



# IPM NEWS



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

**JULY 2010**

**Changing Lives from the Inside Out!**

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## “HE CAME TO SET THE CAPTIVES FREE”

**by Jatayu dasa**

*“I’ve got a river of life flowing out of me, makes the lame to walk and the blind to see, opens prison’s doors, sets the captives free, I’ve got a river of life flowing out of me!”*

As a young child growing up a minister’s son in a Pentecostal church in the rural south, I often remembered these lyrics to one of my favorite gospel songs, which was a frequent number on Sunday morning services much to my delight. In southern Pentecostal churches of the sort back then it was acceptable and encouraged to dance and raise one’s hands in adoration of God, the music had a beat to it (our church had drummers!) and I have many fond memories of seeing my father dancing down the aisle carrying my little sister in his arms as this song reverberated across the sanctuary.

Growing up in that environment, it is not surprising that years later I would become a member of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness,

where raising one’s hands while singing and dancing is the standard of kirtan-style worship, brought mercifully to the inhabitants of the world during Kali-yuga by Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu in Bengal and then brought to the United States and spread all over the world by His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada and his disciples.



Now as an initiated disciple of His Holiness Bir Krishna dasa Goswami, I am proud to be working with the **ISKCON Prison Ministry** to help “set the captives free” through the transcendental sound vibration Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare, which makes one transcend the three modes of material nature, become situated in transcendence beyond the material energy and achieve the ultimate liberation in the blissful intimate service of the Supreme Personality of Godhead Lord Krsna and His Pleasure Potency, Srimati Radharani.

Before I became linked up with IPM, I had for many years a burning desire to involve myself in prison ministry somehow. I was introduced to Krsna Consciousness when I was sold a copy of Sri Isopanisad, years later a devotee referred me to Candrasekhar Prabhu of ISKCON Prison Ministry. Candrasekhar Prabhu called me up one day out of the blue and informed me that there was an inmate devotee right down the road from me at Broad River Correctional Institution, a medium/maximum security prison in the nearby capital city of Columbia, South Carolina.

Soon after this conversation, after taking care of some administrative hoops, I became registered as a guest volunteer and soon had my first meeting with Bhakta Jason at the institution! Many times during my visits I remind Bhakta Jason that there is no other service that I would rather be doing than being an IPM volunteer here in the state of South Carolina; this statement is genuine and from my heart. My wife Jayalalita and I live in South Carolina which has no ISKCON temple and no real devotee community. Although many people pass through this state on their way to ISKCON Atlanta or ISKCON North Carolina, it’s in transit only and Krsna Consciousness has not rooted itself yet in this area. Thus not only is working with IPM my primary service, it is also my opportunity for devotee association (an important concept in Gaudiya Vaisnavism) with as fine devotees as you could hope to meet in any ISKCON center.

We have not set up a program yet but I visit the

prison a few times a month. In addition to Bhakta Jason I have also met with some other persons who have an interest in Krsna Consciousness. Just earlier today I met a fine fellow who has done twenty-two years in prison and is up for parole later this year. He does not have a japa mala but has been chanting up to sixteen rounds daily and sometimes more for the last year and a half counting on his fingers! He is a diabetic and is woken up at 2:30 A.M. every morning for an insulin shot then has breakfast and after that he chants his rounds, at that most auspicious time of the day, when Lord Krsna prepares for a day of herding the cows along with his spiritual associates, the gopas!

A devotee wrote me these words sometime ago: “Krishna was born in jail... so going or being in jail is not foreign to Krishna, or Krishna devotees.” When I read these words they struck me to the very core, as I remembered the pastimes of Lord Krsna’s birth, His worship by Vasudeva and His escape to the countryside of Gokula Vrndavana.

Some devotees who are enjoying a comfortable life beyond the razor-wire gates of the prison system might balk at the thought of entering a correctional institution or may even have prejudiced opinions about prisoners because of what they have done in the past or might have allegedly done in the past. Inmate devotees are just as dear to Lord Krsna as any other devotee and maybe even more so, as they are doing the often thankless job of spreading the glories of Lord Krsna’s holy names, Vedic civilization and culture, and genuine Sanatana dharma in the most unpalatable of circumstances. Every devotee in the Hare Krsna movement needs to get behind these inmate devotees one-hundred percent, in the same way that ISKCON supported the devotees in former communist bloc countries who had to face hardships and potential repression to spread Krsna Consciousness. Lord Krsna glorifies the devotee who goes through trouble on His behalf. I am proud to be a part of the IPM mission; I love my inmate devotee friends and I hope to associate with many more IPM preachers inside and outside the prisons in the coming years. Hare Krsna!



# What Inmates Have to Say

"I am doing well and am following the 4 regs, chanting a minimum of 16 rounds, and studying. I wake around 4-4:30 AM and do japa, then chant the 12 names of moonlike Nityananda, then chant songs out of the copy of Temple Bhajans book I have. Then pray for my Guru Maharaja's teaching to be fruitful wherever he is-and that he stays well and that I please him in all my endeavors. Then, I pray fervently and with profound sincerity to Sri-Sri Gaura-Nitai for Their help and blessings on this kanistha-adhikari and for the happiness of my devotee friends and "family". I eat only what devotees are allowed, as tough as that is in prison, and offer others inmates things from my tray, after Sri Lord Krsna has eaten it."

