

“In this age, Kali-yuga, to kill the demons means to stop their demonic activities by the weapon of kirtan, hari-sankirtan, which is spread by Lord Caitanya's associates.”

Srila Prabhupada in London, March 10, 1975

Jan/Feb 2016

Entering the New Year!

By Bhakti-lata Dasi

A month ago, I was in the kitchen, cleaning up after dinner—in the Prabhupada House where we stayed at the time—when there was a knock on the door. My husband answered the door and I heard,

“Is Bhakti-lata there?”

A polite young man entered and he told me,

“I know someone you know”

“Who?”

“Yogi.”

I thought for a second.

“Richard C.?”

“Yes!”



Above: Bhakti-lata Dasi

Yogi is the prison name of bhakta Richard (whom we now call Krishna Kirtan). The young man had been in prison with him for a short while. Now that he was free, he wanted to meet me in person. We talked for a while. It was a very sweet encounter.

Each and every time I feel a little overwhelmed by my IPM service, Krsna arranges something like this to re-kindle my enthusiasm and let me know He wants me to keep going.

This meeting reinforced the fact that all the letters I receive are from real, live, breathing human beings, who need our support, guidance, and kindness. Each book we send often touches more than just one life, as books and magazines get passed around a great deal.

Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakur said that the little *mrdanga* may be heard for one block, but the big *mrdanga* can be heard around the world.

The great resounding sound of the brhad mrdanga is indeed heard in many cells, cell dorms, hallways, chow halls” (cafeterias) and yards across United States and around the world.

The preaching activities of the prison ministry give an extraordinary opportunity to the inmates.

“Both by rising and by setting, the sun decreases the duration of life of everyone, except one who utilizes the time by discussing topics of the all-good Personality of Godhead.”

Srimad-Bhagavatam 2.3.17

Life in prison can be very dangerous. Not only physically, but mentally, emotionally, and

spiritually as well. It is said that environment is stronger than will, and in prison, good qualities are neither valued nor encouraged. It's easy to lose hope in that setting. Days merge together into an eternity and years of incarceration can feel like *kalpas*, stretching endlessly into a night of hopelessness and boredom.

Krishna consciousness is the light that drives away the darkness, bringing knowledge, understanding, and freedom to whoever is open to receive them. And many inmates are. The sincere souls are waiting for this light and are overjoyed and grateful to receive it.

In the year 2015, some inmates were released, while some were imprisoned for the first time; some “old timers”, bhaktas for many years, have steadily progressed in their spiritual lives; newcomers have seen their life changed; inmates have given books and the holy name to their fellow prisoners; chapel programs have developed or grown...Krishna consciousness is alive and well in prisons all over.

I am deeply grateful for all the players involved in IPM; inmates, volunteers, chaplains, donors and well-wishers, and all who have and continue to support this leg of Lord Caitanya's preaching movement.

As we enter 2016, I can only pray that more and more souls will come back to Prabhupada's and Krishna's lotus feet. Thank you with all my heart!

We are a good team and I am sure that Prabhupada is very pleased by our cooperation in Krishna's service!



Inmate Letter Excerpts

BTGs are gold for me; always have been. That direct touch of association so vital on so many levels. I'd like to deeply and sincerely thank you for allowing me on this mailing list.

All your extended generous devotional gifts to me over these few years, truly moves my heart. This ministry blows my mind and continues to validate all I love about our movement, and its core nature and message that awakens raw inspiration, especially in sharing this with others.

There's no limit to how important the books, CDs, BTGs, information, or comments you've personally shared, and provided me mataji. This old man is greatly indebted and honored to have your touch in my life. We are all blessed beyond description just for having this knowledge become a part of our journey in this life. Watchin this ISKCON movement develop over 30 some years is also a special treat for me. Thank you kindly for being included in Krsna's mercy for me. Haribol!!"

Randall S.

