JUST FOR **MENTORS**

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

DECEMBER 2026

Dear Mentor,

We welcome Crossroads President Joe Pryor and my wife, Hendrina Cupery, to the microphone as they film a video that will be available for incarcerated men and women to view on their prison tablets.

As I listened to Joe and my wife talk, I was reminded of how difficult my incarceration was for my family. Hendrina recalled how exhausting it was to navigate all the pieces of life during that time. Trying to hold back tears, she shared how, after putting our children to bed at night, she would find herself sitting in the dark, staring out the skylight above our stairwell.

It was here, during the hardest times, that she felt closest to God.

"He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak" (Isaiah 40:29).

When we don't know what to do next and the weight of life seems like more than we can carry, we often want our vulnerabilities taken away.

Could it be at the doctor's office when the news isn't what we hoped for? Could it be after a job loss when we don't know where to turn? Could it be in a prison cell where every day reminds us of the choices and damage that brought us there? We pray for healing, for our finances, and for an open prison door.

We all have a story to share about a time when we didn't know what to do, but somehow, God gave us what we needed. I believe God was deepening His relationship with Hendrina on those stairs. Her circumstances hadn't changed, but she was facing them—not alone, but with God.

We hope the video interview will help those viewing it in prison better understand the challenges their loved ones face and how they can support them in healthy ways. Sometimes, understanding what the other person is carrying can be the beginning of a different kind of conversation.

"But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me" (2 Corinthians 12:9).

Could this be what Christmas reminds us of? God knew we needed Him, so He sent His Son to be with us. When the weight of life seems like more than we can carry, we can remember that we are not alone.

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: Review Frequently Asked Questions

This month, the mentor support team will answer frequently asked questions we receive from mentors. If you are new to mentoring or have been a mentor for many years, we hope you will join us!

Please use the QR code to register and receive a reminder email closer to the gathering. Please email questions to us in advance at **GatheringsQA@cpministries.org**.

Date: Tuesday, December 15, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. ET

We look forward to seeing you there!

REGISTER

A Reminder for Mentors

Never ask your students about their crimes or look them up online. None of us would want to be identified constantly by the worst thing we ever did or the lowest point in our life. Some students, however, may choose to tell you about their past. If they do, please respond graciously and remember that "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). God does not let our sin define who we are in His eyes once we have decided to follow Jesus. Show that same grace to your students.

If you have a question about a student's address, please reach out to the mentor support team for help instead of looking the student up online. You can email mentor@cpministries.org or call 800-668-2450.

Update on Digital Lessons

Access to our new digital program continues to expand in select states and facilities. As we continue to add more locations, you will begin to see more lesson responses sheets from students who completed their lesson digitally. If you want to know more about Crossroads transition to a digital program, check our our blog post at **cpministries.org/news/why-crossroads-is-preparing-for-a-digital-future**.

A Fresh Look for the Crossroads Website

We're refreshing the Crossroads website to make it easier for you to find the information and resources you need. We're also working to make the site more accessible to our Spanish-speaking community, helping more people connect with our ministry and its resources.

As we make these updates, some pages and features may look different or move to new locations. If you have trouble finding something you need, please let us know! We want to make sure our website continues to be a helpful resource as you serve your students.

Thank you for your patience as we make these improvements, and for the time, care, and encouragement you share with people in prison.