Liz Leary Director of Programming

Bruce Leary Director of Operations City of Refuge Ranch - An Alternative Southwest College of Biblical Studies October 24, 2008

Bible College

While I was grading a course the other day, I was reminded of how hard our students work prison on their coursework. They really are committed to doing good work. For some of them, it could be the first good grade they ever received. You should have seen the quality of the work on a Doctrine of Christ course I graded. It was a pleasure reading through it. These men are learning study skills & knowledge.

The Ranch

The parolee ranch is still on our drawing board. Right now we have no funds, so all we can do is pray for God's provision, and look at property. The need is still great & our dream to do it is still strong. We can vividly visualize men caring for animals, harvesting fruit & nuts, and thriving in the family community at the We get call & letters from ranch. inmates & parolees asking when our ranch will be open. **Keep praying. The** task seems impossible unreachable, but our God will direct & provide.

IRS

two years ago. Now, we are ironing out the operational details pertaining to an Private Operating Foundation with the IRS. Pray as we try to complete this process. It has dragged out long enough. However, we want our structure & operating guidelines to be in compliance with the IRS. It sure is teaching us a new kind of patience.

Parolees

The CORR Foundation has a ministry to parolees as well. Not only are we planning the parolee ranch, but we are also becoming more involved in the parole process. **Two projects are underway: Parole Planning Support, & the Parolee Re-Entry Handbook.** Liz is concentrating on helping one of our students is up for parole. She is contacting key people for him, writing letters, soliciting support for him, visiting him in prison, & attending "suitability for release" hearings in the prison.

We are also compiling a handbook for parolees that will assist them in their reentry into a different society than they remember. This handbook will be designed to cover the skills & issues they need to be prepared for. We have a team of inmates, parolees, & support advisors helping us with this task. Pray that we will soon complete this project.

Finances

As is true of so many, finances are tight with our personal funds, & with our ministry funds. The costs of many things have risen, but the one expense we notice more is the price of postage. We mail many Bible courses into the prisons(both new ones & araded ones).The U.S. Service has Postal eliminated the mailing rate category that we used exclusively: Bulk Printed Matter. Now, we must use the Flat Rate Priority Mail envelope (\$4.80 each).

We have also **lost a supporting church** that has provided Bible college operating funds since 1990. The church re-organized & some of our supporters left to attend elsewhere. Liz & I have no choice but to pay for these college expenses ourselves. The men are hungry got God's Word, & eagerly waiting for each course.

Pray that God will stir folks to stand with us financially. A special thank you to all of you who send funds faithfully. An equal thank you to you who really don't have available funds for this ministry, but who pray for us every day.

Family Matters

Liz & I are really enjoying living in Turlock, CA (between Fresno & Sacramento). I (Bruce) am helping at with administrative duties the headquarters of Missionary Gospel Fellowship. In between all these ministry opportunities, we have traveled to Pine Valley twice in the past month to repair leaks, clean up the yard, & re-roof part of the house. We have almost finished painting the exterior of the farm house we are renting.

Our kids are busy with their lives. Son, Dave the Doctor, is a resident in New York. Tiffany works long days to help with the finances, & grand-daughter, Nicole (age 6) is in first grade now. The last we saw her in August, her front teeth were missing.

Daughter, Ann, is a busy momma in Southern California with our two grandsons, Caleb (age 5) & Jamey (age 3). Her hubby, Jeff, works hard at his job & is a wonderful husband & daddy. Ann is expecting a baby in March 2009.

Son, Bobby, is a police officer in Southern California. He enjoys his duties, works long hours, & maintains a great attitude of competence & compassion.

We are honored to have these children. We are privileged to serve the Lord. We are blessed to have you as friends. Stand with us. We cannot do it alone.