



# Prison Alliance

Fall 2021 Newsletter

## Longtime CLI Supporter, Cathy Phillips, Named New CEO

*“As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.”* Ephesians 4:1-6 (NIV)

CLI Prison Alliance, a nationally recognized ministry to inmates and chaplains, announced on July 30, 2021, the appointment of Cathy Phillips as its new chief executive officer. The successful entrepreneur and dedicated supporter of CLI, who has recently served on the board of directors, started in her new role on August 2.

“Cathy’s experience and tenacity make her uniquely qualified to lead and grow this God-honoring ministry. We are fortunate to have Cathy answer God’s call to serve as CEO,” said Alan North, Chairman of the Board. “We expect to see CLI’s global impact reach new heights under her leadership.”

Phillips has supported CLI Prison Alliance for ten years in various capacities including helping with events, fundraising, staff development, and by serving on the board of directors.

“I am excited to build on the momentum CLI Prison Alliance has generated over the last 25 years,” Phillips said. “I will explore every new opportunity for growth as we seek God’s heart for the ministry. CLI will continue to partner with God to bring the love and hope of Jesus Christ to inmates around the world.”

Her business acumen has demonstrated a record of success delivering consistent revenue growth, team building, and propelling companies forward with sustainability, scalability and proven models and systems. Cathy founded a profitable communications company and headed a successful real estate franchise.

Phillips is an active member and former Children’s Ministry Director at New Path Church in Raleigh. She has served on various non-profit boards and participated in short-term missions in Mexico, Africa, Nicaragua, etc.

Cathy and her husband, Robin, reside in Raleigh, NC, with their two school-age children. They also have six adult children. She will succeed Dan Doster, who wonderfully served the organization as the interim CEO since April 2021. ■



Cathy Phillips, Chief Executive Officer

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**“If you want to walk in God’s calling for your life, use the gifts, talents, abilities, and passion God has given you however you can, whenever you can, wherever he has placed you.”**

— Cathy Phillips

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# Son of the Savior

By Meredith Pizzurro

*“For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.”* Romans 8:14-17



A good family and a place to call home have always eluded Donnie. He never really knew his biological father. In desperation, his mother had to put him and his sister into foster care when they were very young. At the precious age of 5, Donnie was left trying to comprehend his new circumstances. He and his sister were placed in separate homes and rarely, if ever, saw each other. He was alone in a way that only a child in foster care can understand.

