

JUST FOR MENTORS

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



MAY 2023

Dear Mentor,

I recently received a call from the state prison where I had volunteered with a church prison ministry prior to the pandemic. They were ready to slowly bring volunteers back in! But a lot of work needed to be done before this could happen. Background checks had to be updated, training had to be completed, and new policies and changes within the facility had to be reviewed and communicated. We had to locate, count, and purchase materials. A lot had to be done, and it depended on many people doing their part.

Nearly all the volunteers who participated in the past wanted to return to their former roles to serve at the prison. For many years, each volunteer had fulfilled their obligations and assignments on time, so I knew I could depend on them to help manage the necessary details to make this a successful transition.

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters" (Colossians 3:23).

I decided to ask the Crossroads mentor support team what they thought it meant to be a dependable person. Jose felt that dependability is a trait that develops out of faithfulness. He told me, "God is dependable as He is faithful to His Word. When we strive to be faithful to God and His Word, we become more dependable and trustworthy." Karina shared the words "consistent," "reliable," and "responsible." She added, "You can count on them." Alaina said that just because someone is dependable, that doesn't mean they are perfect. When a dependable person is unable to meet a request or expectation, they respond in a way that shows ownership of the shortcoming, and they seek help or another solution. She deems someone dependable when they follow through with what they agreed to and are consistently trustworthy.

"Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much" (Luke 16:10).

As you write to your students, consider sharing a short reflection on the topic of dependability, emphasizing its importance in our lives. You can share your mentor support team's descriptions of dependability as well as your own. Though we are imperfect people, we serve a perfect and fully dependable God (Mark 13:31). As we do our best each day to reflect this character trait, following through on our promises and obligations, we will help others see that God is dependable.

Because all the prison ministry volunteers chipped in and followed through responsibly and punctually, we were able to return to the prison. Our goal is to be a positive influence and reflection of Christ as we follow the prison's rules and show up when we say we will. Jesus is always faithfully dependable, and we will continue to strive to live as He did.

"But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did" (1 John 2:5-6).

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 Q&A

Join us virtually to ask your ministry-related questions! If you think of a question beforehand, please email it to GatheringsQA@cpministries.org, and we will try to use it as part of the discussion.

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

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

Meeting ID: 841 8295 6475

Passcode: 329410

Additional Stationery

Mentors often ask us if they can write letters longer than one page even though we only provide one sheet of stationery with each lesson. We encourage you to write more than one page if desired, and we know many of you do.

If you need additional stationery, you can print your own by visiting the mentor resources section of our website (cpministries.org/resources/mentors) or visiting this direct link:

<https://cpministries.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Encouragement-Stationery-T1-ENSTT1-1.pdf>

Time Off Requests Reminder

We want to avoid mailing you lessons that would arrive while you are taking time off. This means we need to hold your mail a week before your time off is scheduled.

When requesting time off via the form in your mentor portal, please select the date that is one week **before** the time you need your lessons held. For example, if you will be gone from August 2–August 10, you would select **July 26** as the date to stop sending lessons and August 10 as the date to resume receiving lessons. If it is too late for you to provide one week's notice, please contact the mentor support team directly at mentor@cpministries.org instead of filling out the form.