

JUST FOR MENTORS

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



DECEMBER 2025

Dear Mentor,

"We've made room for you."

These words were shown to Hendrina and me through the actions and words of many people as we prepared for my incarceration, walked through that journey, and faced the time to come home. I didn't deserve their grace and hospitality and couldn't fully grasp the deeper impact it had on us as a family. Looking back, I see the commitment it took to come alongside a family in trouble, facing an uncertain future.

It meant looking past my choices and the damage I had caused. It meant moving beyond the inconveniences to their time and comfort. We never once heard, "We don't have room for you." Instead, people—just like you—welcomed us into their lives.

This month, as the Christmas story is told across the world, we'll hear that there was no room available for Mary and Joseph despite Christ's impending birth. Our Father, in His mercy, miraculously made room for us by sending His Son into the world (1 John 4:9-10). In Christ, every "outsider" is welcomed into His arms (Galatians 3:28). In turn, our expression of Christ should reflect the same (Matthew 25:31-46). As Paul writes, "Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God" (Romans 15:7).

"While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them" (Luke 2:6-7).

When you write letters and guide students through Bible lessons, you are saying, "We've made room for you." In your words, you remind them they are not forgotten. The Scriptures you point them to show that God has made an eternal room for them. Your prayers for them show that you have made room in your heart, even if you've never met face-to-face.

"My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am" (John 14:2-3).

This Christmas season—and in every season—consider how you can express to others, even those who feel isolated or unseen, that God's love surrounds them. Remind them that, as part of His family, you have made room for them in your heart and prayers.

My desire is that every person who is or has been incarcerated can experience the Church as we did. That impact has never faded. May your desire to welcome others into your life never wane.

Merry Christmas!

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

December Mentor Q&A Gathering: Letter-Writing Tips

We often hear questions about letter writing: How long should my letter be? What if I don't know my student well or they haven't shared much? What do I say if they never write back? What's okay to share—and what's not?

At this month's meeting, we'll go over simple tips and guidance to help you feel more comfortable and confident as you write.

Date: Tuesday, December 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

One-to-One Mentoring

If you've recently requested a one-on-one student in our Growth Program (formerly Tier 2), you'll soon receive your student's information by email. This includes the enrollment form, lesson logs, and other details to help you get started.

You can also log in to your mentor portal to see if you've been assigned a new student. If you don't see an email in your inbox, please check your junk or spam folder.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

It's hard to believe 2025 is coming to a close. On behalf of the Mentor Support Team, we want to extend our heartfelt thanks to each of you who have faithfully served as mentors this past year.

Thank you for persevering with us as we continue to navigate the ever-changing corrections landscape. Because of your dedication, Crossroads students have received consistent encouragement and support. We couldn't do this ministry without you!

We wish you and your loved ones peace, joy, and renewal this holiday season.