



"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/August 2025

VICTORY AT LAST !

By Bhakti-lata Dasi

In January 2022, the prison system in the USA started the process of converting all inmate mail to an electronic system. The state of Florida was the first to transition, gradually followed by Texas, then Missouri, North Carolina, Texas, Virginia, and Pennsylvania. In the near future, the other states will follow this trend as well.

This means that most of the inmates in those states are no longer allowed to receive paper letters, books, magazines, and newsletters. All snail mail correspondence has to be sent to a post office box, from where letters are scanned and emailed to the different institutions. From there the mail is read,



ABOVE: Premananda Dasa

approved, and sent electronically to the individual inmates' tablets.

Some institutions lend tablets to the inmates while they serve their time there. In other places, inmates either have their own tablets, or they have access to their mail at a kiosk within the prison. For inmates who, as a result of their housing designation or status, are not permitted to access tablets or kiosks services, mail is scanned, printed, and delivered to them.

A few of these already transitioned institutions make an allowance for religious material, as long as the package is stamped as such and that the sender is a recognized entity. Fortunately, most prisons recognize IPM as a legitimate book vendor, so most of the time we can take advantage of these exceptions.

When this trend started, I had an inkling that, most probably, all States would eventually follow suit. It then seemed logical that IPM should upload Śrīla Prabhupāda's electronic books on the inmates' tablets. After doing a little research and making some initial contact with the company *Edovo*, that provides tablets for the prison system, it became evident to me that this was a project that would require a substantial amount of time. Being already fully engaged, I asked for help in this undertaking in a 2023 IPM NEWS.

In July 2023, Chaitanya Visnu prabhu, from Nairobi, Kenya, volunteered for this project. He made some headway but that September he had to withdraw due to the difficulty of reaching out to an American company on a different time zone. I am very grateful for the progress he was able to make.



In August 2023, Premananda prabhu—who now lives in New Vrindaban and is a disciple of Varsana Swami—volunteered to take up the baton and continue to investigate and explore the labyrinth of the prison electronic system. He also had to facilitate communication between Edovo and

Kaisori prabhu (from the European BBT). In her turn, Kaisori has been so very patient with this long-drawn process and facilitated the necessary permissions between the European BBT and the Edovo company, as well as with



Bhaktivedanta Archives in North Carolina (Ekanatha Dasa and Nitya-trpta Dasi, to whom we are also indebted).

Thanks to Premananda's staunch determination over the last year and a half, he was able to reach our goal of having Śrīla Prabhupāda's books (plus a few of his lectures, bhajans and kirtans) uploaded to the prisons' tablets.

On 3/21/25, Edovo emailed the following message to Premananda prabhu;

“We're happy to share that all of your content has been reviewed, organized, uploaded, and published to the platform and is now available to nearly 1

million incarcerated learners across the country!

To view how learners are engaging with your materials, here is your custom data analytics dashboard (link below) that shows how many unique individuals have started and completed each item. It will start updating with Learner engagement within a few days and continue to update in real time after that.”

You can access that link for data usage at:
<https://app.periscopedata.com/shared/06a20aa8-f038-4aa0-903f-8788e3b43c50?>

Many inmates have already enthusiastically written about using Edovo to read Prabhupāda's books. Below are two of those letters:

“Kṛṣṇa has now provided for us, on Edovo, many of Srila Prabhupada's, books, lecture's and even some kirtan and examples of Srila Prabhupada chanting the maha mantra (japa)! We have been so richly blessed. Please see for yourself if your facility provides EDOVO. Easiest access is typing “Kṛṣṇa ” into the platform. It will provide a greater way to not only absorb more of Srila Prabhupada's works for us, it will also give a very important tool to share love of Kṛṣṇa with others.

I'm really excited and adapting to reading much more on a tablet. This will probably be the way of the future as facilities are restricting mail access more and more.

Prayerfully hoping *Back to Godhead* and the *Freedom Newsletter* from IPM can be added sometime soon.

Forever grateful to IPM and the generous donors for providing for us in the prison house of the material prison!”

Rodney S. — Lincoln, Nebraska

[Since this letter from Rodney, we have indeed been able to upload the *Freedom Newsletter* to the tablets. Edovo will upload three issues at a time, four times a year.]

“Yesterday, March 20th, I discovered all of the transcendental content you have uploaded to the Edovo learning app. A collective effort, for sure. I express my deepest appreciation to each and every devotee that was and continues to be involved in service to Śrī Guru and Gaurāṅga Nitai! Please know inmates here in South Carolina, including

myself, are already so engaged. And I thank you so very much!”