San Quentin, California

I've learned that any conversation I have with anyone other than Krsna is often a waste of time here. Many do not believe in God, and have given up. Personally, I want to know all about him and practice his teaching in my life. I watch him move mountains daily, and he is strengthening me so much. I am at his disposal always."

Without Krsna I am nothing. He will continue to walk with me in victory over every battle. Be strong and stay safe out there, my friend. In this age God is only on the mind of a chosen few, while all others are completely lost. Our race is self-destructing more each day and instead of praising God man is praising suffering, violence, and death. Please be safe always.

Michael M.

Trion, Georgia

Needless to say, I am getting along here in my studies, with the 2 books you sent and BTG. Great! Gee, this material is really heavy. I thought I'd learned a little something the last time around. This is really keeping me busy. Can't just breeze

through it. Have to read it slow, with all focus, and usually over a few times. Between the three, I reference back and forth. I chant daily, throughout, and I've cleaned my diet up. I stopped eating meat and eggs.

I've stopped cussing. I've stopped disliking certain people, feel better about them, and actually hope that they heal in their own way. I've stopped meandering into negative thoughts, things of the past. Stopped worrying about what time it is, which really makes time fly. I've stopped measuring how good and shapely a woman looks and instead see her as a spirit being who is due all her respect as I am due mine. I have more to live for, and am less afraid to die. I keep myself and my quarters very clean. I wish to commit myself to temple life and celibacy for the rest of my life and study of the sastra. I'm 60 years of age... I've wasted my time on enough things and people through the years and decades. Now I just yearn for spiritual shelter.



I know I have to learn my way up and that will take one step at a time, but I feel like a kid in a candy store, with so many goody texts to choose. Well, at least you can tell I'm on fire.

I was so blue when I first got here. No one loves being in the hole. But I am so much better now that I and a devotee (or hope I am) and totally at Krsna's service. I feel so great! 😊 Thank you every so kindly, Mother, for helping me find my way back to Krsna.

Eva C.

San Diego, California

First of all, before I started to write to ISKCON or knew what it was, I was professing the religion of Islam. I do still practice "Islam", but now it is to the fullness of my ability. Swami Srila Prabhupada has opened my eyes to worship the God of my religion in devotional service. On July

20, 2012 is the time for all Muslims worldwide to fast; it is called "Ramadhan". Yes I am observing it in devotional service. I will add to it the Hare Krishna mantra.

I will not stop reading books about Lord Shri Krishna, the Supreme Personality of Godhead. I have developed ecstatic love of Shri Krishna. By me reading about the Lord's pastimes, names, qualities, forms etc., it has given me so much of joy. But it can do this for me by honoring it from a pure devotee of the Lord. I read my Srimad Bhagavad-Gita As It Is, the Holy Quran, and the Nectar of Devotion. These three books have served me well. The book called, *Science of Self-*

Realization is a wonderful book and I have allowed two other prisoners to read it and they liked it. I really love the book *Nectar of Instruction!*

Nonetheless, I am chanting the Hare Krishna maha mantra. It is so wonderful; but, not as it would be if I were around a true Spiritual Teacher who is a pure devotee of Lord Shri Krishna. Since I have started corresponding with IPM, it has helped me out a lot. Everything I read of Lord Shri Krishna by Srila Prabhupada I will apply it within my life. I am really dedicated with the Hare Krishna's movement.

**Wilbert W.
Louisiana**

Chaplains' Appreciation

12/14/15

Dear Friends at ISKCON,

On behalf of the Hindu inmates here at Adams County Correctional Center, I want to thank you for your generous donation of DVDs and CDs. It is very deeply appreciated.

Your partnership has been invaluable. The incredible materials have greatly contributed to the religious education of these men. In addition, the group is growing with tremendous interest in this area of spirituality. Thank you.

Warmest regards,

**Chaplain Jon T. Shonebarger, Jr.
Washington, Mississippi**

12/25/15

Dearest Bhakti-lata Dasi,

We received the 9 volumes of Caitanya Caritamrta! They are beautiful and it is all nectar. Hari Krishna They are being utilized as I type this.

