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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.

In this issue of Care Conversations we look at the call upon our lives to mentor others. Investing in the lives of others and seeing God transform them into the likeness of Jesus is part of the delight of discipleship. When we mentor and invest in others and in turn they do the same, the impact of mature disciples casting a wider net in God's kingdom is significant. It is a privilege to see what God can do through the journey of mentoring. We pray as you read through the following "Care Conversation" that you will gain greater insight, develop a passion for investing in others and grow your ministry in the community you are planted in.

Yours in Christ,

Dr Tina Lamont

Director TEC

The Excellence Centre

Series 14:

COMMUNITY SPIRITUAL FORMATION

REFLECTION BY BRIAN COX

Consultant in Leadership & Education

Number 3:

DISCIPLESHIP THROUGH MENTORING AND COACHING PART TWO (FOR THE COMMUNITY)

Teaching is primarily a relational vocation. Online education may be useful in terms of content, but nothing replaces the warmth of the teacher and student relationship.

As school leaders, we should be encouraging every adult in our school community, whether teachers or administrative support people, to become involved in mentoring young people.

Firstly, we model this by seeking mentors for ourselves and engaging with others in the community.

As well as seeing that it occurs quite frequently in the Scriptures, we especially

need to see it as part of our educational function (remember not just for teachers, but the whole educational community). It is both our responsibility and privilege.

Each of our families chooses our schools because every family needs other significant adults who can assist with the development of children; It's part of community life.

Leaders, therefore, have to develop a culture where mentoring is the norm.

However, it cannot be an assigned or regimented process. There has to be the potential for natural high-quality relationship to develop.

Suggestions for how to develop a mentoring relationship?

- Pray for guidance about which students God wants you to reach out to and especially encourage. Be open to His leading and wisdom.
- Look for the natural connections that already exist.
- Don't force a relationship – if the genuine relationship does not develop naturally, then maybe the student is better matched with another teacher/staff member.
- Don't assume that just because a student doesn't seem interested or eager that they are not interested.
- Persevere.
- Don't just choose "needy" students.

What forms might mentoring take?

- Regular 'formal' meetings to start with; they can become less formal, but should maintain a focus.
- A time to share praises, struggles and lessons from the past week.
- Possible use of accountability questions.
- Sharing some Scripture.
- Prayer – for each other and other requests.
- Informal opportunities/connections; these may be based on common interests.
- Doing a simple service task together.
- What really matters is that there is intentional, consistent sharing of life together – it is important to see each other in many different contexts to gain more complete knowledge of each other.

Getting Started:

- Set the tone – Focus the relationship on the foundation of the Truth of Jesus Christ and the Gospel.
- Establish a safe environment of trust and openness.
- Consider sharing your own story first. This can open discussion and let them see you as someone who is also learning to depend on God and will encourage them to also open up their life to you.
- Maintain trust; Maintain focus; offer perspective and advice.
- Ask good questions; Push in the right directions.
- It is your job as their mentor to wisely and lovingly confront them. Be patient and persevere; our students will only grow as much as they are willing to acknowledge and turn from sin or work on character issues within their life that are preventing them from a closer walk with Christ.
- Encourage through discussion and debriefing. Allow students to wrestle through faith issues and debate with you.
- Acknowledge when you don't know something and be willing to look into it together.
- Debrief and discuss before and after any risk-taking, faith-stretching, kingdom-building adventures.

“Think of me as a fellow-patient in the same hospital who, having been admitted a little earlier, could give some advice.” C.S. Lewis

Growing together.

Brian

Brian Cox

Consultant in Leadership & Education



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