

WSP MENTOR MESSAGE #43

July 2017

Mentor Suspended and Prisoner Shipped from WS F&CB Prison. It is unfortunate that after all this time in service together, we must remind the mentors again that you are NOT to take anything in to the prison that is not previously approved, nor are you to take out anything from the prison given you by your mentee.

Last week a mentor was leaving the prison when his mentee popped up with an envelope that we understand was a kind note meant for the mentor's wife. In a warm and pleasant moment, after a great night of mentoring, our mentor took it. This was witnessed by a Corrections Officer who stopped him, took away the envelope, and turned him into prison leadership. Our mentor is suspended until he takes the next State of Georgia Department of Corrections Volunteer Training Class. The mentee is being shipped from Walker State.

Please READ and HEED...

The mentoring relationship is between the mentor and mentee, not between our respective families. Friendships and relationships may develop over time, but keeping this in mind can protect you from being disciplined or embarrassed. Our communication is to be by stamped mail - so that every bit of correspondence may be reviewed by prison staff. Alternatively, our communication is via JPAY, which also is reviewed both coming and going. There is to be no exchange of material other than through proper procedures. Take NOTHING from mentee without Group Leader approval. Ask permission from the Group Leader for everything that is passed to the mentee. Do not make contact in any way with the mentee's family or friends. Because of the relaxed environment, it may be easy to forget that we serve in a prison. ALWAYS remember that.

Review your Accountability Agreement. Stay on your guard to avoid discipline and embarrassment, to avoid creating problems for the Mentor Ministry as a whole, and to avoid seeing your mentee shipped out of Walker back into the darkness that is the Georgia prison system.

Say "NO" to Cokes and Candy. The Chaplain informed us today that some folks are confused about whether prisoners can offer Coca Cola to their mentees. Also, I have seen treats such as mints and hard candy offered by prisoners during the mentor hour. This is against the rules. Be on your guard. Politely refuse anything offered to you except the water that is passed out for our comfort and convenience.

Alan Bonderud and Scott Dale

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