

JUST FOR MENTORS

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



AUGUST 2022

Dear Mentor,

On Tuesday mornings, before I arrive at the office, the mentor support team here at Crossroads finds a quiet room to pray together. Each week, they faithfully pray for our mentors, each other, and the world around them.

I was standing next to the team's cubicles on a recent Tuesday, contemplating a discussion about prayer I would soon be leading. As I processed my thoughts, Alexis looked at me and said, "We prayed for you today."

"I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers." (Ephesians 1:16)

In his letters, the apostle Paul regularly told the recipients that he was praying for them. He prayed for wisdom and revelation (Ephesians 1:17–19), unity and peace (Romans 15:5–6, 13), and their partnership in the Gospel (Philippians 1:3–6). He also prayed that he would be able to visit them (Romans 1:8–10). By telling them that he was praying for them, he set the tone for the message he wanted to share.

When we tell someone that we have prayed for them, we are letting them know they have been remembered. We show our desire to take a humble yet mighty step to intercede with our Father on their behalf. There is comfort in knowing that we do not have to carry our burdens alone.

"Praise be to the Lord, to God our Savior, who daily bears our burdens. Our God is a God who saves; from the Sovereign LORD comes escape from death." (Psalm 68:19–20)

As we write to our students, we can follow Paul's example by opening our letters with words of prayer to tell students they are remembered and loved. We can share how much we care about them and assure them that they are worthy of being brought before the Lord in prayer. We can also acknowledge our students' prayer requests, offering them comfort and fellowship.

I hadn't asked the team to pray for me; they did so on their own. Maybe one of them noticed that I had been preoccupied or sensed the burdens I was carrying. Maybe they simply included me in their prayers for the leadership of the ministry. When Alexis told me that the team prayed for me, I was left lost for words, and I didn't ask why. Whatever the reason, I am glad they did it and that they told me about it.

"A person finds joy in giving an apt reply—and how good is a timely word!" (Proverbs 15:23)

Alexis's word was very timely and set the tone for the rest of my day. Knowing that the team remembered me as they talked to God, that they had interceded on my behalf, truly blessed me that morning. May our students receive the same blessing from our letters to them.

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

Postage Rate Increase

Please note that, as of July 10, postage rates have increased. The new 2-ounce postage rate, the amount required for a standard lesson packet, is \$0.84. The 3-ounce rate is \$1.08.

Mentor Community Gatherings

Join us as we gather virtually to equip and empower one another to serve our students well!

Tuesday, August 16, at 8:00 p.m. (EST)

Wednesday, August 17, at 3:00 p.m. (EST)

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

Meeting ID: 841 8295 6475

Passcode: 329410

Student Progress Reporting Reminder

As you know, student progress reports help us evaluate our curriculum and ensure that it is helping students grow spiritually. Please remember to refer to your mentor handbook for guidelines on how to evaluate a student's completion, understanding, and application after you have reviewed their lesson. You can find these guidelines on page 19 of the handbook. Please visit cpministries.org/resources/mentors to view the most up-to-date version.

Continued Need for Spanish-Speaking Mentors

One of our priorities continues to be recruiting more Spanish-speaking mentors to address the influx of students whose primary language is Spanish. Many of you have reached out to your networks to help us address this challenge, and we are so grateful! Please continue to pray that progress and connections will be made as we work to overcome the backlog of lessons waiting to be sent to mentors. We understand that it may take time to solve this issue, but we are committed to putting in the effort needed so we can resume enrolling new Spanish-speaking students.

We are thankful for the new relationships that our mentors have been able to facilitate. Through these connections, we have onboarded new mentors, started discussions with ministry leaders we hadn't connected with before, and received invitations to several primarily Spanish-language ministry conferences.