



THE Shepherd

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

Celebrating Renewal at Harvest Chapel

by Chelsea Charing

Despite its idyllic surroundings, Harvest Chapel has faced some difficult times. Located in Alaska on Point Mackenzie Correctional Farm, the chapel is home to minimum-security prisoners who want to worship or who need answers or comfort from God. Because of its remote location on the outskirts of Wasilla, Alaska, Bibles, resources, and materials can be hard to find.

In 2017, the chapel members began praying for God to give them a renewed purpose. Henry Bauer, a chaplain's assistant, was one of the men determined to use the chapel for God's glory. Bauer entered Alaska's prison system broken and lost after killing a man in 1995. Nearly 16 years after his crime, God softened his hard heart and he accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior.

"I still have a few years to go before God releases me from Point Mackenzie Correctional Farm, but in the meantime, He continues refining me," Bauer said. "He continues to temper my faith and use me for His glory. God has begun a wonderful thing in this once stone-cold heart of mine."

As Henry and other chapel members prayed about their purpose together, they heard the prophetic words "Celebrate Recovery." They also prayed that they would be authorized to hold meetings for Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous without outside volunteers. God answered that prayer quickly by giving them the liberty to have the programs led 100 percent by their peers. But they still

weren't sure exactly what "Celebrate Recovery" meant for them. They continued to rely on God for understanding.

Eventually, they were led to use a Life Recovery Bible for the program, given to them by one of the chaplains. The Bible is based on the 12-step recovery model and points to God as the true source of healing. It seemed like an answer to prayer, but when it was borrowed and never returned, they were once again at a loss. They knew that materials weren't readily accessible in their location and that they might never receive another Life Recovery Bible.

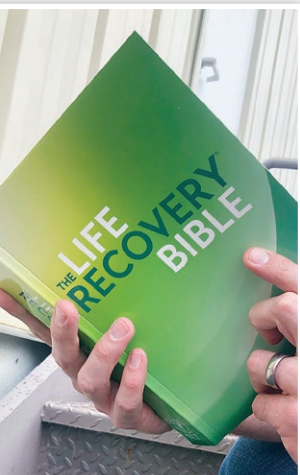
"This is where you come in," Bauer wrote to a Christian Library International volunteer. "Praise the Living Lamb of God! You sent us 12 green Life Recovery Bibles."

With the renewal of the program, Bauer and the chaplains decided to keep the newly provided Bibles in the chapel so that they could use them for a Celebrate Recovery devotional every night. They needed more Bibles to give to men who

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Celebrating Renewal



The Life Recovery Bible

seriously wanted to study the Bible, but they thought that the first delivery of Bibles had already been a large miracle. They didn't think it would be possible to receive more.

"Guess what?" Bauer wrote in his letter. "You already know the rest of the story, because you sent us another 12 and we are now

able to bless men who are relying on God to walk in recovery. We celebrate recovery here at Harvest Chapel, and it is awesome. Thank you, Jesus!"

During the nightly devotionals, one young man confessed Jesus as Lord. Through the prayer and faithfulness of Henry and others at the Harvest Chapel, this little chapel at a small correctional farm in Alaska has been renewed. We hope this is only the beginning for the Celebrate Recovery program at Point Mackenzie Correctional Farm. **Please pray with us that our resources will continue to reach remote corners as they answer prayers and provide a way for God to change lives.**

Words of Light

He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Revelation 21:5 NIV

It's hard to believe, but Christians can take a wrong path and end up in prison. They don't plan it that way; but it happens. Without a commitment to seek God and His will daily, we're all susceptible to wrong turns.

Johnnie writes from a Texas prison, "I never lost faith, just stepped away for a short time." While stepping away, drugs took over as his first love. His connection to Jesus became less and less important.

Love can grow cold. It takes effort to keep those embers of affection burning. In Revelations 2:4, Jesus told the Ephesians, "You have forsaken the love you had at first."

How could that have happened? The Ephesians were working hard, persevering and had not grown weary. But somehow they had lost sight of "Who" they were serving. They lost their enthusiasm and appreciation for Jesus, and what He had done for them.

Love is about relationship. Jesus died to make our relationship with God possible and real. In addition, we're given the Holy Spirit, the Bible and tons of grace to keep our first love first.

Johnnie had plenty of time in prison to think about his walk with Jesus. He has enrolled in our Bible study and writes, "I would like to catch up on what I have missed and thrown away in my pursuit of my drug habit."

How about you and me? How strong is our zeal, enthusiasm and passion for Christ? Here are a few questions we might ask ourselves: Do we get up every morning eager to glorify God through Christ Jesus? Do we love spending time reading the Bible? Or, are we apathetic and bored? Do we complain about circumstances and nurture an ungrateful spirit?

Jesus is the master of making things new. Sometimes it may take a prison sentence to get our attention. Whether imprisoned or not, we need to call on Jesus to refresh our relationship with our first love.

The Holy Spirit gave us new life and delights to renew, and even revive, us. Let's join Johnnie in "catching up" on what we have missed in Jesus. And may we accept the grace God provides with a grateful heart.

Meditate on Jesus and how He will be making all things new when He returns. Ponder how He renews you right now (Isaiah 40:31, 57:15; Romans 12:2-3; Titus 3:5-6).



