

**Southwest College of Biblical Studies**  
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Bruce Leary, Director

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Dear College Supporter,

The Bible college programming has been very busy. Just to bring you up to date:

1. The current course at Donovan Correctional facility in San Diego is *Preparation For Leadership*. It is a 14-week course for only the more serious students on my student roster. There are 14 men taking this course. The course content consists of four units: Temperaments & Personality Traits, Spiritual Gifts, Personal Testimony Development, and Doctrinal Statement Development. This course has been fun to teach and strategic; we are actually forcing these men to get serious about where they fit into the Body of Christ, and then challenge them to start using their gifts. The whole point here is to train them so that they can reach other inmates. *Pray for these guys. The devil does not want them to mature in their faith & then reach out to others.*
2. A second course, Bible Study Methods in Philippians, will begin on January 16 at Donovan. It is a challenging book to study because it demonstrates vulnerability by the Apostle Paul, and it advocates joyful, contented living in the face of hard times. The exciting thing is that this new course *has 29 brand new guys signed up*. These guys have never taken one of our courses before. That just shows you that all my other students must be doing their job. Each of the 29 new guys is a word-of-mouth referral. I am proud of my current students; they stand up boldly and tell the other inmates to get into the Word for serious study – then, maybe their lives will mature. *Yes, pray for these new guys too. You can be sure the devil will oppose them at every turn.*
3. We are offering two courses at California State Prison, Lancaster: Bible Study Methods in Philippians & Bible Study Methods in 1 Timothy. This is a tough place to teach due to periodic disturbances which interrupt programming. The student turn-out is small here, but the men taking

*Teaching Prison Inmates How to Study the Bible  
and How to be Leaders*

the courses are leadership material, and are the ones who will reach out to others in the days to come. **Pray that these men will not get discouraged when interruptions occur, and will purpose to continue in their studies.**

4. There are approximately 10 men at Solano State Prison taking courses through the mail. As you might recall, I went up to Solano last year & taught Bible Study methods in Philippians to four different groups of men during a two-day period. When the dust settled, there were about 10 who were serious enough to complete the course through the mail. **Pray for these 10 guys** that they will continue to be faithful in their studies, and that they will grow to be men of integrity in that prison for all to behold.
5. **On a financial note**, I am trusting God for more individuals & churches who will stand with us. Liz and I need more personal income; Liz's mother & aunt both had been paying rent to live with us these past few years; what a blessing that was while we built the Bible college. However, Liz's mom went to be with the Lord October 6, 2001, and Liz's aunt will be moving out of state by the middle of February. We also need folks to sponsor inmate students at \$25 per student per course.
6. I don't suppose we will ever comprehend this side of heaven the impact we can make in the lives of prisoners & their families. The yard pastors in the prison here in San Diego have shared their gratitude to the Lord for the maturity they are seeing in the lives of our students. I know these guys minister to others on their prison yards; I know they work hard to reach their cellies (cell mate); I know they write & call home to minister there; I know some of my men transfer to other prisons & begin to minister there; and the cycle goes on. **Pray for Liz and I as we stand inside the fence and hold up God's matchless Word for all to study & obey.**

May God's Word also excite you this coming year (1 Thessalonians 2:13).

Cordially,

  
Bruce Leary

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