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CROSSROADS
PRISON MINISTRIES



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Dear Friends and Partners,

I'm excited to share updates from Crossroads as we continue bringing Christ-centered hope to those in prison. This fall, I met with staff who run programming in correctional facilities across the nation, as well as the new Directors in Vermont and New Hampshire, to strengthen our programs and partnerships. These relationships help to ensure Crossroads' programs remain available to incarcerated people in states that are changing their practices. Every day we face challenges that might interrupt students' access to lessons, but I am confident in our team and in God's provision and believe that we will continue to overcome these obstacles.

On the technology front, we are exploring ways to improve program efficiency and participated in the first Global Summit on Faith-Based Programs hosted by the American Correctional Association. It was a tremendous success, bringing together leaders in the correctional industry and faith-programming partners to address problems we all are facing to serve men and women in prison.

We are deeply grateful for your continued support, prayers, and partnership. Because of you, lives in prison are being transformed, hope is being restored, and Christ's love is reaching hearts that need it most.

With gratitude and blessings,

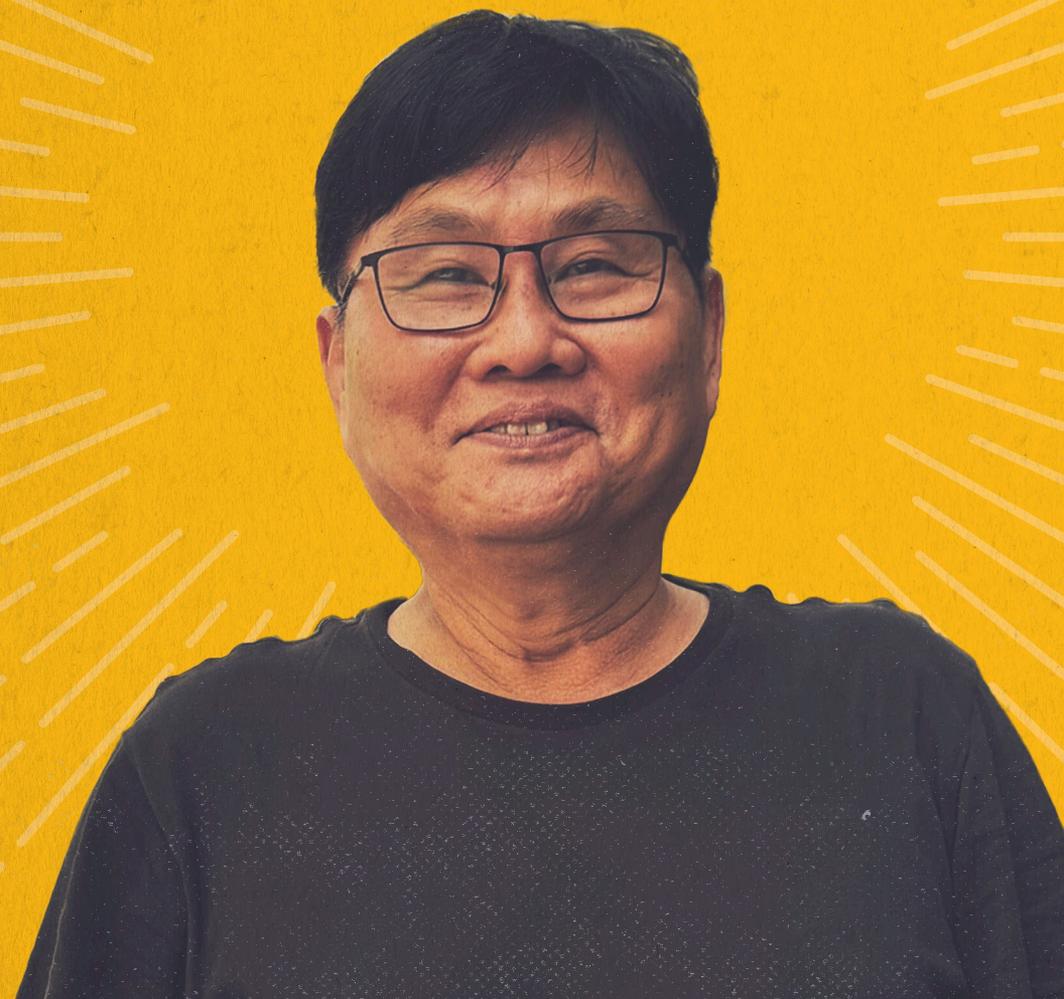
Joe Pryor
President & CEO
Crossroads Prison Ministries

