

# It's Raining Christian Books

Thanks to a chance meeting and one woman's faith...

As Martha Weaver pulls into her driveway, she spots three large cardboard boxes resting under the carport. She exits her car, smiles to herself and praises God as she walks by without even bothering to open them. She already knows what's inside. Boxes have been showing up there for months now.



From left: Martha and Maurice Weaver and Richard and Vicki Powell delivering books to CLI.

Martha's amazing story began a little more than a year ago, in May of 2016. She was attending a ladies luncheon at Bentwinds Country Club in Fuquay-Varina,

North Carolina. The speaker that day was a representative from Christian Library International. "I had been a Christian for many years and heavily involved in missions and church activities," Martha recalled, "but had never heard of CLI. I was very interested."

The speaker gave everyone a "light bulb" with an inmate's first name and location to pray for. The "light bulb" still sits on Martha's kitchen table as a daily reminder to pray for this man she has never met. She hopes to meet him one day in heaven.

By the end of the luncheon, Martha felt led to learn more about CLI's mission. She asked for the speaker's email address and began an immediate correspondence with her in order to find out what kinds of Christian books inmates were interested in. "My women's circle at church is a book club," she explained, "so I'm very interested in books."

Martha introduced CLI to her book club the following month, telling them, "You need to clean out your book shelves for the imprisoned!" Martha's first book drive, consisting of 20 ladies of the Esther Circle book club, netted several hundred books. And it hasn't stopped since.

From there, Martha organized a book drive at her church. "My first question to the congregation," she said, "was, 'Do you all need to clean out your bookshelves?' A collective groan rose up from the pews. Turns out, the entire congregation was teeming with books. Martha set up a table in the fellowship hall, and waited...

Books began to pour in – by the thousands.

Martha remembers how "God had lit a fire within me to further His kingdom by gathering these books for his lost lambs." She told everyone who would listen – friends, relatives, even a former employer. One friend started a book drive at her church. And the former employer, Trans World Radio, donated thousands of used books.

"We took our first carload of books to CLI in August 2016, but I am confident there are more books to come," she said. "This has been a wonderful and blessed journey. I am amazed that God allowed me, and used me, to participate in His

kingdom in this way. Remember that a 'dormant' book on your bookshelf is an ALIVE book in a prison library."

As of this writing, the total number of books collected under Martha's faithful watch is 10,382, not counting the 85 books in her trunk waiting to be delivered, or the next two or three boxes that are sure to show up at her carport.

**To donate Bibles or Christian books, or to start a book drive, contact Cody Strahm at [cstrahmcli@gmail.com](mailto:cstrahmcli@gmail.com).**

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