

January 26, 2026

Dear friends,

We stand in awe of what God has done! What we thought was going to be a challenging year, culminated in a year of God's abundant blessings! We saw increases pretty much across the board.

The challenges mounted early in 2025. The Wisconsin DOC stepped up their enforcement of their new books only policy. We learned that this was due to a different nonprofit allegedly shipping books containing contraband. We were collateral damage and we hope this is only temporary. However, we were able to increase our purchase of new books, allowing us to continue to serve the state.

In Illinois, more prisons started restricting hardback books. Roughly 31% of books cataloged in 2025 were hardbacks, and we do not have a good softback alternative to the primary Study Bible we offer. This policy significantly restricted the books available to IL inmates. Praise God, some prisons just recently lifted this restriction. In addition, IL prisons transitioned to digital mail. There was some initial concern about the impact this would have on the ministry. However, so far the only impact has been some delays in delivering mail.

Of the inmates served in 2024, 79% were from IL and WI DOCs. Despite the challenges above, we saw increases across the board. The number of inmates on our distribution list is now over 950, up from 775. We served more institutions (65) and more states (19) although nine states had less than five inmates. Still, there was a real shift as evidenced by IL and WI now making up 64% of those we served, down from 79%. We shipped 4,777 books, a 21% increase over 2024.

We continue to be blessed with an abundance of excellent books from great Christian authors; so much so that we invested in a couple new bookshelves in 2025. I cannot begin to describe what an incredible resource these books are for the inmates we serve. I assure you the inmates are extremely grateful. One of the inmates charged me with this task, "Please let your donors know that even though they may not visit prisons physically, that their donations do so by the printed page, and for that we are forever grateful!". I encourage you to review the inmate responses on our website; you will be blessed. Some other book related items you will find there include a list of study Bibles given and a list of books we purchased in 2025.

Financially, the organization ended 2025 with a surplus of \$1,406. Monetary donations totaled \$22,916. Postage expenses of \$9,896 and book purchases of \$6,024 made up 71.7% of expenses paid. Some other expenses include office supplies, insurance, and equipment maintenance. You can find a complete breakdown of expenditures on our website. As you know, we are a completely volunteer-run organization. All donations go directly to ministry operations.

As usual, I want to conclude our annual review with feedback from those we serve. This year I have chosen to include here a single note from an inmate expressing his gratitude and describing the impact the resources we provide have had on his life. Please find his response on the back page. I know you will be blessed.

Your donations of books and funds are making a huge impact, an **eternal impact**, on the lives of those we serve. Thank you so much for your generous support!

Measures	2025
Locations Served	65
Prisoners Served	734
Orders Processed	1491
Books Shipped	
New Testaments	65
Study Bibles	168
Other Bibles	346
Other Books	4198

Dear Free Prison Ministry,

6-2-25

I'm writing to say thank you for the great work you are doing for the Lord.

Your shipments of books have never failed to leave an impact on my heart and soul.

I struggle with losing my focus in God, whether it's the hardships of prison life or Satan inflaming my internal imbalances,

but whatever the reason I gradually stop reading my Bible, doing Bible studies, praying and talking to God, and start turning more and more to my desires and sins of this world. I read voraciously and normally

have one or two of the books I've ordered from you in my property box. Again, it never fails when I pick up one of those books,

my outlook starts changing, to the point that by the end of the book I've broken down and put my focus back into God.

My most recent shipment of books all had the same message/theme. God is in control!

I have a hard time remembering that, and at this time in my life, I needed that message not only expressed, but hammered into my being. I can not express

it enough that your books come at the perfect time that I need them.

Right now there are so many changes being made to how IDOC facilities handle mail/books/magazines that there is no

guarantee that we will be able to continue receiving physical books. I pray that your service will still be able to help myself and other prisoners in Illinois. May God continue to bless your ministry

In God's Love,