

GCDC Jail Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

The GCDC Jail Volunteers Appreciation Luncheon held recently and was attended by about 40 volunteers, including Bob Harsh (Campus deacon), Tom Trueb and Frank Quinn of SCC. Presiding was Col. Don Pinkard, the Jail Commander, Lt. Laura Alkins, the Volunteer Coordinator, and Chaplain Al Booker. Also there were several of the captains and majors who command various jail divisions.

It was a warm, friendly and interactive luncheon, much enjoyed by all of us. Prayer was offered for the food, later for the volunteers and finally in closing. After introductions, we all ate and enjoyed a lengthy time of fellowship with one another, catching up on families and recoveries from illnesses, meeting old friends and new ones. The food – prepared in the GCDC kitchen – was really good!

Col. Pinkard and the other officers each spoke about how much they appreciated what we volunteers were doing, how the inmates benefitted from our being there, and how the deputies reported that the atmosphere in the Housing Units mellowed when we were present. Lt. Alkins presented certificates to each of the volunteers plus plaques to those of us who had been volunteering for twenty years or more. We expressed our appreciation for the officers, staff and deputies making us feel welcome and safe in our activities.

Afterwards, Frank, Bob and Tom met with Col. Pinkard to discuss the possibility of conducting baptisms at the jail. Frank recalled that some years in the past, several hundred baptisms had been performed each year. In an open and good discussion, Col. Pinkard mentioned the many problems associated with conducting baptisms within the jail, such as: chance of transmitting communicable diseases in the water, safety and control of the inmates and volunteers, and maintaining isolation of inmates from family and criminal associates. But he would listen to any proposal we might put forth.

The Colonel also mentioned that the Jail had the ability to broadcast live to all of the TV's (except the meeting rooms) in the Detention Center. He encouraged us to make use of that capability when we had a program that would benefit many inmates. In that case, one TV in each Housing Unit would be designated and any inmate desiring to watch could gather around that TV to see the program or live presentation.

Bob Harsh offered to allow our jail ministers to pass out correspondence courses provided by and graded by Campus volunteers. Snellville presently has the following active jail ministers: Rex Butner, Jeff McCanless, Frank Quinn, and Renee Rogers. Pamela Trueb prepares the prayer request forms. Pending jail ministers are: Tina Dooley, Noree McCord, Ray Jones, Dwight Austion, David Klingman, Moises Matos, and Jorge McCumber. Currently on leave are: Tom Trueb and Dave Skeel. If you would like to participate, contact Jeff McCanless, Tom Trueb or Scott Blair.