With much gratitude,

Haribol!

David Muchin
**Clinical Social Worker
Napa, California**

POEM CORNER

Hari-Nama Glory

By Unknown Inmate

Pleased and humble
Sing and dance:
Move and listen --
Vishnu trance.
Every corner
nook and cranny:
Goat and kids --
Plus mother nanny.
Every village
Town and dive:
The moon and sun --
All souls alive.
Nothing new:
Each ancient spirit --
The best friend ever:
His name -- to hear it.
Lord Sri Krishna:
Before and after --
Maintains all children:
With meekness -- laughter.
Srila Prabhupada ki jai!



IRON BARS

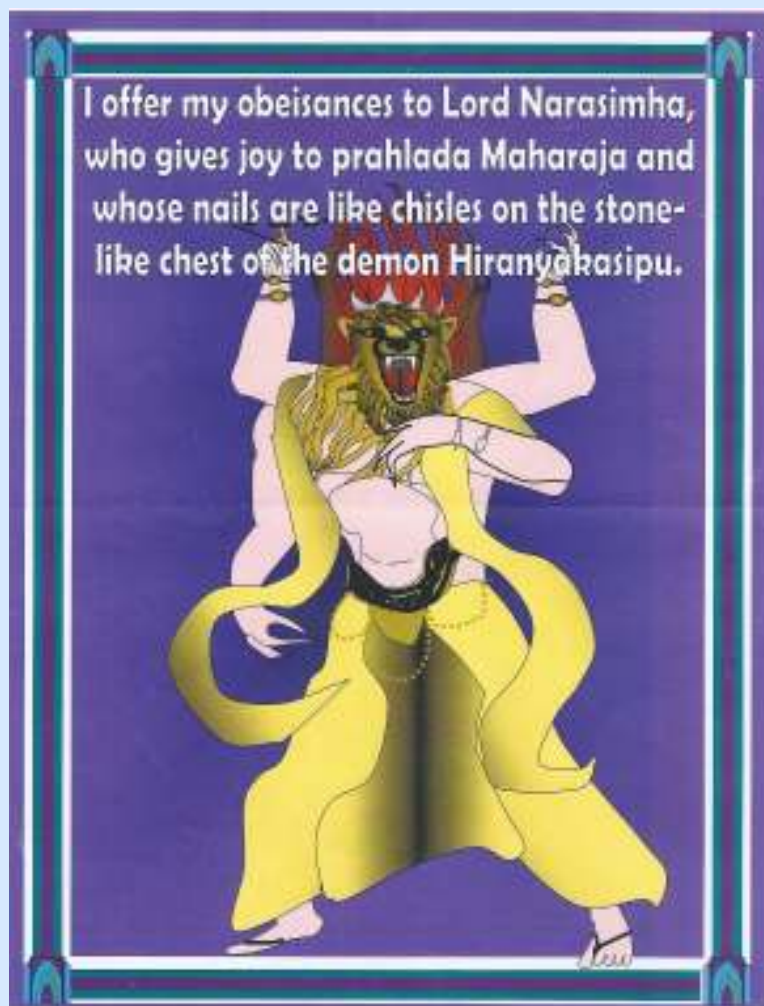
By Bali Maharaja

Iron bars do not a prison make
Mind is stricter still
Enemy of the soul or
Best friend as well
Surrender to Krsna, the Lord of the heart
Escape that burning hell
Put out the fire
Give up all material desire
Lay aside the phony drama
Chant
Hare Krsna Hare Krsna
Krsna Krsna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama
Rama Rama Hare Hare



Inmate Art!

*From an Art Design Class
-Inmate unknown-*



Hare Krishna Programs in prisons! Chapel Program calendars from a past month.

