

WSP MENTOR MESSAGE #41

January 2017

Mentor Contributions to Indigent Prisoners. You donated \$1,440 for 125 special care bags to prisoners over Christmas. There was about \$250 remaining after expenses that was sent to the prison in cash.

WARNING About Over-Identifying with Your Mentee. *“My mentee and I have been together 4-1/2 yrs. It is the most personal male friendship I ever have had. It is so ‘normal’ with an investment in each other so personal, it is easy to forget he is a prisoner with a life sentence. In recent months, I let down my guard. Easily I could have crossed the line by communicating directly with family, getting involved in legal / parole issues, passing items of value, sending J-Pay stamps in bulk, even putting money on his books. I was tempted to forget rules as I would only have been doing what Christian brothers do for one another.”* DON'T DO IT!!! It is the fastest way to be removed from ministry, have your mentee shipped, and the ministry put on probation, with potentially severe consequences and retraction of our privileges to serve there. This is MY testimony. I confessed it to my mentee, and discussed it with Mark Casson, Doug Craven, and Chap Stroop. If you have your own questions or doubts, ask. *Alan Bonderud*

Weekly Attendance and “No-Shows”. We're seeing more 'no-shows' on mentoring nights. Please communicate directly with your Group Leader if you plan not to attend, or if something comes up late in your day and you find you can't make it. It's not sufficient to e-mail your mentee via J-Pay to give your attendance status. It confuses Group Leaders and Chaplain's Aids. Thanks for your cooperation.

Calendar Items

Bi-Monthly Mentor Breakfast, 8:00 a.m. Sat, Jan 21. Wally's@East Ridge. Spouses OK. Cost \$10 w/tip. Bring \$\$ or hygiene items to contribute to indigent prisoners. Chap Stroop will attend, Lord willing.

New Mentor Orientation and Training Classes this Tues & Sat. Invite church friends to join us. At First Presby Church - Chattanooga. Availability on Tues 17th @6:30 -9:30 p.m. OR Sat 21st @8:00-12:00 p.m.

Mentor Ministry 5-yr Celebration, Fri, Feb 10th, at WS F&CB. Plan to participate with spouses and guests. All 110+ prisoner mentees and some prison staff will participate. It will be a night of prayer, history, reflection, encouragements, special guest music, and open mics for personal testimonies.

NEW Education Open House @ WS F&CB, Fri, Mar 3rd. Volunteers are needed to manage the event involving hundreds of visitors/families/guests. Advise Alan Bonderud by Feb 3rd if you can volunteer. Mentors may come as family, but details about this are TBD. Volunteer training for this on Fri, Feb 24th.

NEW WS F&CB Job Fair, Friday, May 5th. Mentors asked if we know of any companies that might set up tables to meet with prisoners during first ever Job Fair. Advise if you can help coordinate. Details TBD.

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