

Mentoring Matters

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Welcome to Ministry Quest

I trust that you have received the MQ mentoring materials (Mentoring Matters booklet, Trained by Jesus study book) from your pastor. If not, please ask him or her for these materials. **Mentoring is the heart of the MQ program.** This is the first in a series of emails, which you, as a mentor of an MQ student, will receive. These bulletins are designed to keep you connected to the MQ program, to encourage you on the way and equip you with a few tools on your mentoring journey. If you do not wish to receive these emails or you would like them redirected to a different email address just let me know.

The student's voice – reflections after the August retreat:

I have definitely changed as a result of this retreat (which is honestly not something I was expecting... cool!). As I make my way into my hardest year of school, I have never felt so mentally prepared. I am no longer dreading school, but I'm slightly looking forward to it. I feel like now my toolbox is full of tools that are aching to be used! And I'm ready to use them. – Jaymie, Calgary, AB

Did you know that your student was born in the early 1990's.

Keep in mind that for him or her:

- Heart-lung transplants have always been possible.
- "Google" has always been a verb.
- They don't remember when "cut and paste" involved scissors.
- DNA fingerprinting has always been admissible evidence in court.
- They are wireless, yet always connected.
- Thanks to pervasive headphones in the back seat, parents have always been able to speak freely in the front.

Charting Your Course is the first of two MQ stages. It runs from early fall until January. Students attend one of three fall retreats, engage in 2 ministry observations with a pastor in their church and have 13 mentoring sessions. Your student will attend one of the following MQ retreats: August 21-26, September 18-23 or October 16-21. Please support your student by praying for him or her during the retreat. Openness to the leading of the Holy Spirit is key for a fruitful retreat experience.

Our hope is that the students will:

- become more attentive to the call of God through scripture, prayer and listening to the church community
- discover language and questions that help them process ideas surrounding being a leader and choosing vocational ministry
- gain insight into the work of ministry and a leader's love for Christ's church

Story telling. One of the main activities of the Fall MQ retreat is writing our call stories. Every speaker who visits the group shares his or her story – how God has led them to where they are today. All of us connect more closely to stories than any other form of learning. So, share your story with your student. Ask your student share his or her story with you. There are many ways to tell a story. Check out <http://www.mbseminary.edu/ministryquest/pm/resources> for some ideas of how to shape your story. Also, students have read a great little book called *The Art of Connecting* which uses story telling to connect people with Jesus. Why not borrow the book for a little inspiration?

How to ask good questions – ask questions in such a way that they cannot be answered by a simple yes or no. Questions that require us to describe a situation or event (What was it like? What kind of situation is it?) help us understand the other person's perspective.

MQW (Mentoring Question of the Week) – **Have you spent significant time with a non-Christian in the past few weeks?** Often Christians have a hard time connecting with non-Christians because they are so busy being connected with Christian friends. While the Christian community is very important, Jesus calls us to make disciples of all nations. Our vision ought to be bigger than ourselves. Help your mentee think through opportunities to build relationships with non-Christians in order to be a witness for Christ. 1 Peter 3:15

"We ask God to give you a complete understanding of what he wants to do in your lives and we ask him to make your wise with spiritual wisdom." Colossians 1:9b (NLT)

May God bless you richly as you walk alongside your student this year!

Anne