

# IPM NEWS

*Dedicated to His Divine Grace  
A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada  
Founder Acarya of ISKCON*



**ISKCON Prison Ministry / DBA of Vaisnava Outreach, INC.**

I offer my respectful obeisances unto [Sri Krsna Caitanya](#) and Lord [Nityananda](#), who are like the sun and moon. They have arisen simultaneously on the horizon of [Gauda](#) to dissipate the darkness of ignorance and thus wonderfully bestow benediction upon all.  
CC Adi 1.2

## May/June 2015

### IPM OFFICE RELOCATED !

By Bhakti-lata Dasi

Hare Krsna dear devotees!

The Prison Ministry office has finally relocated to New Vrindaban, West Virginia! By Krsna's grace, we are blessed, for the first year, to live in the house where Srila Prabhupada resided for thirty-two days, in 1974. You can easily imagine how blessed we feel to live in this holy place. The house is very near Sri-Sri Radha-Vrindabanchandra's temple, and a stone throw from Their Goshalla and flower garden.

As I was setting up the IPM office, a devotee came by and told us that this particular room had been Prabhupada's bedroom. I am very touched by this transcendental kindness to an undeserving soul. As I am sitting here, I look at the many bookshelves lining the room, filled with the very books Prabhupada spend countless hours translating, forgoing sleep and comfort. It is such a special feeling to spend hours in this room, sharing Prabhupada's instructions with the inmates and launching his books to prisons all over United States.



**"Prabhupada House" in New Vrindaban**



The new IPM office in Prabhupada House

## Inmate Letter Excerpts

“Mother, my heart aches for something and I don’t know what. I wanted to tell you specifically thank you for sending me all the materials you did. I’m currently reading *The Science of Self-Realization* and I have had several good laughs. Swami Prabhupada must have been quite the personality and I know just by the remarks he made I’ve never met anyone more sure of anything. It’s not anything that I scoff at. I’ve been so uncertain about so much all my life--I guess the only thing I’m certain of is that I am not certain. Part of me just wants to stop asking because so far, the more I search the less I understand and the more uncertain things become but almost in this paradoxical way the less things seem to be able to be answered, the more easily I can rest knowing that my intellect cannot be relied on and so there must be something greater. I don’t know what and I’ve always been so skeptical that God can be understood and known so well but would it be correct to say that at this stage of the game I do not know God and so of course I feel this way but with adhering to the precepts, with prasadam and working without the results, I will elevate to greater understanding.? Could I realistically in this lifetime make it to Godhead? Part of me wants to take it easy because I know (I like to believe) that I have a couple of lifetimes ahead of me. Almost like cramming for a test at the last minute. Do you catch my drift?”

**Eva C.**

**Ocala, FL**

Because of the tremendous amount of time, work and energy this move has required, this newsletter is shorter than usual. Thank you all for your understanding and continued support!

Your servant, Bhakti-lata Devi Dasi

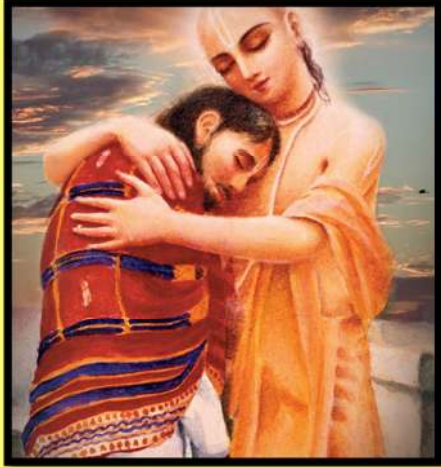
“Hare Krsna! This isn’t another *gimmee gimmee* letter, but rather a note of great thanks and relief. I cannot possibly tell you how well received these latest books have been. Each one is special in its own way and I relish them tremendously. I don’t want to proclaim it too loudly for



fear of jinxing what is going down, but there’s movement. Movement in some of the very resistant strata from my past. The kinds of stuff that I used to resist and resent (\*gasp!\*) is softening and yielding to the assault of wisdom which these verses, purports, and pastimes are drilling into me. I am even starting to open up to the repetitive nature of some of Prabhupada’s themes. Combined with the pastimes, these messages I heretofore resisted due to what I defensively and rebelliously categorized as “simplifications” or “over repetitiousness” are working their way lovingly into my previous defenses

and overwhelming me with truths that seem to spread into all corners of my dungeons and sub-basements.

Light! The painting of Lord Caitanya embracing Sanatana Goswami, with the expensive blanket, after his brave and harrowing journey from rich man to really really rich man?! Priceless!



And the Sri Isopanisad? Prabhupada at his “no justice, no peace” best. Krsna book? Total candy. Needless to say, I am grateful in-extremis. I am chanting more, developing more vivid imagery of the Lord in my mind, finding more peace, feeling long suffering spaces of my Heart resolving, and am returning to the literature with sensations of deep reverence, respect, and gratitude, what to speak of expectation!

