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Answering the “How” Question . . .

(Mentoring relationships are desperately needed in ministry – as in other areas of work. My observations are certainly not definitive on the topic – but may provide a bit of enlightenment. Mentoring answers the “how” question. It is not restricted to those of us who are preachers. Local church workers, Sunday school teachers, youth staff, etc. benefit from a mentor-protégé relationship. Developing such a rapport is not as simple as providing a resource.)

As I get older, there seems to be less and less I know, even in regard to ministry. Such a confession is not particularly comfortable to say or hear. What God has asked of us is being done in a complex time. Shepherding the flock of God is still pretty simple but the surrounding environment is complicated and will only become more so. How can I do what God has asked me to do? How can I move my life, relationship with God and ministry to the next level? How can I advance the church I lead? How can I be more effective as an evangelist? How . . . how . . . how?

One can be overwhelmed by the “how” question. Look around and one may see others who seem to get all the breaks. Closer examination usually shows the person has habitually practiced particular behavior that has resulted in their effectiveness.

In ministry, should I forge a new path; reinvent the wheel . . . what should I do? Paul offers something important: “Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.” (1 Corinthians 11:1) His word *follow* is not to just walk behind; it means to “imitate.” “Be ye imitators of me . . .” Paul encouraged the reader, “Be like me!” One who imitates another is not doing what comes natural but is applying someone else’s actions to themselves. Paul, “Imitate me . . . as I imitate Christ.” He is saying, “I’ve found an effective pattern for accomplishing what I’m asked to do. Now, you imitate me.” It is doing what has proven to be effective.

If I could swing a baseball bat like Albert Pujols (were twenty-five years younger, adhered to his fitness regime and work ethic) might I be able to hit a baseball 400 feet? Imitating Pujols’s swing would certainly mean I hit a baseball further and with more consistency. Consider the potential of being an “imitator” in ministry. Think of the key areas of ministry we are responsible for:

Communication through preaching.

Effectively teaching the Bible to a Biblically illiterate culture.

Leading the flock of God.

Healing hurting people.

Evangelism of a community.

Growing oneself, growing people, growing a church

Who do you know who has been effective in these areas? What principles are they following that has resulted in their being effective? What behavior or actions does that person consistently practice? In the person’s principles and practices you will likely find the secret of their effectiveness. In these principles and practices are things I’m able to imitate.

We are probably not comfortable with the word “imitate.” Each of us wants to be a “self-made” individualist and in the totality of what we are there is no doubt of each person’s uniqueness. In

considering someone to *imitate* a word we may be more comfortable with is “mentor.”

In Greek legend, when the Greek warrior Odysseus departed to fight in the Trojan War, he put his young son, Telemachus, in the care of a guardian named Mentor. The Greek’ siege of Troy lasted ten years. It took Odysseus an additional ten years to return home. When he arrived back in Greece Telemachus had grown into a man among men. Telemachus’ impact was a result of Mentor’s wise training. During Odysseus’ twenty year absence Mentor had been busy showing Telemachus “how” to deal with life. We now speak of a mentor as one who fundamentally influences the development of another person. Our dynamics are somewhat different – a mentor is not assigned by one’s father or some other elder. It actually seems each of us chooses those who will be their primary influencers. It is important we choose well and wisely.

There are no perfect men for mentors

This pursuit of “mentors” has some challenges for us because we tend to seek perfection. Even turning to the scripture to find real-world help is surprising. It is amazing how non-heroic the characters of scripture are. Quite often these guys were not models of virtue: Abraham lied, Jacob cheated, Moses murdered, David committed adultery, Paul was merciless toward Barnabas and Peter blasphemed. In spite of their lack each of these men were a significant influence on some other individual(s).

We must get beyond, “I’m looking for perfection.” If perfection is the prerequisite for mentoring; nobody I know is qualified. Mentors must be allowed to be recipients of grace.

- ◆ Martin Luther, a powerful influence in the reformation, had angry outbursts.
- ◆ John Wesley influenced many but suffered through an extremely difficult marriage.
- ◆ Charles Spurgeon struggled with such deep depression that he would go to a country home for months on end.

Don’t be so idealistic that you seek mentors who have no weaknesses. All men have clay feet . . . allow it to be.

Mentors ARE Needed

Someone wrote, “The fathers we choose are more important than the father we are born to.” I’m blessed by my biological heritage; however there were some things I needed to learn from men other than L.C. Coon. I chose some “fathers.” Let me offer some suggestions for selecting mentors.