**Bhakta Abner Old**  
**Madras, Oregon**

"Lately, I have been giving brief lectures to several inmates who were in my dormitory.

(...) Yes, I remember the fellow who I chanted to who almost began crying. Honestly, I must admit that Krsna entered his heart, and thus he was dumb to reality, sitting on the bed, about to cry like a little baby.

I (myself) love to again cry for the Lords, for in such emotions, I have no control. I only respond to a love that is beyond the slumber of bitterness and lust.

You may send me more BTGs and when I am finished reading them, I'll give them out to others, so they can have this offering of love.

I miss Mukta Kesa Dasa, who was like a father. Sometimes, I read his old letters, relishing again and again his instructions."

**Kevin Brown**  
**Waycross, Georgia**

"Greetings! I'm a Texas prisoner and I found your address in a Back to Godhead magazine. The BTG was three years old. Please tell me if I can get knowledge on Krishna and my personal walk/growth. Thank you for your help."

**Marvin Welch**  
**Rosharon, TX**



"I have also spent a huge amount of this life trying to learn about all that surrounds me; to understand where I was supposed to fit in, how to interact. I have studied sciences, psychology, biology, philosophies, Plato, Nietzsche, many others, religion....but despite all my searching and learning I had never found the one thing I was truly seeking. That left me living a life of one disappointment after another. I have been all things, but I had never found God, Krishna. Hare Krsna! Now I have! And it was the simplest thing. I have known this for my entire life: that my soul is not my body. To not get wrapped up in material gratification. It has only brought me to disappointment.

I have learned that even with all of the hardship and troubles in this life, the many years in and out of prison...my own anger...it has all led me to be the person that I am today, and I believe that I finally understand. I have been tested and tried, purified. Now I can finally enjoy this life I was given and be able to move beyond it to where I am meant to be...with Krsna. And yes, I do chant Hare Krsna. It has made a world of difference.

I am your servant. I thank you for bringing me to the awareness of the "Krsna world." How have I missed it in all my searching I will never know. I, honestly, had never heard of your movement before Shawn Irving (*an inmate*) told me about it."

**Kevin Forseth**  
**Susanville, CA**

# June 2010 Book Distribution Report

Maha-Big: 25  
Big Hard: 19  
Big Soft: 1  
Medium: 17  
Small: 94  
Magazines: 10

BTGs: 107  
Freedom Newsletters: 147  
Books written by devotees other than Prabhupada: 17

Other Material (beads, CDs, etc.):  
7 tapes music  
4 tapes lectures  
1 BBT Calendar



This is the activity report of Bhakta Kevin, Bhakti-lata Dasi, Bhavananda Dasa, and Candra Dasa.

## WANT TO HELP?



Inspired to support this successful prison preaching program? You can:

- become a transcendental pen-pal for one or more inmates
- give a one-time or monthly donation (we provide tax-deductible receipts); **see page 4 for details.**
- donate books, CDs, DVDs, pictures, japa and neck beads, and bead bags.

**At the moment, we are in great need of japa beads, counting beads, and bead bags.**

Any donation will be greatly appreciated.

Contact Mukunda Dasa or Bhakti-lata Dasi at:

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## Thank You to Our Donors!

Amala Gaura Dasa: \$101  
Candra Dasa: \$250  
Radha-Jivan Dasa: \$91.49 (to ship boxes)  
Amal Bhakta Dasa: \$100  
Ankur Seti: \$101  
Trivikrama Dasa: \$200  
Shashi Raina: \$50

Bhavananda Dasa: \$150  
Mickey Singer: \$150

We also want to thank:  
Inmate Dan Green for two book of stamps.  
Pancaratra Dasa for helping with the website.

**NOTE:** If I have overlooked anyone, please forgive me. I would appreciate that you bring this to my attention so I can acknowledge you in the next newsletter. It is important to us to recognize our donors, as they make this preaching program a reality. Because I do handle a lot of aspects for IPM, things will sometimes slip by. Thank you, your servant, Bhakti-lata Dasi

➡ Want to donate to this prison preaching program? There are different options to do this: ⬅

- ❖ Send a check to:  
ISKCON Prison Ministry  
PO Box 2676  
Alachua, FL 32616-2676
- ❖ Donate through PayPal at: [www.iskconprisonministry.com](http://www.iskconprisonministry.com)
- ❖ For automatic, monthly donations, you can do so on our website above, or through your bank "Automatic Bill Pay" option, which is easy and free.

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? Contact Mukunda Dasa or Bhakti-lata Dasi at [IskconPrisonMinistry@gmail.com](mailto:IskconPrisonMinistry@gmail.com) or 386-418-3828



Art by inmate Abner C. Old