



THE Shepherd

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

Sharing God's Love in Jail

by Chelsea Charming

Although Paul would likely have preferred freedom to his jail cell, God used Paul's time in prison to spread His Word. Paul wrote four epistles while imprisoned and used his unique perspective to witness in ways he could not have if he had been free. In a similar way, God has used Cindy, an inmate at the Shasta County Jail in Redding, California, to witness to her fellow inmates.

In February 2017, Cindy enrolled in the Christian Library International Bible study program. She is currently working through the Christian Leadership study. Lesson Eight gives students assignments that encourage them to positively influence the attitudes and actions of others for Jesus Christ.

For a week, Cindy kept notes on how she was influencing her fellow inmates. She witnessed to and prayed with many women, including those who did not like her, those with different belief systems and those who were angry and violent—toward others and themselves.

On her first day, Cindy prayed with another inmate who felt animosity toward her. The women cried together, and Cindy explained that God is able to carry the woman's burdens.

On the second day, Cindy sat down with a woman who worshipped Satan to discuss their differences. Cindy listened as the woman explained how bad life circumstances had led her down a difficult path, and she told Cindy she felt like it was too late for her to change. Cindy prayed that the woman would see God's love in her life and now has a Bible study with the woman each day. She wrote that the woman is less angry now.

On her third day, Cindy talked with a woman who had been in jail before and was always angry.

"I sat with her and talked with her about how we've all been there but there's a light at the end of this tunnel," Cindy wrote. "God loves her, and it's because of that she's here right now. I told her that even through this rough time, I love her because Jesus loves her and I'll be there for her always if I'm able."

On the fourth day, a woman approached Cindy and asked her how God could love her after everything she's done.

"I told her no matter the 'size' of your sin, God loves us and I love her," Cindy wrote. "We prayed, and she left with less burdens than [when] she came in."

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*CLI Disciple Cindy,
before her incarceration.*



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On the fifth day, Cindy wrote that she needed God to influence her. She snapped at a woman she was angry with. But as she read the Bible verses for the day, she realized that if God is willing to forgive us, she must forgive the woman she was upset with.

On the sixth day, Cindy comforted a woman going through postpartum depression. She was upset that she was unable to be with her first baby, suicidal and hating God. Cindy prayed for the woman and asked God to help her share His love with the woman.

On the last day of the week, Cindy gathered a group of inmates together to pray for their loved ones and themselves. Cindy ended the prayer by asking God to help them love one another. She felt God answer her prayer when tension and anger left the room.

"Without loving myself, I can't spread God's love," Cindy wrote in reflecting on her week. "I'm empty without love, and when I realized this, I prayed for help... now I want to spread it to others."

Please pray for encouragement for Cindy and that she will continue to be a light for others in Shasta County Jail.

Spread the Gospel through Legacy Giving

At Christian Library International, we are advancing Christ's light into one of the darkest places imaginable, prisons in the United States and around the world. The work will always be there for us to share the gospel with inmates.

As you begin to make your end-of-life

Words of Light

You and I are on mission. Indeed, every Christian has a mission. The word mission means an assigned task or calling. A calling is an objective or task that a person carries out with special care and devotion.

Whether God assigns one particular job or gives us a general plan, a mission always involves action. We get up and do what God requires. He sent His Son to die for us, so yes, we owe total dedication and prompt obedience. If we truly believe in Jesus, we will act.

In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. James 2:17

Christian Missions are specific activities undertaken to take the gospel to places where people haven't had the opportunity to hear or read it. Typically missions involve individuals being sent to a foreign country in order to share the story of salvation. It's an organized effort to reach the lost and make disciples.

At CLI we are being used by God to give the good news to prisoners. Last year 1,132 inmates trusted Jesus as their Lord and Savior through our shared ministry. CLI volunteers disciple prison inmates through letters and correspondence Bible studies. Our goal is help inmates put their faith into action for the glory of God.

In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:16

The personal application assignments in the CLI Bible studies train men and women to actively listen to God and apply His word. No one is left out. God gives assignments to everyone: the incarcerated, the sick, healthy, poor, rich, young, old or disabled.

Tomas in Nevada is enrolled in our Leadership study. His personal application in Lesson 6A was "pray for someone to show the love of Christ while meeting a need." In other words, Tomas was to rely on the Holy Spirit to use him in a way that reveals God's love and care for another person. Here is how God used him:

"I got a new cellmate who, like myself, has no one placing money in his store account. I rallied the Christian brothers together to get him hygiene and food supplies for the Glory of God."

The Spirit not only stirred Tomas' heart to help his cellmate but others as well. The same is true at CLI. The Spirit has stirred your heart to join us on mission in the prisons in order to exalt and glorify the name of Jesus. We thank God!

