens. He did not call for an end to the practice, but claimed there are many problems in the way it is used. Citing the growing numbers of death-row inmates who are found innocent through DNA evidence, he concluded that there are serious flaws in our administration of criminal justice. In addition to the scientific evidence, Stevens pointed to other factors that cause the penalty to be unjust, including poor representation of defendants, the ability of prosecutors to eliminate jury members who oppose the death penalty and juries being swayed to vote for the death penalty after hearing a statement from the victim's family.

USA Today

Inmates Dig Tunnel to Escape

Brazil—For months, 67 inmates planned their escape from the Timoteo prison in Southern Brazil by digging an underground tunnel. However, when they emerged at the other end they were still 12 inches *inside* the outside wall of the prison. Corrections officers were aware of the plan and greeted them as they emerged. The inmates were described as "crestfallen" as they were returned to their cells. "They were so frustrated and we could not hold back our laughter, they were so dumb," a guard told the local newspaper, *Journal da Globo*. No CBI Students were among the attempted escapees.

The Australian

Letters to the Editor

From time to time, CNN will publish letters to the editor. Your contributions are welcome, though not all will be printed. Letters may be abbreviated for size.

Moxee, WA

I certainly appreciated your comments to the CBI Instructor who had a question about how to respond to a Mormon student ("Instructor Requests Help with Mormon Students," July 2005). I was a Mormon for 30 years, and my family is Mormon. Whenever someone would confront me about my Mormonism, the walls would go up and I no longer listened to what they were saying. I was attending a Bible study and every time the other members of the class said "Jesus," in my ears it sounded like they were caressing his name. So I began asking, "Why Jesus?" Well, the Lord showed me "why Jesus," and I gave my life to Him. Your fervent prayers and evident love of the Lord are the most powerful witnesses to those who are in a cult; because they have been programmed to think that you are wrong, they often don't listen to your words. I was a believer for about a year and a half before the Lord convicted me in a powerful way that I needed to leave the Mormon church. I immediately notified my family and asked the church to be excommunicated. I have NEVER been sorry. I have now lived 35 years of my life loving and committed to the Lord Jesus.

Xenia, OH

I was really glad to get the news of the new Center for Advanced Studies ("The Center for Advanced Studies," September 2005). I'm sure it will be a real blessing and that God will use it for His glory. I like being an Instructor for the inmates and have been blessed by the apparent growth in some of them. I pray that God will keep supplying all the needs for Crossroad. May He bless you and all your work there.

Lafayette, IN

I am quite familiar with absentee fathers ("The Most Meaningless Holiday of the Year," June 2005), as I have volunteered for 14 years at Love INC. It is so common when a call comes in that we get the names of the children. Many times for five or six children, they each have a different last name. When we ask the mother if she collects child support, we are told the fathers are incarcerated. Some mothers never seem to get out of this rut. We try to break the cycle, but it seems never-ending. Being an Instructor is so heartbreaking when the inmates ask for prayers for their children. I have put Crossroad ahead of most of the agencies that had been receiving my contributions. Keep up the great work and I will pray and do what I can from this end.

Orange City, IA

I would like to give my reaction to the question asked by the Instructor from Minnesota ("Questions for Crossroad," August 2005). My wife and I have been missionaries in Arab lands. I was a pastor of an Arabic-speaking congregation. Our prayers were all addressed to Allah. To do anything else would be saying in the Muslim context that we did not believe in the one God. We do not have to teach Muslims another name for God, but we need to tell them who He really is and how He has revealed himself in the Lord Jesus. Please do not join those who say that our God is different than Allah.

New Advanced Course Published

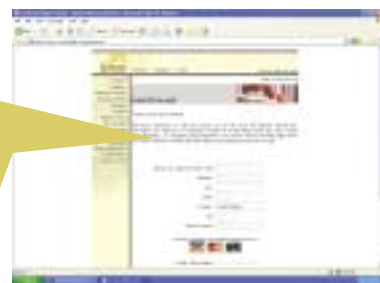


The Center for Advanced Studies at Crossroad Bible Institute announces the publication and launching of a new course, *Biblical Truths In-Depth: An Introduction to Systematic Theology*. These heavy-duty lessons provide an overview of all six loci in dogmatics: the Doctrines of God and Humanity, Christology, Pneumatology, Ecclesiology and Eschatology. It concludes with an in-depth lesson on evidential and presuppositional Apologetics. Those students who have successfully completed *Introduction to Hermeneutics: Biblical Interpretation* are eligible to take this new course. Currently, the Center is busy preparing other offerings for our advanced students.

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.

You can now donate by credit card online at www.crossroadbibleinstitute.org. The donation page is fully secure, so your credit card information is entirely safe. We look forward to receiving your gift as you rack up those airline miles!



Questions for Crossroad



Student Plans to Marry a Man

Q. Dear Crossroad,

In Lesson #9 of *Great Truths of the Bible*, "What the Bible Says about Relationships," you ask, "Is there any particular issue you think might be harder for you?" My student answered, "Yes, the marriage and singles issue because I'm a homosexual and I like men. I respect women but I will not marry one. I will marry a man." How do I respond to this?

A. Dear Instructor,

Be sensitive! Too easily, tempers flare over this issue. As you know, we keep a detailed, computerized record on each student based on the evaluations of the Instructors. In an earlier lesson, this student indicated that he was thinking about becoming a Christian. So, be full of grace and encourage him to trust in Christ and in His Word. Also, remember that discipleship doesn't happen overnight. If he continues with the program, we trust the Holy Spirit to continue the sanctification process in him. At this point, then, you do not want to condemn him or push him away. RBC has an excellent booklet, entitled "When Passions are Confused: Understanding Homosexuality," that you can have sent to him if you think it would be appropriate at this time.

