

Memo

To: Friends of this Bible College Programming
From: Bruce Leary, Director
Date: 07/13/01
Re: Bible College Update

COURSES IN PROGRESS ... Currently, at Solano State Prison in Vacaville, CA, Bible Study Methods in Philippians is in progress. I taught session #1 May 23-24, & session #2 June 27-28. There are 63 men on the class roster at the present time. I was very pleased with their progress in my absence between the two sessions. The men will finish the course on their own with the assistance of specially-trained inmate mentors in each of the yards, and specially-prepared training materials that are mailed to the men periodically.

At Donovan Correctional Facility in San Diego we are currently teaching two courses: Bible Study Methods in James & Healthy Relationships. Pray that the current program interruption will come to an end.

COURSES TO COME ... Plans are underway to offer Bible Study Methods in Philippians at California State Prison, Los Angeles County in Lancaster, CA. There will be a maximum of 60 men allowed to enroll in this course. It will be taught on Saturdays from August 4 to November 3, with a 2 ½ hour morning session & a 2 ½ hour afternoon session (30 men per session). Pray that the current program interruption will come to an end before the course start date.

Pending courses as Donovan Correctional Facility are: Bible Study Methods in James, Bible Study Methods Facilitator Skills & Preparation For Leadership.

CHURCHES CONTACTED ... In an attempt to involve the local churches in this ministry to prison inmates, I have contacted by mail 20 churches in the Vacaville, CA area & another 20 churches in the Lancaster, CA area – to present our college program in the prison in their neighborhood, and to ask if they might consider sponsoring some of the inmate students at \$25 per course. Pray that

those in authority in these churches may have the burden & the vision to help these men financially. The churches have been instructed to contact the local Protestant prison chaplain.

We will also be contacting a number of churches in the San Diego County area for possible student sponsorship & for missionary support. Pray that many will see the need to financially support this college ministry.

TRAVEL EXPENSES ... We have been travelling to prisons more than ever before; the Bible college budget does not have the funds to cover all the expenses for travel (airfare, car rental, motel, gasoline, food). We have spent \$1046 since February 2001. The college has been able to support all the college course supplies needed for all these additional students. Bruce & Liz have been paying all the travel expenses so far. Pray that God will raise up some to help us with these travel costs. The only travel that is planned for the near future is the course starting in Lancaster. We will drive there with a loaner car from a supporting church; our needs will be gasoline & food.

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS ... A course costs \$25. We never turn an inmate away but we do encourage them to pay their way. Some have jobs & income; many do not. Sometimes, their families can help; sometimes, their families can't or won't. If you know someone who would like to finance a student for a course, send the funds for student scholarships to: Southwest College of Biblical Studies, P.O. Box 911, Pine Valley, CA 91962.

Looking into the eyes of these inmates as I teach the methods of Bible study & seeing their hunger & excitement – well, it's the honor of a lifetime.

COPYRIGHTING MATERIALS ... At the encouragement of some of my advisors, I have begun to copyright all the material being prepared for this Bible college programming. This will protect its integrity & clearly notify all of its source.

FAMILY NEWS ... Liz and I are enjoying ministry together; it is a special privilege. We have Liz's mom (age 89) and aunt (age 93) living with us; they require care but it is our opportunity to serve God & honor them; travelling requires more planning & preparation but it has been working out. Dave (#1 son) gets married August 12 to Tiffany Herbert here in Pine Valley at the Bible Camp. Ann (daughter) is training to be an LVN & will finish her training in January 2002. She helps us care for grandma & is a gifted care-giver. Bobby (#2 son) is an assistant program director at Pine Valley Bible Camp this summer, and is quite busy planning programming activities for the summer camps.

May the Lord continue to convince you of His everlasting faithfulness.