Jefferson Correctional Institution
CHAPEL ACTIVITIES NOVEMBER PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE *Expired*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
Catholic Mass 1:00 - 3:00 PM Church of God & Prophecy 1:30 - 3:30 PM Buddhist Study 6:15 PM (call out) United in Christ 6:15 - 7:30 PM	Gavel Club Board 6:00 PM (call out) Wicca 6: PM (call out) Bridge Builders 6 PM (call out)	Chapel Gospel Choir 9:00 AM (call out) Hare Krishna 9:00 AM (call out)	Gavel Club 9:00 - 11:00 AM (call out)	Orientation 10:30 AM Southern Gospel Choir 1:00 PM (call out) Odinist Study 6 PM (call out) Celebrate Recovery 6 PM (call out)	Catholic Mass 9:00 AM (call out) Jamaah 1:00 PM (call out) Talmud 2:00 PM Heb. Inaahie 1:00 PM (call out) Jewish Sabbath 6:00 PM (call out) Evangel Assembly 6:00 - 8:00 PM	Confinement Faith Base distribution & returns 1:00 PM (call out) Institute of Self Worth 1 PM (call out) Prayer and Share Fellowship 1 PM (call out) House of Yahweh 1:30 PM (call out) House to House 6:00 - 8:00 PM
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Catholic Mass 1:00 - 3:00 PM Buddhist Study 6:15 PM (call out) Glorious Gospel 6:00 - 8:00 PM	Gavel Club Board 6:00 PM (call out) Wicca Study 6 PM (call out) Bridge Builders 6 PM (call out)	FRESH START 9:00 - 11:00 AM (call out) Hare Krishna 1:00 PM (call out) Chapel Gospel Choir 1 PM (call out) Karma Return 6:00 PM (call out)	Gavel Club 9:00 - 11:00 AM (call out) Jehovah Witness 1:30 - 3:00 PM (call out)	Orientation 10:30 AM Southern Gospel Choir 1:00 PM (call out) Celebrate Recovery 6 PM (call out) Out of Darkness 6 PM (call out)	Jamaah 1:00 PM (call out) Talmud 2:00 PM Heb. Inaahie 1:30 PM (call out) Jewish Sabbath 6:00 PM (call out) Gods Disciples 6:00 PM	Confinement Faith Base distribution & returns 1:00 PM (call out) Institute of Self Worth 1 PM (call out) Prayer and Share Fellowship 1 PM (call out) House of Yahweh 1:30 PM (call out)
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Catholic Mass 1:00 PM Church of God & Prophecy 1:30 - 3:30 PM Buddhist Study 6:15 PM (call out) Kenny Murals Honey Lake 6:00 PM	Gavel Club Board 6:00 PM (call out) Wicca Study 6 PM (call out) Bridge Builders 6:00 PM (call out)	FRESH START 9:00 - 11:00 AM (call out) Hare Krishna 1:00 PM (call out) Chapel Gospel Choir 1 PM (call out)	Gavel Club 9:00 - 11:00 AM (call out) Jehovah Witness 1:30 - 3:00 PM (call out)	Orientation 10:30 AM Southern Gospel Choir 1:00 PM (call out) Odinist Study 6 PM (call out) Celebrate Recovery 6 PM (call out) Out of Darkness 6 PM (call out)	Jamaah 1:00 PM (call out) Talmud 2:00 PM Heb. Inaahie 1:30 PM (call out) Jewish Sabbath 6:00 PM (call out) Lou Frank 6:00 PM	Confinement Faith Base distribution & returns 1:00 PM (call out) Institute of Self Worth 1 PM (call out) Prayer and Share Fellowship 1 PM (call out) House of Yahweh 1:30 PM (call out) Azalia City 6:00 PM
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Catholic Mass 1:00-3:00 PM Buddhist Study 6:15 PM (call out) Lord and Thane Ministry 6:00 - 8:00 PM	Gavel Club Board 6:00 PM (call out) Wicca Study 6 PM (call out) Bridge Builders 6:00 PM (call out)	FRESH START 9:00 - 11:00 AM (call out) Hare Krishna 1:00 PM (call out) Chapel Gospel Choir 1 PM (call out)	Gavel Club 9:00 - 11:00 AM (call out) Jehovah Witness 1:30 - 3:00 PM (call out)	Orientation 10:30 AM Southern Gospel Choir 1:00 PM (call out) Celebrate Recovery 6 PM (call out) Out of Darkness 6 PM (call out)	Jamaah 1:00 PM (call out) Talmud 2:00 PM Heb. Inaahie 1:30 PM (call out) Jewish Sabbath 6:00 PM (call out) The Door to Christ 6 PM YOUCAT 6:00 PM (call out)	Confinement Faith Base distribution & returns 1:00 PM (call out) Institute of Self Worth 1 PM (call out) Prayer and Share Fellowship 1 PM (call out) House of Yahweh 1:30 PM (call out)
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Catholic Mass 1:00-3:00 PM Church of God & Prophecy 1:30 - 3:30 PM Buddhist Study 6:15 PM (call out) United in Christ (Jesus Home)	Gavel Club Board 6:00 PM (call out) Wicca Study 6:00 PM (call out) Restoration Life Ministry 6:00 PM Bridge Builders	FRESH START 9:00 - 11:00 AM (call out) Hare Krishna 1:00 PM (call out) Chapel Gospel Choir 1 PM (call out)	Gavel Club 9:00 - 11:00 AM (call out) Southern Gospel Choir 1:00 PM (call out) Odinist Study 1 PM (call out)	THANKSGIVING	Jamaah 1:00 PM (call out) Talmud 2:00 PM Heb. Inaahie 1:30 PM (call out) Jewish Sabbath 6:00 PM (call out)	Confinement Faith Base distribution & returns 1:00 PM (call out) Institute of Self Worth 1 PM (call out) Prayer and Share Fellowship 1 PM (call out) House of Yahweh 1:30 PM (call out) The Ministry

