

JUST FOR MENTORS

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



OCTOBER 2022

Dear Mentor,

Here in western Michigan, our roads are in constant need of repair due to frequent freezing and thawing during our long winters. These construction projects often cause Hendrina and me to shift our routes as we travel across town or visit our son and his family. The highway I travel to and from the Crossroads office seems to have a new detour each time I make the drive. I have come to expect stop-and-go traffic instead of sailing along at seventy miles per hour.

The road repairs I encounter on my drive remind me of my life.

"In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus" (Philippians 1:4–6).

As believers, we are molded and shaped each day. While sometimes these incremental changes are only seen in retrospect, other times, the changes are sudden and dramatic. These changes are reflected in the choices we make. As we journey through life, we use the tools and lessons we have learned along the way to come alongside hurting friends or challenge unseen biases when they surface.

I cannot justify the dangers and detriments of our criminal justice system and how we incarcerate people. But I do know that God is molding and shaping our students right where they are. He is doing the work of reconciliation and restoration in the hearts of men and women in prisons across the country and around the world. As they are freed from old patterns of thinking and behavior, they are offered the opportunity to lay a new foundation. The tools they discover as they grow in their faith help them build new paths for their lives—paths that enable them to make it through one more day without anger, prepare them to go home, or equip them to become a leader in their present circumstances.

I have been asked these two questions in many ways along my faith journey: *As you travel through life, what are you looking for? Who do you want to be?*

Ask your students to consider these questions, and then follow up with this third question: *Where do you see God working in your journey?*

On the highway I take to the office, I can see progress taking place. The foundation has been graded, some of the gravel has been laid, and the concrete is being poured. It looks like it may be completed before winter. But I know that this is just the first phase. The other side of the highway is deteriorating and will need the same repairs.

Just like these highways, we are all works in progress, being molded and shaped . . . until the day of Jesus' return.

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, October 18, at 8:00 p.m. (EST)

Wednesday, October 19, at 3:00 p.m. (EST)

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

Meeting ID: 841 8295 6475

Passcode: 329410

Tier 2 Mentors Needed

We have Tier 2 students waiting to be paired with a mentor. If you are interested in becoming a Tier 2 mentor or mentoring an additional Tier 2 student, please contact the mentor support team at mentor@cpministries.org.

Digital Lesson Delivery

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 we look forward, we want to assure you of our commitment to reaching our students through the mail. However, it has become clear that we must also look at the realities of what lies ahead. Some correctional facilities currently do not allow physical mail into their facilities, and others are exploring options to restrict physical mail. We are actively collaborating with experts on a resolution to overcome these challenges through digital lesson delivery and interaction.

Please pray for this endeavor as we move forward. We are committed to reaching incarcerated men and women that we are unable to access with our current process. We are confident we will discover exciting new opportunities to share God's love behind prison walls. We will keep you informed as we continue this journey.

Time Off Reminder

If you need time off from reviewing lessons, please remember to follow the guidelines for placing yourself on hold through the mentor portal. When possible, please select a stop date of **one week before the start of your time off**. For example, if you will be gone October 16–22, please select a stop date of **October 9** and a resume date of October 22. Because of the way we run mail lists and process lessons, this extra week helps ensure that a lesson will not be sent to you during the time you will be gone.