Jason M. —Fairfax, South Carolina

We are celebrating the fact that a million inmates in 1,200 facilities nationwide have access to Śrīla Prabhupāda's eBooks and audio. It is a great victory; a rhino I was so very much eager we catch for Śrīla Prabhupāda's pleasure. My deepest thanks to Premananda prabhu for his determined and selfless service.



All content has to be re-uploaded every year at the cost of \$2,000/year. A generous devotee (who desires to remain anonymous) wonderfully offered to sponsor the cost for this first year. At the beginning of 2026, I will be fundraising for a second year, to keep the door open for the inmates to receive Śrīla Prabhupāda's mercy. 🌸

Below you can see the complete list of the uploaded material.



KRISHNA CONSCIOUS CONTENT UPLOADED TO EDOVO IN MARCH 2025

eBOOKS (29)

Beyond Birth and Death
Bhagavad-gita As It Is
Easy Journey to Other Planets
Sri Isopanisad
Kṛṣṇa, the Supreme Personality of Godhead
Kṛṣṇa Consciousness: The Topmost Yoga System
The Nectar of Devotion
The Nectar of Instruction

Perfection of Yoga
Perfect Questions, Perfect Answers
Raja-vidya: The King of Education
The Science of Self-Realization
Teachings of Lord Caitanya
Teachings of Queen Kunti
Teachings of Lord Kapila
Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam, Canto 1-12
Śrī Caitanya Caritāmṛta

AUDIO TRACKS (20)

JAPA (1)

Japa by Example -by A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda - 30:58 mns

ŚRĪLA PRABHUPĀDA Bhagavad-gītā As It Is LECTURES (6)

BG 2.13: This body is a bag made of blood and bones. -by A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda -Feb. 21, 1973 - Auckland

BG 4.7: Surrendering unto God is the real religion. -by A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda -June 13, 1968 -Montréal Canada - 54:52

BG 7.1: We are always disturbed. -by A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda -July 29, 1971 -Gainesville, FL

BG 8.12-14: The examination at the time of death. -by A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda -October 26, 1966 -New York

BG 9.26-27: The process of peace. -by A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda -December 16, 1966 -New York

BG 12.13-14: God must be equal to everyone. -by A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda -May 12, 1974 -Bombay

ŚRĪLA PRABHUPĀDA Srimad-Bhagavatam LECTURES (6)

SB 1.1.2: Everyone must commit mistakes. -by A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda -August 16, 1971 -London

SB 2.1.1-5: Everyone thinks 'I am this body'. -by A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda -June 26, 1974 -Melbourne

SB 3.25.9: We do not die -by A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda -November 9, 1974 -Bombay —41:54 mns

SB 5.5.1: We require eternal happiness. -by A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda -October 23, 1976 -Vrindavana, India

SB 6.1.6-7: There are millions of universes. -by A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda -June 8, 1975 -Honolulu

SB 7.5.22-32: The Lord appears with two purposes. -by A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda -May 27, 1972 -Los Angeles

ŚRĪLA PRABHUPĀDA BHAJANS (7)

Hare Kṛṣṇa Maha Mantra - by A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda

Purport on Hare Kṛṣṇa Maha Mantra -by A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda

Prayers to the Six Goswamis (Śrī Śrī Sad-gosvamy-astaka) - by A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda

Govinda (Śrī Brahmā-samhita) - by Radha-Kṛṣṇa Temple

Ceto Darpana Marjanam (Śrī Śrī Siksastakam) -A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda

Vande 'ham (Prayers & Kīrtana) A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda & devotees

Hari Haraye Namah Kṛṣṇa (Nama-sankīrtan) -A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda —16.45 mns



Inmate Letter Excerpts

I was going through a learning program or tablet called Edovo. It has all of ISKCON teaching and your books are available through this app. I am very excited about this and just had to tell you. Hare Kṛṣṇa bhakta.

Dale B. —Bismarck ND

From the time I was a young boy, I remember asking myself: why am I here? What is my purpose? Why are people always suffering and never truly happy? At the age of 9 I remember

asking myself these questions, but finding no answers. I searched the Bible but the answers I found there didn't seem to ring true.

Around the time I was searching the Bible, I remember finding a copy of "Perfection of Yoga" in my mom and stepdad's bookcase. I glanced through it and even though I was too young to understand what I was reading I do remember looking through the artwork.

Around 12 or 13, I was deep into maya. I began smoking pot, taking LSD, and drinking/smoking.

