

# JUST FOR MENTORS

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



SEPTEMBER 2026

Dear Mentor,

In a quiet corner of a prison unit, I asked Michael what brought him to prison.

He shared that he was raised in a family where both his mother and father worked outside the home. A nanny cared for the children in their absence. He told me she was religious, and the more she shared about Jesus, the more he pushed back against it.

He committed his crime thirty years before his arrest, and in the years that followed, he tried to dull the weight of what he had done through substance abuse, but it never helped. Eventually, he was arrested and held accountable for his actions.

As he spoke, he began to cry.

"The life I took did not have the opportunity to be saved if they weren't, because I took that life."

In the beginning, he told me his prayers were focused on asking God to place the victim's sin on him. He wanted to take on that man's sin because the victim could no longer ask God for forgiveness after he had taken his life. Over time, that understanding shifted. He came to see that each person is accountable for their own sin. He could no longer carry what belonged to someone else.

*"So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God" (Romans 14:12).*

Michael understood that God brings truth (John 8:31-32), desires honest confession (Romans 10:9), and gives us a perspective that moves us toward love rather than confusion or despair (Philippians 2:5).

*"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind" (Romans 12:2).*

This understanding became a driving force behind his decision to become a hospice caregiver. He said it gave him an opportunity to share Jesus, adding, "I don't want them to be afraid to die."

"Through my hospice experience, I learned what love is. It showed me how, before my incarceration, I should have loved my wife and children. What I was then was not love. Now, I understand what love is."

Michael continued, "I've also learned that if we live long enough, we are going to need someone to care for us."

The prison unit started to become busy around us, so we needed to end our time together. As I got up to leave, he said, "I don't like where I'm at, but I do like who I am."

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.

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# NEWS & NOTES

## September Mentor Q&A: Spanish Curriculum Update and Prayer Time

It has been over a year since we launched new curriculum for our English-speaking students. We are excited to announce that this fall, we are launching new curriculum in our Spanish program. Please join us during this time to pray for the success of this curriculum launch for our Spanish-speaking brothers and sisters.

To help us prepare and provide the best answers, feel free to email your questions to us in advance to **GatheringsQA@cpministries.org**.

**Date:** Tuesday, September 15, 2026, 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-on-One Mentoring Tip

If you have not heard from your assigned student for six weeks, it is time to write them an encouraging note. Remember to check your mentor portal for your student's facility mail guidelines, or you can contact the mentor support team for guidance at **mentor@cpministries.org**. When sending the note, please be sure to mail it in an envelope using Crossroads' return address.

## Upcoming Crossroads In-Person Mentor Gatherings

- Prinsburg, Minnesota (September 12, 2026)
- Minneapolis, Minnesota (September 13, 2026)
- Bozeman, Montana (September 26, 2026)

For more information and to register for upcoming events, visit our events page at **cpministries.org/events**.