I always knew that the system of things was corrupt and I could not find any satisfaction within any of the speculative theories offered as solution. Relief was always temporary; satisfaction fell short; and the equanimity of Buddhist even-mindedness still begged to answer the question of, “what next?” (after death). I’ve been such a Godless knucklehead...Literally running from Krsna.

But all of this is mute histrionics now, negativistic savagery and mimetic navel gazing. All of that temple hopping, naming my daughter Tulsi Vrinda, wearing Tulsi beads as a kind of, “I’m hip and more spiritual than you” ... No matter how failed/presumptuous/retarded all of my flopping around the perimeter of Krsna Consciousness was before, I can finally and honestly say why I avoided it for so long: it-is-true. It-is-REAL. And it scared the daylights out of me to let go of all of my fragile little ego life-lines. I’m not saying I’m there now. I’m still deeeep in delusion/Maya, but I am saying that occasionally, here in my cloistered condition, immersed in this literature, I can see there, and even occasionally feel there (in Krsna’s

presence) and Holy Govinda but does it looks/feels wonderful!

Thank you a million times over for your wonderful service!”

**Bhakta Douglas G.  
Rifle, CO**

“Dear mother, I truly wish there was some way I could repay even part of this incredible debt I owe you, IPM, Srila Prabhupada, and so many who have given everything just to allow one as fallen as myself any opportunity at all. I will be ever indebted to you, and will spend the rest of my life seeking some way to be less unworthy of this precious gift – this Krsna Consciousness.

OK, you asked how I came to be in prison. I wish I could say that it was a mistake – that I was innocent and undeserving of all this or that I had no choice in what I did, but that would not be true. No, I am locked up because of my own willful actions.

I spent most of my life fighting to find success and happiness, yet failing at every turn. It seemed that the harder I worked, the more I was beat down – and I blamed everyone and everything around me. I didn’t turn to crime or anything like that; instead, I sought solace in alcohol and marijuana, hurting my family, hating everyone, and pushing myself deeper into the hole that I had spent my entire life digging.

At some point, I “figured out” that my failures were the result of the actions of those around me (family, friends, society at large), and I lashed out. Not because someone wronged me, or even because I needed something, but because I was frustrated, and in an alcohol-fueled rage, I killed someone as innocent as I felt myself to be. And in doing so, I hurt so many people – I can never repay, nor deserve forgiveness.



It was years after I was locked up that I even realized that this was all my fault – the murder, my failures – all of it was me – and even deeper down the hole I fell. But at the bottom, I finally found some light, for here I was when I



came across the address of Candrasekhara dasa. Since then, the world, for me, has changed. I lost my wife and children, friends, my very right to life that night [of the murder], but even in this I was allowed a second chance; the judge allowed for my release from here (in 2020). Now, I belong to His Divine Grace, and to Krsna. I always have, just didn't know it, nor would I have accepted it then. I know I can never make amends – will never deserve mercy, but perhaps I may be allowed to help someone else.

See, dear Mataji, I should have died many times – before and after that night, but Krsna saved me. Why He would is beyond my understanding, but He did – and I am never going to turn from HIM again. I will fail many times still, but I can never give up – never relent. I will try to

obey Him, serve Him, and serve His dear devotees who work so hard to save us all. Krsna gave me reprieve and love; Srila Prabhupada offered the means, and IPM delivered this gift – pulled me from the dark, and gave me hope. I am ever – indebted, and eternally dedicated.”

**Joseph P.**  
**Galesburg, Illinois**

“Thank you for issuing me a copy of the Bhagavad-gita. I cherish it very much. I've been reading it, and using my prayer beads every day. Again, thank you.”

**James S.**  
**Florida**



## THANK YOU to all our Supporters!

Thank you for sharing your heart with the inmates.

☺ Please forgive me if I forgot anyone, and let me know so I can add your name in the next newsletter.

### Our donors since last newsletter:

Charu Asthana  
Karnamrita & Arcana Siddhi  
Mark Barnett  
Vishal Thakur

### And our monthly Donors:

Anonymous  
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  
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Ravi Jadhaw  
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Richard House  
Rupa Manjari dasi  
Shashi Raina dasa  
Stava Mala dasa  
Satyanarayana dasa  
Yudhisthira dasa

# Your Opportunity for more Service!

Many devotees feel inspired by this prison program and want to know how to participate.

Here are a few ways:

- give a one-time or a monthly donation (we provide tax-deductible receipts).
- donate new DVDs and music CDs (bhajans, kirtans).
- You have BTGs lying around the house? Send them to IPM; the inmates love them!
- 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 Dasa at: [kirtanras108@gmail.com](mailto:kirtanras108@gmail.com)



### 3 Donation Options

- 1) Send check or postal money order to:  
ISKCON Prison Ministry  
PO Box 2676  
Alachua, FL 32616-2676
- 2) Donate through PayPal at: [www.iskconprisonministry.org](http://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:**

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