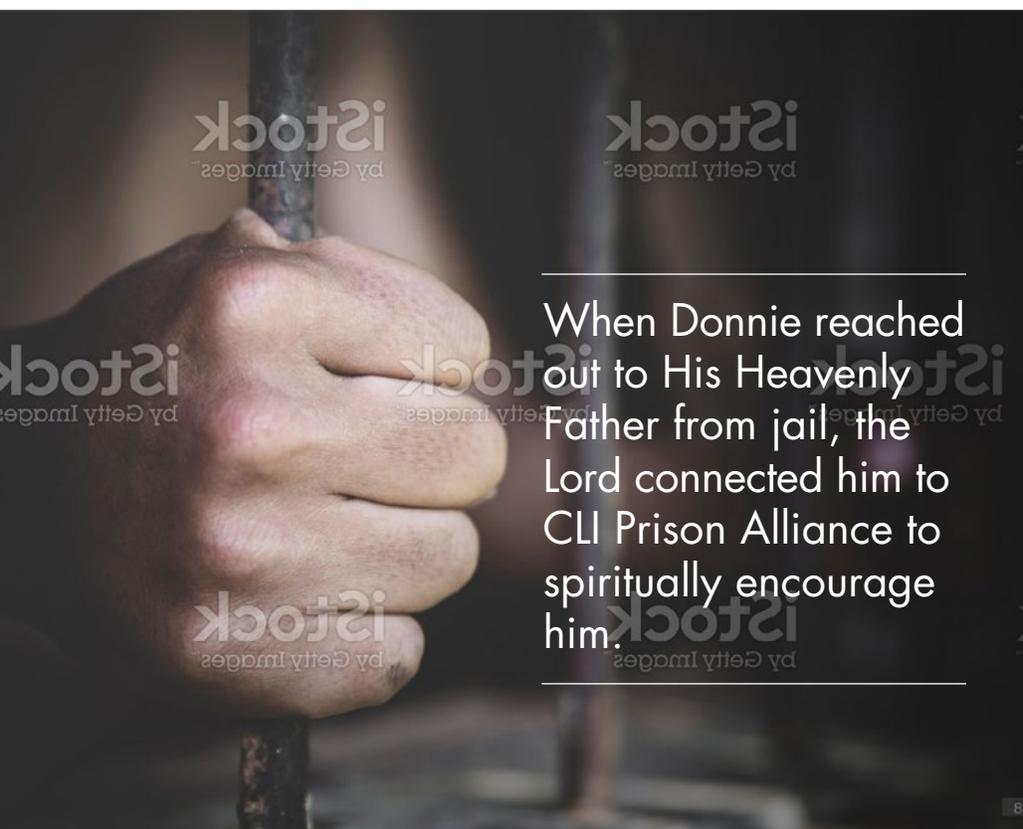
At the age of 7, Donnie was finally adopted into a good family, a family that loved Jesus. It was this family that did for Donnie what he never knew he needed. They helped him to lay a foundation of faith. Every Wednesday night and Sunday morning they took him to church to hear about the love of the Savior. He watched his newfound parents prioritize being in the house of God, fellowshiping with other believers and he took it all in.

During one of those routine Wednesday nights at church, God worked powerfully in Donnie’s heart while he sat in the pew with his parents. He vividly remembers, “Something raised me up to standing” and he went down to the altar to give his life to Jesus and to be baptized. How ecstatic his adoptive parents must have been! They were surely hoping that this young boy would overcome his traumatic past, and grow into a godly young man.

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**“Something raised me up to standing” and he went down to the altar to give his life to Jesus and to be baptized.**

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**When Donnie reached out to His Heavenly Father from jail, the Lord connected him to CLI Prison Alliance to spiritually encourage him.**

Unfortunately, Donnie was besieged by mental illness and learning disabilities that strained his family to a breaking point. It was not long before Donnie was back in the system, and his new found faith began to ebb away. He was like Jonah, lost at sea, with no compass and no real understanding of what he was running from. As an adult, Donnie’s life was marked by going in and out of jail for stealing, until he received a longer sentence that put him behind bars for several years.



# TOGETHER ON MISSION

2021 CLI Prison Alliance Gala

At this point Donnie was forced to wrestle with his “stubborn disobedience,” as he reflected on everything that’s happened since giving his life to Jesus at that altar as a 7 year-old boy. Despite it all, he realized that God never left his side or turned away from him, and that there was still hope for his journey. When Donnie reached out to His Heavenly Father from jail, the Lord connected him to CLI Prison Alliance to spiritually encourage him.

Donnie enrolled in CLI’s Bible Studies and returned to the foundation of faith that had been laid long ago. Here was the prodigal son returning to the grace and promise of the Father. He began to complete lessons in our “Who is God?” and “Christian Leadership” Bible studies and was coming face to face with the truths of the gospel. As he spent time in God’s Word, God began to sow a seed of hope into his future.

Through his work with CLI, Donnie began to realize that, as a believer, he can be an example of Jesus to others. So, he made a decision to be intentional with his thoughts, words and actions. He began to share his testimony with other inmates, in hopes that it would speak to the faithfulness and patience of God.

