

JUST FOR MENTORS

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



MARCH 2021

Dear Mentor,

My uncle called me recently. The call seemed to come out of the blue, as he and I had not connected in some time. It was nice to hear his voice as we caught up with each other. At the end of the conversation, he said he wanted to send me some items he felt I should have.

A few days later, a package arrived at my home. It was filled with pictures of my father's side of the family from when he was a child, the telegraph message informing my family of my father's death while serving in the Marine Corps and related newspaper articles. It was a beautiful package of items, and in many ways, it was priceless to me.

But I believe the most meaningful part of the phone call and the package was the gift of knowing that I was remembered.

Someone was thinking about me. I was not forgotten. This was made clear in a very tangible way.

The phone call and the gift sent me an important message: *"I see you."*

To be seen is a basic human need. It's especially vital for people in prison. As you think about writing your letters this month, consider this:

Days can lead to months and months to years in the journey of a student's incarceration. Over time, communication from the outside may become less and less frequent or stop altogether. Loved ones may move on with their own lives or may even pass away. As this happens, a deep void, an emptiness, can be felt inside the student's heart. Do what you can to fill this void by including this message in your letter:

"I see you, and you are important to me."

Assure them that they have not been forgotten. Even though they may not know you, tell them you are remembering them today.

"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy," Paul wrote to the Philippian church from prison (Philippians 1:3-4).

While incarcerated, Paul remembered the church on the outside, and the church remembered him too. The Philippian church sent Epaphroditus to visit Paul and give him a gift.

Being remembered encouraged Paul. "I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me," he wrote (Philippians 4:10). "I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent" (Philippians 4:18).

What a picture of the great privilege it is to remember Crossroads students and to be remembered by them!

In every letter you write, I encourage you to find a way to say, *"I see you, and you are important to me."*

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

Mentor Community Gatherings

Join us as we gather virtually to discuss ways to better equip and empower one another as we serve our students. This month, Brenda McGowan, vice president of programming at Crossroads, will share her thoughts on how to come alongside women in the Crossroads program. We look forward to seeing you!

Tuesday, March 16, at 8:00 p.m. (EST)

Wednesday, March 17, at 3:00 p.m. (EST)

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

Meeting ID: 841 8295 6475

Passcode: 329410

New Tier 1 Courses Coming Soon

We are excited to roll out two new Tier 1 courses in the coming months. These courses will directly follow the course *Who Are You?* in a student's journey through Tier 1. The first course, *Who Is Jesus?*, will be ready to send to students this spring.

Before the courses are released, we will provide you with materials that will equip you to guide your students through these lessons. We are also developing an outline of the curriculum path your students will travel as these courses are implemented.

Here is an overview of the two new courses:

Who Is Jesus?

For students who are exploring Christianity or just starting to learn about their faith, nothing is more important than knowing Jesus. Over the centuries, most of the false teachings and heresies that have divided the Church relate to the question of who Jesus is. Some cults have taught that Jesus is only a small "g" god, not an equal part of a Trinitarian Godhead. Others have taught that Jesus was not truly human; He only appeared to be a man. *Who Is Jesus?* clarifies these topics for the new believer or seeker. The lessons teach the good news that Jesus was not just a teacher or prophet; He is fully God, fully man and the reigning King over all creation.

What Is the Bible?

One of the distinct honors and challenges of engaging in prison ministry is the opportunity to present the book we love, the Bible, to an audience that may have had little to no previous exposure to God's Word. For a new believer, information about how the Bible was assembled and guidance for navigating what can be an overwhelming collection of books are crucial to their spiritual growth. *What Is the Bible?* provides the foundation they need.