

# JUST FOR MENTORS

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



MARCH 2026

Dear Mentor,

Clearly, the prison hospital and long-term care facility had not been updated. The professional nursing staff in both facilities were friendly and informative. As I went from room to room in the hospital visiting patients, I saw something I wasn't expecting. Incarcerated men were providing care by filling water cups, making sure patients were comfortable, or simply sitting with them. Several of the patients appeared to be in their final days here on earth. Later, I was told that multiple incarcerated caregivers had been hospice trained.

In the late afternoon, as I waited for the church service to begin in the long-term care facility, a young man in a wheelchair pulled up next to me. Friendly and talkative, he told me he was paralyzed from the chest down and shared details about the extensive—and sometimes deeply personal—care he needed. He pointed to the incarcerated ministry leader who was setting up for the service and said, "He's my savior." He explained that no matter how messy his care was, or if he needed to wake him during the night for help, he was always there for him.

*"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God" (2 Corinthians 1:3–4).*

In Mark 5:21–34, we see a crowd pressing against Jesus as He goes to heal a dying girl. Among them was a woman who had endured years of suffering. With nowhere else to turn, she quietly touched His cloak as He passed by. When Jesus asked who touched Him, she trembled and confessed it was her. Lovingly, He called her "Daughter" and told her that her faith had healed her. It was Jesus' compassion for those who were suffering that brought healing to both the woman and the dying girl.

Compassion is noticing someone who is hurting and taking the time to care for them (Galatians 6:2). Jesus saw the woman no one else noticed and spoke to her with kindness and love. Compassion can be shown through simple acts that bring comfort to others.

Consider sharing with your student a time when someone showed you compassion—how it helped you and what you learned from it. Was it a kind word, a quiet presence, or prayer when you didn't know what to pray? Encourage your student to ask themselves: "Who around me needs to be seen or heard today, and how can I show them I care?"

*"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience" (Colossians 3:12).*

Later in the day, I was told that the ministry leader who cared for the man in the wheelchair had started a white supremacy gang when he first arrived at the prison. I would love to hear the fuller story, but that was no longer the man standing before me. Caring compassion can sometimes be hard to find, yet I found it in a prison, among those caring for the sick and dying. Every day, Jesus continues to show me how He uses those we would least expect to be His reflection on earth.

Serving alongside you,



Douglas Cupery

Director of Church Engagement

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

(Continued on next page)

# NEWS & NOTES

## March Mentor Q&A Gathering: Spring Speaker Series

Please join us as we hear from Crossroads President & CEO Joe Pryor. Joe will share ministry updates and walk us through a day in his life, offering insight into his work and experiences.

If you have specific questions about this topic, please send them in advance to [GatheringsQA@cpministries.org](mailto:GatheringsQA@cpministries.org).

**Date:** Tuesday, March 17, 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

## Easter Card Reminder

Next month is Easter! We want to remind you **not** to send greeting cards to your one-to-many mentors (Tier 1) students. If you would like to send a greeting card to a Growth Program (Tier 2) or Advanced Program (Tier 3) student, please check first to be sure their facility allows cards. You can find this information in the Mentor Portal or by contacting our office at [mentor@cpministries.org](mailto:mentor@cpministries.org).

If you do send a card, please remember:

- It must be in a plain white envelope
- It must include the Crossroads return address
- It cannot contain glitter, pop-outs, or any extra or foreign objects

## Referring Students

Does your church have a prison ministry, or do you know any chaplains in your area? We would love to connect with them about referring more students to the Crossroads Program! Visit our website for more information: [cpministries.org/resources/for-chaplains-and-ministries](http://cpministries.org/resources/for-chaplains-and-ministries)

## Signing Your Name

When signing your name on a letter to a student in the one-to-many mentors portion of our program (Tier 1), please remember to sign:

**"Your mentor for this lesson"**

This helps avoid confusion for your student.

For the Growth (Tier 2) and Advanced (Tier 3) Program students, you may use your **first name only**. Please do not include your last name. Also, be mindful of phrases that could be misleading to your student. Sign-offs such as "Your brother/sister in Christ" or "Blessings" are preferred over "In love" or "Love."

Example:

*Your sister in Christ,  
Jen*