

*"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*

**July/August 2018**

## STRENGTHENING MY FAITH

by Janardana Dasa

**H**are Kṛṣṇa, Mataji.  
Dandavat pranams. All glories to Srila Prabhupada!

In prison my Kṛṣṇa consciousness has been truly "hands on" (isn't it always? ☺). Sri Kṛṣṇa knows best and is always testing and strengthening His bhaktas. I truly feel that He has been especially and specifically helping me for the past twenty-six months I have spent in prison. I am a Naturopathic Physician and Ayurvedic Medical Consultant in my professional life and was brought here because of immigration issues with some of my employees.

I joined The Hare Kṛṣṇa movement in 1982 and have been chanting Hare Kṛṣṇa regularly since

about 1983. I have been more or less steady throughout the years. But never has it been as intense as it has been in these past months of incarceration. It is said in the śāstras that when you are put in adverse situations, all of a sudden, you can really call out to the Lord.



Srimati Kunti Devi prayed, "I wish that all those calamities would happen again and again so that we could see You again and again, for seeing You means that we will no longer see repeated births and deaths."

Since I arrived here, in May 2017, I have met many inquisitive souls interested in the bhakti yoga process. I have had the opportunity to read to them directly from the śāstras and chant with them.

I am currently holding regular readings of various scriptures daily, either from the Kṛṣṇa Book, Srimad-Bhagavatam, or other authorized Vedic bhakti śāstras. It is truly purifying, I have to say. Again, Kṛṣṇa's mercy. Several aspiring bhaktas are now wearing Tulasi kanti mala and chanting on japa beads. Gradually, people are making advancement toward bhakti.

Thank you for letting me know about the material you are sending. Sending more Bhagavad-Gitas is good, as there is only one copy in the chapel library and there are 1,600 men in this facility. And the Srimad-Bhagavatam set will be excellent and will be read by many. Chaplain Upton will put it in the Chapel library for all to have access to. Grantha Raj Srimad-Bhagavatam Ki Jai!!!

I received the incense and tilaka. Thanks again so much. It is so nice to smell and wear tilaka again after so long. Sri Tilak Ki Jai!!!

And even Chaplain Upton remarked about the lovely sweet aroma of the incense. Wonderful!

Also, we just received the wonderful package with the CDs and DVDs of Srila Prabhupada's lectures and bhajans; they are incredible! They are now in our allocated box in the Chapel. When I watch them and I chant, I am not here; they bring my mind in the dhama and put tears in my eyes. So sweet. 😊

Things are improving here. Kṛṣṇa's holy name is being chanted more and more. And yes, I am "your eyes" here, didi. Anything you need for me to do, just let me know. It is my pleasure to serve.

I have been assigned an official Hare Kṛṣṇa meditation time slot on Thursdays from 1:30 PM till 2:30 PM. JAIHO!!! People have been coming.

I also read with several aspiring devotees in the housing unit I am in at least four days a week.

Yes, didi, for the last month I chant eighty rounds a day. It is not difficult; if you focus and want to acquire some *ruci* for the name and ask Sri Harinama Prabhu to be merciful and help.

Thank you for sending more japa malas and neck beads. I have a few left from the ones you sent last time. I have given them to people I know are seeking spiritual knowledge and will appreciate wearing and using them to chant with. Many aspiring bhaktas were very happy to receive these japa malas and Tulasi kanti malas.

There are about eighteen or nineteen people chanting Hare Kṛṣṇa now and, of that number, about twelve are more serious daily chanters. Didi, thank you so much for your selfless seva of sending all that you have sent to all these souls here. I am seeing a big change in several people since they have been wearing Tulasi mala. They say it makes them feel a "peace" and calm. They all mentioned that since they have worn it, positive events have been occurring. JAIHO!!! I'm at your service, mataji. Just let me know how to help you in this seva.

I want to sincerely thank you and IPM for all you are doing for incarcerated persons, earnestly promoting Srila Prabhupada's and Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu's mission. It is truly karunika seva (compassionate service).

I am also grateful to the two chaplains here who have been extremely helpful in assisting us to obtain items here for preaching; Chaplain Alba (the complex Chaplain) and Chaplain Upton who is here five days a week and is especially kind and always goes "the extra mile" to help us sort things out.

Thank you Bhakti-latā for being in communication with me directly and always assisting me in so many ways (too many to mention).

Thanks again for all you are doing, mataji. Very kind. May Srila Prabhupada and Sri Kṛṣṇa always bless you and Sri Guru and Gauranga give you the blessings of Their Lotus feet and always keep you in Bhakti seva. NITAI GAURA HARIBOL!!!

**Your servant, Janardana Dasa  
Coleman, FL**

## Inmate Letter Excerpts

**Note:** you may remember the main article in the last IPM NEWS, “*Unprecedented Harinam!*” In the paragraph below, Krishna Kirtan elaborates on how the harinam in the yard is progressing.

