

THE Shepherd

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost. Luke 19:10

Waiting For The Creaky, Squeaky Christian Book Cart

By Frank Sambrick

"But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings like eagles." Isaiah 40:31

So much of prison life is about waiting. Every Wednesday morning, many of the 180 inmates housed on the eighth and ninth floors of Michigan's Macomb County Prison are waiting for the cacophonous sounds of squeaky wheels in the distance. They signal the approaching book cart that will bring them new stories of lives once shackled like themselves, now freed by the power of Jesus.

These books, provided by Christian Library International, thanks to generous donors, bring hope to so many men and women behind bars. Chaplain Steven Malek can attest to CLI's impact on the prison's 850 inmates. "Inmates say the books have been life-changing. We can't get enough of them. Just two months ago CLI sent us 14 boxes of books and they're already gone. Our inmates are thirsty for the hope of God's word and for the inspirational stories of these wonderful Christian authors."

Steven and his wife Robin have been serving as co-chaplains at Macomb County Prison for the past six years. During that



Steven Malek



Robin Malek

time, they have witnessed a transformation that has seen the prison population shrink from more than 1300 inmates to about 850 today. "Some of the prison guards who have been here for years are convinced, as am I," said Steven, "that our ministry along with the help of CLI is the main reason for the change."

Steven's prison ministry, Gateway To Glory Ministries, offers inmates at Macomb County traditional church services throughout the week, one-on-one counseling and prayer sessions, and the weekly book carts that make their way through all 12 floors of Michigan's largest prison under one roof. "None of this was available to me when I was in prison

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Creaky, Squeaky Cart



Steven Malek

23 years ago," Steven recalled. "But God was preparing me for this ministry even then. I just couldn't see it at the time."

At the time, Steven was a \$300-a-day cocaine junkie living in California with his wife Robin and their young daughter. His cocaine habit led to a 6-month prison term, forcing Robin to live out of the back of a van, which in turn led to the loss of custody of their daughter. After accepting Christ in prison, God healed and restored his family, eventually leading him to Michigan and his new life as a prison chaplain. "Now we're here right where God wants us," Steve related confidently, "here at Macomb County Prison. Our ministry is vibrant and alive. Even the guards can feel it because the Lord is in it. And our friends at CLI are in it, too. They're here every week bringing light to these dark halls. Just listen for the sound of the creaky, squeaky Christian book cart."

Help Us Answer Inmates' Prayers

By Chelsea Charming

Every day, Christian Library International receives letters from inmates and chaplains asking for Bibles. We have provided millions of Bibles and Christian books to prisons across the country since 1996, but the desire to read God's Word continues to grow among inmates.

"The Lord is working in every way, shape, and form in my life," wrote inmate Mark after receiving a Bible at East Mesa

Reentry Facility in San Diego, California. "I wake up every day and start my day with the Word. It is teaching me every day that I can start over and I have a loving Father that will help me through it."

Many men and women accept God's gift of salvation in prison, but without God's Word to read, they may find it difficult to grow in their faith. Armed with Bibles, they can find healing in Jesus Christ, which is the type of encouragement that many inmates need.

Some inmates also begin sharing His Word with other inmates, making them disciples to people who might otherwise never be reached. As they share the good news with others, we need even more Bibles to support these new believers.

"Thank you so much for the Life Recovery Bibles," wrote Chaplain Douglas at the Mesa County Detention Center in Grand Junction, Colorado. "These are some of the most requested Bibles, and we did not have them to offer until now."

Words of Light

And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.
2 Corinthians 9:8 NIV

God is the supreme blessing and provider. He blesses and provides abundantly so we can excel in every good work. Good works mean that our deeds and actions glorify our Father in heaven and are beneficial to His kingdom.



Kathleen Skaar, Founder

God's ultimate blessing and provision is Jesus Christ. Many of those we serve seize this truth and are grateful beyond measure. They even praise God for being in prison. We get hundreds of letters giving the reason for the praise. Caleb's words are typical: "I thank God for being in prison, because otherwise, I would not have known Jesus."

From God's ultimate provision flow His glorious promises. As part of the new covenant in Christ, God provides all His followers' needs, both physical and spiritual. The blood of the new covenant is the reason we can claim or appropriate faith promises in the Bible.

The Bible assures us that God will feed us (Luke 12:24), clothe us (Luke 12:26-28), give us an eternal home (John 14:1-2), answer our prayers (John 15:7-14), empower us (Acts 1:8), fill us with love (Romans 5:5), joy (1 Peter 1:8), peace (Romans 5:1), wisdom (James 1:5), etc. Simply—*God will meet all your needs according to the riches of His glory in Christ Jesus* (Philippians 4:19).