“

**If not for the grace of God,
I'd still be homeless. But God
used Crossroads to rebuild
my life—and now I help
others do the same.**

– BILLY

”



“

**You can either
continue to go down—
or you can learn to
look up.**

—THELMA

”

**WATCH
THELMA
SHARE HER
STORY:**



FINDING LIGHT

BEHIND BARS

THELMA—STUDENT, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES

Thelma's life was rooted in faith from the very beginning. "My first trip to church was at three weeks old in my mom's arms," she recalled. But after an abusive marriage and years of pain, she drifted away. It wasn't until everything was stripped away in prison that Thelma looked up and said, "I'm ready. Show me why I'm here."

That turning point led her back to her faith—and to Crossroads. "I found a Crossroads card in my locker. I thought, why not? I've been hooked ever since." What began as lessons soon turned into a life-giving mentorship.

Her mentor became a source of deep comfort. "She talks to me like I'm a human. When things are dark, her letters arrive, and they lift me up." After losing her husband of 41 years, Thelma was ready to give up—but her mentor's letters kept coming, filled with Scripture and prayer. "She reminded me there's still light out there."

Now Thelma encourages others and holds onto her calling. "I pray for you every day," she says. "You have no idea how much I love you."



MENTORING TOGETHER: CHASE OAKS LEADS IN SPANISH MINISTRY

In early 2023, Chase Oaks Church in Texas partnered with Crossroads to recruit Spanish-speaking mentors to write letters to people in prison studying the Bible. What started as a vision quickly grew into a vibrant ministry.

Today, 20 members are active or on-hold Spanish mentors, and 58 church members have participated over the past year. Pastor Hiram Vega marked the one-year milestone with a special event honoring the founding mentors. "When we celebrated and shared what we were doing for a year, people got excited and five people decided to join the ministry right then!" Pastor Vega said.

Mentors at Chase Oaks not only write letters but encourage one another by sharing testimonials and praying for the students. "It's a circle. We get an answer, we pray, and then we see the difference in our lives too," Pastor Vega explains.

On the last Sunday of each month, Chase Oaks Church highlights its ministry with Crossroads. One visitor, who had once been in prison and benefited from Crossroads as a student, was moved to tears when he saw mentors wearing Crossroads T-shirts.

He met the mentors, thanked them, and encouraged them to keep sharing God's Word. Inspired, he signed up to become a mentor himself.

Recently, Chase Oaks just celebrated their second year—and are STILL going strong! Praise God for the growth of Spanish mentoring at Chase Oaks! Mentoring in community is transforming lives—inside and outside prison walls.

JOIN THE MOVEMENT TODAY!
**BRING HOPE, TRANSFORMATION, AND GOD'S
LOVE TO THOSE WHO NEED IT MOST.**

Email us at info@cpministries.org to learn more about how your church can get involved.

BRING HOPE BEHIND BARS: MAKE CROSSROADS YOUR CHURCH'S PRISON MINISTRY

As one of the churches with the highest number of Crossroads mentors nationwide, Chase Oaks Church proves that mentoring in community changes lives. Bring your congregation together to share God's Word and encouragement behind bars.

Crossroads partners with churches to equip members to mentor people in prison through Bible correspondence. Just like Chase Oaks Church, your congregation can:

- Write letters that share God's Word and encouragement
- Pray and support students on their spiritual journey
- Build a community of mentors who grow together in faith

Getting started is simple. Crossroads provides training, resources, and ongoing support so your church can begin reaching incarcerated individuals immediately.



NEW COURSES

HELP STUDENTS ENGAGE, REFLECT, AND PREPARE FOR LIFE AFTER PRISON



CROSSROADS

RETURNING HOME

LESSON 1: Preparing to Go Home

INTRODUCTION

Reentering society after incarceration is not easy. The majority of men and women who return home will get rearrested within the first few years after release. Finding housing and employment can be more difficult for a formerly incarcerated person. Rebuilding your life outside prison walls will take time and a commitment to doing the right thing when you encounter challenges and temptations.

This course is not intended to replace any additional reentry planning or programs you have available at your facility. We encourage you to take full advantage of the programs your facility provides. We offer this course as an additional resource to support you on your journey to reentry. We hope it will help you make a plan that will set you on a path to success.



