

WS F&CB MENTOR MESSAGE #70

August 05, 2021

Returning to In-Person Mentoring

This message is intended as a reminder of policies that were in place prior to In-Person Mentoring being suspended due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and it is to inform you of new protocols GDC has put in place as volunteers are allowed to return.

1. **RESTART & SCHEDULE:** We restart the week of August 9th! We will follow the pre-pandemic group schedule. The week of August 9th is a second week, we'll start with Groups Two, Four, and Six.

Group One – 1st and 3rd Mondays (Start 16 Aug, **No** session on 6 Sept due to holiday)

Group Two - 2nd and 4th Mondays (Start 9 Aug, 23 Aug)

Group Three - 1st and 3rd Tuesdays (Start 17 Aug, 7 Sept)

Group Four - 2nd and 4th Tuesdays (10 Aug, 24 Aug)

Group Five - 1st and 3rd Thursdays (19 Aug, 9 Sept)

Group Six - 2nd and 4th Thursdays (12 Aug, 26 Aug)

****NO MENTORING** - Monday, 30 Aug or Tuesday, 31 Aug. Those are the 5th Mondays and Tuesdays of the month.**

2. **COVID PROTOCOLS:**

- **MASKS:** Our mask policy will be reviewed weekly and revised based upon local information and prison requirements. As of now, masks are **NOT** required by GDC, and we are **NOT** mandating that our mentors wear them. However, everyone is **strongly encouraged** to wear a mask, both for their own protection and to respect the concerns of others. Group leaders will have some cloth masks available, and the prison will have some disposable masks available. Try to bring your own. While the prisoners are not required to wear masks, Warden Clark is **strongly recommending** that they wear a mask.
- **VACINATIONS:** As of today, 40 – 50 of the prisoners at Walker have **NOT** been vaccinated. We do not know who those people are or if they will be on the MP Floor while we are there.
- **TEMPERATURE CHECKS:** Will be done by standing in front of a monitor.
- **ATTESTATION FORMS:** You will be asked to sign a form attesting to having no known illness. **If you have an illness, please stay home.** (Self-Policing is a hallmark of our ministry.)
- **PHYSICAL CONTACT:** Handshakes and quick hugs (Bro Hugs) at the beginning and end of session.

3. **SEATING & MOVEMENT:** We will have tables for mentoring on the MP Floor as we did pre-pandemic. You will be allowed to get up and move around on the MP Floor.

4. **BADGES: ***IMPORTANT*****- If your badge is expired, you **will not** be permitted to enter the facility, even if it is expired by one day. Please do not show up and try to talk your way past the officer.
5. **ACCOUNTABILITY AGREEMENTS:** Since we have been away for so long, and many may have forgotten what is in them, Warden Clark wants every mentor and partner, no matter how long they have been together, to renew their Accountability Agreement. Group leaders will have some, but please try to print out and bring your own copy. (See attached)
6. **STUDIES:**
 - “Operation Timothy” is Highly Encouraged. Booklets are available on Amazon, and you will need to purchase two (2) copies of each of the four studies. (One for each partner) This is not mandatory, but is a highly recommended study.
 - The Metanoia office has copies of books 2, 3 & 4. Check for availability
 - You can use any other study that is approved by the prison and Metanoia.
 - You cannot give anything to your mentee. Books must be left in the bunker with a donation form for the chaplain. Work through your group leader.
7. **ALLOWABLE ITEMS:**
 - Bible
 - Pen
 - 20 loose pages
 - Books/Study Material **THAT MUST LEAVE WITH YOU**
8. **CLOTHING:**
 - No shorts
 - No FitBit/Smart Watch (Nothing that is Bluetooth/WiFi capable)
 - Lanyards **MUST BE** break-away style (Available in Metanoia office)
 - Masks may **NOT** have any political messages printed on them. Sports logos are okay.
9. **TIME REQUIREMENTS:**
 - Do not show up more than 15 minutes early
 - Group Leaders will give a “*Wrap it up*” notice at 8:35 p.m. (Start wrapping up then)
 - The Multi-Purpose floor **MUST BE** empty by 8:45 p.m.

We understand that some mentors may not be comfortable with the rules and/or conditions we find ourselves operating under. We respect everyone’s opinions and concerns. If you decide that you cannot participate in mentoring at this time, please contact your group leader or Tim Busch promptly so that we can be sure to send accurate lists to the prison.

Please remember that since we last went into the prison, many of the staff are either new or are working in new positions. Many mentors are also going in for the first time. With the resurgence in Covid cases, protocols may change suddenly. Be patient, expect the unexpected, and focus on the mission of ministering to those whom the rest of society may have disregarded.

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‘I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ (Matt 25:36)