

THE Shepherd

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

Miracle in Hudson County

By Teresa Berton

"His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires." 2 Peter 1:3-4

Prison chaplains have extremely challenging jobs. Each day when they come to work, they are meeting face to face with people from many different walks of life. The people they meet are suffering from the pain of their sin, each in different ways. They are working to show those same people the light of Christ and to help them seek healing for their pain. This is no different for Wilfredo Toro. Toro is the chaplain for the Hudson County Correctional Center in Kearny, NJ.

Toro works six days a week caring for the spiritual needs of the residents of HCCC, just a short 30-minute commute from New York City. Over the years, Toro has relied on CLI to provide Bibles, Christian books, and Bible studies for inmates.



Inmates pray at Hudson County Correctional Center

"We here at the chaplain's department want to send the biggest gratitude for the beautiful study Bibles and the study correspondence courses that Christian Library International has sent us for years," Toro writes. "I want to express that each Bible you are sending us can make so much difference to so many of the inmates here."

This fall Toro received a few boxes of Bibles from Christian Library International. After distributing the Bibles to inmates, he began to notice a change.

"The results I was now getting were unbelievable! I waited to see if it was just me that saw the difference. Then I got confirmation from the Christian volunteers. The inmates now had questions and wanted to get more explanation about what they had read. They wanted answers. That's when I handed out the application for the Bible studies in both Spanish and English."

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Chaplain Wilfredo Toro

Wilfredo sent CLI 53 applications from inmates seeking to know more about God, the Bible, and what it means to be a disciple of Christ. Praise God! The CLI Bible study was written to help show inmates who God is, how to be Christian leaders, and how to be good disciples of Christ. Each lesson is reviewed individually

by a CLI Bible Minister who seeks to encourage inmates in their studies.

During their time taking the Bible study, the inmates of Hudson County have been growing in their faith and receiving affirmation from CLI Bible Ministers and from their dedicated Chaplain Toro.

You can join CLI in supporting chaplains like Toro by applying to become a CLI Bible or Letter Minister. Visit us online at www.cli.world/become-a-cli-minister to get started and become part of the ongoing ministry of changing the lives of inmates all across the country!

Words of Light

Are you tired and weary? You're not alone. We all go through times when we need to be refreshed and energized. The reasons for our discouragement may be poles apart, but the solution is the same for all of us.

Lloyd was exhausted and worn out from his alcoholism, drug addiction and habitual sin. He had no hope of recovering. He sat in prison weak and fearful.

We may not like to admit it, but sometimes we feel hopeless too. We Christians don't like to talk about our failures and weaknesses, but that doesn't mean we don't have them. Nevertheless, the root of our fatigue and Lloyd's is the same—lack of faith (Romans 14:23). We aren't trusting God to work out things to our satisfaction.

Following Christ means placing our faith in Him at all times and in all circumstances. However, sometimes praying and trusting doesn't seem quite enough. We think worrying and striving will help our situation. But self-effort reveals we're not trusting God to supply the daily strength and grace we need.

God tells us plainly, "those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint" (Isaiah 40:31). We need to pray and believe that God will provide the zeal and drive for our lives.

There are many Bible passages confirming God's desire to help and strengthen us. Reading and meditating on these verses revives our faith and our souls. The truth of Scripture brings hope and joy to our hearts (Psalm 19:7-8).

Lloyd received a Bible from CLI last year. He writes, "I am encouraged immensely when it comes to my recovery. ...The way you guys centralize Christ as the perpetual solution and foundation that this book is built around has truly given me, an addict, alcoholic, and habitual sinner, the focus that I need."

Christ is the perpetual solution. He says, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9). So we join Lloyd in "fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith" (Hebrews 12:2).

As we seek the Lord in prayer and study for ourselves, let's also lift up the men and women in prison. They not only need to know Jesus, they also need to be built up in their faith. Would you also consider joining our CLI prayer team? You may pray at home or in our offices.

May God refresh and renew you this day. May He give you strength and zeal to accomplish His will in the name of Jesus. Amen.



Kathleen Skaar, Founder

Our New Website Makes It Easier to Transform Inmates' Lives By Chelsea Charping

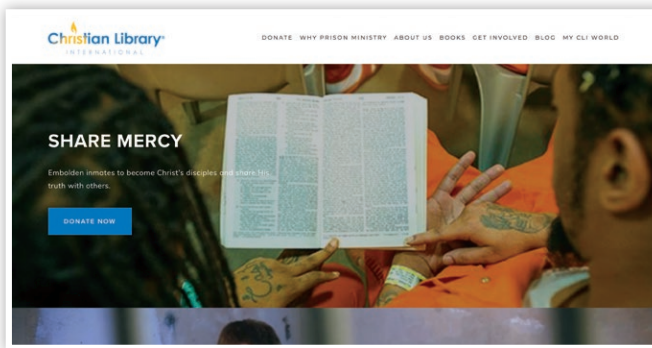
Christian Library International recently launched a new website, and it's now easier than ever to begin making an impact in the lives of inmates. You can make a gift to provide inmates with Bibles and Bible studies on a one-time basis or recurring schedule! Simply choose whether to fill out some information and choose to give via credit card or PayPal. By giving monthly, you help us plan how to use our resources. You can log in to

your account to edit a recurring donation at any time.

