

LETTERS FROM LOCKDOWN



CROSSROADS
PRISON MINISTRIES

LETTERS FROM LOCKDOWN

Pull up a chair and sit with us as we read our mail.

We receive dozens of notes and letters from students every week, giving us glimpses into their lives. Some of their stories make us smile and warm our hearts. Others offer a sobering reminder of the darkness of prison life and the brokenness of our world.

As the world has been reeling from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Crossroads team moved their offices to their homes, which was quite a drastic change. But in prisons and jails, the changes were even more dramatic. Visits stopped. Programs stopped. Most prison facilities were placed on lockdown, and some people were locked in a lonely cell for twenty-three hours a day.

Still, students continued to send us letters. Some have shared how this time of isolation has worn on their souls. Some have expressed hope and gratitude. Amid all the uncertainty, many students have expressed deep faith and shown incredible endurance. We've shared these notes with our staff, and we want to share a few with you.

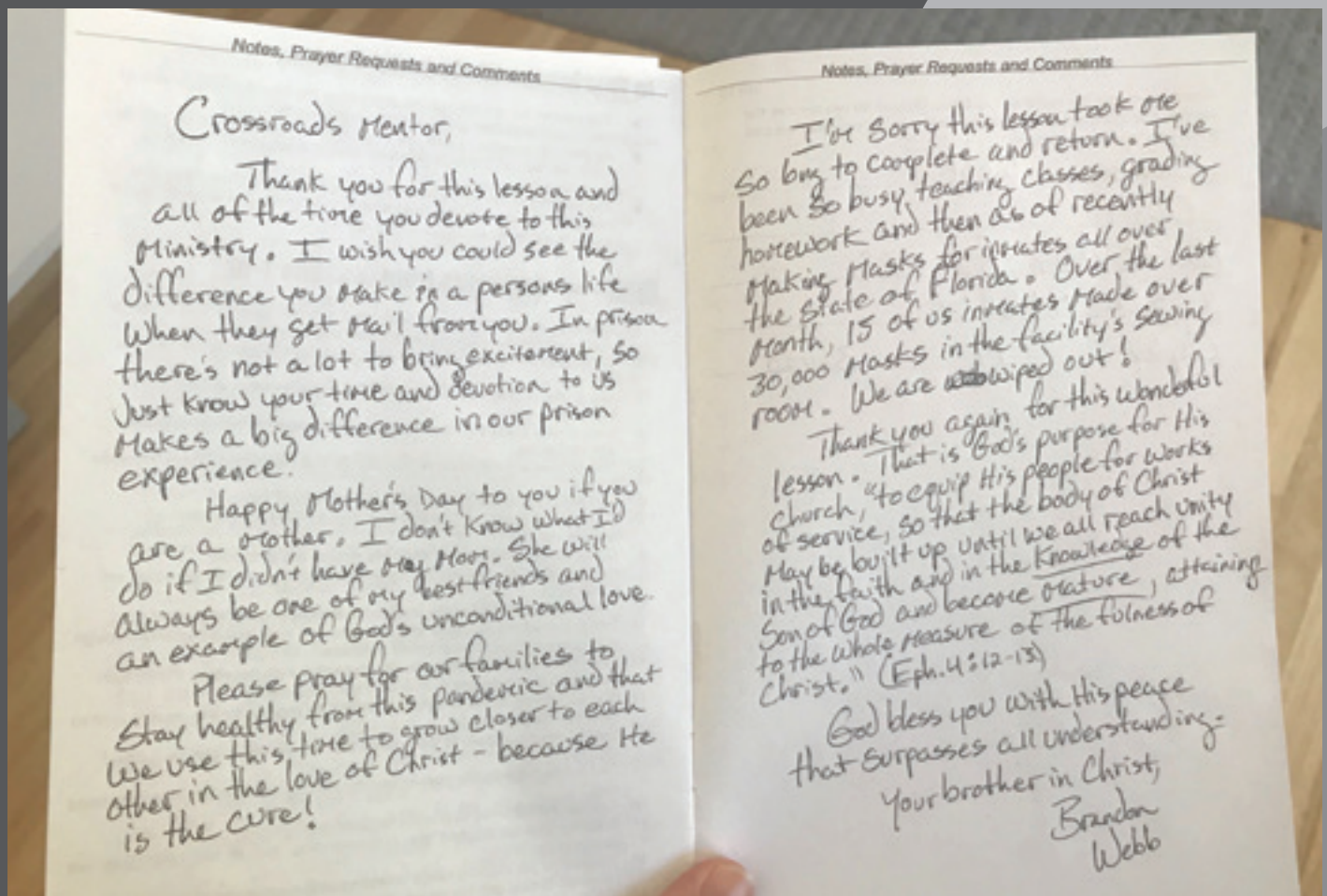
As you read these letters—some encouraging, some heartbreaking—we encourage you to lean into any tension you might feel. Praise God for the way He is moving in prisons all over the world, but don't give up on praying fervently for the people represented by these words. Don't stop praying for an end to mass incarceration in our nation.

