

JUST FOR MENTORS

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



APRIL 2022

Dear Mentor,

Years ago, I never imagined becoming involved in the lives of men and women who were returning home from prison. It wasn't a goal or vision I had. In fact, if you had asked me to go back into prisons voluntarily, I would have told you, "No, thank you!" But we never know where God will lead us, and I found myself on an unexpected path that led me toward working in prison ministry—and even setting foot inside prisons again.

Working alongside people who were reentering society, I began to observe a trend. When anyone is released, he or she faces many challenges and obstacles. But I noticed something different about the people who had worked to build their foundation on Jesus prior to their release. Because they understood where their hope, strength and guidance came from, they stayed on a steadier course. It is not that those without this foundation couldn't succeed, but their struggles and choices stood out to me as they leaned on their own understanding—an understanding that appeared shaky, problematic and resistant to coaching (Proverbs 3:5–6).

Consider sharing this parable with your student:

"Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say? As for everyone who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice, I will show you what they are like. They are like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete" (Luke 6:46–49).

The foundation we build supports all aspects of our lives. It impacts the way we make decisions. It affects our relationships and our well-being when life is difficult or feels unfair. It influences our heart posture as we look beyond ourselves toward others in need. And, most importantly, it impacts our salvation.

In architecture, the first stone laid is called the cornerstone. It is the stone that provides guidance for laying all the other stones, and it bears the weight of the entire structure. Our life's foundation needs to be built on a solid cornerstone—the Chief Cornerstone (Psalm 118:22).

Do you remember W.W.J.D. bracelets? The letters stitched on the bracelet reminded the wearer to live their life according to the question, "What would Jesus do?" While the bracelets no longer seem to be very popular, the question is still important to remember. Just as the architectural structure of our own homes needs to be examined and repaired at times, our personal foundation needs to be evaluated as we seek to go through our days standing on firm ground.

(Continued on back page)

*"On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.
All other ground is sinking sand."* (Lyrics by Edward Mote)

Serving alongside you,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Douglas Cupery".

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 receive an inspirational message from Yago Williams, the outreach pastor at ResLife Church in Grandville, Michigan, where he oversees the church's correctional ministry. He is a member of the Conquerors International Strength Team, a group of Christian athletes who go around the world breaking things while preaching the Gospel. He is passionate about sharing the love of God and the hope we have in Christ with men and women who are incarcerated or have recently been released from incarceration.

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

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

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

Meeting ID: 841 8295 6475

Passcode: 329410

Update: Spanish Lesson Backlog

We have received a great response from many of you regarding the backlog of Spanish lessons and the shortage of Spanish-speaking mentors to review them. Thank you! We have had opportunities to talk to pastors and others who were unfamiliar with Crossroads. We hope and pray to overcome this challenge in the coming months. Please continue to pray with us and refer any potential Spanish-speaking mentors to cmcarcelario.org.

Student Prayer Requests

Please remember to acknowledge your students' prayer requests in either the lesson or your letter. There is comfort in knowing others are praying for our specific needs, and we can honor and bless our students by acknowledging that we have seen their requests.

Crossroads Apparel Sale Continues

Did you miss out on ordering a t-shirt or sweatshirt last year? Don't worry! We have relaunched the store, and it will remain open for additional purchases on demand. Approximately 15% of the proceeds come back to Crossroads, and over 400 shirts have been purchased so far! English and Spanish logo shirts are available. Be sure to check out the newest design, which features student art, at bonfire.com/store/crossroads-prison-ministries.