

# LEARY'S NEWSLETTER

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Dear Family and Friends,

## MINISTRY UPDATE

Good news! Southwest College of Biblical Studies is up and running. We are currently teaching our first college course at Donovan Correctional Facility; the course is "Old Testament Historical Books 1". There are 20 men taking the class.

I was concerned about having logistical problems at the prison due to the fact that we had not taught a course during 1998. (I was not able to teach a course after the former Bible college dropped the prison education program.) We prayed intensely that we would be able to continue without a lot of red tape. God answers prayer, of course. The clerk I used to have (very efficient I might add) returned to the chaplain's office; he was assigned to me. The officers in charge of the prison yard where I teach went out of their way to welcome me back and make sure all the wrinkles were ironed out. The warden wrote me a letter thanking me for continuing the program and reassuring me that his staff would be available should any problems occur. Thank you, Lord.

Of course, the devil is still at large so things do happen. We have had to cancel a couple of class sessions

recently due to internal prison programming complications; however, when we conduct courses in a prison, we are always ready for interruptions.

## APPLICATION NEWS

The application to be licensed as a religious exempt institution is in progress and will be consummated as soon as the state is satisfied with every detail of our program. Please pray for this process.

## WHAT WE NEED

Our basic need boils down to finances. Liz and I need folks who will continue to support us financially each month on a regular basis. We also need operating funds to run a college - to buy paper, stamps, toner cartridges, a new printer, an upgraded computer, etc. We need financial help to buy class sets of our textbooks so that the students will not be forced to buy a book since their incomes are so low. We need churches who believe in this ministry and who would be willing to help finance what I have mentioned above.

We also need your regular prayer support. Without friends and family standing with us behind the power of God, we don't stand a chance.

OVER



## PERSONAL NEWS

The family continues to be busy. Each of us is being stretched in our individual lives.

Dave starts his final semester at Cal State Fullerton soon in the pursuit of a B.S. in Biology. He continues to work in a hospital, and also in a research lab. He is enjoying it all. He continues to search for that special vocational area.

Ann continues to work as a Certified Nursing Assistant at a local retirement center. She is still taking courses at the local community college and she has signed up for the next LVN program to be offered later this year. She has just moved to a new residence, and she too is trying to plan her steps to a medical vocation.

Bobby started his senior year on the football team. He played until he came down with pneumonia. He slowly recovered but did not have the stamina to play in any more games. He did continue to help the team in other ways. Then he started basketball. He then contracted an infection on his lower back and could hardly walk. Needless to say, his basketball games stopped for a time. He has had a rough last few months. We thank the Lord that He has intervened with these illnesses.

Bruce (me) has had his hands full too. I spent the summer praying about what to do about a new Bible college. I felt the leading of the Lord with the encouragement of some godly people to create a brand new Bible college. The

application documents took some time. At the same time I decided to finish my Master's Degree in Biblical Studies in Seminary. I have been on an accelerated program. Between last September and this coming May, I will have completed 7 college courses. The seminary has provided scholarship money to do this. That was also an answer to prayer. I also am teaching a college course in the prison right now plus I am working on the next two courses. Oh yes, I am still a landscaper between 20 & 30 hours per week. I am busy, I know; but I am having a blast and God is blessing me with energy, health, and clearness of thought.

Liz has been teaching the Indian children at one of the local reservation. The position is demanding and very difficult; she deals with children who have not been successful in school, have deficient family support, and who really do not want to go to school. She is currently on a leave of absence.

On December 27, 1998 Liz' father passed away into God's presence at the age of 92. He and family were returning from a family Christmas gathering in Arizona; he died in the car on the way home. He was ready and prepared to leave this life. Since that time Liz has been in the Imperial Valley (in California) caring for her mother who at age 87 fell prior to the holidays; she fractured a wrist and a vertebrae in her lower back. Liz has had to coordinate doctor visits & medical care. She is tired but God has given miraculous strength.

May the Lord encourage each of you!!