



Community Mentoring Ministry

Perry Correctional

Mentor Message #1

Brothers,

It has come to my attention that some of the residents of Perry have requested gifts from their mentors, such as packages which can cost hundreds of dollars. Friends, I am sorry a few men have put unwanted pressure or burdens on you. I'd like to encourage you in a few ways.

First, please know that Chaplain Epps is going to be meeting with all the mentees at Perry on Friday, April 12. He will redistribute the accountability agreements and remind the men that they have signed a form stating that they will not ask for anything from their mentor. He is going to let the men know that if they are only in the mentor ministry for the purpose of receiving material aid, then they are free to leave because none shall be given.

Secondly, I would encourage you, if you have been approached by your mentoring partner to purchase something for him, please politely decline. Feel free to take a signed copy of the Accountability Agreement and show him the multiple places he has violated it by asking. One of the reasons we have you both go through the agreement at the very beginning is so that it can be used later on to hold one another accountable. It is a document which helps define the parameters of the relationship.

Under paragraph 7. We see a set of general rules. Subsection n. says, "Mentors do not give/mentees do not ask" for "2. Gifts in person or through the mail" and "4. Anything from the outside". Furthermore, under the same paragraph, subsection t. we read, "A mentor will not perform any personal service for a mentee or his family." Asking a mentor to purchase a package is a gift, something from the outside and a personal service, so it violates all 3 of these general rules.

Dear brothers, I have heard from the chaplain that some of you have been stressed about this and have thought about quitting the ministry. Might I beg you to NOT do that? Satan wants us to stop taking the Gospel of Jesus into Perry. He will use any and every means he can to break this ministry apart. Chaplain Epps will tell you that there is already a tangible, palpable difference in the "feel" of Perry since you men started mentoring there nearly a year ago. Tensions at Perry are down. The chaos has lessened and the evil one doesn't like it. Satan is raging, but we are wise as to his devices. Stick it out. Sure, the conversation may be difficult to have with your mentoring partner, but hard talks are a part of mentoring! If you would like to talk, of course I am available by phone most days between 8-8.

I, for one, am rejoicing in the work that our Blessed God is doing through you all. As we prepare to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord, who conquered death itself, you men are taking the light into the darkness of Perry, and slowly, change is happening. The change isn't just on an individual basis, but also corporately and flowing out into the lives of the men you are ministering to. May God receive all the glory!

Blessings,

Mark Casson
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