Kathleen Skaar, Founder

The Best is Yet to Come

"Thank you all for allowing me to participate in this program," writes Shakeil from his cell in a South Carolina prison. "I've been truly blessed through these studies. I have so much knowledge that I didn't have before. I've seen a change in my life for the better."

Shakeil is one of many inmates who have been blessed through your partnership with Christian Library International. Through

our studies, he learned how to become a disciple by following Jesus.

"I'm ready to step back into society and reunite with my family. They are going to love it when they see the man I've become. I'm so excited about what the future holds. I know the best is yet to come!"

Shakeil has also learned that being a disciple means making disciples. In Matthew 28:18-20, Christ commands

his followers to go make disciples. Today, CLI is making disciples of prisoners and reunifying families to bring God glory. Can you make a commitment to making disciples this year?

Inmates like Shakeil rely on monthly gifts to provide the Bibles, Christian literature, and discipleship studies. When you make the decision to give regularly, you are becoming a Disciple Maker. Disciple

Makers meet the lost where they are and provide for their spiritual needs. They share God's mercy and forgiveness with those who need it most.

Will you become a CLI Monthly Disciple Maker by committing to a monthly gift for Christian Library International?

As a CLI Disciple Maker, you are taking an active role in Jesus' commission to spread the gospel with all people. Consider the impact your monthly gift could provide to the lost and hopeless. Your regularly scheduled and recurring gift allows us to budget and steward God's resources more efficiently so that we are making the most impact in the



lives of the lost. A gift of any amount works to share the message of God's mercy, love, and forgiveness. Together, we can continue to shine the light of Christ into the darkest of places.

To learn more about CLI's monthly giving program, email [Jeremy Watson at jwatsoncli@gmail.com](mailto:Jeremy.Watson@cli.org) or call 919-790-6987.

Best Friend

By Tiffany Corbin, Lebanon, KY

I was alone and tired of sinking
Close to dead and terrified
Lost and feeling hopeless
Cold and trapped inside

With no one left to turn to
And nowhere left to go,
I was giving up on life and love
A bitter, broken soul.

But God saved me from destruction
Grabbed my hand and helped me up
Said "Do Not Be Afraid my Child"
And wrapped me in His love.

When I'm down
He is my strength to stand,
He is my comfort when I'm low
In all the darkness He is my light.
He is my heart, He is my hope

He showered me with mercy,
Washed me clean of all my sins,
He's always right beside me,
Yes, the Lord is my Best Friend

Inmate Letters: Praises from Prisons

I came across a book called "Hugs, Daily Inspiration for Women." It has 365 devotions—one per day. This book says it was donated by Christian Library International. I read it every single day. Thank you! I've struggled off and on with my faith. I have accepted Christ in my life, my heart and my soul. Thank you so much! *Matena, Wilsonville, OR*

If I must try, I say my testimony is this, I was blind. I was lost. I didn't care. I wanted to die. He gave me sight. He showed me the way. He allowed me to feel. He gave me new life. Praise God! To Him forever the glory. *Luis, Lewistown, PA*

What you all are doing for people like myself is very, very cool! Thank you! I love the Bible studies. They are really helpful in my walk in Christ. I am very much in love with Jesus and praise Him for everything—every day. *William, Brighton, CO*

I was recently the receiving soul of *The Life Recovery Bible* from your incredibly generous organization. Thank you so much! This Bible is so amazing and such a blessing in my life! I am closer now to the Lord than I ever have been in my life. *The Recovery Bible* is so full of rich and meaningful notes and commentaries. It is such a blessing! I have started a Bible Study with several inmates and it is going well. I want to offer my sincere thanks and appreciation for your gift of this Bible and tell you how it has so positively changed my life. *Spencer, Marietta, GA*



Giving Monthly is an Extraordinary Way to Advance Christ's Light in Prisons!

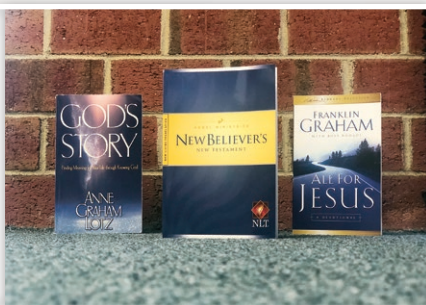
When you give monthly, you are making a promise to reach inmates with the gospel. Not only that, but you are following through by providing the resources needed to disciple them after making a commitment to Christ.

Your recurring gift also enables us to budget effectively and be better stewards of your gift. By helping to provide a regular income, you enable us to use funds where they are needed most and continue providing programs that make a lasting impact. By giving monthly, you are helping to provide prisoners with:

- Bible studies
- Gospel tracts
- Bibles and Christian literature

Help us become better stewards and propel the gospel forward in prisons by becoming a monthly partner today!

[Fill out the form below and check the monthly option to get started.](#)



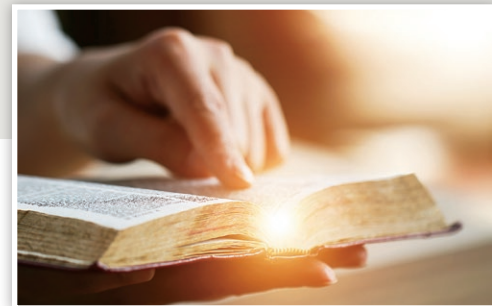
How God Can Use One Book Donate Your Gently Used Bibles and Christian Books

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..



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