

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

## IPM NEWS

ISKCON Prison Ministry / DBA of Vaisnava Outreach, INC.

*“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*

**May/June 2019**

### **WHEN KṚṢṆA DECIDES TO TAKE CHARGE**

By Bhakti-latā Dasi

**F**or the last five years I have been meditating on giving Kṛṣṇa consciousness to female inmates. Ever since I took the reins of the prison ministry, back in 2009, ninety percent of all inmates who write us are male.

I tried repeatedly to reach chaplains from female institutions—to obtain their permission to place books in their chapel libraries—but unfortunately, chaplains are very hard to reach and my time is always very limited, so I never went far with this project. Over the years, at different times, three volunteers also attempted to reach these chaplains, with similar poor results.



Nevertheless, the desire to reach out to the female inmate population was always on my mind and Kṛṣṇa, being in my heart, seemed to have decided to take charge.

First, Kṛṣṇa inspired me to reach out to the chaplains of female institutions by snail mail letters rather than by phone. I sent an offer for free books to thirty-nine institutions for women. Within a few months a dozen chaplains got back to me, interested in receiving Prabhupada's books.

Secondly, a couple months ago, completely out of the blues, I received the following email:

*"Hello, I am a volunteer with the Women's Prison Book Project in Minneapolis. We receive requests for free books from women currently incarcerated in federal prisons [all over USA]. Since all of our materials are donated, we do not have many religious books in stock. I am currently updating the resource list that we send to prisoners when we do not have the book they have requested. Do I have your permission to list your organization on our resource list, as a place to request literature regarding your Hindu traditions? Thank you for your help and assistance.*

*Sincerely, Jane Terpstra, Volunteer with Women's Prison Book Project."*

You can easily imagine how surprised and **ecstatic** I felt! An answer to my years-long prayer!

As a direct result of Kṛṣṇa's mystical intervention, in the last month I have received *four* letters from female inmates; *three* of them this week alone! This is usually the total number of letters (from women) I receive in *one year*!

Once again, Prabhupada has showed his infinite mercy and Kṛṣṇa demonstrated that He truly is *Yogesvara*, the master of all mystics! Jaya Srila Prabhupada! Jaya Sri Kṛṣṇa!



## **IPM's WEBSITE under Construction:**

ISKCON Prison Ministry's website is currently being rebuilt. This is a project I have meditated upon for many years; an offering I want to bring to Prabhupada's lotus feet. However, due to my lack of expertise in this area and lack of funds to employ an expert, this project may take a few months. If you feel inspired to help speed things up by either offering your website building expertise, or by donating the funds to employ someone who does, please contact me at: [IskconPrisonMinistry@gmail.com](mailto:IskconPrisonMinistry@gmail.com)

Thank you! Your servant, Bhakti-latā Dasi



## Inmate Letter Excerpts

Hare Kṛṣṇa. By way of introduction, I am Sanjiv. I am in prison due to will of Kṛṣṇa. I just say it is unpleasant. I came to prison last year. If you can, can you send me a picture of Kṛṣṇa (Bal Kṛṣṇa). Unfortunately, I came to prison in 2007 and I was corresponding with a very nice Kṛṣṇa devotee from Florida. He will write in ink pen and say thing that helped me with growth in my faith. After I was released in 2010 due to mercy of Kṛṣṇa I lost touch with Florida Kṛṣṇa devotee. I made mistake again. I was doing so well with finances and in my life. I fell again. I had very pretty girlfriend. I was arrested at San Francisco International Airport and they confiscated my Kṛṣṇa picture. I lost my Kṛṣṇa. I am naked without Him. I have beads and I chant but lose focus after ten chant. I have ADHD and can't focus to do 108 beads. I do pray to Lord Jesus and do rosary for Mother Mary; I went to a Catholic High School in India.

I was in Mathura and Vrindavan and Varanasi before I came to USA when arrested in 2018. Everyone abandoned me. Kṛṣṇa is cause of all causes. I am suffering. Be my friend. I need pen pal.

**Sanjiv D.**

**Lovelock, Nevada**

I am most thankful for all you do. Knowing someone cares enough about me to try to help means more than you know.

