

# JUST FOR MENTORS

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



OCTOBER 2024

Dear Mentor,

Recently, I had a discussion with a small group of mentors about ways to share Crossroads Prison Ministries within their church. One mentor shared her disappointment, explaining that despite sharing her story of disciplining the incarcerated with many people over the years, no one had taken the next step to volunteer. As the group talked, similar feelings of disappointment were expressed. Despite this, their desire for others to experience the gift of mentoring remained strong.

The heart of Crossroads is to invite the local church, church leaders, business leaders, and community influencers into prison ministry. We believe that the message and resources the church brings to those who are incarcerated are life-changing (Psalm 119:25-32). At the same time, when our lives and resources are invested, it can be life-giving to the local church (Proverbs 19:17).

As we step beyond our busy lives or fears of accepting an invitation to reach the incarcerated, our acts of mercy and discipleship do not go unnoticed (Matthew 25:34). Jesus clearly states something we shouldn't miss in Matthew 25:40: "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, *you did for me.*'" For Jesus, it is personal. This gives us confidence as we consider or continue to invite people into prison ministry.

My invitations have often received more silent responses than enthusiastic "yeses." I have learned that sometimes a "no" really means "not now," and another opportunity to try again may present itself later. When I advocate for the incarcerated, I remember the name of a student or person I have met in prison (Hebrews 13:3). It is the name of a person made in God's image. It is personal.

As you consider writing, remind your student to utilize the enrollment cards provided by Crossroads Prison Ministries. These cards are used by the students to invite others to participate in the ministry. They may receive more silent responses than "yeses," but it is a teaching moment to show that they are sharing God's words of salvation.

Admittedly, I have been discouraged or even frustrated at times by the lack of response to an invitation. I have caught myself almost saying something I should not even have entertained in my thoughts. It helps me to be mindful that Satan does not want the church to fulfill its mandate of making disciples (John 8:44).

As you encourage your students to participate, be encouraged as you consider sharing your story alongside an invitation to participate in prison ministry with those God has put in front of you!

Serving alongside you,



Douglas Cupery  
Director of Church Engagement

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

(Continued on next page)

# NEWS & NOTES

## Quarterly Virtual Mentor Gathering

Please join us for our quarterly virtual gathering! John Byrne, Crossroads' director of student programming, will introduce a new course coming soon titled *What Is a Mentor?* This course will be an addition to our Tier 1 curriculum and will prepare our students to be paired with a one-on-one mentor in our Tier 2 program. John brings over thirty years of experience in prison and jail ministry to his role at Crossroads Prison Ministries. He draws on his background in prison program design and curriculum development as he works to improve the Crossroads student experience.

Come and hear how this new course will benefit both students and mentors as they learn together about a biblical model for being in a mentoring relationship.

Tuesday, October 15, at 3:00 p.m. (ET)

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

Meeting ID: 841 8295 6475

Passcode: 329410

## Sharing Personal Information

Please remember not to include personal information, such as your location/address, last name, family members' names, or photos, when corresponding with Crossroads students. Additionally, avoid sharing details like having lived in the state where your student is incarcerated or other specifics about locations that might connect to your student. While this information is often shared with good intentions to build a connection, it can be seen as a risk for both the facility and the student.

## Looking For Additional Male Mentors!

As you may know, we have shortened the time it takes a Tier 1 student to complete Tier 1 by moving the *Survey of the Bible* course to the Tier 2 program, now renamed *God's Story of Redemption*. This change allows students to be paired with a one-on-one mentor fourteen lessons sooner. During this process, we have found that many male students would benefit from having a male mentor. With 76% of our students being male and only 30% of our mentors being male, we are looking to recruit more Christian men to serve as mentors. If you know someone who might be interested, please share this need and encourage him to learn more about Crossroads. If there are any questions, please contact [mentor@cpministries.org](mailto:mentor@cpministries.org).