Join us . . .

Pray: As you read this publication, take time to pray for the 2.2 million people locked up in the United States.

Become a volunteer mentor: You can share the hope and love of Jesus with people in prison by reviewing their Bible study lessons and sending them letters. To sign up or learn more, visit cpministries.org/mentor.

Donate: You can support the ministry of Crossroads by making a donation at cpministries.org/donate or mailing your gift using the enclosed donation card.



Notes, Prayer Requests and Comments

Before we were locked down due to Corona virus, I was trying to mentor and disciple several new and rededicated believers. Please pray for them.

They're reading their bibles and some are doing crossroads, but it's gotta be hard without a cheerleader on their tier, and no church or Bible study groups.

Please pray for my wife Becky who during this pandemic is an essential worker which, being elderly with compromised health, makes her especially at risk. And please pray for all of the other essential workers who daily put their lives on the line for the rest of us.

Pray for our nation and the world. Pray for God's mercy, love and compassion. His will be done.

Thank you for your prayers.

Notes, Prayer Requests and Comments

I need prayer through this ~~the~~ Crisis
to stay strong in my faith! That my
Family is not stricken with the
virus. That they draw close to our
Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
That they are protected by the
blood of our King. Also the prison
system to release many that
are at high risk, myself as one.
I need prayer that I stay
healthy also and help others
in need. God Bless us all!
Thank you!

I truly thank you all for
taking the time to help and
encourage the ones who feel
forgotten.

Notes, Prayer Requests and Comments

I AM SUPPOSED TO GET OUT APRIL 4, 20 BUT
I HAVE NO PLACE TO GO SO I CANT GET OUT.
I HAVE 2YR PAROLE CONCURRENT 3 1/2 YR PROBATION
DOING IN HOUSE PAROLE SO I AM REALLY BUMPED
OUT DISCOURAGED. I DONT KNOW WHERE
I AM GOING WHAT I AM DOING. I HAVE
4 KIDS I REALLY WANT TO BE A GOOD
DAD TOO, BUT I AM NOT REALLY GONA BE
IN A GOOD POSITION TO. I LOVE AND
MISS THEM I MISS THEIR ATTENTION
I ALSO WANT TO GIVE THEM MINE
AND SEEMS LIKE I AM NOT GONA BE
ABIE TO DO THAT. WHAT EVER HALFWAY
HOUSE I GO TO I WILL HAVE TO PAY
RENT AND WITH THIS CORONAVIRUS DONT
LOOK LIKE BEING ABIE TO GET A JOB
IS GONA HAPPEN SO HOW WILL I BE ABIE
TO PAY RENT AT HALFWAY HOUSE. I WANT
TO DO GOOD CHANGE MY LIFE AND IT
FEELS LIKE I AM NOT GONA EVEN BE
GIVEN THE CHANCE TO DO THAT. I AM
IN 23 HR LOCKDOWN FOR 18 MONTHS I AM SO READY TO
GET OUT OF PRISON GET GOOD JOB BE A DAD,
SON AND HUSBAND AND FEELS LIKE MY ROAD
IS SHUT DOWN BEFORE IT EVEN STARTS.
I DONT KNOW IT SUCKS. PLEASE PRAY
FOR ME
THANK YOU



When I would read or hear this story, I never looked at it as I could go to God and He would be so willing to love me and embrace me back. My real dad in human life was never there for me and if he would promise something or say something, most likely it was a lie. And I always dreamed of Him loving me, forgiving me, and accepting me. Even though He left me when I was a baby. But now I don't need that. I know God in Heaven has found happiness and joy in my dedicating my life to God. And it gives me peace and when I think of God loving me personally, I am excited and feel so protected and most of my worries have now been put away and are gone. I love God with all my heart & He is Gracious.

could eat what the pigs ate. No one gave him anything to eat.

Then he began to think clearly again. He said, "How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough food! But here I am dying from hunger! I will get up and go back to my father. I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven. And I have sinned against you. I am no longer fit to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.'" So he got up and went to his father.

While the son was still a long way off, his father saw him. He was filled with tender love for his son. He ran to him. He threw his arms around him and kissed him.

The son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer fit to be called your son."

