



# IPM News



Dedicated to His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

**February 2010** ISKCON Prison Ministry Newsletter

**Changing Lives From the Inside Out!**

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<http://ipm.bbnw.org/>

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386-418-3828

## Sharing the nectar of KC

by Candra das

Hare Krishna Vaisnavas  
Please Accept My Humble Obeisances,  
All Glories to His Divine Grace A.C Bhaktivedanta Srila Prabhupada,

With your indulgence, I would like to share a brief history of the ISKCON Prison Ministry in Eastern Oregon. Our efforts to start a prison preaching program at **Snake River Correctional Institution (SRCI)** was conceptualized in the summer of 1996. However, we did not actively begin the program until August of 2003. As a reference, SRCI is the largest prison in the Pacific Northwest with a capacity of 3,000 inmates. Therefore, it almost seemed impossible to provide a quality ministry for this large community of inmates and I prayed to Guru and Krsna to help us in this endeavor.

Due to our great fortune, Krishna Guru and the vaisnavas responded to our prayer and the ministry was made manifest with great volunteers such as Anantarupa dasa (temple president of the Boise Vedic Cultural Center), his wife Aruddha davi dasi (lecturer on home schooling), and Oxford PhD student, Gopal Hari dasa. In addition, we were blessed with having luminaries such as Professor Radhika Raman dasa (the son of Arudda and Anantarupa), H.H. Candramauli Swami, H.H. Hanumat Presaka Swami, Vijaya dasa (World renowned book distributor) and Candrasekhara dasa.

Our program is simple, and we do our best to spread the holy name. In the summer of 2008, Krsna favored us with an altar, made by inmate Shawn Freitag (see picture). Due to his endeavors, we are now able to perform Gaura Arati every Friday evening. We are hopeful that Krsna and the Vaisnavas will bless us and that we will be able to distribute a nice prasadam feast for Gaura Purnima 2010.

There are many volunteers and inmates who have come and gone through our program and who have provided much needed services for this ministry. It would be impossible to mention all of them in this brief

history. However, I would like to extend my gratitude to all those who supported this ministry and those who will do so in the future. I would also like to thank my Gurudeva, H.H. Bhakta Tirtha Swami and H.H. Candramauli Swami for their continued support in my spiritual development.



Candra Dasa, in *Radharani's* garden



The altar made by inmate Shawn Freitag

## Thanks to Our Donors!

We want to thank the following people for their generous donations to IPM:

Linda J. Bean, Radha and Mickey Singer, Shashi Raina, Trivikrama, Bhavananda, Murari Gauranga, Kanvadas, Atitaguna and Dina Sharana

We also want to thank

Sacred Threads for shipping boxes of books for us, Pancaratna for his invaluable help in reestablishing the upcoming website, the devotees in Edinburg for sponsoring 400 BTGs for the inmates and Abhaya Dasi for kindly typing pages of inmate's quotes.

If you also want to contribute to this great preaching mission, please contact Mukunda or Bhakti-lata at:

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## What inmates have to say

“Well I wanted to say thank you so very much for all of the books and magazines that you have sent to me. They were appreciated more than you can ever know.

I also wanted to let you know that I’m going to keep following the path of Krsna Consciousness and do everything I can to spread the path of Krsna (once I get out on October 30<sup>th</sup>).

To tell you the truth I was wondering in what way I would be able to help out ISKCON or IPM once I am out.

Once I am out, I plan on finding a job asap and hopefully going back to school. After I’ve got my bearings back, I hope to find a good Krsna lady, and raise a family in Krsna Consciousness.

**Charles Thornton**  
**Leavenworth, Kansas**

“I have been engaging in giving the holy name to several inmates that they too may come to relish their eternal love for Krsna. One particular fellow almost began to cry upon hearing me chanting the holy name. I was surprised that he manifested such an experience...I am always desiring to spread the message of Lord Caitanya, by the mercy of other kind devotees as yourself, who are willing to help us fallen prisoners come to know what actual freedom really is, freedom to surrender to the lotus feet of Sri Krsna.”

**Kevin Brown**  
**Waycross GA**

“I have begun my first giant size drawing of Lord Caitanya on my wall. I love drawing His image – it gives me such joy. Tonight I am immersed in KC ecstasy. I can’t tell you how wonderful it feels. It nearly brings tears to my eyes. I have made an altar with the 3 holy images you sent me and have begun offering food and water on the altar. It’s so wonderful. I realized that eating fruit offered to Krsna makes the fruit sweeter. I want to cry and thank His Grace for letting me eat His leftovers. Oh Krsna! Oh Prabhupada! All glories, all glories! This is the most wonderful bliss. Thank you! I get these waves of bliss where I just start spontaneously chanting and it feels so wonderful!!



You know what I really find fascinating? It seems that on days I don’t chant it’s as if things are just more difficult. But when I chant to Krsna, I feel – literally feel -- His love like He’s my best friend, my big brother, my dad. No judgment, no aloofness, no anger – just love. Every time I chant something good happens to me – always without fail. I love Him so much! I chant one little round of Mahamantra and I’m rewarded tenfold. Chant Hare Krsna and your life will be sublime! Boy, do I get it!!

I don’t have flowers for my altar, so I bring in blades of grass and its like Krsna preserves them and they stay green for so long – it’s amazing. And I went for so long without an altar! All I can say is thank you Mataji – thank you, thank you, thank you!

Recently the guards took my homemade japa beads so I spent the day making a new one. I think this must be the 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> time I’ve had to remake japa beads but it’s ok – I make it a spiritual experience.

In closing, I want to say this devotee truly cherishes you and so dearly values your kindness, your teaching and lessons, your advice, your humor, and your love in Krsna Consciousness. Anyway I can be of service to you – just say the word!”  
In Prabhupada’s service, your servant, Bhakta Rich  
**Bhakta Richard Chase**  
**San Bernadino, CA**

# January 2010 Book Report !



Maha-Big: 29  
Big **Hard**: 5  
Big **Soft**: 27  
Medium: 66  
Small: 237  
Magazines: 137

**BTGs**: 345

**BOOKS written by devotees other than Prabhupada**: 18

## **Other Material:**

29 flyers  
81 *Freedom Newsletter*  
Japa mala  
Bead bag  
3X calendar 2010  
1 neckbead  
3 CDs

This is the activity report of, Bhakta Dave, Bhakti-lata Dasi, and Candrasekhara.

## Want to help?

BOOKS! We need books! At this moment, we really need some **Krsna Book, Nectar of Devotion, Science of Self-Realization, Srimad-Bhagavatam, and Caitanya Caritamrita.**

You can sponsor these books; you may even have some lying around your house! Please help!

Donations are always needed of course; there are always books and BTGs to mail, and stamps, ink and envelopes to buy!

Ever thought of becoming a **pen-pal** preacher? You can give Krsna consciousness from the comfort of your home! Please contact us if you feel an interest.

Give the gift of transcendental sound by donating CDs and DVDs, and help the inmates look through windows to the spiritual world by donating pictures!

If you are inspired by this preaching program and desire to help, please contact Mukunda or Bhakti-lata at:

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