Call to Action: Each day ask God what He would like you to do. Listen carefully as you read your Bible and do it.



Kathleen Skaar, Founder

plans, are you wondering how you can continue being the light of Christ to those in need? Many people long to leave a lasting legacy once they have passed away. Often times, they wonder how others will remember them and what memories others will look back fondly on.

What greater legacy is there than to ensure the gospel is presented to sinners in need of a savior?

One way you can leave a lasting legacy, and continue to share the gospel once you've passed away, is by making a legacy gift to CLI. By making a donation to CLI when planning your estate, you are committing to advance Christ's light in prisons and make an eternal impact on the inmates we serve.

To learn more about legacy giving, call CLI at 919 790-6987.

Former Inmate Leads Current Inmate to Christ

By Chaplain Dale Richmond, Fayette County Jail, Indiana

The local jail ministry here is very dear to me because I was once an inmate at the local jail. I found true freedom while I was in jail. I accepted Jesus as my Savior.

I went into jail with an 18-year drug addiction. I now have 24 years in recovery. It is only by the grace of God that I have not returned to active addiction.

I received a phone call from the jail here in Connersville, Indiana, asking me if I would lead a substance abuse group at the jail. **I started leading the substance abuse group at the jail in the very same room where I was saved.**

God had different plans for the substance abuse group. It was not very long before it changed into a Bible study group. During one of the groups, I was talking about God when a gentleman, Paul, said he was an atheist. I told him he was welcome in the group.

Later the guys in the Bible study group said that Paul wanted to see me. When I asked him why he wanted to see me, he said I was the first Christian that accepted him. I told him that I was going to talk about God. He said that was okay.



Chaplain Dale Richmond

I gave him a Bible donated by CLI and asked him to read the first six chapters of the Gospel of John.

When I saw Paul the following week, he had his Bible with him. He said he loved it and asked about salvation. This gentleman left his cell an atheist and returned back to the cell block a Christian.

Paul is one of the many men here who have accepted Jesus as their Savior.

I am encouraging you to support CLI with Bibles, Christian books, and financial gifts so more men and women behind bars can do the same.

Inmate Letters: If You Hear His Voice...

"I was saved recently and after reading this booklet, my outlook on life and how much more I love Jesus is amazing. I wake up and pray every day, giving thanks to God. If I feel lonely, sad, or like something is wrong, I ask God to help me. I feel so complete now knowing the Lord is with me always. Thank you so much for letting me express my learning with you." *Aaron, Eau Claire, WI*

"I am learning a lot about the Lord and how important He is in my life. I never knew that the Bible was a book about love. I want to change my life forever. With God's help, I can. Thank you very much." *Sean, Odessa, TX*

The CLI Bible Study: Do Not Harden Your Hearts

"Thank you for the lessons. I really do appreciate them. They are just what I needed, time with the Lord. I cannot think of anything better to do with my time." *Michael, Woodland, CA*

"I continue to desire to do the will of God and to love and honor Him with the best of my abilities. I appreciate your help and the kindness you show me in the Lord. Take care and God bless you all!" *David, Okeechobee, FL*



Church Partnerships

How We Can Partner Together to Reach Inmates for Christ

CLI offers churches enriching opportunities to minister to the imprisoned in your own community and beyond.



Book Drives

Many of the Bibles, Christian books, CDs and DVDs that we send to inmates come from book drives conducted by churches. CLI will work with your congregation or church group to help you organize a successful drive. We'll provide planning and scheduling assistance as well as videos about our programs.

Bible Ministry Program

Relying exclusively on Christian volunteers, our Bible Ministry program is a correspondence-based prison outreach that provides in-depth, one-on-one Bible studies between volunteers and inmates.

Opportunities for Church Groups

CLI offers opportunities for church groups of all ages to volunteer at our warehouse facilities in Raleigh, NC and Buford, GA sorting, stamping and shipping books to inmates. We can accommodate groups of up to 10 volunteers.

Financial Support

CLI relies on the generosity of individuals and churches for our financial support. CLI staff will be happy to talk with your church about specific fundraising opportunities.

How to Get Started

To learn more about volunteering and financial partnership opportunities with CLI, please email cliministers@gmail.com, call 919-790-6987 or visit us online at www.cli.world.

Fill Your Easter Baskets with Christian Literature

Donate Your Gently Used Bibles and Christian Books

Easter is a time we reflect on Christ's sacrifice on the cross for all of us, including those behind bars. His victory over sin and death means that inmates can walk with their heads held high as forgiven sons and daughters of the King.

Proclaim the good news of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection to the imprisoned this Easter season by gathering your Christian books and mailing or delivering them to the address below. We will send them to the 1,600 prisons we serve.

Mail or deliver your donations 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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