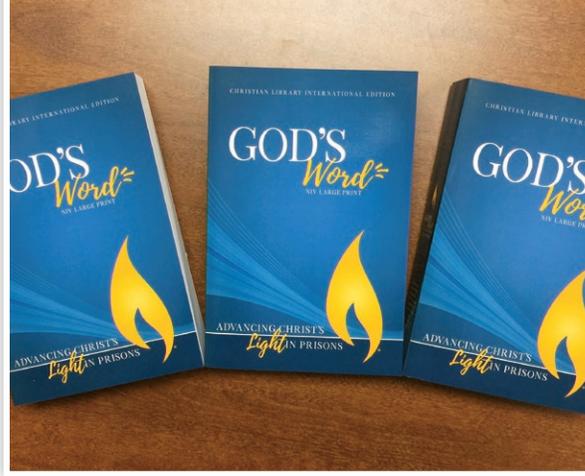
CLI has been blessed with God's mighty provisions over our 23-year history and we praise His holy name. We've joyfully received God's gifts and in turn, have sent about 2.8 million Christian books and Bibles to inmates. We've also been able to review 45,000 Bible study lessons, answer 53,000 letters, and receive about 7,000 decisions for Christ.

Recently, God provided an anonymous matching gift of \$30,000 for Bibles. For every dollar donated for Bibles, it will be matched up to \$30,000. This is an excellent way to leverage your giving and transform lives. Plus, nothing is more effective than God's word. Theresa from Bartow, FL has it right:

"No one or nothing can give hope, love or encouragement as the Word of God. Especially appreciate the large print. Now God has placed me in a mandatory position to 'be still,' and I am hungry for His Word, His promises, and His love."

Thank you for being part of God's plan and provision for the imprisoned. We are grateful. **Please prayerfully consider a financial gift for Bibles for prisoners. Help us meet this match by August 30th. Thank you!**

Currently, all gifts will be doubled as part of a \$30,000 matching gift, so your donation will have twice the impact. Each Bible costs \$10 to purchase and ship. **Through this gift, we pray that inmates' lives will be changed forever. Please consider helping us meet this immense need.**



Inmate Letters: **Praises from Prisons**

"I'm writing to you in regards to the book, *Seeing and Savoring Jesus Christ*, that you sent to our jail. This book has opened my eyes to God's wonderful glory. I am currently incarcerated, and I am in need of your help. God Bless you and yours for the love He has put on your heart to send Bible studies so we can learn more!"
Stephen, Dublin, CA

"During my stay at Augusta State Medical Prison, I was given one of your tracts. After I read it, I received Christ as my Lord and Savior. I want to thank you for the encouragement in your tracts and in your prayers. I live each and every day for the Lord now. Thank you for opening my eyes, and God bless you all!"
Billy Joe, Garden City, GA

"I'm writing this letter today to thank you. The book you sent has me in tears and tears of joy. You've given me more hope and faith than I've ever had! I received the book today and finished the whole book. Thank you for giving me hope and sharing with me that God is there for me."
Lyndsey, Greenville, SC

"I love to read books and learn how to follow God's path. I pray one day I will be able to preach the good news to everyone, to tell them how wonderful and amazing God is. This love that dwells in me is unexplainable. There are no words to describe how amazing and wonderful it feels. That is the way I want to be able to preach the good news to the world and learn more!"
Pedro, Moore Haven, FL

You Will Bring Me Up Again

By Christian Coreas, Big Stone Gap, VA

I was a former member of the street gang MS13. I'd been part of it since I was 12-years-old back in my country. All I knew was hanging out in the streets. In 2014, my parents flew me legally to the U.S. hoping that if I came to this country I would leave that life behind. When I came over I found a couple of "friends" on Facebook and I started to hang out with them. My street life here became worse than the life I had been living.

I could get more fast money than I thought I could ever get. Then, in 2015 the gang put me on trial and gave me a "mission" to take somebody "out." So I did it with 2 friends and we all got caught.

I fled with one of my co-defenders for 5 months. After my wife got pregnant, I came back to work but I got caught again. I know now that it was the Lord who blinded me then because I never thought I would get caught.

Once I was locked up I found that gang life

wasn't for me anymore. I lost everything that I had on the outside. I even lost all my family. Now I understand that I went through all that because the Lord was building my character so I could be strong to fight against the obstacles that I could have in this path.

