

# Walker State Prison Mentor Message #67

(February 20th, 2020)

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## Restriction of JPay Usage

Both in life and especially in prison, it is difficult when graces that have been enjoyed are suddenly taken away. That being said, we received word from the prison stating the following regarding JPay usage:

***“Please be advised that volunteers are not allowed to email an individual inmate. This is current GDC policy. If and when policy changes, we will advise. Only people on approved visitation list can email the inmate.”***

Despite the fact that this has been GDC policy for some time, our ministry has enjoyed the privilege, up to this point, of the Walker Staff choosing not to enforce it. While their choice to enforce the policy may come as a disappointment to mentors and mentees alike, I would ask all mentors to consider the following:

1. When our ministry began, we did not have the ability to communicate via JPay. Despite that, we saw great growth at Walker over this time.
2. While JPay is a convenient communication tool, it cannot replace the face-to-face, life-on-life ministry that God has blessed at Walker.
3. Transferred mentees can still be communicated with by US mail, and mentees transferred to another prison facility may have mentors added to their visitation list.
4. While this may be a time of discouragement for mentees, let us use this as an opportunity to serve as encouragers to come alongside them in their possible frustration
5. Our mentors have a unique opportunity in this time to demonstrate great faith in obedience to the command to “rejoice always, pray continually, and give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus” (1 Thes 5:16-18).

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Steven Howell, Mentor Ministry Facilitator, at [metanoiamentoring@pcanet.org](mailto:metanoiamentoring@pcanet.org) or 314-800-4191.