IMPACT REPORT

CROSSROADS
PRISON MINISTRIES

2021-2022



A YEAR OF FAITHFULNESS AND GROWTH

A message from our President



WHAT'S INSIDE:

On the following pages, you will find detailed information about our programs and financial picture.



STUDENT SERVICES



VOLUNTEER SERVICES



Dear friend,

When I became president and CEO of Crossroads Prison Ministries, I quickly saw that the organization had been very well tended by my predecessor, Lisa Blystra. I am deeply indebted to her for her leadership and wisdom. It is my honor to be entrusted with leading this vital ministry to men and women behind bars. It is also a privilege to share our 2021–2022 annual impact report with you.

The past fiscal year was a year of growth. We continued to increase our student enrollments and our mentor pool. We deepened our commitment to serving our Spanish-speaking brothers and sisters by launching a Spanish website and greatly increasing the materials we have available in Spanish. Last, we filled several key leadership positions with staff members who will carry Crossroads into the next chapter of our service.

Thank you for being part of this amazing ministry. Thank you for walking with men and women on journeys of faith in some of the loneliest places on earth. As you read our annual impact report, know that none of these milestones would have been possible without you!

In Christ,



Joseph Ryon

Joe Pryor President & CEO



Christ-centered relationships change everything.

Crossroads connects people in prisons with mentors from churches to develop Christ-centered relationships as they study God's Word together.

United States Program in 2021–22

Prison Is Student's Mission Field



- 29,196 students participated in the Crossroads program.
- We sent 144,406 lessons to students, and students completed 110,997 lessons.
- 14,959 students completed at least one course.



 We sent 11,330 Bibles to people in prison, providing the truth and hope of the Gospel to people who desperately need it.



 1,986 facilities housed at least one Crossroads student

1,161 state prisons520 county jails138 federal correctional facilities167 other facilities



"I've had so many invest in me, I can't help but invest in others.") Discipleship is a lifestyle for me.

After a lifetime of getting into trouble, Davy attended church for the first time while he was awaiting trial. This gave him just enough time to develop a faith practice that sustained him through trial, conviction, and sentencing to twenty-two years in prison.

"God gave me one year to learn what a personal relationship [with Christ] looked like. I got plugged in, got discipled, got baptized, got equipped for this mission trip I have been on since April 2013," he said.

Now that he is living behind bars, Davy said the Lord has placed him in the mission field where he is best suited to serve.

"I don't speak Chinese, so God didn't send me to China, but I do speak knucklehead, so here I am—not looking at this as a prison sentence but a mission trip," Davy said. "I can look back and see how God has been preparing me for this moment my whole life."

Shortly after arriving in prison, Davy was introduced to Crossroads. Through his Crossroads studies, he has been able to keep Christ at the center of his life.

"These courses have meant so much to me," he shared. "The mentors have come alongside me to edify and build me up. Not only has Crossroads helped my knowledge and understanding of the Word of God, but it has helped me have a real, personal relationship with Jesus Christ, so much so that I love introducing others to Jesus."

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International Program in 2021–22



MILESTONES

- Thanks to our partnership with Raise
 Up Global Ministries, Crossroads Nepal
 can now offer a Nepali translation
 of the course Who Are You? to its
 students.
- In June, Crossroads USA leaders met face-to-face with leaders from thirteen countries to learn and grow together at a global leadership conference. The conference had been postponed for two years because of the pandemic.



BY THE NUMBERS

Crossroads works with partners in **23 extension centers** that run programs in **27 countries**. Over the past year, Crossroads' international program has:

Served 6,647 students Delivered 70,733 lessons Equipped 1,806 mentors Provided 1,256 Bibles



Mission Support Volunteers, Mentors, and Ambassadors

A Mentor's Experience

MISSION SUPPORT VOLUNTEERS

When students return completed lessons to our office in Grand Rapids, our in-office volunteers make sure the lessons reach our mentors. This fiscal year, the volunteers who provide this mission-critical service gave **13,703 hours** of their time to processing lessons and preparing them to mail to mentors.

MENTORS

Over the past year, **2,569 mentors** studied God's Word alongside students and encouraged them with personalized letters. We are grateful for their commitment to studying God's Word and modeling Christ-centered relationships with students.

Mentors give approximately one and a half hours for every lesson they receive, serving an estimated **166,496 hours**.

MENTOR YEARS OF SERVICE

52 percent have served for less than five years.

15 percent have served for 5–10 years.

33 percent have served for 10+ years.

AMBASSADORS

Ambassadors are volunteers who share the message of Crossroads in their communities to recruit new mentors and support for the organization. In the last year, **33 ambassadors** worked to spread the word about this ministry throughout the United States.

"I found out that I wasn't prepared for the immediate impact of the very first lesson from a student. Every lesson I have received since has had the same impact. Each student has different struggles, but through the answers they write, I feel God speaking to me, too. . . .