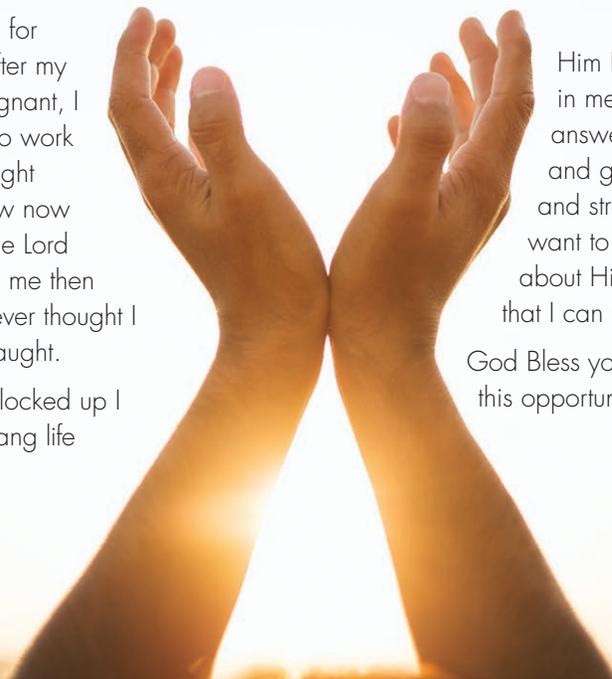
I know that I'm not the man that the Lord wants me to be yet, but He will give me His Holy Spirit to help me be the person He wants me to be. After all this, I went to trial in court and was sentenced to 23 years. I still have to do at least 15 more, but I know I'm not alone. I know that my Lord and Savior is with me all the time and

He will give me the strength to keep going.

My life was a mess, but after I gave my life to Him I feel His peace in me. He has answered my prayers and given me faith and strength. Now I want to learn more about His Holy Word so that I can teach it to others!

God Bless you, and thanks for this opportunity!

"My life was a mess, but after I gave my life to Him I feel His peace in me. He has answered my prayers and given me faith and strength."



LOVE LIFTED ME

Raleigh Dinner & Silent Auction

Tuesday, October 8, 2019

5:45 PM – Silent Auction

6:30 PM – Dinner

Embassy Suites

201 Harrison Oaks Blvd.

Cary, NC 27513

Reserve your table today at cli.world/sponsorships



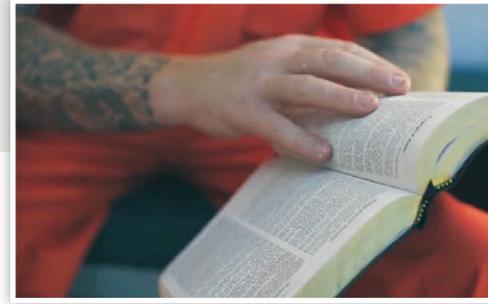
How God Can Use One Book Donate Your Gently Used Bibles and Christian Books

When you donate a book or Bible to CLI, God can use it to change more than just one life. One book can be passed around and read by hundreds of inmates. Each inmate whose life is transformed by that book or Bible might teach other inmates what they learned from it until the whole prison is affected.

Help create a chain reaction for the gospel in our nation's prisons by mailing or delivering your gently used Bibles and Christian books to:

Christian Library International
4724 Hargrove Road, Suite 100
Raleigh, NC 27616

For Georgia deliveries, call 706 362-3282.



FREE TO PRAISE

Buford Dinner & Silent Auction

Tuesday, October 17, 2019

5:45 PM – Silent Auction

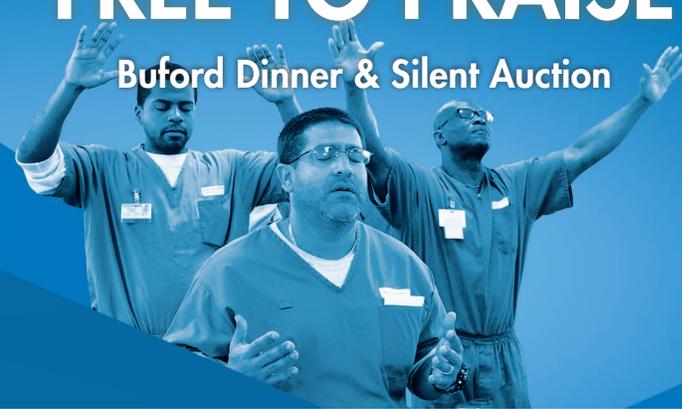
6:30 PM – Dinner

Buford Community Center

2200 Buford Hwy,

Buford, GA 30518

Reserve your table today at cli.world/sponsorships



In recognition of our compliance with Standards of Responsible Stewardship, CLI has been accredited by the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability.

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