

**SOUTHWEST COLLEGE OF BIBLICAL STUDIES**

**P.O. BOX 911**

**PINE VALLEY, CA 91962**

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**October 1998**

**Dear Friends,**

**Thank you for your interest in the work of educating prison inmates in God's Word. For the past few years we have kept you informed through a newsletter of the happenings at the Bible college as well as in our family. It's been several months since our last letter. That is due to the fact that we are no longer affiliated with Southern California Bible College. The college made a decision in April of 1998 to discontinue offering college courses to prison inmates. Since that program was my responsibility, I was no longer needed on the staff. Those are the facts. The important thing for me to do is to trust the Lord for the days to come. Was I disappointed and somewhat hurt by the decisions made? YES! Did I feel like we had let the prison guys down and left them holding the bag? YES!**

**However, I am OK. Liz is OK. When something happens in our lives that changes our direction and there is no way to explain it, I usually figure that God allowed it for some reason way beyond me. I am still in regular contact with the college staff and I help out whenever I am needed.**

***A NEW BIBLE COLLEGE***

**Here's what is ahead. As you can see by this letterhead, I am in the process of preparing to apply to Sacramento to start a new Bible college. The new college would concentrate on teaching Bible & theology courses inside the prison. Currently, we would not offer courses through the mail. I am forming the new college under the supervision of the Lincoln Acres Community Church, located in National City and pastored by Rev. Ray Beeman.**

**The college would have the same status as the old Southern California Bible College had before the merge. It would be licensed by the State of California, Council for Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education to teach only undergraduate religious courses, and it would not be accredited. However, it would offer quality Bible & theology courses to prison inmates who have very few other affordable options.**

### ***THERE IS A GREAT NEED***

**I am still committed to offering Bible courses to these guys in prison. They need to study God's Word for their personal growth, and they need to earn college credit for their rehabilitation process which the Department of Corrections requires. If you could look into the eyes of these brothers and see the hunger for Bible knowledge, you could then understand our burden to follow through with this ministry. Liz and I are working as hard as we can to make this possible. I still do landscaping and Liz still is a substitute teacher locally. We feel that if we ask fellow believers to help financially with this project, we should contribute to the finances too.**

### ***REGARDING THIS NEWSLETTER***

**Since we no longer have the financial backing of the Bible college, we will no longer be able to send out this newsletter as we have been doing. If you want to pray for us or if you want to contribute funds to us, you will need to receive this newsletter. PLEASE SEND A NOTE TO THE ADDRESS IN THE LETTERHEAD IF YOU WANT TO CONTINUE RECEIVING OUR NEWSLETTERS. If we do not hear from you, we will know that you no longer want to receive it.**

### ***YES, WE NEED HELP***

**Obviously, we need money to run this college. If God is leading in this venture, He will lead folks like you to help. May I boldly ask if you might consider sending \$20 every month to the college (to the address listed on the next page). That amount is not a lot to each individual but it could become substantial if several got involved. We would expect you to give to your local church before considering us.**

## **A NEW ADDRESS**

**I have established a field office with a post office box for the new Bible college. However, the main office will be at the church site in National City (not too far from Donovan Correctional Facility where we have been teaching), and all financial gifts must be sent to the church.**

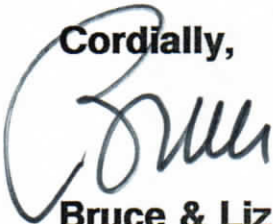
**Lincoln Acres Community Church  
2813 Leonard Street  
National City, CA 91950  
Attn: Prison Education**

**Write the church's name on the check, not my name. Include a short note indicating that the check is for prison education. Hopefully, in the near future I can provide properly addressed envelopes to assist you.**

**Pray that Liz and I will know God's perfect will. If you still believe in the educating of inmates, and if you still have the confidence that God can and is using us in this ministry, please continue to pray for us regularly.**

**Pray that I will be able to assemble all the necessary information and documents to complete the application process to Sacramento in a timely fashion. Pray that we will be allowed to begin teaching courses very soon. Pray that the prison authorities will remain favorable toward our prison education program.**

**Cordially,**



**Bruce & Liz Leary**