"I forget they are in prison. All I know is they want to know about Jesus, and they took the time to learn by doing a lesson. The barriers fall away, and they are a brother or sister of mine in Jesus, and it is a beautiful relationship to walk with them. Every lesson, I learn from them, and it challenges me. I just hope I am as much a blessing as they are to me. . . .

"I approach each lesson as if it was selected by God to come to me, and I am grateful to do exactly what Jesus called us to do, which is to see them as children of God and to see I am no different. My sin puts me on the same level, and it's God's grace for all that saves us. . . .

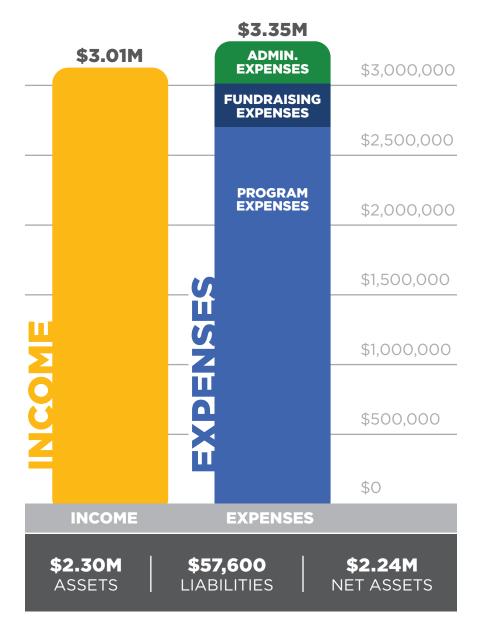
"I am filled with honor that I can do the lessons with them because I am receiving the same blessings."



- Heidi, a Crossroads mentor since March 2022

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2021-22 Financials







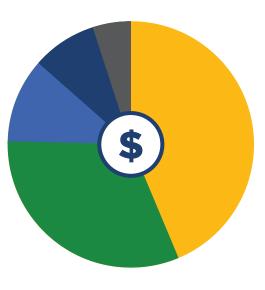




Funding Sources



- Foundations \$1.05M
- Estate gifts \$343,000
- Churches **\$232,000**
- All other sources \$129,100



Volunteer gifts of time



In 2021–2022, volunteers gave 180,199 hours to Crossroads.

The total time given by all volunteers equals the work of **91 full-time employees**.

Get Involved



BECOME A SUPPORTER

Your gifts enable us to print and mail lessons and postage-paid envelopes to our students. Your gifts also help us train and equip our mentors to be the hands and feet of God, delivering love and hope to people in prison through their letters of encouragement.



BECOME A MENTOR

You don't need to be a Bible expert to be a Crossroads mentor. If you have ninety minutes a week and a heart of compassion, you can make a difference in the life of someone in prison.

Mentors do three things:

First, they review students' Bible study lessons and offer encouraging comments.

Next, they write uplifting letters to send with the reviewed lessons.

Last, they promise to pray for their students.



PRAY

Hold our mentors, volunteers, and staff in your prayers as they serve our brothers and sisters who are behind bars. Pray that our mentors can shine the light of God's love into dark, lonely places.

Pray that our students feel supported and loved as they grow in their faith. Pray that the Christ-centered relationships they build with their mentors will lead to transformation in their lives and in prisons and churches throughout the world.



BECOME A VOLUNTEER

Mission support volunteers serve at our headquarters in Grand Rapids, Michigan, doing vital administrative and production work. Thanks to their partnership, we can process hundreds of thousands of pieces of mail each year.



Staff Members



JR DeGrootVice President of
Major Initiatives



Wendy Hammond
Vice President
of Ministry
Partnerships



Hannah Bartz Operations Coordinator



Liz Bentz
Operations
Volunteer
Coordinator



Brian Kamstra
Director
of International
Ministries

Jose GarzaDigital Media

Specialist



Anne Hamming

Director

of Marketing &

Communications

Jen KimballBusiness
Manager



Wynnie<u>lle</u>

Howland

Operations

Assistant

Jerry KingOperations
Coordinator



Alicia Janowski

Ministry Program

Manager

Linda Laird Grants & Foundations Manager



Isaac BowmanGraphic
Designer



John Byrne
Director
of Student
Programming



Amy Cain Copy Editor



Doug Cupery
Director
of Church
Mobilization



Jose Pichardo Bilingual Manager of Mentor Support & Training



Bernice Roshak
Operations
Manager



Alexis Ryan Mentor Program Coordinator



Jane Strong
Executive
Assistant



Ben Dahlvang

Manager

of Student

Programming



Paige Deur Content & Social Media Specialist



Steve Drewry International Manager



Judy Folkersma
Bilingual
Mentor Program
Coordinator



Samantha
VanRavenswaay
Business
Coordinator



Robert Woldhuis
Donor Relations
Manager



Eliezer Yeong Art & Design Manager



Alaina Zwiernikowski Assistant to the Director of Church Mobilization



Crossroads connects people in prisons with mentors from churches to develop Christ-centered relationships as they study God's Word together.

PO Box 900 | Grand Rapids, MI 49509-0900 800.668.2450 | cpministries.org