Artwork by Mark, Crossroads student in Australia

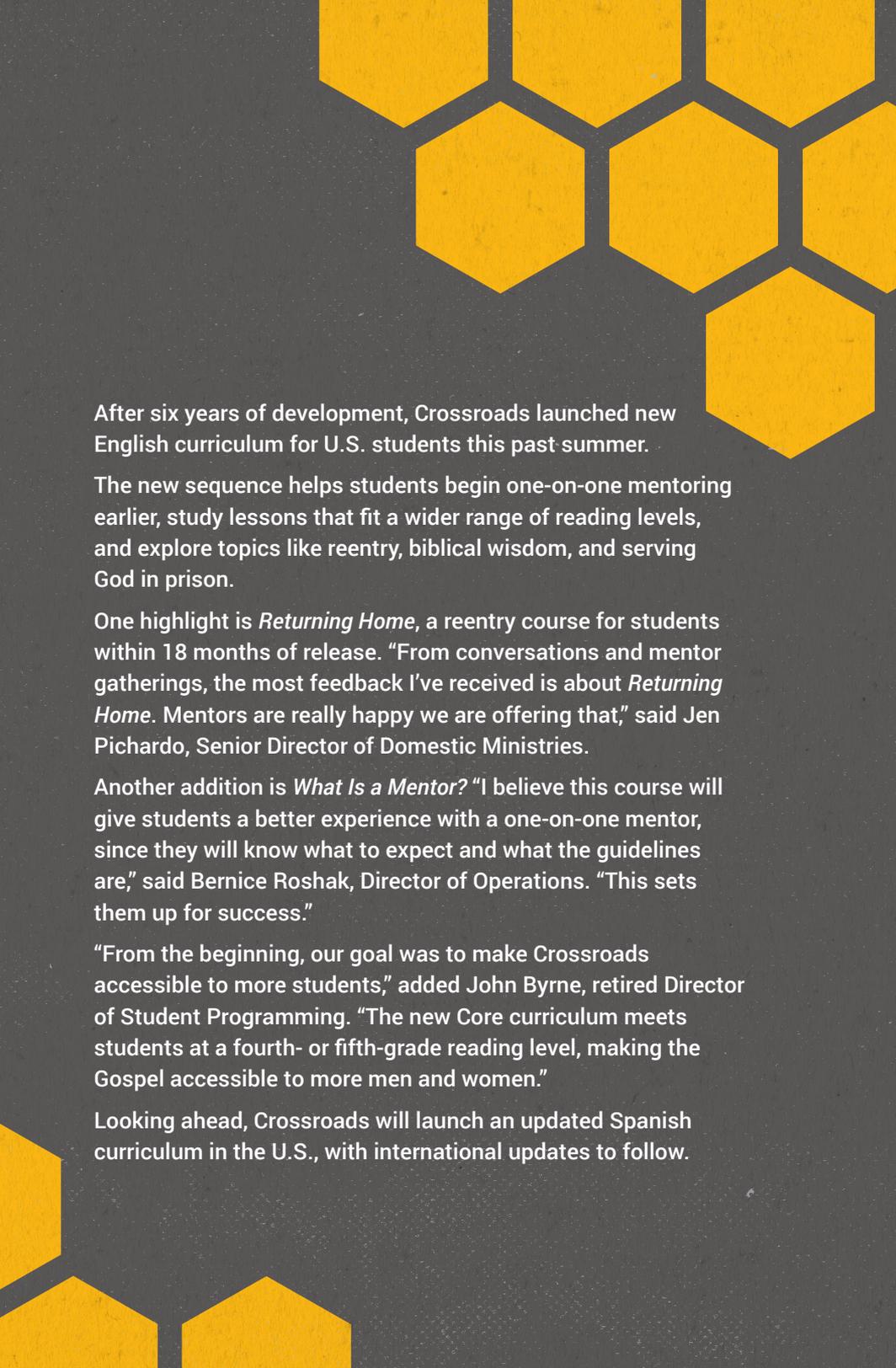
Lesson Focus:

Setting your priorities as you anticipate your release.

Concept: You can see the light at the end of the tunnel. Whether your sentence was two years or twenty years, the light is there. It is not an eternity. As you look forward to your release date, you may also be experiencing fear. The light gets closer. You might feel overwhelmed as you think about the details you will need to manage: housing, employment, reconnecting with family, maintaining sobriety, and staying out of prison. Focus on a few of the things that might be weighing on your mind. It can be hard to stay focused on the things you need to do.

