

JUST FOR MENTORS

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



JULY 2024

Dear Mentor,

Years ago, Hendrina and I, filled with excitement, entered a large auditorium for a worship concert led by Michael W. Smith and MercyMe. You may or may not be familiar with these contemporary worship artists, but both have a beautiful catalog of music to enjoy. At that time, MercyMe had a popular song that was frequently played on the radio called “I Can Only Imagine.”

We savored the moment as the band performed this song. The crowd swayed joyfully, singing along with all their hearts. The song reflects on the wonder of what it will be like when it’s time to stand before Jesus. In part:

*Surrounded by Your glory
What will my heart feel?
Will I dance for You, Jesus
Or in awe of You, be still?
Will I stand in Your presence
Or to my knees will I fall?
Will I sing hallelujah?
Will I be able to speak at all?
I can only imagine, yeah
I can only imagine*

As I imagine with wonder, I remember that our salvation comes with a promise of paradise, only by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8–9), just as Jesus granted it to the undeserving criminal beside Him on the cross (Luke 23:42–43). Until the day we stand before Him, Jesus is with us now, with a purpose for each of us. He works within us, so we need not rely on our own strength or abilities as we fulfill this purpose (2 Corinthians 12:9–10). He gives us the strength to overcome broken relationships as we seek healing. He helps us navigate the challenges of following His will for our lives. He is with us as we strive to replace selfishness with service to others (Philippians 2:3–4).

“For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose,” wrote Paul in Philippians 2:13. His good purpose includes learning to love one another as He loves us (John 13:34). It involves being a positive influence, shining light rather than causing hurt or harm to others (Matthew 5:16). It entails becoming the men and women that God calls us to be (Matthew 16:24–25).

You might cringe if you heard me sing hallelujah today, but I imagine I will sing it with gusto when that day of paradise arrives. As you reflect on the gift of salvation and strive to put your faith into action, encourage your students to do the same. These actions could lead to the opening of a closed heart and rejoicing as another eternity is secured. I can only imagine!!!

Serving alongside you,



Douglas Cupery
Director of Church Engagement

Have a question? You can contact the mentor support team at mentor@cpministries.org or 800-668-2450.

NEWS & NOTES

Quarterly Virtual Mentor Gathering

Please join us for our quarterly virtual mentor gathering!

Members of the Crossroads communications department had the privilege of interviewing Crossroads students in person at three Florida facilities. Eliezer Yeong will present a video highlighting interviews with five students.

Join us to hear directly from Crossroads students about your impact as a Crossroads mentor.

Tuesday, July 16, at 8:00 p.m. (ET)

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

Meeting ID: 841 8295 6475

Passcode: 329410

Increase in Postage Rates

Beginning July 14, 2024, an increase in postage rates will take effect. The new 2-ounce rate will be \$0.97. The new 3-ounce rate will be \$1.25. A standard lesson requires the 2-ounce postage rate. We recommend purchasing 2-ounce stamps from your local post office. A lesson that includes several additional inserts may require the 3-ounce postage rate. **A single "Forever" stamp is not enough postage for any lesson packet.** You can have a lesson packet weighed at your local post office if you are unsure of how much postage to use.

Lessons for Texas State Prisons

Only lessons that will be going to students in Texas **state prisons** should be sent back to the Crossroads office. Federal and county facilities in Texas do not need to follow this process. All lessons that need to be returned to the office will have the Crossroads address preprinted on the envelope. We hope this clarifies any confusion, but please contact us if you have further questions. Thank you for adapting to the recent changes that allow us to continue serving our students in state prisons in Texas.