At age of 16, I ran away from my home in Michigan to California. From 16 to 21 years old, I lived on and off the streets as well as shelters for runaway youths. During my 5 years on the streets and in shelters, I got deeper into maya and my drug addiction.

In 1999 I was sent to county jail, where I stayed until June 2000 and then was sent to Patton State Hospital. In November 2000, a fellow inmate let me read his copy of Bhagavad-Gita. By later that day I discovered I was going to find a lot of the answers I had sought for so many years.

Around December 2000 and January 2001, I started to correspond with Chandra and others in the ISKCON Prison Ministry. I have had my ups and downs over the years, but I always return to Krsna consciousness and my bhakti yoga. My daily routine is to follow my diet, chanting on japa beads, reading the Gita, and doing altar worship. Lastly I listen to CD lectures of Srila Prabhupada. I am trying to grow closer and discover my love for Krsna. Hare Krsna!

Bhakta Nicolas —Patton, CA

I have been reading the Gita constantly and chanting several rounds a day. I have experienced already a significant shift in consciousness. It is incredible how much difference chanting and studying makes. I feel very fortunate that God is showing me this mercy. I am undeserving of such blessing. I do want to thank you once again for the work you are doing and for the precious gifts that you send. Your gifts are treasured.

Robert H. —Sneads, Florida

Once I was child in the juvenile lock up in Orange County, California, where I met a long-haired boy who would read Bhagavad Gita very nicely. He had a name like Arjuna. He would sit up perfectly straight and read the Bhagavad Gita and he would teach me how to pronounce the Sanskrit. My favorite verse in the Bhagavad-Gita is where Krishna



says to Arjuna, give up all forms of religion and just surrender unto Me.

H. S. —California

I found an old YouTube video about IPM on the Hare Krishna TV channel. I saw your email there, and felt an urge to write an email of gratitude.

I myself was an inmate in USA. I am an Indian citizen, and got involved in all the wrong kind of things which lead me to be incarcerated. I received Krishna's mercy in the last 6 months of my sentence when I was transferred to Petersburg, Virginia, and that too in the same block as a devotee, Bhakta Richard (now Krishna Kirtan Dasa). He gave me Prabhupada's Gita, and I really took it as a sign, as an arrangement of Krishna.

Before that, I was not a believer, but atheistic, and arrogant. I seriously read Bhagavad-Gita there, and I was so happy to find the full Srimad-Bhagavatam and Caitanya-Caritāmṛta set there. I am a voracious reader, and I read them all within 2 months - not understanding almost anything, but somehow feeling a joy at reading those words.

By Krishna's mercy, I was released and deported back to India and was able to find a job very easily (I still cannot believe how that happened). And Krishna arranged for me to be connected to a great congregation, where I am now able to do services for the pleasure of Gaur Nitai. I regularly go on book distribution, and also got initiated in April of 2024.



Just wanted to express my gratitude at the wonderful service you are doing. You have saved me from a hellish existence, and even now it feels surreal how full of joy my life is now.

All Glories to Srila Prabhupada. Thank you, ISKCON Prison Ministry.

Please feel free to share my email, but requesting you to anonymize myself.

Please keep on doing the good work of spreading this glorious sankirtan movement of Chaitanya Mahaprabhu.

I pray for the well-being and Krishna conscious progress of Krishna Kirtan prabhu and all other struggling souls in the prison system.

An ex-inmate —India



ATLAS' BACK(ache)

By Bhakti-lata Dasi

It finally happened; Jara (old age) has come to my door. And she's a stubborn guest; she's here to stay. Although for the last 14 years Krishna has given me boundless energy and enthusiasm to carry most of the prison ministry's workload—and very joyfully so—I am now struggling to keep up with everything. The energy dwindled, even if the enthusiasm remains. My email inbox often seems long enough to go around the globe and inmate letters pile up.

I need help.

The most difficult and exhausting tasks to maintain by myself are the ones requiring physical exertion. Those are:

- Every 2 months, I pick up 8 boxes of the new BTG issue from Krishna.com (in Alachua) and bring some to a volunteer and some to my house.
- Every 6 weeks, I pick up 18 boxes of back issues of BTG from Krishna.com (in Alachua), bring them back to my house, open the boxes and organize them on the shelves.
- Every month I pack 384 back issues of BTG in boxes and envelopes to send to 18 chaplains.