Thank you to all our supporters!

Thank you to all of you who have supported the preaching program of ISKCON Prison Ministry, through your donations, volunteer service, and prayers!

It is said that it takes a village to raise a child, similarly, it certainly takes a whole village of devotees to reach out to the suffering souls who are in the prisons of the prison of this material world!

In that sense, together, we are all book distributors for Prabhupada's pleasure!

This year, the Los Angeles temple sponsored thirty-eight Srimad-Bhagavatam sets for prison libraries, and the Silicon Valley temple sponsored eleven Caitanya-caritamrita sets!

Thank you all of you, from the bottom of my heart!

Our donors since last newsletter:

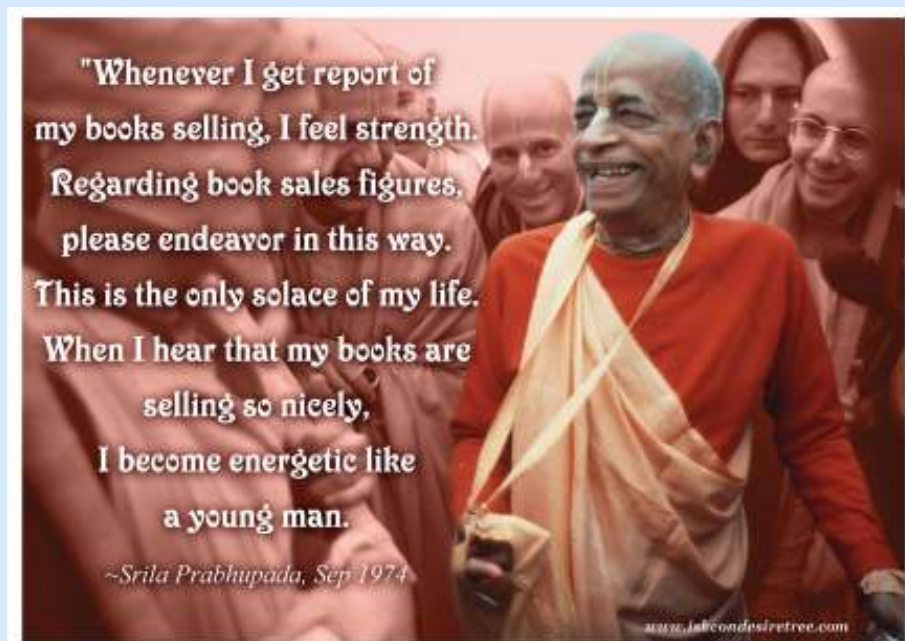
Charu Asthana
Cliff Middleton
Diane Caunt
Radha and Ramai

