

# JUST FOR MENTORS

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



APRIL 2023

Dear Mentor,

One evening, as Hendrina and I were talking at home, I noticed she was staring at our ten-year-old dog. Out of the blue, she said, "Dez needs a friend." Because of her persistence and love for dogs, we now have a new puppy. While he is cute and cuddly, there is a big difference between talking about getting a new puppy and actually bringing one home. In the ten years since we brought Dez home, I had forgotten how much time and consistency are needed to train and care for a puppy.

As we begin leash training, it is important for our puppy to learn how to behave. Puppies don't innately know how to walk politely on a leash, so we will need to be consistent in our training so that he can predict our next move. The time we commit to training him will make our walks more enjoyable for everyone involved.

*"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up"*  
(Galatians 6:9).

The way we consistently behave in our day-to-day lives is a good predictor of how we will respond to others in different circumstances. It also shows what is in our hearts. If Hendrina and I are having a disagreement about something, she should be able to predict how I will respond. Are my daily responses to her tense and dismissive, or do I take a calm and engaged approach?

My desire is that, through consistency in my walk with Christ, others will see me as a man of integrity. I want others to feel they can trust and depend on me. So, I strive to be steadfast and honest in my interactions with others, following through on my obligations and promises.

As you prepare to write to your students, consider sharing these thoughts:

We may unconsciously behave one way with a group of people and another way with a different group, so being consistent and predictable takes thought, effort, and practice. We shouldn't strive to please others if it contradicts who we are in Christ (Romans 12:2). Temptations surround us, and we may want to give in to them (Matthew 26:41), but with consistent, conscious effort, walking away can become easier. To be seen as loving, kind, and faithful by those who witness our walk is worth every effort we put into developing these characteristics (Galatians 5:22-23).

Our training with the puppy is already bearing fruit, but we still have a long way to go. I have often seen dogs dragging their owners down the sidewalk; our goal is to have a puppy that can calmly walk with a loose leash. We are committed to paying attention and being consistent, just as I need to do in each area of my life every day.

Serving alongside you,



Douglas Cupery  
Church Mobilization Director

**Have a question?** You can contact the mentor support team at [mentor@cpministries.org](mailto:mentor@cpministries.org) or 800-668-2450.

# NEWS & NOTES

## Quarterly Mentor Community Gathering

We encourage you to attend our quarterly virtual mentor gathering this month. We will be joined by Don and Cathy Allsman of Completion Global, Inc. ([www.completion.global](http://www.completion.global)). Don and Cathy co-authored *Climbing Up*, a book that offers practical instruction for those who desire to be fruitful for the Kingdom upon release from incarceration.

Listen in as they share how your ministry through Crossroads fits within other prison ministry efforts across our country that are contributing to the Great Commission.

Tuesday, April 18th, at 8:00 p.m. (EST)

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

Meeting ID: 841 8295 6475

Passcode: 329410

## Jail Tier Launch

This month, we will begin sending the new jail tier lesson to students in jails and short-term detention facilities. Due to the relatively short stays of many people in jails, only 12 percent of our students who enrolled from jails have been able to complete the entire *Who Are You?* course. To address this problem, we have combined the three lessons from *Who Are You?* into one lesson booklet called *The Three Big Questions*. This lesson will not be reviewed by a mentor. If a student is still incarcerated after completing *The Three Big Questions*, they may start the next Tier 1 course, *Who Is Jesus?*, and begin the mentoring experience.