Today, Donnie has been released and is reconnected with his birth mother and sister. God has begun to restore his family and has given him the opportunity to rebuild his life. Like many other of our inmate students, Donnie has requested to continue the CLI Bible studies from home. He acknowledges the work of transformation isn’t over for him, so he is utilizing all the tools that God has placed in his hands. After all his ups and downs in foster care, Donnie is finally embracing the most important adoption of his life, sonship with his Heavenly Father. ■

*“Then he said to his disciples,  
‘The harvest is plentiful but the  
workers are few. Ask the Lord of  
the harvest, therefore, to send out  
workers into his harvest field.’”*

(Mt 9:37-38)

There is no shortage of potential when it comes to the size of the harvest! Jesus does not ask us to pray for greater ministry potential. The fruit is waiting for us. **The need is laborers, for partners in ministry.**

My name is Cathy Phillips, and I am the new Chief Executive Officer of CLI Prison Alliance.

I feel so privileged to partner with you in our mission to bring Christ to the imprisoned. As amazing as this year has been, we have only scratched the surface of all that is on God’s heart for CLI. Together we can follow the plans he has for this ministry. Just this year, through the ministry of Prison Alliance, over 9,000 men and women have discovered how true it is! Though their life seemed over, hope was made available by introducing them to the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus’s presence knows no boundaries!

You can add to the momentum by gathering with us on Tuesday, October 5th for our annual gala. The theme this year is “Together on Mission,” and we are going to celebrate our many partners whose combined efforts are making a spiritual difference in the lives of inmates. Go to our website [cli.world](http://cli.world) to learn more about this event, which will be a hybrid virtual and in-person event.

**From wherever you are in the country, I hope you will join on October 5 to celebrate the power of Christ to transform lives. ■**

Cathy Phillips, Chief Executive Officer



Cathy Phillips, CEO

**You're invited to our virtual  
gala featuring special guest  
Gloria Umanah!**

October 5th, 2021 | 7:00pm ET  
[cli.world/gala](http://cli.world/gala)



# At a Glance

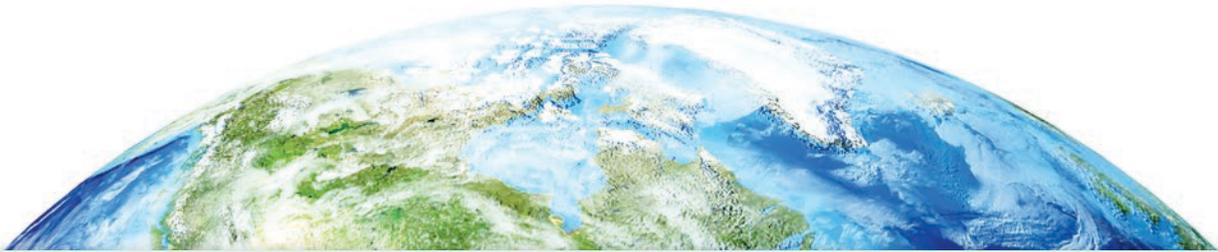
As we approach the end of 2021, we are amazed at what God has done through CLI's global ministry. We are prayerfully considering opportunities to take CLI into more countries in the coming months.

Here are some key highlights from our ministry outside the US so far this year.

 Total Decisions for Christ	<b>6,839</b>
 Total Number of Graduates	<b>422</b>
 Total International Partners	<b>115</b>



258 inmates in the Philippines receive a Bible after completing their first CLI Bible study.



## GET INVOLVED WITH CLI



### Bible Ministers

Together with the Holy Spirit you will help inmates mature in their faith and make disciples. Review Bible study lessons, provide feedback, and encourage inmate students.



### Letter Ministers

We connect believers *inside* with believers *outside*. Our letter ministry ensures inmates are heard, prayed for, and connected to all our resources.



### Volunteer On-site

We have many Christian service opportunities at our headquarters in Raleigh, NC as well as at our Southeastern shipping hub in Buford, GA. You can join us in our offices and begin serving today!



### Volunteering: How to Get Started

To learn more about volunteer opportunities with CLI visit our website at [cli.world](http://cli.world) and click on **GET INVOLVED**.



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

