

JUST FOR MENTORS

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



JANUARY 2025

Dear Mentor,

Hendrina and I know many of our long-term neighbors and welcome new ones as time inevitably changes our neighborhood. Our next-door neighbors are intentional about their relationships. Though they never had children, it wasn't uncommon to see my daughter and her friends on their front porch as they grew up, sharing popsicles with the wife. The husband and I have had many meaningful conversations over the years, and as time passed, we began discussing finances and how we would spend our time in retirement. However, those conversations are now on hold as we face the heartbreaking news that he has received a serious cancer diagnosis.

He knows that overcoming this illness will require divine healing, and we are praying expectantly for a miracle.

"You are the God who performs miracles; you display your power among the peoples" (Psalm 77:14).

Jesus and the apostles performed many miracles, each demonstrating God's power and love. Jesus cast out unclean spirits, healed the sick (Matthew 8:16), fed the multitudes (Matthew 14:13-21), and raised the dead (Luke 7:11-17), leaving us in wonder and awe at His power.

"Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They were filled with awe and said, 'We have seen remarkable things today'" (Luke 5:26).

Our students may also be looking for a miracle, and some explicitly cry out for healing in their health, relationships, or freedom, seeking hope in their circumstances. None of us are immune from troubled hearts, illness, or the need for comfort, which can sometimes challenge our own hopefulness.

God still performs miracles today, according to His will and purpose. Salvation itself is a miraculous gift, beyond our understanding, powerful, and life-giving. It speaks to and convicts us (John 16:7-8). With the Holy Spirit's help (Romans 8:11) and through faith (Hebrews 11:1), we can believe that God continues to work in our lives (Philippians 2:13). Even faith as small as a mustard seed (Matthew 17:20) opens our eyes to the miracles happening within and around us.

Encourage your student to explore the stories of miracles in Scripture. In Mark 5:24-34, a woman who suffered for years was healed by her faith when she touched Jesus' garment, a testament to His power and mercy (Lamentations 3:22). In Matthew 14:13-21, Jesus fed a large crowd with only a small amount of food, showing that He provided for them just as He does today (Philippians 4:19). Each miracle teaches us about His timing and purpose. Remind your student that God is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8), performing wonders in the lives of His children (1 John 3:1). Trust it!

During a church healing service for our neighbors, we celebrated God's faithfulness and provision, worshiped, laid hands in prayer, and shared a meal together. We prayed for complete healing, whether it happens in this life or when he stands before Jesus (1 Corinthians 15:41-42). His only request is that his circumstances be used for God's glory. Already, he is inspiring me and others with his faith and surrender.

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.

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NEWS & NOTES

Quarterly Mentor Community Gathering

Please join us for our quarterly virtual gathering! Douglas Cupery will share ideas on how to approach your church about partnering with Crossroads. He'll present various ways your church can get involved and discuss the benefits of this partnership from his perspective. Douglas joined Crossroads in 2017. Since his release from prison, he has served as a church pastor and led both prison in-reach and post-incarceration ministries. He also serves on the advisory board of the Correctional Ministries and Chaplains Association at the Billy Graham Center, Wheaton College.

Come learn how your church can support Crossroads' mission of connecting incarcerated people with mentors from churches to develop Christ-centered relationships through Bible study.

Tuesday, January 21, at 3:00 p.m. (ET)

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

Meeting ID: 841 8295 6475

Passcode: 329410

Virtual Coffee with Joe

In addition to this month's Q&A, we invite you to join other mentors and supporters for a virtual coffee hour with Crossroads' president and CEO, Joe Pryor, on Wednesday, January 15, at 2:00 p.m. (ET).

Joe will share highlights from the holiday season, inspiring "wow, God!" moments from the end of the year, and the ministry's plans and goals for the upcoming year.

Visit cpministries.org/events to register and receive your virtual meeting invitation.

Acknowledging Prayer Requests

Please remember to acknowledge any student prayer requests you find in lessons or letters. Many students may have shared their hearts with you, and we want them to know we are standing with them in prayer. Whether alongside the request or in your letter, let the student know you have prayed for them. Even if there's no specific request, adding a brief two- to three-sentence prayer can be a meaningful encouragement. Consider praying for wisdom, protection, perseverance, and their continued desire to grow in God's Word.

Signing Your Letters

In Tier 1, students receive a different mentor for each lesson. Please sign your encouragement letters with "Your mentor for this lesson" to clarify that students cannot write back.

Example:

*Your mentor for this lesson,
Jen*

Happy New Year!

We are so grateful for all our mentors. Whether 2024 was your first year with Crossroads or your thirtieth, thank you for your dedication to this ministry! We couldn't do this work without you. On behalf of the Crossroads staff, we wish you a blessed New Year, and we look forward to a fruitful 2025!