



Love In Action Mentoring Program (L.I.A)

It is our vision that every woman and man residing at the Rutherford County Correctional Work Center and the Rutherford County Adult Detention Center have a mentor. Mentors will prayerfully walk alongside mentees during their time of incarceration in order to guide each mentee towards a path of gospel transformation. It is our prayer that the mentor/mentee relationship will continue once the mentee is released.

The L.I.A brother and sister will go through security approval first and then through an orientation class at either church or their assigned facility. Once these two steps have been completed, L.I.A. mentors will be connected man to man and woman to woman. The L.I.A. mentor will begin meeting a minimum of every other week with his/her assigned mentee until the mentee is released. Currently, mentors may meet with mentees Monday – Friday from 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM.

Once the incarcerated mentee is released the mentor/mentee will continue to maintain the relationship developed during the mentee's incarceration period. The mentor will now work to help get the mentee plugged into church and connected with community resources. It is our hope that the mentor/mentee relationship outside the walls would continue for a minimum of at least one year of discipleship.

Why Mentoring?

Mentoring is a unique and valuable volunteer service in prisons. It can often be the foundation for fundamental, positive change. Mentoring is provided so that each inmate will have a positive influence in his/her life. Mentors provide inmates with positive contacts for assistance upon their release. Mentoring is intended to enhance personal growth through the sharing of experiences and wisdom and to offer a framework for teaching and modeling values and life skills. Mentoring topics will be geared towards personal growth in ethical behavior, interpersonal relationships and a personal walk with God.

Mentoring ideally will be a one-on-one relationship, with a mentor and inmate of the same gender. It is a new challenge to extend a mentoring program opportunity to an entire prison population and we are working hard to build a sustained base of volunteer mentors that will provide a one-on-one mentoring experience for every interested resident at RCCWC and RCDC.

Statistics show that 95% of men and over half of women in prison report never having had a loving father/mother figure. Mentors provide the support, encouragement and guidance that many of these men and women have never had. The program's goal is to bring together government resources, businesses, social services and churches to provide that support. At the heart of the program is a mentor for each inmate, who starts working with the mentee at least six months before he or she is released from prison.

A Mentor is Expected To:

- Participate in the orientation and training sessions provided by the New Vision Prison Ministry, RCCWC or RCDC.
- Visit a mentee in RCCWC or RCDC at least twice a month for the next six months, or the length of his/her incarceration, whichever is shorter.
- Correspond regularly with the mentee between visits.
- Attend at least one Aftercare Mentor Support Group meeting per month for at least one year with the mentee.
- Live an exemplary life before the mentee.

Volunteer mentors are trained both by the Department of Corrections and the Jail Ministry Director. This training educates mentors about the risks of working with former inmates and ways to minimize those risks.

What Will It Look Like Once My Mentee Is Released:

It is our expectation that a mentor would offer their newly released mentee friendship, support and other practical assistance in making a healthy transition to society. This may include joining "mentees" at recovery meetings, encouraging them in housing and job searches, meeting their families and inviting them to New Vision for worship and fellowship. It also includes having healthy boundaries with the mentee.

What mentoring does for the inmate?

- Gives him/her hope.
- Gives him/her a different perspective.
- Gives him/her a friend who will visit and listen.

What mentoring does for you?

- Gives you a blessing because you are helping someone.
- Gives you a different perspective.
- Gives you a friend.

To enroll in the Love In Action Mentor Program, please complete the L.I.A. application located online and return it to Andrea Lee's attention at the New Vision church office. For further questions, please contact Andrea Lee at 615-895-7167 or andrea.lee@newvisionlife.com.

Thank you for prayerfully considering being the hands and feet of Jesus to the least of these.