


# SOUTHWEST COLLEGE OF BIBLICAL STUDIES

## OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

December 31, 2004

Dear Friends & Family,



 We were supposed to learn things this past year to strengthen our faith & our walk, weren't we? I (Bruce) have been learning to love Liz more than ever before. I continue to work on responding properly to my family, even when things are not going my way. Even though I am a teacher, I am working hard at doing more listening. My prayer life needs some definite attention & added commitment. I am excited to report that, despite some recent hard times and a major lack of funds, we have a peace that only God can give, a peace that only Christians can enjoy. I thought I already learned this, but I am reminded that we can be right in the middle of God's will & still have troubles.

## Be Faithful

Great things happen even when we do not think they are going to. Liz and I have been teaching Bible college courses in the prisons of California since 1993. It has been exciting & fulfilling all along the way, especially when things are going well. I hate to admit it but there are times when I wonder if I am accomplishing anything. Often I cannot teach in the prison due to programming interruptions. That is discouraging. Other times my brain seems to dry up right in the middle of a writing project, and I have to just put it down. I am reminded by God's Word to remain **faithful**.

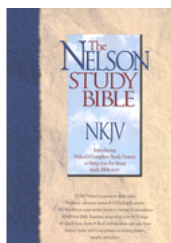
In the middle of all this, there is good news that makes it all worth while. One of our students, John, has completed 129 units of study and has earned his Bachelor's Degree in



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Biblical Studies with a G.P.A. of 3.79. I met John at R.J. Donovan Correctional Facility here in the San Diego area in 1993. He had already been one of our students since 1990. John has been working on his college work with us for 14 years. Today, I mailed him his diploma. The chaplain of the prison where he lives is going to conduct a graduation ceremony for John. **If you would like to extend a written word of congratulations to John, send it to us & we will pass it on to him. Only your first name will be mentioned with your note.** Thanks, Lord, for this moment of encouragement. Thank you for keeping us **faithful**.



Thanks to all who responded to my request for funds to buy study Bibles. We received enough money to order 20 Bibles; we got a great price from Amazon & were able to stretch the funds. As the men mature in their studies, they are then encouraged to purchase a study Bible either from us or from a vendor of their choice. If a man has \$25, we encourage him to pay for the Bible. If he is short of funds, we subsidize the cost of the Bible. There are other men who have no funds nor sources of funds. Our goal is to get a good study Bible into the hands of these men when they are ready to use it properly. When we have need of other textbooks, we will keep you posted.

Keep praying for our monthly finances & for Liz's current legal proceedings. God constantly proves Himself to be **faithful**. Pray that we will be **faithful** & full of integrity.



As we prepare to start down the road of a new year (2005), let us commit ourselves to be **faithful** in feeding on God's Word **regularly**, talking to the Lord in prayer **regularly**, and reaching out to others in an effective way **regularly**. The theme of this newsletter rings on: "Lord, keep us **faithful** to You."

Cordially,  
Bruce & Liz Leary

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