



Dear Friends of New Life Prison Ministries

With excitement and anticipation we announce the joining of New Life Prison Ministries and Crossroads Prison Ministries Canada! Earlier this week we signed an agreement to unite as one organization. Please see the announcement below:

*Effective January 1, 2021, New Life Prison Ministries and Crossroads Prison Ministries Canada will combine their resources to become a unified Canadian organization, serving the incarcerated in Canadian prisons, with Canadian mentors and study materials.*

*New Life PM and Burlington-based Crossroads PM have in essence the same mission and vision: to come alongside incarcerated women and men, helping them grow in faith through Bible correspondence courses with personalized replies.*

*As a result of this transfer, volunteers from Crossroads will have the opportunity to serve under the New Life Prison Ministries banner. NLPM operates out of their existing location in Arva, ON, north of London. Due to the proprietary link with the US entity, Crossroads Prison Ministries Canada will lay down its name and close.*

**“Our coming together is a demonstration of the unity in the Body that the Lord Jesus prayed for”, comments Peter Bolton, Chair of New Life.**

***“This is a good news story. This exciting opportunity allows improved stewardship so that 100% of our donor resources will remain in Canada” remarks René Kooistra, chair of Crossroads Canada.***

*As New Life is committed to continuously serving the inmate population effectively, planning is in place to transition interested Crossroads mentors to becoming New Life instructors. Stay tuned for more information regarding this exciting venture.*

You probably have a lot of questions about what this means to you and our students. Please refer to the attached Frequently Asked Questions document, and feel free to call if you have additional questions.

Blessings,

June

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**Crossroads Prison Ministries Canada (CPMC) and New Life Prison Ministries (NLPM) Unite!**

**FAQ's**

**How did the discussion with Crossroads Prison Ministries begin?**

Crossroads Prison Ministries contacted us almost a year ago, and formal planning began in July of this year. CPMC is connected to CPM International in the US, from whom they acquire most of their materials. CPM Canada desired to become a fully Canadian organization, serving incarcerated Canadians in Canadian prisons with Canadian mentors and Canadian study materials. Over the years, many chaplains and others asked why CPMC and NLPM weren't working together more closely.

**How similar are CPMC and NLPM's ministries?**

The ministries are quite similar. We both provide Bible correspondence courses to Canadian inmates through chaplains and the mail. We both have lessons designed for different comprehension levels. New Life has the ARC and our introductory series for those who are challenged to read or read English. Crossroads has the Manga Messiah series for this same demographic. We both have a second tier (Crossroads) and regular curriculum (NLPM) and advanced curriculum. We provide studies in most of the same institutions. We both have volunteers who correspond with inmates through the courses. We both provide certificates and award books to our students.

**Where do CPMC and NLPM differ in approach and curriculum?**

A major difference is in marking style. CPMC mentors mark the booklets that are returned and send an encouraging letter. NLPM exams have both multiple-choice and What do You Say? questions, so our students receive a grade out of 100 and response to their narrative questions, along with a letter.

Another difference is that NLPM has a virtual system which allows us to review all responses before the exams and feedback are returned to students. CPMC sends their studies to mentors who mail them directly to the students.

### **How are you combining the ministries?**

Technically, we are transferring the assets of CPMC into NLPM, but the heart of it is transferring the ministry. CPMC is winding down as an organization and charity. Due to the proprietary link with the US entity of Crossroads Prison Ministries International, their curriculum, other than the Manga Messiah book series will not be available to move to NLPM.

CPMC staff will not be joining New Life Prison Ministries. Because we are from cities that are more than an hour apart, taking on staff wasn't feasible. CPMC's President, Martie Van Niekerk, will be available to us on a contract basis to help with the transition.

CPMC mentors will be invited to become NLPM instructors. We have recently hired Holly Jaremko whose full-time role is to onboard, train and support instructors. We anticipate that our number of instructors will increase significantly and will come from many places in Canada. We have a plan to integrate the interested CPMC mentors into our ministry.

Supporters of CPMC will be invited to support the work of New Life Prison Ministries. Those with monthly commitments will be encouraged to switch them to NLPM.

### **How will the transfer affect students?**

Many of our students are taking both Crossroads and NLPM studies, so we don't see a huge increase in the number of students. Where a mentor from CPMC has been working with a student that already has a NLPM instructor, we will determine who is the best one to continue with the student, based on the length and depth of the relationships. We are also exploring the concept of a CPMC mentor and NLPM instructor sharing a student.

Students who are taking CPMC studies will continue to do so until the end of the year. Crossroads will be advising students of the deadline to return studies and will give them the opportunity to continue to complete courses received before the end of the year, but without the option to return them for mentor input.

Existing stock of non-branded Crossroads materials, including the Manga Messiah series of books, will be transferred to NLPM, along with existing award books.

### **When will the transfer take place?**

The completion date is December 31, 2020. After that point, CPMC will no longer be able to receive donations or provide ministry and will wind down the business and charity.