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The
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CARE CONVERSATIONS

FORWARD
FROM
DR TINA LAMONT // Director TEC



Dear Friend,

We are basing this semester's Care Conversations on the TEC Leadership Matrix.

Part of community spiritual formation is to have Christ-centred leadership that helps to shape the community by mentoring which enables others to be raised up to function in their leadership capacity in Biblical Christian Education Communities. Learning to lead redemptively produces a community of disciples that love and honour Jesus and each other. Mentors invest to this end.

Yours in Christ,

Series 14:

COMMUNITY SPIRITUAL FORMATION

REFLECTION BY BRIAN COX

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Number 2:

DISCIPLESHIP THROUGH MENTORING AND COACHING PART ONE. (FOR LEADERS)

We are not designed to operate in isolation. Christ has redeemed us into a renewed relationship with the Father, which is continually enabled by the Spirit.

We are also redeemed into the Body of Christ. This involves rich fellowship with other believers.

Whilst mentoring and coaching don't get a direct mention in the Bible, they do seem to be quite common. Consider Elijah and Elisha, Moses and Joshua, Jethro and Moses, Paul and Timothy, Saul/Paul and Barnabas, Elizabeth and Mary, Naomi and Ruth, Jesus and his disciples.

As Leaders, we are pleased to be able to help our teachers, staff and students to grow. Part of this involves discipling those in our communities through deliberate mentoring and coaching.

Sometimes we are so busy doing this, that we don't see the need for others to disciple us through mentoring and coaching also. Leaders can be lonely and feel unsupported, or maybe even blind to the need for enrichment and development.

Mentors are people who support us, encourage us, critique us and help us to grow in God-honouring ways. Coaches will help us to develop our effectiveness.

Mentoring may be seen as:

- Discipleship with structure
- Having an experienced and trusted advisor
- Having someone that counsels, guides, nurtures, advises and enables
- Providing support, challenge, and vision
- A deliberate, dynamic relationship of trust in which one person enables another to maximize the grace of God in their life and service.
- Guiding another person on a journey, at the end of which that person is different and more accomplished as a consequence of a closer relationship with, and dependence upon Jesus.

As Leaders we should be mentoring and coaching future leaders in our communities. We should also be seeking out those who can do the same in our own lives.

The first requirement of a mentor is that they are faithful disciples of Christ.

The second requirement of a mentor is that they care. They care enough to want a person to grow in their relationship with, and response to Christ. This will involve love. Not a love that indulges, but a love that seeks growth in Christ-likeness and effectiveness in calling.

A mentor will enable a leader to reflect accurately upon their gifts, their struggles and their calling. This will involve honest challenges and strong accountability.

Mentors can have short term, or long-term involvement. Interdependence is the goal, not unhealthy dependence.

We need to constantly remember Paul's wise advice: "Be imitators of me, **as I**

am of Christ.”^[1]

Desiring to help and to be helped.

Brian

^[1]1 Corinthians 11:1

Brian Cox

Consultant in Leadership & Education



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