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The James Keller Award by The Christophers

The Christophers

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Prison outreach program - our outreach to those on the front lines of Prison ministry remains a vital part of the effort to bring hope and Healing to people on the margins of society. Working mainly through Prison chaplains, we provide an ever-growing library of reading Material thanks to the support of christopher friends. This includes Our "three minutes a day" book series, christopher news notes, and a Calendar designed especially for those in jails and prisons. Countless Chaplains, as well as prisoners themselves, frequently contact our Office to express thanks for the many donated items we make available To them. For instance, deacon peter andre, director of prison ministry For the diocese of saint petersburg, florida, said, "the generosity of The christophers is simply amazing and deeply, deeply appreciated by us And the inmates/shelter clients in our spiritual care." we hope for our Christopher materials to bring the light of god's love to those of his Children who could use a positive message in their lives.

PRISON MINISTRY

The Christophers are proud to have honored Father David T. Link with our 2014 Father James Keller Award. His life as a husband, father, and esteemed Dean of the Notre Dame Law School and then later as a widower and priest devoted to prison ministry is an inspiration to us all. In his remarks upon receiving the award, Father Link noted that the common thread among those who commit crimes and wind up in prison is that they have lost touch with their God given purpose in life. Father Link said:

"Unfortunately, I've found this failure to discover life's purpose exists outside the razor wire. It exists throughout society, and organizations like The Christophers make it meaningful to find that life's purpose. The Christophers do some wonderful work in sending things into our prisons, and they make people realize inside the razor wire that there's people outside that care about them."

How blessed we are to have prison ministers like Father Link who inspire us to continue all we do. We regularly hear from people like Father Link about the impact our materials have on their ministries, and we'd like to share a few quotes from these communications so our dedicated supporters know of the gratitude that has been expressed for the work we do together.

Sister Mary Ann Collins, O.P., who ministers to the women of the Bedford Hills Correctional facility, recently wrote:

"I would like to take the time to thank you for your generosity and your support of our ministry. Your gift of the beautiful Christophers calendars was very well received. Many of the women were actually looking to us for calendars with a combination of scenery and scriptures and lo and behold your calendars arrived! In addition, we have put your "Three Minutes a Day" booklets to good use and even the volunteers who frequent the facility have expressed their interest in the booklets. Thanks again!

As always, we feel very blessed to have loving friends like you and your thoughtfulness and your giving spirit permeates to the women as they realize that others remember them. You and your wonderful organization are an inspiration to us all. In a nutshell, you are making a big difference in the lives of those less fortunate. Please know that we continue to remember all of you in prayer. May God bless you all!"

During the recent Christmas season, we sent Deacon Peter Andre, a prison minister from the Diocese of Saint Petersburg, Florida, our latest Three Minutes a Day books as well as prayer cards in both English and Spanish, and he wrote back, saying:

"We simply could not have done it without the help of The Christophers! How can we ever adequately say thank you? May God continue to bless you, your staff, your benefactors, with a showering of His blessings, and constant affirmations of his abiding love."

And when we heard that Sister Rosemary Dowd, RSG, who is in her 80s and now retired after decades of work in prison ministry, has returned to ministry as a volunteer, we sent her some of our materials, and she wrote back, saying:

What a lovely surprise to hear from you and to receive this much appreciated gift of vol. 50 of Three Minutes a Day. The men in

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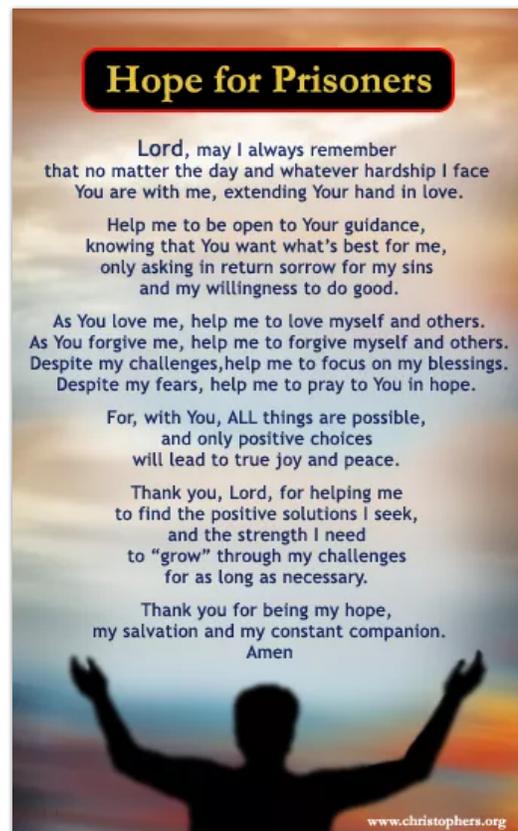
I still miss my men in Cook County Jail very much. I do send one there some reading material, as well as sending some to a man who had helped me so much, a great reader, who was sentenced and is now in Illinois State Penitentiary in Menard Illinois. He is the one to whom I am sending the book you sent. He always shares with others.

To my great joy I expect to be back in jail soon, but in San Mateo City Jail. A St. Vincent de Paul group visits there regularly and have weekly Communion services. I expect to have permission to join them soon, and then I'll see what I'm allowed to bring in.

I hope all is well with you and the other Christophers. I hope I can be in touch again soon.

What an inspiration Sister Rosemary, Deacon Peter, Sister Mary Ann Collins, and all prison ministers are to us as they exemplify the very essence of what it means to be a Christopher. In his closing remarks at our awards ceremony, Father Link said:

"My job is easily explained. All I do is help prisoners get out of themselves, help them find life's purpose. I try to help them light one little candle then I turn them over to the Holy Spirit who finishes the job."



than to curse the darkness"

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