Q. Dear Crossroad,

I'm a Tier 1 Instructor and I recently had a second child. My daily schedule has become so busy that I'm unable to find enough time to correct the Bible study lessons each week. I feel that I cannot give the students the time they deserve. I really enjoy and want to continue reaching out to inmates, but I'm afraid that I will need to discontinue as an Instructor. Is there anything that you suggest I can do so that I may still be able to continue to reach out even with my hectic schedule?

A. Dear Instructor,

Yes, and I'm glad you asked. Since you have expressed a desire to continue as an Instructor and as it's obvious that God has given you a heart to disciple inmates, we would like to do whatever we can (without compromising our policies) to enable you to continue in your ministry. Normally, Tier 1 Instructors are sent one lesson to correct each week. However, many Instructors do not realize that they may reduce their number of lessons, only receiving one every other week or even once a month, if necessary. We are flexible and willing to do what we can to work with your schedule. Also, if you are interested in becoming a one-on-one mentor, you may drop Tier 1 and instruct just one Tier 2 student. This way, you will only receive a lesson from your student as often as they send one in, which is typically once a month. Hopefully, reducing the number of lessons each month will allow you to find time for CBI even with your full schedule.

2005 CHRISTMAS SEND-A-CARD PROGRAM

Now, the giving season is upon us once again. This year, let's try and show all of our students how important God's love is to us, when much of the rest of the nation is swept up in a frenzy. Let's remind our students about the true meaning of Christmas, and give them something to celebrate.

To participate, please follow the instructions below:

1. Select an English or Spanish Christmas card.
2. You may add a special greeting, encouragement or Bible verse. (CBI will personalize it with a student's name.)
3. Sign only your first name or "A brother/sister in Christ."
4. Place the card in its blank envelope, but **DO NOT SEAL**.
5. Mail the card(s) and blank envelope to CBI between now and November 15.

Send-a-Card Guidelines:

1. Each card must fit into a 6 x 9 envelope.
2. Do not include cards/envelopes with foil, stickers, glitter, glue, pop up parts or paint, and please, **NO HOMEMADE LAYERED CARDS**.
3. Do not put postage stamps on the envelopes.

A Rocky Mountain High for CO Inmates



Colorado inmates experienced a range of emotions as they heard the challenge and grace of the Gospel.

OSL staff and volunteers took the time for personal visits to prisoners unable to attend the outdoor events.

When the team of musicians, athletes, speakers, and other volunteers showed up at the Colorado prison, one prisoner—a Muslim—complained that the event was interrupting his recreation time. Still, he stayed for the Operation Starting Line™ Program, which included music, testimonies, and talks all pointing to Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Afterward, with tears in his eyes, the prisoner told singer Mary Smith, "I could see goodness and I have been touched, and I gave my life to Jesus."

"Our Father is so good," Mary said later. "He allows us the privilege to be used by Him. The mountains of Colorado were something to behold but couldn't compare to the sight of that brother giving his life to Jesus Christ."

Similar life-changing scenarios took place all across Colorado June 3-11, as Operation Starting Line (OSL) teams reached federal, state, and local prisoners with evangelistic entertainment. OSL is a collaboration of PF and 27 other national faith-based organizations seeking to take the Gospel to every prisoner in every state.

In Colorado, dozens of motorcyclists got the OSL campaign underway with a nearly 120-mile "Break the Cycle" ride from Denver to the Arrowhead Correctional Center in Canon City.

More than 8,300 prisoners, out of a potential 30,000, attended the 52 OSL events. In addition to the 24 platform guests, 535 trained church volunteers participated, who prayed and shared the Gospel with inmates one-to-one.

About 3,100 inmates turned in response cards, indicating 398 new commitments to Christ and 1,736 rededications. Additionally, 1,882 prisoners signed up for Crossroad Bible Institute's correspondence courses.

OSL volunteers also distributed more than 11,000 English Bibles and 2,780 in Spanish. These *Free on the Inside* Bibles, donated by the International Bible Society, are an easy-to-read version specifically aimed at the inmate population.

The version includes cover art by a prisoner, testimonials from current or former prisoners, a Bible reading plan and prisoner-oriented Scripture studies written by The Navigators (an OSL collaborator), and a response card offering inmates ongoing Bible education through the Crossroad Bible Institute's correspondence courses.

The OSL campaign targeted not only adult prisons but also juvenile facilities. "Even the most difficult facilities received God's blessings, not only for the kids but the staff as well," noted Larry Hansen of collab-

orator Youth Direct Ministries. "So many walls of uncertainty were broken down as directors and guards saw the real reason why we traveled all this way to share and minister with the kids."

Former boxer and speaker Marvis Frazier was stunned to run into an old boxing friend from Philadelphia now serving time in Colorado. "We do live in a small world," noted Marvis. "We were able to talk for a long time about the old days. I was not happy to see him in prison, yet he has a positive spirit and has made Jesus the Lord of his life. After hearing those words, my heart and spirit were filled with joy, and I can see the evidence of OSL being used by God to get the job done."

Erika Harold, Miss America for 2003, also spoke and sang for the inmates. Both she and Marvis were swarmed by inmates seeking autographs.

Since OSL's launch on Easter Sunday 2000, more than 550,000 inmates at 694 correctional facilities have attended 2,476 events in 21 states.

Besides the Arkansas and Colorado campaigns just completed, OSL will launch similar efforts in: RI and MA September 22-October 2; West TX October 6-17; and FL November 8-20.

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

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

