

June 8, 1999

Dear Friends, Family, and Supporters,

The work of educating prison inmates in the areas of Bible and theology continues. I wish you could have sat in the most recent course, Bible Study Methods in Philippians, and listened to the men share what they have learned from their own study of the book utilizing the study methods I have been teaching them.

Three specific lessons blessed my life as I listened. One week the assignment was to paraphrase the book of Philippians in their own words. The purpose was to get them familiar with the content. I had tears in my eyes as I listened to the various versions. To hear the content of the book read with such personal warmth & compassion in the words of an inmate was absolutely wonderful. I told them so too.

Another assignment was to find all references to Jesus Christ in the book of Philippians and develop a report on all that was taught about Him (a doctrinal presentation of Christ or Christology). The oral sharing was fantastic.

Finally, they were asked to do a word study on the word "fellowship", and to concentrate on other New Testament verses using the same Greek word as the words in Philippians. We all learned the true meaning of Christian relationships & sharing that day; we also realized how far we fall short in supporting each other in the Christian community. During that course, some of the men expressed interest in buying a Greek-English Interlinear New Testament & a Strong's Concordance.

May the Lord encourage you today.

Cordially,

Bruce Leary, Director