

JUST FOR MENTORS

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



MAY 2025

Dear Mentor,

Our home wasn't extravagant, but it was in great shape when we moved in. Over time, the wear and tear of children, dogs, weather, and aging materials began to show. We did our best to keep up with repairs and improvements over the years. However, one project kept getting postponed—it was too expensive and too big for Hendrina and me to handle alone.

The vinyl siding had faded, cracked, and developed holes. It had become a patchwork of different colors due to pieces being replaced after a roofing project damaged them. The siding had reached the end of its lifespan, and we needed help to restore it. The truth is, when we buy a home, we commit to a lifelong restoration project—one that ultimately transforms the house.

Stepping into a prison, we see people who have broken rules, are being punished, and have been removed from society. It reminds me of what happened to Adam and Eve when they disobeyed God's command—He punished them and removed them from the Garden (Genesis 3:23-24). Yet, despite this, God has continued to love humanity, guiding us back to fully reflecting His image (Genesis 1:27).

"And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit" (2 Corinthians 3:18).

I desire to reflect God's goodness always (Psalm 145:9), yet too often, I miss the mark. I cling to thoughts and behaviors that Scripture warns against. I struggle to forgive. My words and actions can tear down rather than build up. At times, I am intolerant and come across as rude. But becoming more like Jesus requires a lifetime of intentional work and reflection (Romans 8:29).

"But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips" (Colossians 3:8).

You, dear mentor, are looking beyond your students' actions and consequences, showing them Christ's love—just as God has done for us (John 3:16). Through your presence, you remind them, "Jesus loves you, and so do I." The lessons reveal truth, and your words encourage them to keep going, even when they fail or fall short. You remind them that following Jesus is a lifelong restoration project. There will be setbacks, but with each step, there is an opportunity for growth and renewal. It all begins in the heart, and our outward expressions reflect that transformation.

"A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of" (Luke 6:45).

When the hired crew tore off our old siding, they carried it away piece by piece. Slowly, new vinyl siding replaced it, looking fresh and bright. Our house looked better than when we first moved in—fully restored. Yet, inevitably, there will be more home improvement projects in the future. My home, like me, requires ongoing restoration. But unlike the house, the day will come when I will be fully restored (Revelation 21:4).

"Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is" (1 John 3:2).

Serving alongside you,



Douglas Cupery
Director of Church Engagement

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NEWS & NOTES

Mentor Q&A Gathering

This month, we invite you to join us as we review key Crossroads policies and the reasons behind them. We understand that rules and details can sometimes feel overwhelming, but these guidelines are essential for our students' safety and the ministry's success. Together, we'll discuss these important policies and have meaningful conversations.

If you've been a mentor for a while but haven't reviewed our handbook recently, we encourage you to join us—this is a critical discussion. And if you've never attended a mentor gathering before, we'd love to have you with us!

Date: Tuesday, May 20, at 3:00 p.m. (ET)

Open your phone's camera to scan the QR code and register online.

We look forward to seeing you there!



Upcoming Events

Visit our events page (cpministries.org/events) to find and register for the latest opportunities to gather locally and virtually, including:

- May 29 - Mentor Gathering in Sioux Center, IA, with Doug Cupery
- May 31 - Mentor Gathering in Menno, SD, with Doug Cupery
- June 7 - Mentor Gathering in Zeeland, MI, with Doug Cupery

Crossroads Communication Guidelines

As a reminder, Crossroads policy prohibits communication with students outside of lessons and letters that use Crossroads' return address. Please do not email your students or contact them through messaging apps, as facilities consider this a security risk.

If you are a Tier 2 or Tier 3 mentor, you may correspond with your students between lessons, but all communication must follow the same guidelines as lesson-related letters.

If you have any questions, please email mentor@cpministries.org.

Help Us Reach More Students!

Does your church have a jail or prison ministry? Do you know a friend or family member who is incarcerated? We are always eager to connect more people with Crossroads so they can experience Christ-centered relationships while studying God's Word with a mentor. If you have a connection that could help us reach more prospective students, we'd love to hear from you!

To refer a prospective student, visit: cpministries.org/resources/enroll-a-student

If your church's prison ministry is interested in Crossroads resources, visit: cpministries.org/resources/for-chaplains-and-ministries

Partner With Us in Prayer

Did you know Crossroads sends out a monthly prayer email? Each edition includes:

- A brief devotional
- Prayer requests from students
- Ministry updates and praise reports
- A focus on four state departments of corrections, praying for wisdom and strength as they navigate difficult decisions

If you'd like to receive our prayer email each month, email prayer@cpministries.org.

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