Hare Krsna Mataji  
Vaisnava pranams. Jaya Srila Prabhupada!  
You wanted to know about inmate reactions when we did harinam on the yard. Ya know, it was interesting...when we did it sitting, inmates would look over at us, sometimes nodding their heads, sometimes just staring at the mrdanga, but when bhakta Tom and I stood up, and I goaded Tom to sing LOUDER, that was when we actually started attracting people. A number of inmates gathered round us and afterward told us how the last time they heard us, the mantra got stuck in their head. A few now, when I pass by them, mime a drum and tell me "Hare Krishna!" Overall, it's been incredibly favorable. Not a single inmate said anything negative. The staff even stops to watch as well. The mrdanga and kartals are an attraction, but it's the vibration of the mantra that gets them to stick around. Then, after the kirtan, I recite the prema-dhvani prayers and people's eyes really light up. "What the heck was that???" they ask. "Jaya, I tell them...ALL GLORIES to all the wonderful aspects of our faith!" Ohhhhh," they reply.

**Krishna Kirtan**  
**Petersburg, Virginia**

An inmate devotee just passed by my bunk and gave a nice, loud “Haribol!” Wonderful! Last night I received the latest BTG, thank you. I’m so grateful to receive this and will be sure to share it with other devotees here, then anyone else who may be interested.

There is another devotee here, Eloy, who lives in another dorm but works with me in the library. We chant together in the library. I’ll enjoy re-reading the books you sent, sharing them with him. They will be a beautiful addition to the growing collection of Kṛṣṇa conscious books on the shelves of the new ‘religious books’ collection in the general library; they will really stand out. They are prominently displayed, not just shelved, and given much respect. The shelves are kept very clean.

There’s been much interest and discussion. When anyone ask me about Kṛṣṇa, all library duties cease: Kṛṣṇa katha ensues to their satisfaction and great pleasure.

The chapel library has plenty of Kṛṣṇa conscious books but they don’t make them accessible or keep them in good order. Chaplain Spanos is inimical to Kṛṣṇa. I call him Kazi Spanos. Take care, your servant,  
**Gerald N.**  
**Monticello, Florida**



My name is Robert and I am a friend of Jason. Jason pointed me in the direction of Krishna consciousness. I want to thank you for all the CDs and DVDs you gave us. We have been watching and listening to them as much as we can. Thank you for all your help and service.

**Robert M.**  
**Fairfax, South Carolina**

Hare Kṛṣṇa! My name is Bhakta Jeffrey and I’ve been a devotee of Lord Sri Kṛṣṇa for about seven years (at least trying my best to be). I am back in jail for a 6 month sentence.

I’m writing to your ministry because I definitely need some literature here in Oneida County Jail. If there is anyone in your office who is able to send me anything in devotional literature I would sincerely appreciate. It’s been a struggle maintaining anything in my Kṛṣṇa consciousness in this environment with no guidance. If any devotee is interested in writing me on this six month journey of mine and to help me continue my journey of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, I would be extremely blessed.

Honestly, all I want is a taste for the Holy Name. I look forward to doing my japa meditation, take the direction of Sri Guru, and so importantly, follow the four regulative principles. I have fallen so much since I was put in this jail; its dorm style make it much harder to stay pure in my thoughts. Evil is everywhere, as well as maya.

I do put on tilaka every day with water/air while reciting the Sanskrit prayers. I also recite the prayer to Srila Prabhupada "Namo Om Visnu Padaya..." and I chant the maha-mantra throughout my day, but it is far from easy to do this.

Any guidance or literature from your ministry would help me in so many ways here.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and, honestly, without this ministry I would be nowhere with my bhakti yoga.

It is my hope and prayer that Sri-Sri Radha-Kṛṣṇa continue to bestow mercy and bless this ministry. Jaya Prabhupada! Hare Kṛṣṇa!! P.S. Even just a picture of Sri-Sri Radha-Kṛṣṇa would have the spiritual potency to keep me centered with my japa and the Holy Name here. 😊

**Jeffrey B.  
Rhineland, Wisconsin**



## Gold Nuggets from Chaplains

Hi, my name is Rebeca Marrufo, I'm the program assistant at the El Paso Processing center. I would like to know if you can help our detainees, by donating some book, songs and anything that can help them to pray. Thank you in advance for your attention.

**Rebeca Marrufo**

Dear Bhakti-lata Dasi, good morning. The men are always asking for materials in Gujarati. We would be grateful to have the Hindi and Gujarati Bhagavad-Gitas you are offering. We can give them out on request and also put them in the housing units. Have a good weekend. Thank you!

PS. Rebeca wanted me to write you so that I could thank you too on behalf of the Hindu community here.

