

# Mentoring Matters

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*"Fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you...For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline."* 2 Timothy 1: 6,7 (TNIV)

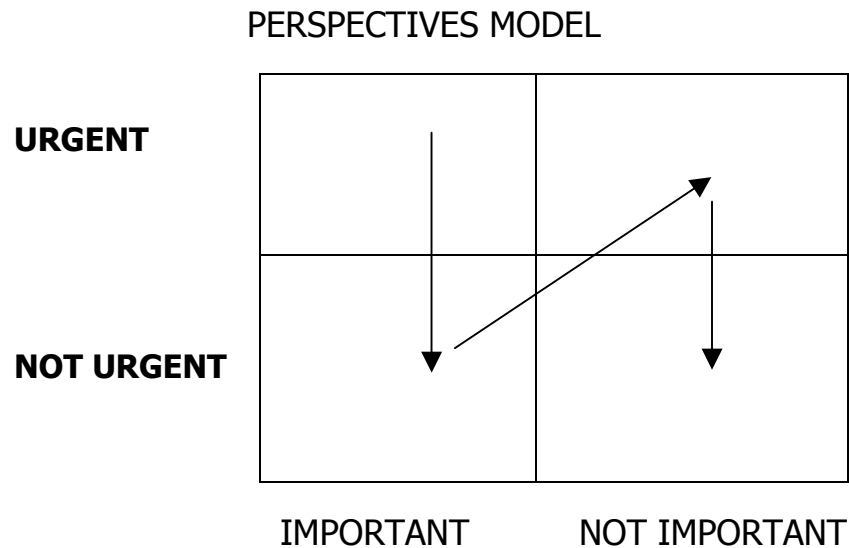
**The Students' Voice** –Reflections on a Ministry Observation at an inner city ministry. *I would definitely like to learn more about the skill of talking/preaching to people whose background is not Christian. Talking to them on their level and addressing their problems must be an entirely different challenge. I've just been talking with some atheist friends at school lately about God and it was hard to talk to them in a way they might relate to...all the Sunday school stuff doesn't pass with people who didn't grow up on that stuff. It was hard enough between friends to talk about the gospel, so I have a new appreciation for the work they do at Secret Place. Every day evangelism is something I definitely want to learn more about, and then maybe one day inner city stuff too. – David*

**Did you know?** "Adolescence has tripled in years since you were a teenager – from roughly a five- to a fifteen-year process." This is the assertion of Chap and Dee Clark in their new book on parenting called Disconnected (Baker Books, 2007). They make a strong case that the world of our current teens is not the world of our youth! It is much more difficult for teens today to navigate life than it was for us. We cannot fully understand what they're going through. Here's some of their advice to parents: "If you really want to understand your fourteen-to nearly-twenty-year-old child, you need to come and sit on the steps of the 'world beneath'. Invite them to be your guide, as you become a student of their world. You can never go into that world, but you can ask them to help you to understand what it looks and feels like...but don't be a detective who is out to "get the scoop" on your kid and their friends...the best possible gift you can give them as they enter high school and move through the last decade of adolescence is the willingness to let them guide you, at least in understanding the world where you can never go." (p. 69) As mentors, we too may be privileged to learn from them.

**Now's the time to choose a new mentoring resource.** Recommended resources are listed on our web site at [www.mbseminary.edu/ministryquest/pm/recommended-study-books](http://www.mbseminary.edu/ministryquest/pm/recommended-study-books) and are available through Kindred Productions at [www.kindredproductions.com](http://www.kindredproductions.com). Ministry Quest is eligible to earn points for your purchases. These points will be used to acquire books for future students. We appreciate your support.

## Taking mentoring to the next level

I want to encourage you to consider taking your mentoring relationship to a deeper level. Recently I came across a helpful diagram that shows how a person could better focus his or her daily activities to accomplish the goals that are most important. Here's the diagram:



Work from important/urgent to important/not urgent to urgent/not important and lastly not urgent/not important.

This is a great reminder for our personal lives, but I believe it applies to our mentoring relationships as well. Mentoring can sometimes become a great hang-out time, especially as we become friends and enjoy each other's company more and more. We can get carried away with conversation about the urgent things in our lives – the things uppermost in our minds - and neglect the important things – things that will build strength and stability for the future.

As we begin the second stage of Ministry Quest – Setting Your Sail – this is a good time to revisit your mentoring covenant and to readjust your habits. Make sure scripture study and prayer are a regular part of your meetings. The use of a good resource book will help guide and focus your meetings. It will be beneficial for your student to regularly prepare for his or her meetings. We understand that students are busy and many have a hard time always being prepared. We believe that spiritual self-care is an essential component in spiritual formation and necessary for good leadership development. As hard as it is, we want to encourage our students on this journey.

Look at the diagram again. What is both urgent and important in your mentoring relationship? What is important but not urgent? What is less important and urgent? What can be left for another time because it is neither important nor urgent? What will you change from this point forward?

## **Setting Your Sail – MQ stage two**

Students, who have completed the requirements of Charting Your Course and have received a reaffirmation for continuation from their pastor, are eligible for Setting Your Sail. This second stage is programmatically similar to CYC. The components include: a retreat (February 12-17, British Columbia, Canada), 13 more mentoring sessions, 3 ministry experiences, and a final writing assignment. We want to see students discover more of who they are, where their passions for ministry lie, and what skills they need to test and develop. In January students will be asked to read, Summoned to Lead by Leonard Sweet. Sweet asserts that, "leaders are neither born nor made. Leaders are summoned. They are called into existence by circumstances, and those who rise to the occasion are leaders." Using the example of Sir Ernest Shackleton (the Antarctic explorer), Sweet lays out a strong direction for future leadership. You may wish to borrow this book from your mentee once he or she has read it. It's a great read. The book will serve as a backdrop for the SYS retreat.

The second requirement for students in January is to complete a ***Career Direct*** questionnaire. This tool helps you discover your personality traits, interests, skills and values. It combines this information in a variety of ways to increase self-awareness and guide students in decision-making about the future. We are careful to emphasize that this is simply a snapshot of where the student is currently. The tool is NOT prescriptive, limiting options and setting defined parameters, but rather descriptive, helping the student understand himself or herself in the present. We will be discussing the results of these questionnaires in community at the retreat. We believe that the results need to be tested with those who know the student well. When your student returns from the retreat, take time to process the results. Affirm the aspects you agree with and point out the parts that don't seem to fit.

Stay tuned for more information on the SYS program in future Mentoring Matters Newsletters.

**MQW – What spiritual discipline can help me deal with a pressing, current issue in my life?** All our lives we are exposed to 'shoulds'. But 'shoulds' don't help us change. They only produce guilt when we fail to obey them. Changing our habits is at the root of true change. What new habit will you adopt to help you deal with a deep-seated issue in your life?