

“Mentoring”

Mentoring is a relationship that develops between a less experienced individual and a more experienced individual. The more experienced individual is called the mentor. I have an educational background in teaching middle school for thirty-nine years. It is absolutely impossible to have this type of background and not deal with mentoring. I volunteered on two separate occasions to be a mentor. I thoroughly enjoyed the challenge and on both occasions the students withdrew from school and the parents left town. I did not deal with mentoring a student after that. I have a friend who took great pleasure in developing a relationship with a younger person. He did this for many years but came to a point in his life when he said NO. Today, some people within our society look for reasons to be suspicious and my friend decided to put himself in a position of being accused of something that did not happen just was not worth it anymore. As society changes so do our attitudes toward helping. Kids need help and if you have decided that this is an area in which you could become more involved....please do so. Children are waiting in line for caring adults and your impact could definitely change a child. If you have decided that this is an area of assistance that you have apprehension about because of the changes within society then stay away from it. Do not put yourself in this position if you cannot be totally committed. I could not be totally committed so I withdrew myself from this as did my friend.

There is a place for you still within this area of helping others. Your help is still needed. So, if one takes himself out of the traditional view of mentoring and still has a desire to be of assistance.....look around your neighborhood, your community, your church. Adults are also in need of assistance and one does not have to go very far to find one to help. I remember a story told about Mother Teresa. A woman writes her a letter and wants to join her in India and help the people of this nation. Mother Teresa writes back and thanks her but offers some simple advice. That advice was.....look in your community and help someone. You can be a mentor, you can be of assistance to those in need and if given the opportunity or if the opportunity opens up for you go for it. **“The King will reply, “I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.”** (Matthew 25:40, NIV) There is no better calling.

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