**Joshua Lee S.**

**Stillwater, Minnesota**

My entire experience with Kṛṣṇa Consciousness has been as an incarcerated person. By the Mercy of Kṛṣṇa, however, in 2005, when a friend approached me with an ISKCON Newsletter my life took on a drastic turn. My enquiry about a Bhagavad- Gita correspondence course began my association over the last twelve years with an amazing group of devotees whom I consider my Siksa Guru's; Mukta Kesa Das, Syama Priya,

Bhakti-Lata Dasi Kesava Das, Kaliyapani das, Madan Mohan das, and Saranga Thakur das. To each of these great souls, I offer my humble obeisances and gratitude. Then, of course, is my association with his Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada which has come to me through his devotees, his books, a dream, and my surrender to him.

What I would most like to say about our small group of devotees here is that we realize that we are most fortunate to be blessed with Kṛṣṇa's Mercy, Prabhupada's love and the world of devotees that Prabhupada sent to us. Hare Kṛṣṇa!

**Bhakta Gary W.**

**Raiford, Florida**



**Kṛṣṇa Consciousness: The Cause, the Effect**

I spend my time nowadays trying to learn about Kṛṣṇa Consciousness which is enabling me to have a different outlook on life. Because of these teachings, I am able to see myself by way of knowledge (spiritual knowledge) as spirit soul. I am not the body, but I reside in the body, nor am I the mind, rather I am spirit, soul, part and parcel of the Lord.

Knowing this I must strive to fulfill the goal of life by way of devotional service to Lord Kṛṣṇa (God.) There are nine processes to devotional service of which, hearing is the first.

Ant now that I am hearing about Kṛṣṇa  
Consciousness, the more I want to know.  
This is the effect of being engaged in the studies of  
Kṛṣṇa Consciousness. Everyone is looking for  
Kṛṣṇa.

**Walter W.  
Raiford, Florida**

I have made so many mistakes in my life it has  
finally lead me to prison.

I would like everything you have to offer. I am trying  
to devote my life to Kṛṣṇa but in prison it is hard. So  
I need strength and please pray for me. Thank you.  
**P.S.** Maybe you can pray for my bad luck and my  
destructive ways to leave me.

**Sapan K.  
Clallam Bay, Washington**

## Chaplains' Appreciation

Many thanks to ISKCN Prison Ministry for the kind donation of books and magazines. Already, inmates are receiving the materials. As a chaplain, I'm always so happy when inmates ask for material outside of the largest faith traditions, and that I am able to respond, *"Yes, we have what you're asking for and, by the way, the item was donated, so you may keep it!"*

Those who support your ministry make it possible for inmates to change their thinking and grab hold of higher, better approaches to life.

With gratitude,

**T. Ellis, Supervisory Chaplain  
Sea Tac, Washington**

Good afternoon Bhakti-lata Dasi,  
I have a resident that is asking for Sri Isopanisad; do you have a copy to send to us? He has been going through the Srimad-Bhagavatam Cantos right now.

Many thanks and blessings, Pam

**Chaplain Pamela LeClerc  
Tampa, Florida**



**ABOVE:** Ceramic tile (3 ½ "x4") made by Bhakta Jason M.  
In Fairfax, South Carolina

# THANK YOU to ALL our SUPPORTERS!

Your generosity is what keeps this program going! 😊 If I forgot anyone, please forgive me and let me know so I can include your name in the next IPM NEWS.

## Our donors since last newsletter:

Brahma-Tirtha dasa  
ISKCON Silicon Valley

---

## And our monthly Donors:

Amala Gaura dasa  
Aritra Nath  
Bhavananda dasa  
Deepali Mittal  
Dina Sharana dasa  
Gene & Claudine Moore  
Jitarati dasa  
Kalindi dasi (Hopping)  
Maya Sudhana Dasa  
Mickey Singer  
Pancaratra dasa  
Pritam De  
Radha Vinod dasa  
Ravi Jadhaw  
Rene Waisvisz  
Richard House



Sahadev dasa  
Satyanarayana dasa Shashi  
Shefali Majmudar  
Raina dasa  
Vegavati dasi  
Vikram Kumar  
Vishal Thakur dasa  
Yudhisthira dasa  
Anonymous (you know who  
you are: thank you!)

---

## 3 Donation Options

- 1) Send a check or postal money order to:  
ISKCON Prison Ministry  
PO Box 2676  
Alachua, FL 32616
- 2) Donate through PayPal at: [www.paypal.me/IPM](http://www.paypal.me/IPM)
- 3) For automatic, monthly donations, you can go through PayPal 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.

**ISKCON Prison Ministry**  
PO Box 2676  
Alachua, FL 32616  
[iskconprisonministry@gmail.com](mailto:iskconprisonministry@gmail.com)