

JUST FOR MENTORS

Tips, inspiration and encouragement as you mentor men and women in prison



AUGUST 2020

Dear Mentor,

In a recent conversation I had with my friend, she lamented the challenges we are facing in our nation and throughout the world. Unresolved racial and civil unrest, a pandemic that has left a deep mark on our society and locusts eating fields of grain in other countries are just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to tragedy in our world. Her reflections made me think about the fact that distressing challenges have been with us since the story of humanity began in the Garden of Eden. I wondered, *What is the role of the Church in all of this?*

My friend had a different question: "Where is God in all of this?"

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden." – Matthew 5:14

Years ago, when I began my journey with Jesus, difficult experiences and the harshness of the world around me made it hard to feel His presence in tangible ways. As I studied and reflected on Scripture, I longed to see Jesus in person. I ached for Him to show up in my loneliness and hurt and bring His Word to life.

As I began to understand that the Church is to be the reflection of Christ's light in this world, I realized that Jesus had been coming to me already. He was near me when groceries showed up in a time of need for my family. He showed Himself in quiet conversations with friends from church or through words of encouragement in a letter.

"Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl . . ." – Matthew 5:15

Other times, members of the Church boldly advocated for me and spoke on my behalf when I was being mistreated and judged because of my criminal record. They were a voice for me when I didn't have a voice of my own.

Through all of this, Jesus became tangible to me . . . through His Church.

Here is something to ponder as you write to your students this month:

Some of our students may not understand that the Church is not a building. Explain to your student that, as followers of Christ, we are the Church. Remind them that one role of a Christian is to reflect Jesus in the best way possible, even in the most difficult of times. How we act and how we serve others is our way of embodying the love of Jesus in the world. It's how we shine His light in the darkness.

"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

(Continued on back page)

Where is God in all of this tragedy in our world?

By the power of the Holy Spirit, He makes Himself known in and through us. Let His light shine through you today!

Serving alongside you,



Douglas Cupery
Church Mobilization Director

Have a question? You can contact the mentor support team at mentor@cpministries.org or 800-668-2450.

NEWS & NOTES

Christmas Card Program: Believe it or not, the Crossroads staff is already planning for Christmas! We are making plans to provide each Crossroads student with a Christmas card. In the past, mentors have purchased, personalized and mailed Christmas cards to the Crossroads office, which we then forwarded to students. In recent years, due to restrictions in numerous facilities, many of these cards have been returned to our office.

This year, as we did last year, we will be creating our own Crossroads Christmas cards that fit within the policies of all facilities to ensure that each student can receive one. Because of this, we ask that you do not send your own cards to Crossroads this year. **How can you help? You can make a donation to help cover the cost of printing and mailing the cards.** Go to cpministries.org/donate to give!

Ignite Unite Volunteer Summit Rescheduled: The Ignite Unite Volunteer Summit, originally scheduled for April 25 of this year, has been **rescheduled for April 24, 2021**, at the Postma Center at Pine Rest in Grand Rapids, Michigan. All volunteers are welcome to attend! Please watch your mailbox for more information.

Upcoming Mentor Zoom Calls: You are welcome to participate in these upcoming mentor gatherings via Zoom! We will send a reminder email shortly before each call.

Tuesday, August 18, at 3:00 p.m. (ET)

Wednesday, August 19, at 8:00 p.m. (ET)

Please use the following URL, meeting ID and password for all Zoom calls.

URL: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84182956475?pwd=QWs1OGlYZTZlejVOSkcyOEc5NW9SUT09>

Meeting ID: 841 8295 6475

Password: 329410

Just for Mentors Back in Your Mailbox! Now that our production team has returned to the office, we can mail physical copies of *Just for Mentors* to you in addition to the monthly emails. You will receive one each month in a separate mailing, not in a lesson packet. You can also access previous issues of the publication on our website: cpministries.org/resources/mentors/just-for-mentors.