This course is designed to help you develop a plan that will eliminate much of the uncertainty and stress of reentry. Some things won't work out the way you hope or expect, but if you create a solid plan, you will have a strategy to help keep you on track.

First, let's look at a time when God's people strayed from God and ended up in



After six years of development, Crossroads launched new English curriculum for U.S. students this past summer.

The new sequence helps students begin one-on-one mentoring earlier, study lessons that fit a wider range of reading levels, and explore topics like reentry, biblical wisdom, and serving God in prison.

One highlight is *Returning Home*, a reentry course for students within 18 months of release. “From conversations and mentor gatherings, the most feedback I’ve received is about *Returning Home*. Mentors are really happy we are offering that,” said Jen Pichardo, Senior Director of Domestic Ministries.

Another addition is *What Is a Mentor?* “I believe this course will give students a better experience with a one-on-one mentor, since they will know what to expect and what the guidelines are,” said Bernice Roshak, Director of Operations. “This sets them up for success.”

“From the beginning, our goal was to make Crossroads accessible to more students,” added John Byrne, retired Director of Student Programming. “The new Core curriculum meets students at a fourth- or fifth-grade reading level, making the Gospel accessible to more men and women.”

Looking ahead, Crossroads will launch an updated Spanish curriculum in the U.S., with international updates to follow.

SHARING HOPE

THROUGH ART AND POETRY

For many years, the Prison Art Project has showcased the creativity and faith of our students. Students continue to send Crossroads artwork, handcrafts, poems, and stories, and we remain committed to celebrating their creativity in meaningful ways.

Crossroads is now featuring student art and poetry in our quarterly *Just for Students* newsletter, allowing their expressions of faith and hope to reach a wider audience. This year, artwork once again appeared on our annual Christmas card, sharing the beauty and creativity of our students with supporters, mentors, and peers. We are also exploring various ways to showcase student artwork through business partnerships and digital media.

While we explore new and different formats to share our students' art and poetry, our hope remains the same—that our students' expressions of creativity continue to encourage mentors, supporters, and fellow students.

"Yet you, Lord, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand." (Isaiah 64:8)

CAN I PURCHASE A PIECE OF ART?

Yes, you can purchase artwork from the Crossroads Prison Art Project. While we offer only a limited number of original pieces, we primarily make art available through high-quality prints, annual calendars, note cards, and publications. If you see a piece you're interested in, please contact us to request a print at giving@cpministries.org.

You can explore more artwork, poetry, and available prints on the Prison Art Project website: prisonartproject.org.

A SACRED PLACE

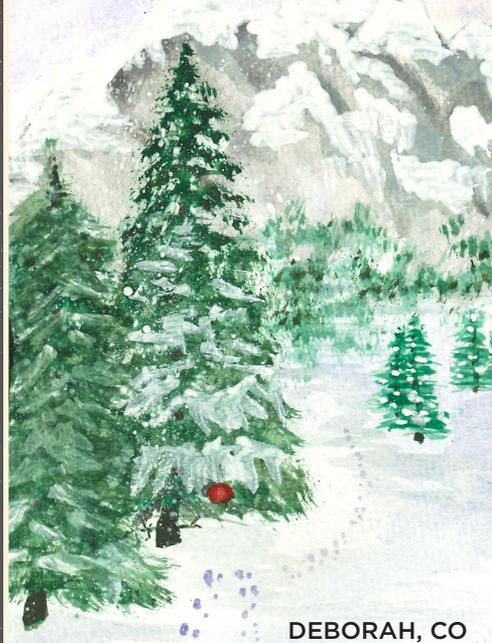
by John R.

Let me tell you about
This game that I play
Where I close my eyes
And just fade away

To a sacred place
Beyond time and space
No bars to hold
Or to separate

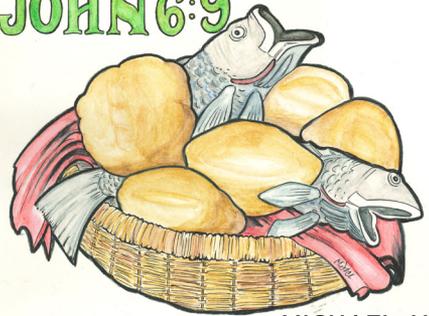
A place where I am
Happy and free
Like the stars in the sky
Or the fish in the sea

A place where I'm with You
And we're face to face
I'll hug You so tight
And live in Your grace



