

December 26, 1993

Merry Christmas to all of you!

This last year has been a challenge for our family as Bruce was laid off at his Business College December 17, 1992. New ownership had taken over the company and had cleaned house in August and September, but kept him on as department head until after he had finished organizing things for them. In January, Liz started working in El Centro, directing three group homes for emotionally disturbed children ages 8-18. Commuting back and forth on the weekends was rough, but with Bruce home with the children, it sort of worked for a while. All that changed the end of March when she was fired. (She later found out the next director lasted two weeks!) With Liz back home, Bruce was able to find different kinds of work to do to meet expenses. All along, both Liz and Bruce were praying that God would open up the work/ministry that He had in mind.

Liz started working part-time in Alpine (17 miles from home - much better than El Centro!) as a social worker at a 99 bed special treatment facility for the adult (18 years +) chronically mentally ill.

In August, Bruce and Liz helped put on a 72 hour Spiritual Retreat for 36 inmates at the R.J. Donovan state prison in Otay (next to the Mexican border near Tijuana). This experience changed their lives! Kairos ("A Special Time,") is an opportunity for the prisoners to see firsthand unconditional love like they have never experienced before! Out of 36 prisoners who attended for the first time, about 34 made decisions for the Lord! Follow-up continues for at least a year.

During the year, Bruce went to many job interviews and nothing opened up. In November, 1993, Dr. George Hare asked Bruce and Liz to join his ministry - Southern California Bible College. He and his dear wife, Shirley, have been trying to run the college and keep up with all the details and have been praying that God would send another couple to help. The Bible College is small and meets on the grounds of College Avenue Baptist Church in San Diego (two blocks from Bruce's former employer) and has another campus in Escondido. Bruce started working with Dr. Hare right before Thanksgiving. He is helping catch up on back-logged paperwork, organizing files, etc. Bruce has a special ability for doing this and has been trained for this kind of work, having a Master's in School Administration. Right after Bruce started working, Mrs. Hare broke her elbow and was not able to be in the office...God's timing is perfect.

One of the outreaches the college has is to offer a Bible College degree to the inmates of R.J. Donovan. S.C.B.C. takes the classes right into the prison. Chuck Colson told Dr. Hare he does not know of another Bible College that is doing this kind of work. There is much work to do, and we have the opportunity of being a part of this. The state of California has invited S.C.B.C. to take this opportunity to their other prisons (there are about 26 state prisons with new ones opening up soon). Liz is especially excited about this work. She has a Master's in Social Work and knows that society's forgotten and despised people need the Lord! Listen, folks, this is a most incredible opportunity! The only real changes that last are changes that Jesus Christ makes in a person's life! We have seen the changed lives of the prisoners who are taking S.C.B.C.'s classes. Many of the fellas have praying relatives! In prison, a person has lots of time to think. These guys have lots of time to study God's Word and many are on fire for Jesus!

Dr. Hare has been asked to start a Bible College in India, but he has not felt free to pursue that until he had this one covered. Bruce has been asked to organize and run the daily operations of the college and collectively, Bruce and Liz will head up the Prison ministry. As the college grows, Liz will be Dean of Women. Right now she is helping to recruit students and is continuing her work at Alpine.

David, now 18, graduated from his high school as the top Valedictorian. He is in his freshman year at Biola University and is prayerfully considering becoming a missionary doctor. Ann is busy working at Pine Valley Bible Camp, helping with the dining room crew for weekend retreats. She is 15 and a Sophomore at Mt. Empire High School. **Ann** recently started taking modeling classes and has even worked as a model in a department store. She is very excited about her goals as a model! **Bobby** is enjoying being at the Junior High. He is 12 and in seventh grade. Bob takes special interest in the clubs and has recently started learning how to play the trombone. We certainly are proud of our three children and feel very blessed that God has protected and provided so well for them. Thank you for your continued prayers for each as they continue to live in our very confused society!

We have appreciated your love, support and prayers in the past. The last nine years have been excruciating as God has been working in our lives, but praise God, He has never failed us! In this new opportunity of service, we need prayer warriors and financial assistance given toward our expenses. We are praying that many of you will feel led to assist us in this way. Your gifts will be tax deductible as you give to Southern California Bible College. You can stick a small post-a-note with "Leary" on the check, and we will get it. We have prayerfully considered this new step, and feel that truly God has prepared us for doing these tasks. We will continue to keep you posted.