

Walker State Prison Mentor Message #67b

(February 25, 2020)

Restriction of JPay Usage (PART 2)

This addendum to Mentor Message 67 includes two important notes:

1. We have spoken with JPay and were told that there are no refunds to be offered for stamps that have already been purchased. However, these stamps never expire, meaning if the restriction on JPay usage is ever lifted, you will still be able to use the stamps you currently have.
2. Along with what was said in Mentor Message 67, we want to encourage all mentors to write to their current mentees via US mail in place of JPay. Please see the note from Barry Smith, Regional Director (TN, GA), below:

This morning I had the honor of spending some time with a Metanoia mentee who has been out of incarceration for a little over a year. I was told, "The most amazing thing about having a mentor is having someone who cares about you and is with you through everything." Then, I asked what it is like for the average prisoner that doesn't have a mentor. The answer was, "You feel forgotten. No one visits, no one writes, no one cares. You give up. If no one cares about you, why care about yourself or getting better."

The things we teach, the content we bring, that's all necessary and important. But even more important is the relationship we're building, how we're communicating that we care and are with our mentee through everything.

A valuable tool for building that relationship, for letting our mentee know that he is not forgotten and that he is valued by us is through correspondence. Many of us have been communicating with our mentee through JPay. Now that we are no longer able to do that, it's a great idea to communicate through the mail. Even if you see your mentee regularly every two weeks, taking the time to write an encouraging note makes a large investment in relational capital.

Your mentee is your brother, a member of your family. Write to him as you would to a family member. Here are some thoughts on how to do that:

1. *Pray, asking God to guide you as you write and to speak through you to encourage your mentee.*
2. *Share some Scripture that the Lord has recently used to speak to you. Tell you mentee how God used that Scripture in your life.*
3. *Tell your mentee how you have prayed for him. Be specific. Remember what you discussed at your last mentoring session that you said you would pray for.*
4. *Share ways in which your mentee can pray for you.*
5. *Do not write anything that you would not want others to read. Remember that mail in and out of prisons is monitored.*
6. *Do not use your own address for the return address. Remember that you are not permitted to share personal contact information with your mentee. Even if you trust your mentee with that information there is no way to guarantee that some other person in the prison will not have access to it. We usually suggest that you get permission to use your church's address for the return address.*

Address your letter:

Joe Brown, GDC# 000000
Walker State Prison
P.O. Box 98
97 Kevin Lane
Rock Springs, GA 30739

(If you do not know your mentee's GDC#, you might ask them upon your next visit and explain the purpose.)

If you have any questions, please contact me at any time:

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