

JUST FOR MENTORS

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



OCTOBER 2021

Dear Mentor,

This summer, I had the privilege to represent our ministry for a week at Maranatha Bible and Missionary Conference in Muskegon, MI. The days were filled with passionate teachings, rich conversations and opportunities to share stories and information about Crossroads. But what I found most special were the intimate times of prayer.

Each morning, a group climbed the steps to the top of a sand dune overlooking Lake Michigan to pray together. Gazing at the endless blue water, we openly shared struggles and expressions of gratitude, and then we lifted our praise and petitions to God. Amid the peace and joy, there was also pain as many people shared stories of loved ones who do not follow Jesus or who have walked away from their faith.

In 1 Timothy 2, Paul wrote that God “wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.”

My heart breaks knowing the many reasons people do not have Jesus in their lives. Some are too distracted by materialism and worldly things. Others struggle to understand how a good God could allow so much suffering.

We know who is responsible for keeping people from God’s truth and love. Satan is real, and he is cunning. He watches for our weaknesses and distracts us with the things of this world. He lies to us every chance he gets.

Many cultural and spiritual forces are working against us every day. But God is greater. He can move mountains. And we can intercede for others, asking God to make Himself known to them so they may receive the gift of salvation.

Are you mentoring a student who hasn’t fully committed their life to Jesus? Or has a student expressed concern for a family member, friend or cellmate who is far from God?

Below is a prayer excerpted from Mark Bubeck’s book *The Adversary*. If your student has not yet accepted Christ as their Savior, insert their name into the prayer and intercede for them. Or consider sharing this prayer with your student so they can use it to pray for their loved one by name.

Loving heavenly Father,

I bow humbly before You to intercede for _____. I bring him/her before You in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank You that You love _____ with an everlasting love and that Your mercies endure forever. Knowing that You take no joy in the death of the wicked and desire all men and women to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth, I ask that You will convict _____ of sin, righteousness and judgment.

Accepting my position of being “seated with Christ in the heavenlies” and being “mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds,” I bring all the work of Jesus to focus directly against the powers of darkness that blind and bind _____. In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I would take captive all the powers of darkness set to destroy _____.

I plead the blood of Christ over _____’s sinfulness and would ask that the Spirit of the living God would bring him/her to repentance, faith and life in Jesus. In the name of the Lord Jesus, I lay this prayer before You.

Amen.

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Perhaps you have been praying for salvation for a loved one for years. You might also frequently intercede for new students who cross your path through Crossroads. Be encouraged as you continue to pray in faith. Hold on to the promise that the God who moves mountains hears the prayers of your heart.

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

Please join us as we gather virtually to equip and empower one another to serve our students well. Dr. Karen Swanson, director of the Institute for Prison Ministries at the Wheaton College Billy Graham Center and cofounder of the Correctional Ministries and Chaplains Association, will speak on anger management.

Tuesday, October 19, at 8:00 p.m. (EST)

Wednesday, October 20 at 3:00 p.m. (EST)

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

Meeting ID: 841 8295 6475

Passcode: 329410

Call to Prayer: Prison Mail Restrictions

The Federal Bureau of Prisons is piloting a program to replace physical mail sent to people in prison with scanned copies. Florida and Ohio have also introduced similar programs. Restrictive mail practices like these would have a devastating impact on the ministry of Crossroads and would only add to the loneliness and isolation that many people in prison feel.

As a Crossroads mentor, you know that the physicality of mail matters. You know your students hold on to your letters and cherish them, reading them over and over again for encouragement.

For more information about this concerning issue, please read this *Sojourners* magazine article:

[sojo.net/articles/prison-letters-are-essential-our-faith](https://www.sojournersmagazine.com/articles/prison-letters-are-essential-our-faith). Near the end of the article, you will find a link to a petition you can sign. Most importantly, we ask you to pray and raise awareness about what is happening.

Crossroads Shirts

We have received many requests from mentors to make Crossroads shirts available for purchase. We are thrilled to announce that, for a limited time, we will have T-shirts and sweatshirts available to buy online! Starting October 1, visit **[bonfire.com/crossroads-logo-shirt](https://www.bonfire.com/crossroads-logo-shirt)** to get your very own Crossroads shirt and maybe even buy a few Christmas gifts for your family and friends! Shirts will be available to purchase until December 25.