And our monthly Donors:

Anonymous donor
Aritra Nath
Amala Gaura dasa
Bhavananda dasa
Deepali Mittal
Dina Sharana dasa
Jitarati dasa

Kalindi dasi (Hopping)
Maya Sudana dasa
Mickey Singer
Radha-Jivan dasa
Radha Vinod dasa
Ravi Jadhaw
Rene Waisvisz

Richard House
Rupa Manjari dasi
Shashi Raina dasa
Satyanarayana dasa
Yudhisthira dasa



Books Distributed in 2015!

Prabhupada's Books total: 3,375

Breakdown:

Magazines (10 to 50 pages): 553

Small: 774

Medium: 254

Big: 139

Maha-Big: 1,655

BTGs: 1,874

Books by other devotee authors: 212

Tapes: 16

CDs: 564

DVDs: 31

MP3s: 30

Japa Mala Sets: 198

Neck Beads: 228

Incense packs: 30

GRAND TOTAL of all Books and BTGs in 2016:

5,461

Srila Prabhupada, ke! Jaya!!!



HOW CAN I HELP?

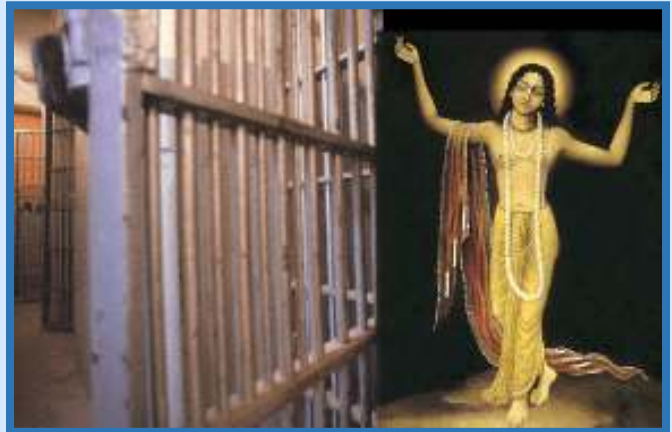
Many devotees feel inspired by this prison program and want to know how to participate. Here are a few ways:

- Correspond with one or more inmates.
To be successful in this endeavor, you need to be motivated, to feel truly inspired by this service, and, also, to like/love writing. Of course, you also need to practice Krsna consciousness yourself, so your words have potency. If you would like to correspond with inmates, please email Kirtan Rasa prabhu at: kirtanras108@gmail.com
- Give a one-time or a monthly donation (we provide tax-deductible receipts).
- Donate **DVDs** and **music CDs**: bhajans, kirtans (new or like new).

❖ 3 Donation Options

- 1) Send check or postal money order to:

ISKCON Prison Ministry
3759 McCreary's Ridge Road
NBU #46
Moundsville, WV 26041



- 2) Donate through PayPal at: www.iskconprisonministry.org
- 3) For automatic, monthly donations, you can do so on our website (with the PayPal button), or through your bank "Automatic Bill Pay" option, which is free and easy.

We can send you a **tax deductible receipt** at the moment of the donation or at the end of the year, as you wish.

Questions? Inquiries? Please contact Mukunda dasa or Bhakti-lata dasi at:

ISKCON Prison Ministry
3759 McCreary's Ridge Road, NBU #46
Moundsville, WV 26041

iskconPrisonMinistry@gmail.com

www.iskconprisonministry.org