**Chaplain David Semmens  
El Paso Processing Center, Texas**

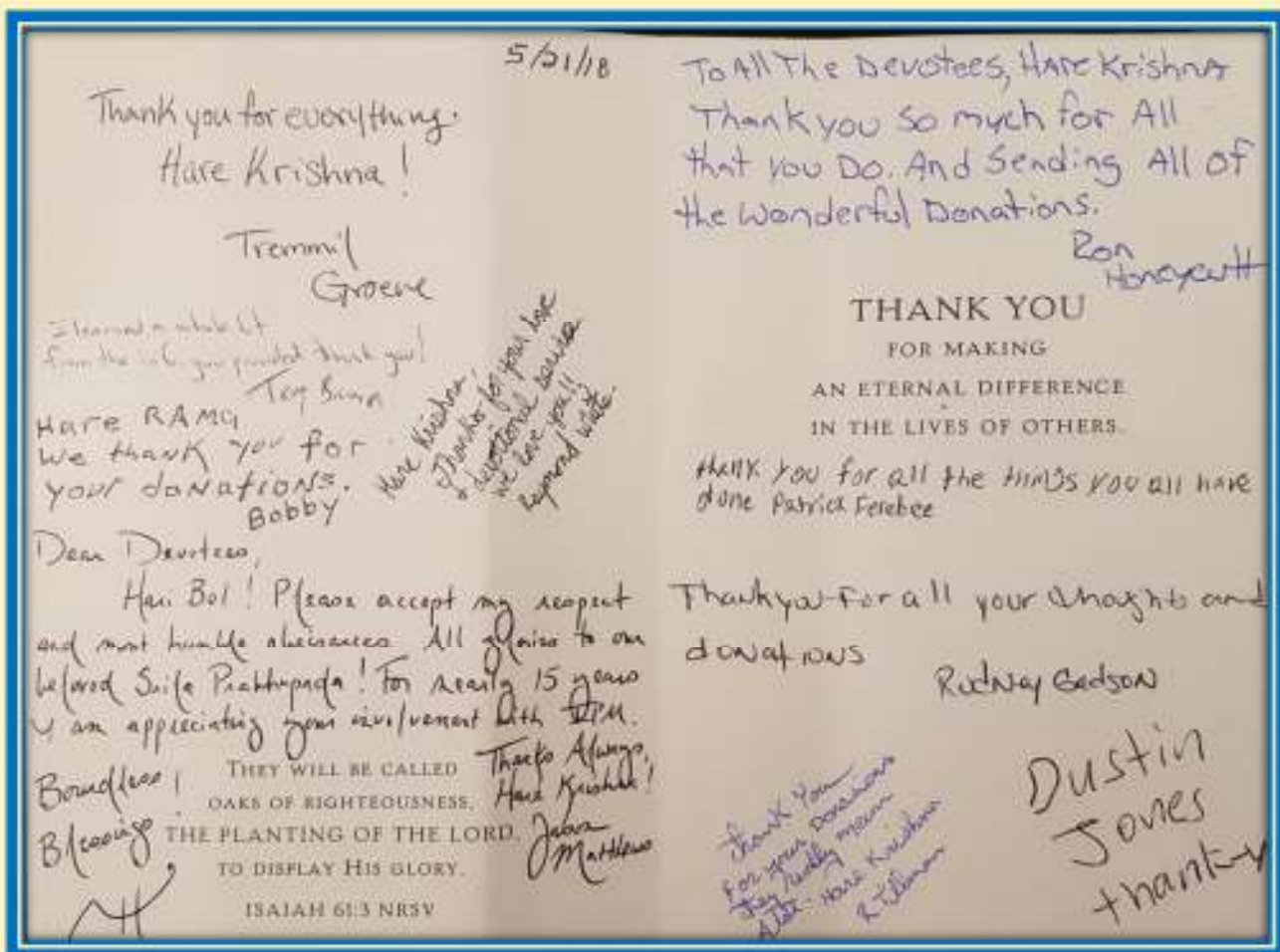
I would like books that can be used by the detainees in their barracks. Back issues of the magazine would also be gladly accepted. I would like it if each Hindu has their own book to use in their barracks. That would be about fifty. If not, one for each barracks would be good, which would be twelve. All the Hindus we have are directly from India.

I am fine with prayer beads. I believe the detainees' preference would be for necklaces. For now, 10-20 would be very helpful.

Anything that you give is very much appreciated!

**Chaplain Richard Barnes  
MTC Imperial Regional Detention Facility, California**

*Wonderful thank you card by some inmate bhaktas  
in Fairfax, South Carolina*



*According to Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, distributing literature is like playing on a great mṛdaṅga. Consequently we always request members of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness to publish as many books as possible and distribute them widely throughout the world.*

*CC Madhya-līla 19.132, purport*



# 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.

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Annette Kahman  
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