

# JUST FOR MENTORS

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



SEPTEMBER 2025

Dear Mentor,

I fell.

Hard.

It happened during an early morning walk in the woods with my Labradors. We were on a familiar trail where we often see deer and turkeys and hear coyotes howling in the distance. But this peaceful morning also brought a hidden tree root.

Not paying attention, my foot caught the root, sending me into a slow-motion fall.

Ooooo—ouch!

*"We must pay the most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away" (Hebrews 2:1).*

All of life's experiences, with their bumps and bruises, are real—reminders that we don't want to fall, especially as we grow older. We're all at risk: a missed step, a bicyclist cutting us off, or even tripping over the cat can quickly knock us off our feet.

But beyond the physical, we all know what it's like to fall spiritually. We've all given in to temptation, disobeyed, been passive, deceived someone, or spread malicious gossip. These are all signs of our human nature.

*"For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out" (Romans 7:18, see also vv. 14–20).*

No matter how hard I try to do the right thing, it doesn't take long before I stumble over another root in life. But when I do, God's grace meets me there and helps me back up (2 Corinthians 12:9).

I see myself in Peter, who denied Jesus three times at a crucial moment to save himself (John 18:15–27). I can only imagine the pain he felt afterward—but that wasn't the end of the story. The Gospel of John closes with Jesus restoring Peter out of deep love for him and for all of us (John 21:15–19). I believe John ends his Gospel this way to make it clear: that same love and restoration is available to each of us when we fall (2 Corinthians 5:18–20).

*"The LORD upholds all who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down" (Psalm 145:14).*

Our students can't hear this enough—nor can we. Like Peter, I've been humbled by my failures. And, like him, I'm learning that my strength doesn't come from within myself. True strength, in our walk and in our failures, comes from God (Psalm 73:26).

Thankfully, I didn't break a bone, but I knew I was going to be sore as I groaned getting back on my feet. Even though I was the only one in those woods, I still found myself looking around to see if anyone had seen me fall. Isn't that how it is? We don't want others to see when we fail.

Once again, I'm reminded: I need to pay attention in my walk.

*"To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy—to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen" (Jude 24–25).*

Serving alongside you,



Douglas Cupery  
Director of Church Engagement

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# NEWS & NOTES

## September Mentor Q&A: Open Floor

This month, there won't be a preset topic—we're dedicating the meeting to answering your questions! To help us prepare and provide the best answers, please email your questions to us in advance at [GatheringsQA@cpministries.org](mailto:GatheringsQA@cpministries.org).

Date: Tuesday, September 16, 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!



REGISTER

## Reformatted Lesson Reminder

Please remember to include every page of the student lesson you receive when sending it back to the student, including the page from Crossroads with their name and mailing information. If the lesson is returned to the facility without a name, it may not make it back to the student.

We also know that sometimes students don't include every page when they return the lesson. Please answer the content that you receive, and we will remind the student to return all the pages next time.

## Letter Reminders

When writing your letters of encouragement, please print—do not write in cursive. We often hear from students that they are unable to read cursive and can't understand some of the letters they receive.

Also, please use only **black or blue ink** when writing your letters and adding comments to the lesson.

## Crossroads Events

Throughout the year, Crossroads hosts gatherings across the U.S. Check out our events page ([cpministries.org/events](https://cpministries.org/events)) to see if there's one near you—or join us for a virtual event! We love connecting with mentors face-to-face and hearing your stories.

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