

JUST FOR MENTORS

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



MAY 2021

Dear Mentor,

When my children were about ten and eight years of age, our house was always busy with kids running in and out. I remember making snacks for them and listening with joy at the sounds of laughing and roughhousing. Hendrina and I would spend hours at the ball field or basketball court watching our kids play. We were loving our lives as young parents, and it seemed like it would be that way forever. Change was not at all on our minds.

Eventually, of course, our season of life did change. Our kids grew up and moved out. Our house is a lot quieter these days. Admittedly, I struggle with change. Change can bring uncertainty, anxiety and even trouble.

For Crossroads students who are attempting to establish a sense of rhythm or healthy routines, change can often bring disruption. Suddenly, they may have a new cellmate to contend with, or they may be told to pack up their belongings because they are moving to a new facility. Their spouse may ask for a divorce over the phone, or they may receive a letter saying that a parent is dying. They may become the target of violence and wind up in solitary confinement.

Yes, change is common in prison, and the changes that our students experience can be very upsetting or even traumatic.

As you prepare to write to your students this month, here is something to consider. No matter how much change occurs—no matter how many times the ship of life is tossed and turned by the waves of change—this remains an unshakable truth: “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever” (Hebrews 13:8).

Scripture also assures us that our Father “does not change like shifting shadows” (James 1:17).

One of my other favorite promises is found in Lamentations 3:22–23: “Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.”

Through God’s unchanging grace and faithfulness, we can find the strength and wisdom to navigate the waters of life, no matter how choppy they get.

As I have navigated my life and the many changes that have come along the way, changes have occurred inside me too. Anger has softened into humility. Anxious feelings have turned into positive actions. Change has molded me and given me strength for the troubles that still lie ahead in my future. How has change shaped you? How can you encourage your students who may be in seasons of transition, anxiety or uncertainty?

“The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold” (Psalm 18:2).

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 equip and empower one another to serve our students well. This month, retired state prison chaplain Onesiphorus Burrell will share his perspective on chaplaincy and the prison environment and offer further insight into understanding the men and women we serve. We look forward to seeing you!

Tuesday, May 18, at 8:00 p.m. (EST)

Wednesday, May 19, at 3:00 p.m. (EST)

URL: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84182956475?pwd=QWs1OGIYZTZlejVOSkcyOEc5NW9SUT09>

Meeting ID: 841 8295 6475

Passcode: 329410

Reminder: Tier 1 Letters

When signing a letter to a Tier 1 student, please remember to write “**your mentor for this lesson**” after your name. We have noticed an increase in the number of letters that students have addressed to a previous Tier 1 mentor, expecting to hear back from them.

Reminder: Progress Reports

When submitting your student’s progress report, please be sure to include the **lesson ID number**. This is the six-digit number written by hand on the bottom left corner of the back of the lesson. When you are giving your progress report, we need this lesson ID number, *not* the student’s ID number.

Additional Tier 2 Course in Spanish

We are pleased to share that the course *10 Men You Should Know* has been translated into Spanish and will soon be added to our curriculum offerings. With this addition, we now have thirty Tier 2 lessons available for our Spanish-speaking students.