

Current News and Messages

Parole Matters. Mentors are reminded that if asked, they must decline to submit any references, recommendations, or input for a prisoner's parole case. Several prisoners have asked mentors to do this. There was a time in distant past when this was permissible. Today, IT IS NOT. You may write a letter of recommendation or provide a reference for housing or employment, but we are to have nothing to do with legal matters pertaining to their cases. As always, if in doubt - ASK.

REMINDER: Donation Forms for Prisoners' Books. The Chaplain asked for this to go out as a reminder. When you donate a book for your mentee, do not put the mentee's name on the Donation Form. Also, do not put the words, "For My Mentee". Just that phrase will cause rejection. Remember, to tell your Group Leader you have dropped off the book with the completed form to donate it to the Chaplain's Library. Your Group Leader will advise the Chaplain. Your mentee will receive it. Take care to complete these forms properly.

Mentor Breakfast. Our March breakfast was a special time. Thank you VERY MUCH to Kedric Webster who organized it. We passed an envelope that raised \$154 for the indigent fund at Walker. Good information and encouragements were shared. **The next breakfast will be held at Wally's in East Ridge on Saturday, May 18th. Our special guest will be Mrs. Haley Lewis. She is the Behavioral Health Counselor and Graduation Coordinator at WS F&CB Prison.**

WS F&CB Job Fair. Walker is hosting its third annual Job and Resource Fair. It is held for the purpose of introducing companies and agencies to the men at Walker F&CB. It will be on Friday, May 31st from 7:30-11:30 a.m. Last year they had a total of 16 companies represented and this year they are shooting for 20 or more. Can you recommend any contacts that might wish to participate? Metanoia has participated the last three years and hired a man from Walker for several months after he was released. Would you, your company or someone you know want to be a part of this? Contact Haley Lewis, Behavioral Health Counselor, at haley.lewis@gdc.ga.gov, (706) 764-3625. Spoiler Alert! It is time well spent...

Fledgling Re-entry and Support Ministry for Women in Walker County. **Restore 6:34** is a nonprofit ministry whose purpose is to offer Christ-centered discipleship, shelter, and life-skill training to previously incarcerated women in the North Georgia region. Several staff at Walker are familiar with them and their churches are working with them on some aspects of the ministry. It was called to our attention to see if any wives in our group would be interested in ministering to women in Walker County or supporting them. See <http://www.restore634.org/> Reference is from Mark 6:34, "*When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And he began to teach them many things.*" Women are the least served and the most needful in the prison/jail system - especially post-release. After watching the video, this was written through tears...

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

WS F&CB MENTOR MESSAGE #59 Rev1

May 18, 2019

Invitation to Father's Day Program, Guest Observers, and Other Relevant News

Father's Day Program at Walker. Counselor Ryan Clark issued an invitation to all certified and badged volunteers to attend the upcoming Father's Day Program on June 14th, beginning at 9:00 a.m. and running through 11:30 a.m. Please RSVP to him directly. Also provide the name of your mentee in your note. This must be submitted by June 7th if you would like to attend. He has made it clear that if you do not RSVP, you will not be allowed in. His email address is: ryan.clark@gdc.ga.gov

Mentor Guests for Observation Purposes. There has been some confusion about this subject. Here is how we must handle all requests mentors may have for guests to visit.

1. A request is made to the Chaplain by only Steven Howell (Administrator) or Alan Bonderud (Ministry Team Leader - Walker). The Chaplain must give his OK in advance.
2. The mentor then may give a GCIC form to his prospective guest, which the guest will complete and return to Steven Howell or Alan Bonderud.
3. We will be told when the background check is completed and will advise the mentor & guest.
4. The mentor and prospective guest will establish a date for the visit and advise Steven or Alan.
5. We put in a note to the Chaplain advising the date of visit at least a week to 10 days in advance
6. This goes up through the Warden for approval. The guest's name will be on the bunker list for that day only. If he cannot make it, we need to get approval in advance of the next visit.
7. If the guest wants to pursue mentoring, he must apply through the new process with the State.
8. Please do not go directly to Chaplain Stroop with this type of visit request.

Recognition as Chaplain of the Year. Chaplain Aaron Reaves has received the high honor of being named the Chaplain of the Year for the Georgia Department of Corrections. This is wonderful.

Reminder Not to Become Engaged in a Prisoner's Legal or Parole Situation - WITHOUT ASKING. We may not assist prisoners in these matters but were surprised at the prison's response to a special request made by a mentor. The request was denied but at least the Chaplain and Deputy Warden for Care and Treatment openly considered it. You never should go directly to the Chaplain with such matters, but only through our chain of communications.

Congratulations to Steven Howell. Our Mentor Administrator, Steven Howell, graduated Covenant College last week with a double Bachelor's Degree achieving status of *Magna Cum Laude*.

Graduations. We were blessed to have Walker Counselor Haley Lewis speak to us at today's mentor breakfast. She could not overstate the importance of men participating in their mentees' graduations whether from the F&CB curriculum, Welding Class, Georgia State program, etc. It is not a requirement for a mentor to do so, but she hears from the men what it means for them to have mentors participate.

Mentor Candidates. We had two men sit through the breakfast today to explore mentoring. They will initiate the process through the State to become mentors. If any of you want to arrange a coffee or dessert, or any event to do the same with friends, call Alan or Mark. We are all in...

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