

WS F&CB MENTOR MESSAGE #55

March 9, 2019

New Donation Policy and Other Useful Information

New Donation Policy - The following was released by Warden Ballinger. There are several substantive changes (highlighted for your information). We may continue to donate books and study materials according to existing guidelines.

DATE: March 8, 2019
TO: Walker State Prison Volunteers
FROM: Pamela Ballinger, Warden
RE: Donations

Donations are an important component to maintaining and running a program prison like Walker Faith and Character. The Georgia Department of Corrections is always grateful for the support provided by our community stakeholders and volunteers.

In an effort to maintain a safe and effective rehabilitation environment, the following modifications concerning donations are effective immediately:

1. **Only Certified Volunteers are able to donate physical items to the prison.** Please ensure a staff member knows an item is being donated before dropping it off at the prison. Others may make a monetary donation using a check or money order to a specific class or program. Donations must be made to a class or a program and cannot be made to a specific offender.
2. Consumable items, such as food or drinks, associated with a special event program, religious observance or holiday celebration at the facility are approved upon completion of an event proposal. Food and drinks for events cannot be homemade and must come from a business. Exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis as approved by the Warden.
3. **Art materials such as cardboard, paints, markers or canvases are no longer eligible for donation.** If you would like to support the Arts and Crafts program, you may send a monetary donation designated for art supplies.
4. Religious, educational, and motivational literature and DVDs are approved to be donated to the program. DVDs cannot be homemade by a certified volunteer.
5. Ramen noodles may continue to be donated for the Home Project by a certified volunteer.
6. A completed donation form must accompany all physical donations. Volunteers may obtain a donation form through a Chaplain or the Prison Portal Sergeant.
7. Monetary donations may be sent as follows:
 - a. Mail to Attn: Chaplain Stroop
 - b. Make checks/money orders payable to Walker Faith and Character
 - c. Designate class or program in memo line

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to Walker Faith and Character Based Prison and the offenders we serve.

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Doug Craven's Health - Doug is recovering well at home from his heart condition. Alan Bonderud will fill in as substitute for him until a replacement can be found.

Mark's Health and YOURS! - We rejoice that Mark Casson is returning to health after a very difficult winter of influenza and pneumonia. Please remember that if you are feeling unwell, do not come in to the prison.

Use of JPAY - Expected changes to the JPAY email system have not been implemented. Continue to use JPAY as normal. We will advise you should things change.

Mentor Breakfast - Our next fellowship breakfast will be held on Saturday, March 16th, 8 AM at Wally's Restaurant in East Ridge (6521 Ringgold Road, Chattanooga, TN). This facility is located at exit 1B off I-75 North once you cross the GA/TN state line, convenient for our Georgia mentors. You'll enjoy a buffet style breakfast (self-pay \$10, which includes tip). Please join us to have some good fellowship, a great meal, and hear what God is accomplishing in this ministry. Remember...wives and interested visitors are always welcome! Please let Kedric Webster know if you plan to attend. His contact points are: kedricwebster@gmail.com and (407) 731-7996.

Shutterfly Website Changes - You will notice that all photographs showing currently incarcerated prisoners and all Walker Talker newsletters were removed from our website at the direction of the Georgia Department of Public Corrections. The prison had to do similar things on their website. Photographs of prisoners and faces are no longer to be posted for general use. Just bear with the system, fellows. When something bad happens at one prison, the ripples are felt at Walker, where no such problems may exist. Remember, we are granted the privilege to serve prisoners in Georgia and it is our responsibility to comply with their rules and regulations. The site address continues to be <https://wspmentoringministryevents.shutterfly.com/>

Liability Waiver Form - Metanoia Ministries has produced a liability waver form for mentors. Some have completed it already. You may access the form on the Shutterfly web page. Please comply with this new policy, which is being implemented in accordance with the ministry's insurance requirements.

Prayer - Let us pray for our chaplains, ministry leaders, WS F&CB staff, and the GDC as they walk through the minefield of implications of security and operational concerns and changes.

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