This is a call for help. I am sincerely praying for a local devotee(s) (in the Alachua area) who is moved by this prison preaching service and who has the energy and enthusiasm to take up these tasks and be reliable and steady at them. *Is this you?* If it is not, would you be so kind as to tell as many people as you can? Because I know there's a devotee out there looking for a service that he/she can do, a service that has powerful, far reaching consequences and which pleases Śrīla Prabhupāda and Lord Caitanya.

Please reach out to me if you are ready to help the prison ministry with these tasks. You can email me at:

IskconPrisonMinistry@gmail.com



A worthy battle for Śrīla Prabhupāda —follow up

By Bhakti-lata Dasi

In the last issue (Jan-April 2025), I explained that the FLDOC (Florida Department of Corrections) has banned the Bhagavad-gītā from the list of books the inmates are allowed to receive. I also announced that Amarendra and Balavanta prabhhus generously volunteered their time to take up this case. These things take time, but you'll be happy to know that we are still working on this situation. An inmate has courageously accepted to act as the plaintiff, taking the risk of harassment by guards and other prison authorities. Please pray for Krishna to protect him and for the successful outcome of this battle. I will keep you posted in the next newsletter.



URGENT SPONSORSHIP QUEST —by Bhakti-lata Dasi

For the last 3 years, a generous donor (who prefers to remain anonymous) has sponsored the shipping costs of my only full-time volunteer (who also wants to remain anonymous). I thank this sponsor from the bottom of my heart for his magnanimity over these past few years.

This sponsorship for this year was due this July. However, recently our benefactor informed me that sadly, due to unforeseen circumstances, he can no longer shoulder this cost. This leaves a sudden, substantial hole in the IPM budget.

The volunteer he was sponsoring not only replies to the letters of 30 to 50 inmate every month, but also sends them books. He has been steady at this service for longer than I have been the director of IPM. When he was working he was covering all his own costs himself. Since he retired however, he has had a sponsor. I absolutely need this volunteer's help, without which, IPM would come to a standstill and the inmates would be greatly deprived. We're a team; I cannot respond to so many inmates on my own.

This situation brings me great transcendental anxiety and, once again, Krishna puts me in the position of being a beggar in His service. IPM urgently needs a new sponsor.

How much is needed? The cost for this volunteer to send letters and ship books is \$250/month (\$3,000/year).

I desperately pray for someone to answer this sponsorship request. The need is urgent.

If you hear the call and have the means to be this sponsor, please email me at:

IskconPrisonMinistry@gmail.com



Chaplains' Appreciation

12/3/24

I am a new chaplain at North Central Correctional Facility in Marion, Ohio. I have been asked by some of our Hare Krsna devotees if they could receive some religious materials.

1/28/25

Thank you for the update. We will be looking forward to receiving your packages. Thank you for your generosity. I will definitely let you know when we have received them. Also, I would be happy to send you some feedback from our residents that receive the materials. Blessings,

Chaplain Nash —NCCC, Ohio

3/10/25

Good afternoon,

I hope this letter finds you well in in good spirits. My name is Cameron Farbo and I have recently assumed the position of Religious Coordination for my Correctional Facility. I work at Community Corrections Lincoln. I have a few of the population here wanting to continue with their spiritual journey while in this setting. I am reaching out to you today in the hopes that you may be able to help guide my population down the road to their faith. We are looking for any books, materials, or pamphlets you may be able to share with us here.

If you do not have the ability to share those with the population we completely understand. I am acting as a conduit to help our population steer clear of what brought them here.

Thank you again for your time and assistance. It is truly appreciated.

Cameron Farbo / Religious Coordinator —Lincoln, Nebraska

THANK YOU to ALL our SUPPORTERS!

Your generosity is what keeps this program going! 😊 Because of a senior moment, I may forget someone, so please forgive me, and let me know so I can include your name in the next IPM NEWS. 🙏

Our donors since last newsletter:

Ballavhi Dasi
Bhartrihari Dasa
Charles Bailey
Hridayananda Maharaja
Jitarati Dasa
Kanvadas
Krishna Kanta Dasi
Rohini Kumar & Vaisnavi prabhus



And our monthly Donors

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Shashi Shefali Majmudar
Radha Vinod Dasa
Raina Dasa
Rāma Kīśora Dāsa
Vegavati Dasi
Vikram Kumar
Yudhisthira Dasa
Anonymous (you know who you are: thank you!)

4 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 or look for IskconPrisonMinistry@gmail.com
- 3) Donate through pay.google.com to iskconprisonministry@gmail.com
- 4) 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 will send you a **tax-deductible receipt** at the moment of the donation, provided you give us your legal name and mailing address.

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