

THE Shepherd

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

The Inmate and His Bible

The Inspirational Story of David Cantrell

by Frank Sambrick

For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved, it is the power of God. 1 Corinthians 1:18

What can one Bible do? It can change a life or a whole family. It can awaken an entire nation or just one soul. One Bible—one particular Bible—transformed the life of David Cantrell.

His story, and the story of his Bible, began in a Georgia prison in the autumn of 2005. It was there where David's drug, booze, and sex-fueled life would be altered forever. Shortly after arriving at the prison to serve a three-year sentence for burglary, David would recall the moment in his life that he accepted Jesus into his heart as a young man and how it had changed him until he had fallen away to the temptations of the world. He wanted to rediscover *that* David.

One day he encountered a fellow inmate reading a Christian book and asked where he got it. The inmate told him about a prison ministry called Christian Library International. David wanted a study Bible so that he could immerse himself into God's word. But they were expensive and hard to come by inside prison walls. So he sent a letter off to Christian Library with his request, never really expecting to hear back from them. "When you're in prison, it seems like no one on the outside wants to have anything to do with you," David recalled. "I had written to other organizations and never heard back, so



David Cantrell holding the Bible that transformed his life.

as the weeks went by, I became certain that I would never hear from Christian Library."

Four weeks later a beautiful, leather-bound study Bible arrived at the prison. David was so overwhelmed with his new Bible that he sent another letter off to Christian Library thanking them for the precious gift and vowing that no matter where his new life in Christ would take him, that Bible would never leave his side.

The Bible became David's new companion. Wherever he went, that study Bible went with him. It was with him when he entered Bible college after completing his prison sentence. It was by his side the night he spoke to an inspired crowd at Christian Library's 2009 Author Dinner.

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The Inmate and His Bible



David Cantrell today

It is still with him today as he prepares to pastor his first Christian church and as he sits down to write his first book, the story of his life journey in Christ. "My life is where it is today because of a prison ministry called Christian Library," he said as he held up his beloved study Bible.

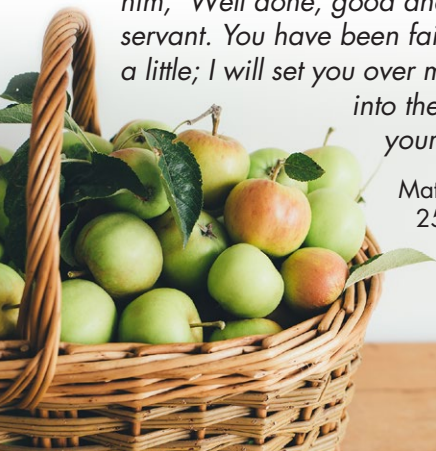
"This Bible is a testament to their love and compassion for

the imprisoned. For me, it's a daily reminder that the Word of God can change everything."

Eternally Multiply Your Talents

"Now after a long time, the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'"

Matthew 25:19-22



Words of Light

... Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples." John 8:31

We serve prisoners. These are the outcasts, the poor, the prostitutes, the rejected, and the despised. Just the kind of people Jesus mingled with and came to save. Jesus said, "I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance" (Luke 5:32).

Jesus was the ultimate transformational leader. This is a term we use today to define a leadership approach that causes change in people and their social systems. In other words, transformational leaders teach and model positive and dramatic change for their students or followers. They, in turn, develop individuals to become genuine and courageous leaders.

The Bible has another name for transformational leadership. It's called discipleship. A disciple learns and obeys the teachings of Christ. Talk about dramatic change in people and their social systems! No one can change us or our social systems more positively and completely than Jesus.

In order to be a disciple, we must follow Jesus and His teachings. Discipleship, like transformational leadership, has another goal. We are to reproduce ourselves. In other words, as disciples we teach and assist others in becoming leaders in our Christian faith.

This is the purpose of our Disciple of Christ Study: Live life as a disciple of Christ and intentionally make disciples for the glory of the triune God.

Patrick writes from a Colorado prison, "I'm learning that I can lead, all I have to do is turn myself over to God and ask for guidance to show me the way." Patrick is right. We can all lead. But we must continually rely on God's Spirit to guide, lead and counsel us in our own makeover so we can help others.

Making disciples has the greatest potential to bring God glory. Prisoners are restored to righteousness and become change agents. In Christ, they have the potential to change individuals, institutions, communities, and our world. We invite you to become part of this significant movement of the Holy Spirit.

Will you become a disciple maker by reviewing inmate Bible studies? For more information, contact Brittany at bthiemancli@gmail.com.

P.S. It's hard to believe, but we've been in our new offices going on three years. Our lease is up for renewal in July 2019. Equally hard to believe is that **we've outgrown our space.**

Please pray with us for God to move an owner's heart to **donate land or building and land to CLI.** We estimate a **20,000 sq. ft. building with warehouse, office space, and loading dock will make the greatest impact on our mission.**



Kathleen Skaar, Founder

As many look back on their lives, they see how they have been blessed by the Father with many talents. These talents are entrusted to us to be used to benefit the kingdom. At Christian Library, we see inmates, volunteers, and partners joining together, using their talents to spread the truth of the Gospel in prisons across the nation. While we may not always see the fruits of our labor, we know that Christ is reaping the harvest.

You can multiply this harvest by committing part of your legacy to CLI through planned giving.

Planned giving is a wonderful way to contribute to growth in the kingdom after you have entered into the joy of our heavenly Master. By choosing to include Christian Library in your plans for your legacy, you are investing your talents in

a fruitful ministry, where your talents will be multiplied. Your gift becomes the books that transform an inmate's life, the Gospel tracts that point them to Christ, and the Bible study lessons in which they come to know the Father.