DEBORAH, CO

JOHN 6:9



MICHAEL, NJ



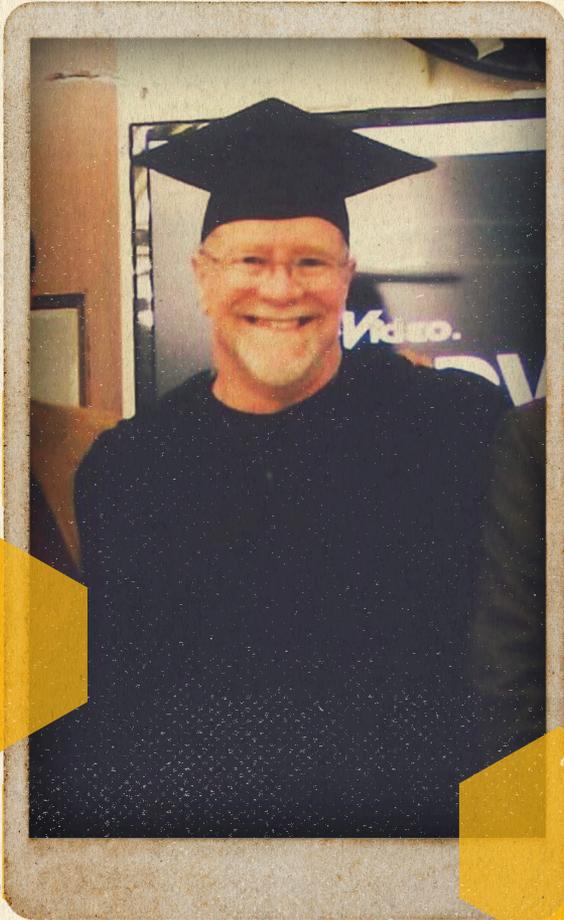
MIGUEL, IL

“

**The more I found
peace with God,
the more I found
peace with people.**

- DANA

”



FINDING PEACE WITH GOD

DANA—STUDENT, OREGON, UNITED STATES

Dana's first memory of faith goes back to childhood. "My grandfather took me to church and showed me how to pray," he recalled. "He told me God always listens." At six years old, after losing a toy, Dana remembered those words. "I prayed, crying in fear, and something told me to look under a bush nearby. There it was. That was when I knew there was a God."

Years later, while serving in the Navy, Dana faced a typhoon off the coast of Japan. Believing they might be lost at sea, he read the entire Bible for the first time. But after years of turmoil and betrayal, he found himself in prison. "I fasted for over 10 days, pleading with God to just take me home," he said. "When I woke up, I was angry that I didn't die. [But] God had other plans in store for me."

In prison, Dana has discovered that plan. "God has brought me peace, 'shalom' in Hebrew, since turning my life over to Him," he said. "Before, I was like a tossing sea, never having rest in my spirit. The more I found peace with God, the more I found peace with people."

Crossroads has been central to his growth. "Through studying the Bible with Crossroads and my mentor, I learned how to treat others and to trust God in every circumstance," he said. "Her thoughtful comments reminded me I am not alone in my trials."

Now, Dana focuses on eternal things and serving others. He has spent his time studying God's Word, helped bring others to Christ, and mentors fellow veterans. "I focus on storing up treasures in heaven, where they can never be taken away," he said.



5 WAYS YOU CAN SHARE THE GOSPEL. BUILD CONNECTION. CHANGE FUTURES.

1 REFER A STUDENT

Do you know someone in prison? Help them find hope and direction through a personal mentoring relationship and Bible-based lessons.

2 BECOME A MENTOR

Be a voice of encouragement and truth. Write to a student, guide them through Scripture, and remind them they are not forgotten.

3 FUND HOPE

From \$1 to \$1,000 and beyond every gift helps to fund Bibles, lessons, and support.

4 CONNECT YOUR CHURCH

Introduce your church to the mission. We'd love to visit, speak, or provide materials to help your community engage.

5 PRAY WITH PURPOSE

Join us in lifting up students, mentors, and ministry partners worldwide. Your prayers are part of every transformation story.

GIVE NOW.
SHINE A LIGHT BEHIND THE WALLS.

Make your gift at cpministries.org/donate or use the enclosed form.



Crossroads Prison Ministries is a registered 501(c)(3). All donations are tax-deductible.





CROSSROADS
PRISON MINISTRIES

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