

JUST FOR MENTORS

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



NOVEMBER 2025

Dear Mentor,

This past summer, my wife, Hendrina, and I attended a funeral. The celebration of life included stories of quirky habits, acts of kindness, and a steadfast walk with Jesus. Those who loved the man who passed away were understandably saddened and left with a void that may never fully heal, yet throughout the service the message of hope was woven in.

The service closed with the song "In Christ Alone," a hymn you may know well. The final stanza is filled with hope:

*No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till He returns or calls me home,
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.¹*

I often notice how casually I use the word hope in daily conversations: "I hope we make it on time," or "I hope this ends early so we can get home." Yet spiritually, hope carries a much deeper, life-giving meaning.

True hope lies in knowing Jesus has saved us, is with us, and will one day make all things right forever.

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" (1 Peter 1:3).

As Thanksgiving approaches, I encourage you to share with your student the hope you carry and the thankfulness that flows from it.

At the Last Supper, Jesus took the cup (Matthew 26:27-28), pointing to the new covenant in His blood that would be poured out for the forgiveness of sins. Only hours later, He was betrayed, beaten, and nailed to the Cross. With His final breath He declared, "It is finished" (John 19:30). In that moment, the weight of humanity's sin was placed upon Him, and the work of salvation was complete. He endured humanity at its worst, yet in love He wipes us clean from our sin (1 John 1:7-9). Because of Him, we can live in true hope—free from fear of death or circumstances. Satan cannot steal your hope, and no one can take it from you (Romans 8:38-39).

As we wait in anticipation—whether for His return (1 Thessalonians 4:16) or the day we stand before Him (2 Timothy 4:7-8)—the power of Christ goes before us.

"The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged" (Deuteronomy 31:8).

I've also been at funerals where true hope was absent, and each time my heart ached. Let us remember: it is in the power of Christ that we stand.

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.

¹ Stuart Townend and Keith Getty. *In Christ Alone*. © 2001 Thankyou Music. Administered by CapitolCMGPublishing.com (excluding UK & Europe, administered by Integrity Music, part of the David C Cook family).

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NEWS & NOTES

November Mentor Q&A Gathering

This month during our Q&A session, we'd love to hear praise reports and testimonies of the incredible transformations God has brought about through this ministry. Crossroads' vision statement says:

"Crossroads envisions a world in which the Church answers God's call to remember people who are incarcerated by cultivating Christ-centered relationships through which God transforms lives, prisons, and churches throughout the world."

We want to hear your stories of transformation! Maybe you've experienced change in your own life as a mentor, witnessed transformation in your students, or seen growth in your church community as you've come alongside students together. Join us for what we hope will be an inspiring time!

To submit stories to share, please email GatheringsQA@cpministries.org.

Date: Tuesday, November 18, 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

In-Person Mentor Gatherings

If you are in one of the following areas, you are invited to join us for an in-person mentor gathering with Douglas Cupery. Visit our website for details and registration (cpministries.org/events).

- Portland, Oregon
- Olympia, Washington

Christmas Cards Reminder

As the holiday season approaches, please do not send Christmas cards to your one-to-many (Tier 1) students. Crossroads provides Christmas cards to all eligible students and a Christmas letter to those in facilities where cards aren't allowed.

If you'd like to send a card to your one-on-one students in the Growth (Tier 2) or Advanced (Tier 3) Programs, you may do so if their facility permits it. You can check this information in your mentor portal or by contacting us at mentor@cpministries.org. Please send cards in plain white envelopes with the Crossroads return address, and avoid glitter, stickers, or pop-out features.

Need to Take Time Off?

We know the holiday season can be busy! Remember, you can place your lessons on hold if you'll be traveling or simply need some time away. The best way to do this is through your mentor portal. You may also:

Call us at 800-668-2450, ext. 3304, and leave a notice, or email us at mentor@cpministries.org.

Please note: We cannot accommodate last-minute requests because lessons are processed ahead of time. Be sure to schedule your time off at least one week before the start date.