As you contemplate your plans for your

estate, consider making an investment in the future of prisoners. Consider using your talents to give the hope of salvation to those who need it most. Consider planned giving.

Call us at (919) 790-6987 to plan your gift today.

Seeing the World Through God's Eyes

By David Taylor, CLI Disciple

I know He has answered my prayers, transformed my heart, and saved my soul. I can honestly say that I'm walking "blindfolded." Meaning I'm walking by faith and not sight. I understand that much more clearly now due to God's love and compassion for someone like me who was totally unworthy. But God didn't give up on me.

Once, I was on a path of destruction and doing many evil things. I was being led by ungodliness. I was doing some of everything that God did not approve of. I fell away from God due to my foolishness. I fell short of being worthy by His law. I was leading my family down the wrong path and I lost them. I hit rock bottom at that moment; I felt God had no more use for my soul. When everyone had turned on me and left me for the wolves, when the Devil thought he had me — God intervened.

Through your help and Jesus Christ's blood from Calvary's Cross, I picked myself up. I got my heart back in order. Now I'm

on a path of righteousness and moving forward with my life. I'm not stuck on the past or in the hurtful things that transpired in my life anymore. God has given me a breath of fresh air and my future is looking bright through Jesus Christ. I'm part of something special now and give all thanks and praise to my God.

I'm so thankful for God taking the time to show me who really loves me. I give my all to sharing His Word because He is worthy of praise. His grace and mercy have made my life free from many things that were not fit for my life. I'm a humble servant for God now. My whole life has changed because of a willingness to serve God and to be obedient to His word.

Thank you for the Bible Study and all the comments you make on each answer. I have already learned so much. I can bear witness that there is a God to anyone who doesn't think that He's real. I have so much love for Jesus Christ that I could never see myself turning from His will ever again.

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



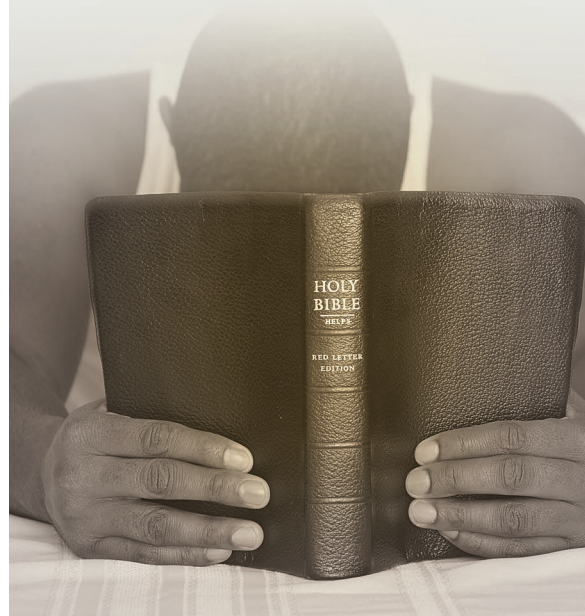
Inmate Letters:

"Let us come before Him with thanksgiving...."

"Without your grace of giving my walk to become closer to my redeemer Jesus Christ would have never been so fruitful. The books that were given free of charge are worth more than their weight in silver and gold. Beyond my request, God has fulfilled my needs, carried me again and again with every word. I love you for your service and I pray you will continue to give." *Eugenia, Idaho Falls, ID*

"Thank you for taking the time to send me these studies and write notes on my answer pages. I truly appreciate your time. I've learned so much over the months and I really enjoyed it. God has blessed me through you. Learning God's Word has made this time in jail less heart-aching. It's been a blessing in more ways than I could have possibly imagined. Before I came here I didn't have a true relationship with Christ. When I leave here in March, I will truly be born again. I thank you all so much. God bless each and every person involved in this ministry." *Leonard, Manassas, VA*

"The Chaplain's office here has no budget. When it comes to literature, we rely on CLI to provide spiritually edifying books and material that we would, without a doubt, be deprived of. Books written by learned believers are necessary in an environment where so many try to twist, misquote, and corrupt God's Word. I am excited and impressed by what CLI is doing. For people to care so much for men that society would soon throw away has inspired me." *Christopher, Harrisburg, LA*



Pray for America's Prisons with Us



Your Books Are Answers to Prayers

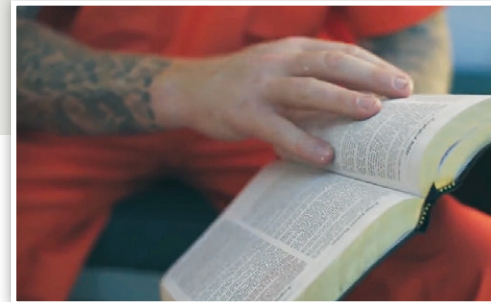
Donate Your Gently Used Bibles and Christian Books

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 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.



CLI's Seventh Annual Prayer at the Prison Gate Saturday, December 1, 10 a.m.

Last year you helped us reach our goal of having teams praying for at least one correctional facility in all 50 states! This year, we have the same goal for prayer teams, but we also plan to have evangelists preaching on the inside while teams are praying on the outside in as many states as possible.

In Raleigh, Bill Corum, a drug dealer turned evangelist whose autobiography has been read by thousands of inmates, will lead a three-day prison revival while teams pray on the outside. You can form a prayer team in any city or join a team already praying in your state. If you lead a prayer team, we will provide you with instructions and a list of suggested Christmas carols and prayer ideas.

E-mail cliministers@gmail.com to let us know if you plan to join us.



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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