

# JUST FOR MENTORS

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



DECEMBER 2021

Dear Mentor,

When I first saw this painting we received from one of our students (see enclosed print), I was awestruck. I was drawn to the three men looking to the skies in wonder and reverence. On their faces, I saw no distraction or doubt about the journey ahead. Their eyes seemed to have a steady gaze forward in anticipation of something extraordinary.

The story of the Magi came alive to me as I studied the gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. I could almost smell the fragrance wafting from two of the vessels. As I savored the aroma in my imagination, I remembered that our thanksgiving and worship are fragrant to God.

As my eyes shifted to the night sky, I noticed the star formations, which reminded me that the Magi were experts in reading the heavens above. As I drew even closer to the painting, a memory washed over me. I was reminded of the northern lights shimmering and shooting across the sky on cold winter nights while walking the prison yard in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The lights were like singing angels. Though I couldn't audibly hear words, I could see the lights shining and dancing across the heavenly sky in perfect harmony. It was nature's way of praising God and singing over me as I stood looking up from that hollow place. God was reminding me that His beauty and power reign over everything, including a prison on a cold, dark night.

As you prepare to write to your student, read the story of the Magi in Matthew 2. Imagine their hearts beating quickly as they investigated the night sky and stepped out in faith on a dangerous journey to meet the hope of the world, Jesus. Imagine them carrying their costly gifts for months across the desert with tender care and protection.

After reading the story, consider our students. Many of them possess very little, but they give freely of what they do have. Consider our student artists who generously share their work with us. Consider the students who give \$5 here, \$10 there to support the Crossroads program. Consider the students who use their gifts to lead Bible studies in their facilities. This is their gold, frankincense and myrrh, and it is beautiful.

So, this month, will you remind your students that their gifts, prayers and acts of worship are like a sweet-smelling aroma to Jesus? When they "walk in the way of love," their lives are a "fragrant offering" (Ephesians 5:2).

Remembering this truth is especially important during the holidays. Christmastime is incredibly lonely and depressing for people in prison. Encourage your students not to give up as they pray, worship and live by the Spirit.

During this Christmas season, I am also reminded of you, dear mentor. You, too, are like a fragrance wafting from a vessel as you serve your students. Thank you for all you are and all you do.

*"On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh" (Matthew 2:11).*

Serving alongside you,



Douglas Cupery  
Church Mobilization Director

**Have a question?** You can contact the mentor support team at [mentor@cpministries.org](mailto: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, Wendy Hammond, Crossroads' new executive director to the president/CEO, will share an inspirational message. We have also invited our international mentors to join us.

We look forward to seeing you and sharing encouraging words during this Christmas season!

Tuesday, December 14, at 8:00 p.m. (EST)

Wednesday, December 15, at 3:00 p.m. (EST)

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

Meeting ID: 841 8295 6475

Passcode: 329410

## Student Prayer Requests

At Crossroads, we believe in the power of prayer! We know you pray faithfully for your students. Please also remember to acknowledge students' prayer requests by writing a short comment next to them or writing out a specific prayer in your letter. Students deeply appreciate knowing that their mentors are praying for their requests.

## New Training Documents Available

Tier 2 and Tier 3 mentors, we have created a new mentoring guide just for you! It provides helpful tips and advice for one-on-one mentoring relationships. You can view and download it on our website at [cpministries.org/resources/mentors](https://cpministries.org/resources/mentors).

We have also created a volunteer orientation guide for all new volunteers, including mentors. You can view and download it on our website at [cpministries.org/resources/mentors](https://cpministries.org/resources/mentors).

If you would like to receive a printed copy of either document, you may send a request to [mentor@cpministries.org](mailto:mentor@cpministries.org).

## Crossroads Shirts

Crossroads T-shirts and sweatshirts are available to purchase until December 25! Not only do your purchases raise funds for the ministry, but they also serve as a great conversation starter for you to share why you love Crossroads. To see color and style options and place your order, visit [bonfire.com/crossroads-logo-shirt](https://bonfire.com/crossroads-logo-shirt).