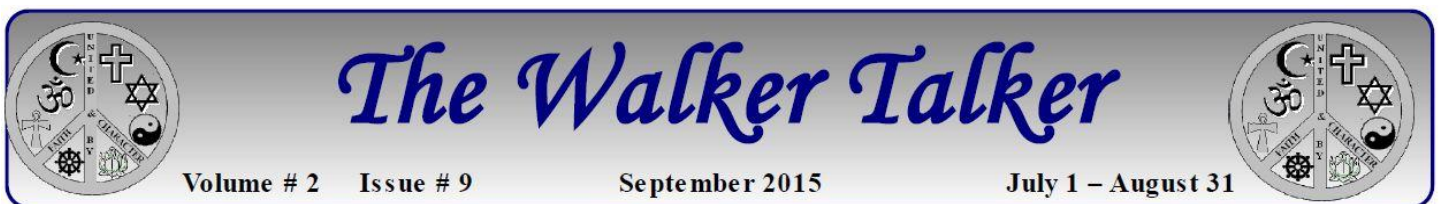


Welcome New Mentors In the last three months we've had the pleasure of welcoming six (6) new mentors from six (6) different churches; **Dan Barry** from Grace Baptist, **Xavier Cabezas** from New City Fellowship, **Clift Foreman** from Signal Mountain Pres, **Bienvenu "Ben" Gatho** from Olivet Baptist, **Jeff Gore** from Christway Community, Ooltewah, and **Al Lutz** from Lookout Mountain Pres. This brings our total to 102 mentors from 35 churches. We have now trained 36 new mentors this year!



Farewell Chris Bumpus, a mentor who joined us in May of this year but has now accepted employment in Memphis, TN. Chris leaves us with these parting thoughts, *"I thank each of your men for your guidance in this endeavor. I send best wishes to all involved."* We also wish Chris the best in this new endeavor!



Latest Edition of "Walker Talker" Issue #9 of the WSP newsletter has been published and contains many interesting articles. Some hi-lites:

- ***"Walker's Own Garden of Eden?"*** – a one-acre oasis tended by Mary & Charlie Saunders - **page 12**
- ***"Volunteer Appreciation Banquet"*** – **page 13**
- ***"Cross Point Church of God Comes to Walker"*** – a great story about the choir-led worship service – **page 12**

To read this latest newsletter, please visit our website (link below) and look in the lower right-hand column for "Walker Talker Newsletters"...click on issue #9.

<https://wspmentoringministryevents.shutterfly.com/>

KEY DATES: Special Opportunities to Fellowship We have been invited to several special events at Walker State Prison during the last quarter of this year... Veteran's Day Celebration plus talent and Christmas shows. See below (these are also shown on our website calendar);

- **November 6th** (Friday) – WSP Veteran's Day Celebration: 9:30 AM [*contact Shauna Gallahar via e-mail (shauna.gallahar@gdc.ga.gov) or phone# (706-764-3769) to register to attend*]
- **November 7th** (Saturday) – “Mentors vs. Offenders” Softball Game: 9 AM (*contact Mark Casson for details – phone# 559 681-7858*)
- **November 21st** (Saturday) – Fellowship Breakfast at Covenant Presbyterian Church: 8 AM (*reservations required**)
- **December 11th** (Friday) – “Walker's Got Talent” Show: 9 AM (*reservations required**)
- **December 14th** (Monday) – First Presbyterian Church of Chattanooga Christmas Choir Concert at WSP: 6:30 PM (*reservations required**)
- **December 18th** (Friday) – WSP Concert Choir Christmas Show: 6:30 PM (*reservations required**)

NOTE: Mentoring session will **not** be held on the following dates;

- Thursday, November 5th – preparation for Veteran's Day Celebration
- **Thursday, November 26th** - Thanksgiving
- Monday, November 30th – 5th Monday in month
- **Tuesday, December 15th** – Choir Concert on Monday
- Thursday, December 24th – Christmas Eve
- **Tuesday, December 29th** – 5th Tuesday in month
- Thursday, December 31st – New Year's Eve

****Registration*** can be made on our website – click on the “Sign-Up Sheets” page near the top of our website (link below) **OR** contact Doug Craven (cell# 423 902-2004). To sign-up on our website, you must have an account established with Shutterfly (free). To set-up an account with Shutterfly, just go to the very top right of our website, click on the “sign-up” banner, and complete the required information. Once you have an account established, you will just need to log-in to Shutterfly on our website and you will be allowed to register on our sign-up sheets. Should you encounter problems, feel free to contact me, Doug Craven – phone# (423) 902-2004.

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STAMPED SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPES? Remember, stamps are used as currency within the prison; therefore we are **NOT** to give or send stamps **OR** pre-stamped envelopes to our mentoring partners.

IMPORTANT REMINDER As we become familiar with the prison environment and our trust grows with our mentoring partner, we tend to forget where we are. The atmosphere at Walker State Prison can become so comfortable, so inviting, that we don't feel like we are in a state prison. As we forget where we are, we also forget the rules that we must follow when stepping into the prison environment. Our group leaders are starting to see this "relaxation" as we note some mentors failing to remove their wallets before entering the prison, carrying water bottles into and out of the prison, forgetting to wear the proper clothing, planning to provide Bibles to their mentees, etc., all of these items are in violation of rules that we have discussed several times before. This ministry's leadership is committed to personal accountability in every respect, and especially in the little things, which if not addressed, will most certainly lead to larger things. The Community Mentoring Ministry at Walker State Prison is now much bigger than any one mentor. If we fail, we are failing hundreds of mentors and prisoners, today, and all those who would have benefited in the future. Plus, as representatives of Christ's Church, we are held accountable to a higher standard. The prison leadership at Walker State Prison should not have to remind us to follow the rules but should see that we strive to be ahead of the curve, always working to follow the rules. We should not depend on the corrections officers at the bunker to "catch us" should be fail to meet the rules. Please realize, for the sake of our Christian witness and this ministry, if mentors do not respond when approached by their group leaders about rule keeping, they will be asked to turn in their badges.

The following are examples where we could have gotten in trouble but didn't. Good catch!

Contact with Attorneys Recently we had a mentor contacted by his mentee's attorney asking questions in preparation for an upcoming parole review hearing. The attorney was persistent and tried several times to get the mentor to provide statements about his mentee. These requests progressed to the point that the attorney wanted to have the mentor appear at the parole review hearing to speak for his mentee. This mentor acted correctly when confronted with these requests and immediately notified his group leader. As directed, he refused all requests for anything more than the fact that he participates as a mentor to the individual and eventually stopped all communications with the attorney. We as mentors cannot become involved in our mentoring partner's legal dealings. **Always remember, if you are not sure...ASK!**

Something We've Learned Another mentor was working with his partner to prepare for his soon release. Guided by the excellent handbook prepared by Mark Casson, "**Pre-Release Planning Guide**", he learned that his mentee did not have a copy of his birth certificate. Although the Georgia Department of Corrections will obtain "free of charge" the birth certificate for any inmate born in the state of Georgia, those born outside of the state are required to pay all costs of obtaining their certificate. This mentor assisted his mentee in obtaining all the forms necessary to obtain his birth certificate and then he correctly hesitated and asked if he could personally pay the costs of obtaining this certificate. The question was raised to the chaplain who forwarded it to the Deputy Warden. Bottom line – we **cannot** pay for the costs of obtaining an out-of-state birth certificate while serving in a mentoring relationship at WSP. **Thanks so much for asking to ensure that our ministry abides within the rules!**

Oh, magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together. (Psalm 34:3)

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