

JUST FOR MENTORS

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



JULY 2022

Dear Mentor,

After my father died, my mother did her best to keep us connected with his family in rural Wisconsin. I have fond memories of our visits to my great-grandmother's home. She always had the ingredients on hand to make homemade donuts. We mixed the dough, shaped it and then fried it in oil in a cast-iron skillet. Once they had browned, we removed the donuts from the pan and shook them in a bag full of cinnamon or powdered sugar.

My great-grandmother lived an honest, simple life, displaying love, kindness and patience through her actions. These characteristics were evident to me as I stood in her kitchen and shook those bags.

"To do what is right and just is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice" (Proverbs 21:3).

In my years of serving inside prisons, I often met men who carried themselves in such a way that others would listen—and they weren't the tough guys or the ones who were pushy and loud. In our cognitive thinking group sessions, they didn't speak out of turn but listened intently, asking questions in a nonthreatening way as they reflected on what had been shared. These men were patient when the person speaking was struggling to understand a topic or fighting a battle with their mental health. They didn't flinch when they heard difficult stories from someone else's past.

I knew the circumstances that had led these men to incarceration, and I also knew that they were not the same people who had first set foot in that prison. They had made incredible changes in their lives. I watched as they honored others, demonstrating love and respect. It was this practice that earned these men trust and the privilege to speak into the lives of others, often leaving a lasting impact.

"Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but whoever takes crooked paths will be found out" (Proverbs 10:9).

Remind your students that living a life of love, kindness and patience may not make them famous or popular, but it can leave a lasting impact on others. Honesty (Luke 16:10), taking responsibility (Proverbs 28:13) and respecting others (Romans 12:10) are all aspects of integrity. When we live with integrity, building trust through the way we treat others, we become men and women of influence. When we speak, others listen and pay attention, giving us the opportunity to point them toward Christ.

"For we are taking pains to do what is right, not only in the eyes of the Lord but also in the eyes of man" (2 Corinthians 8:21).

My great-grandmother's simple, honest life left a legacy that endures in my heart. Encourage your students to think about the legacy they are leaving!

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!

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

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

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

Meeting ID: 841 8295 6475

Passcode: 329410

Important Reminders

Our correspondence ministry will always be the core of what we do. We are committed to this powerful and life-changing way of sharing the hope and love of Christ through biblical study and letters of encouragement.

As you may know, Crossroads has been navigating challenges within correctional mail systems, both domestically and internationally. Correctional leadership is responsible for the safety of their staff and the people who live in their facilities. As they struggle to find solutions to the illicit drugs and other contraband coming in through the mail, some facilities have been reevaluating how mail enters their facilities.

We desire to be part of the solution, and we have been working with correctional leaders on this challenge. We are asking mentors to participate by adhering closely to the mailing guidelines listed on page 23 of the mentor handbook (cpministries.org/resources/mentors), including:

- Please do not send anything to your student other than the reviewed lesson and your letter (written or typed on Crossroads stationery). Tracts, pictures or other materials can cause the lesson to be delayed or rejected. It could also create additional scrutiny toward our ministry within facility mail rooms.
- Please do not send greeting cards to your Tier 1 students.
- If you would like to send a greeting card to your Tier 2 or 3 student between lessons, please check the mentor portal to see if the facility allows cards.
- Please use only blue or black ink when writing your letters and comments in lessons. The use of other colors can be problematic and may result in rejection of the lesson before it reaches your student.

With your help, we can work together to keep the jail and prison doors open for us to share truth, hope and encouragement with the men and women we serve. Thank you!