If you want to give in a more unique way, consider one of these options:

- **Get your congregation involved**, whether through a monthly gift or volunteer opportunities. You can find information online about how your church can host a book drive or volunteer.
- **Set up legacy giving** through your will or other options; then tell us about it on the website. We offer sample language and information to get you started.
- **Sponsor a table** at a CLI dinner. Every year, we host dinners in Raleigh, Charlotte, and Atlanta. Now you can make your sponsorship donation online and learn more about other CLI events.

- **Give a gift-in-kind donation** of various assets, including stock and real estate. You can find out more information about this option on the website.



CLI launched a new website in 2019

Along with using the new website to make donations, you can also use it to find out how to get involved with volunteering. You can learn about corresponding with and reviewing lessons from current inmates through CLI World. Plus check out our new blog, where we're sharing stories about how God is using CLI to disciple inmates.

You can be a part of getting gospel tracts, Bibles, study lessons, and letters into the hands of inmates around the country.

Through your donation, CLI is able to share the good news of Jesus Christ and continue making disciples in prison.

Finally, I have hope!

By Ryan McCraw, CLI Disciple

My name is Ryan, and I am currently serving a 30-year prison sentence. I'm behind bars for crimes that stem from addiction. I started using when I was 17 and by 20 I was classified as a habitual-felony violent offender. I was never close to God. Recently, I had a spiritual breakthrough because of a Bible I received from your organization. Now I am growing closer to God through Jesus than I ever thought was possible.

I was in the prison chapel to see a movie and I saw a Bible with a green cover that caught my eye. They say, don't judge a book by its cover, but don't we anyway? I saw that the book was a Bible. For some strange reason, all through the movie, all I could think of was that Bible. On my way out I grabbed it and took it with me.

Immediately, I was hooked and that night I stayed up to nearly 3 a.m. reading all the articles and the

Scriptures they referenced. Finally, after years of struggling to find God, finally, I have hope!

I can't begin to tell you how amazing it felt to know that even in prison, I am not alone. Christ has broken my chains of addiction. Knowing God has forgiven my sins, no matter how horrible, is the greatest relief I have found. Now that I have committed my life to Jesus I have things I could never have found in drugs: love, joy, peace, and acceptance.

Most people will never realize the great need in the prison system. The need for people to share the message of God's love and forgiveness with people like me. I am so appreciative of your organization, not just for the effect in my life but in the lives of many. Your ministry is doing amazing things in the prison system. I am a testimony of that. Thank you so much for your compassion toward the incarcerated.

Become a CLI Bible Minister and help inmates like Ryan ignite a passion for Christ. E-mail cliministers@gmail.com for more information.

The Life Recovery Bible



Inmate Letters: Praises from Prisons

"Your service to inmates like myself is such a blessing! Much gratitude and appreciation is rendered at this time. I'm growing in faith as a Christian, and with hopes to return to society, clean and sober. By honest commitment and application of God's word, my life will get better. I look forward to experiences that include being firmly planted in God's will for my life."

John, Henrico, VA

"I can't say thank you enough for this awesome study. Your ministry is wonderful, and I am truly blessed to be enrolled as one of your students. Praise God! Hallelujah! Thank you so much!"

Jeff, Lovelock, NV

"We just received a box of books on behalf of the chaplain and yourselves. Once we opened the package, we knew we had been truly blessed. These books have already been placed in our Faith Center Library. They will be used and greatly appreciated. Many thanks to you for reaching out to us. In doing so, you have touched our lives and our hearts. Thanks for just being you. May God return to you the kindness you have shown us."

Jessie, Baxley, GA

"There has been a transformation taking place in my heart and mind throughout these months. Some days it's really hard to see without being blinded by my past, but I strive daily in God's word and I am finding peace! Thank you very much and God bless!"

Zeke, Baton Rouge, LA

"Thank you so much for everything your ministry does for those of us behind bars. I was lost to gangs and drugs when I was 12, but because of your time and love, I have found my Savior, Jesus Christ!"

Charlie, Aiken, SC



LOVE LIFTED ME

2019 Dinner & Silent Auction

JOIN US FOR AN INSPIRATIONAL EVENING!

Christian Library International is hosting its annual fundraising dinner and silent auction in October. This will be an evening of celebration and rejoicing with worship music and fellowship with CLI Partners. Prepare to have your heart touched by the testimony of a former inmate whose life has been impacted by CLI's ministry.

Tuesday, October 8, 2019

5:45 PM – Silent Auction

6:30 PM – Dinner

Embassy Suites

201 Harrison Oaks Blvd.
Cary, NC 27513

We invite you to sponsor a table for ten guests at one of the following levels.

Platinum Sponsorship: \$7,500
Gold Sponsorship: \$5,000
Silver Sponsorship: \$2,500
Bronze Sponsorship: \$1,000

Sponsor Your Table Today!

Call us at 919-790-6987 to save your seats.

Your Books Are Answers to Prayer

Donate Your Gently Used Bibles and Christian Books

We all have Bibles and Christian books that we take for granted. Some books may not have been opened in decades. Why let these books go to waste when men and women behind bars would love to read the life-giving words inside?

Inmates write to us often about how certain books donated by CLI are answers to prayer. You can help answer more inmate prayers by mailing or donating 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.



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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