But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattest calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. This son of mine was dead. And now he is alive again. He was lost. And now he is found."

NOTE: In Jesus' day, older men did not run. If you were an older guy and you were running, you were at war, crazy or dealing with an emergency. Old guys did not run. Yet the father in the story ran to his son. What do you think about that?

From all of us inmates here in ~~the~~ Texas
~~Prisons~~ Prisons we are aware of the Coronavirus
Pandemic and were all praying for "Every One"
around the world. We also ask ~~the~~ the same from
you all over at the Crossroads Ministries to keep us
into prayer as well. The Coronavirus has not
taken its place here on our unit but over on
some other Texas Prisons. All of our Unit Prison
Ministries have taken "Daylee prayer Call" time outs
to pray for the world as this virus take its place.
And we will continue to ask God to hear our
prayer as we also pray for our family and loved
ones. My God be with you all that are around
the ~~world~~ world and may he keep you all at
peace. Please continue to keep God first
as you do your faith. From Brother
J David Russell

Dear CrossRoads

I really enjoy The Bible Class and lessons. I am learning alot about the Bible and God. I never had a Bible in all 23 years of my life until I came to jail. Its crazy that I got my first ever Bible in jail. That let me know that God do everything for a reason. I Look forward to finishing this course. I also wanted to know if you could write my judge for me.

God is truely amazing and I'm thankful for all that he has shown me and all that He has trusted me with. When I was going to trial I told God that I didn't know if I was ready to go back out into the world at that time because I was so young in my faith. I told Him that I didn't want to be a fake friend to Him. I didn't want to get out and deny Him after recieving my physical freedom. I wanted a real relationship with God like the people in the Bible stories. And Now, I believe that I am truely ready! I have done just about all that anyone can do here. I know now that I will not deny Him no matter what.

Notes, Prayer Requests and Comments

I ask for prayers for all those at crossroads in this dark period of time that we are going through right now. (Covid-19) That God will keep all them and there families safe and that the Lord will always provide ways so they can continue to do the Lord work by allowing crossroads and its members ways to still provide bible studies to those behind bars.

I thank the Lord for touching each and everyone of your hearts for thinking of us behind bars. For me it show great love that someone takes time out to sit down and personally answer all my text. Thank you Lord for all these very special people who I look forward in meeting in Heaven.

My prayer is for our Chaplain here at valley state. His mother past away and we have not been able to talk to him, so I pray for him and his whole family during his loss.

Pray for there be a uprising in the church where everyone will look after those who are suffering and alone, may the church reach out to those who are lonely and lost and let them know there loved and care about.

Pray for the brothers on the yard here that we walk in the light everyday so someone can ask why are you at peace to give all of us which are few the opportunity to share what God has done for us and what He can do for them too. We need a revival on this yard because so many guys have lost hope.

Notes, Prayer Requests and Comments

DEAR MENTOR,

I'D LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SAY THANK YOU FOR TAKING TIME OUT OF YOUR LIFE AND STOP TO REMEMBER ME ONE OF GOD'S FORGOTTEN SON'S. YOU SEE I DON'T RECIEVE ANY MAIL SO I REALLY LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR LETTERS OF ADVICE CORRECTION, PRAYERS, GUIDENCE AND YOUR CONCERN FOR US ALL.

THANK YOU ESPECIALLY DURING THESE DIFFICULT TIMES OF THE CORONA VIRUS. STRESS LEVELS ARE VERY HIGH HERE IN PRISON MEDICAL CARE IS NON-PRESENT. I WAS SICK AND WAS AFFAID TO SAY ANYTHING BY FATH AND PRAYER I'M BETTER BUT IT'S HARD SOMETIMES WITH NO ONE TO TALK TO THANK GOD I HAVE YOU THE MENTORS TO SHARE THINGS WITH ON A HUMAN LEVEL AND THE HOLY SPIRIT ON THE SPIRITUAL LEVEL. THANK YOU AGAIN AND GOD BLESS S. PLEASE KEEP ME AND MY TWO DAUGHTERS IN YOUR PRAYES 8/25/20

Notes, Prayer Requests and Comments

¹ I would like to thank All of Crossroads Staff Members For Doing a Great Job, Helping Inmates And People Learn More about God's word. Thank Yall For the encouraging letters. ~~I~~ I Love every Letter, They Help me alot to continue my walk with God. I save all my letters that ~~I~~ I Get From the Mentors, I will Always Keeps the letters, so that I can Read them over an over again and think about How christian Bro + Sisters are Always there to Give a extra Push with God's word And Love.

Thanks, So Much Crossroads Staff members, For all you Do.
God Bless, From. Desmond Cameron