It is important to ask ourselves, “Do I want to become what they are? Is what they are doing working? Is it making a difference? Do I want to become what that man is?” If some other person’s principles and practices are ineffective, why would I want to make the same mistakes? For me . . . consciously or sub-consciously I sought out men who had not “settled.” Those men became advisors with whom I would consult in various situations.

Real World Mentoring

Here is how it works for me: One man I’ve chosen to “imitate” is a veteran pastor. As situations came for which I had little frame of reference, I would pray and examine scripture for the “God principles” involved. Then, I’d develop a strategy for responding to this particular dilemma.

At that point, I’d call the elder; lay out the situation and ask for his suggestion on how to respond.

After he gave his insight we would talk about my planned response. At times my plan was workable. Often he helped me see it from another perspective. After consulting with him I'd pray and take whatever action was needed.

As the years passed my own bank of experiences increased. I called him less often. Yet, on occasion, I'd find myself again calling on him for insight. There is wisdom in the multitude of counsel.

Another mentor helped me focus on revival. It was more by observation than from being "bosom buddies." I've been in the home of G.A. Mangun less than ten times yet Bishop Mangun became a mentor. He is a model of revival living, prayer, personal evangelism, consistent evangelistic preaching, work ethic, faith and personal growth. In none of those things have I attained his level. Yet his focus on prayer and evangelism was applied to our local church. Much of what I learned was by observation from afar.

It was not natural or easy for me to "imitate" any of these men. Yet, as the years have passed . . . what was at one point imitation has become part of my own approach to life and ministry.

Reflections on Mentor Relations

- ◆ Don't expect perfection or to agree with your mentor on every topic.
- ◆ Practicing what has been modeled is not natural. It takes a determined and decided effort.
- ◆ You will need more than one mentor. Every person has strengths and weaknesses. Bring people into your life and learn from their strengths.
- ◆ As time passes, the list of those who influence you may change. Some voices that once resonated are no longer sounding boards. As growth comes one needs to find leaders who have traveled the path that now lies immediately ahead. This means reaching out for new voices with fresh perspective.

I'm grateful for the men who have been part of my life. Men who have allowed me to "tag along" watching what they did. An old adage says, "If you ever see a turtle on a fence post . . . you know he didn't get there by himself." Few will rise to what we could be without bringing into our life some men we choose to imitate. There are some people around you who know "how" . . . ask them and observe them. They will be your greatest help!

Recommended Resource: **Mentoring** by **Bob Biehl** (Broadman & Holman, 1997) is the best book I've read on this particular topic.

HMD has two resources designed to at least create an opportunity to connect generations. "Preacher Tell Me Your Memories" is designed to get younger preachers talking to older preachers. The second has been used in a local church setting to get younger saints connected with veteran believers. "Elders Tell Me Your Memories" has benefitted the relationships. Interestingly, Leadership magazine recently focused on the benefits of multi-generational ministry as opposed to ministry that focuses on reaching Baby Boomers or Generation-X. Both ". . . Memories" items are available as free downloads at Homemissionsdivision.com

News and Views

January – February

Christmas for Christ 2009 – We are in the last weeks of the annual *Christmas for Christ* campaign. Almost every HM Director I've spoken to has anticipated an increase. *Christmas for Christ* – plants churches! If you have not done so, January is not too late to get your church involved. If you need additional materials, please contact Errin Bryant at ebryant@upci.org. We also have posters listing the names of every church planter in North America. These are great to post in a prayer room or in Sunday School classes.

Honor to Whom Honor is Due – General Superintendent Kenneth Haney has blessed Home Missions and Evangelists with his visionary ministry. I deeply appreciate Bro. and Sis. Haney's love for Jesus, the people of God and the work of God. Their service will continue.

Christmas for Christ Dates – In order to receive full consideration, CFC applications must be in the office by January 15. Applications are reviewed by each applicant's Regional Director before being considered by the Home Missions Administrative Committee. Church offerings are to be in the district office by February 12th. District Directors submit the report to WEC by February 19th. You can be looking for the 2009 CFC figures to be posted on the website the afternoon of February 19th.

Youth on Missions – On July 12 – 19, 2010 the North American Youth on Missions trip will focus on Washington, DC. My goal is to have 50 young people work with Jerald Staten and other church planters in the DC area. Pastors, this is an opportunity to set your young people afire with the cause of missions! Please download an application at apostoliceyouthcorps.com/destinations.aspx, and send it to the Youth Division by April 1, 2010. The cost for the trip is \$900 (does not include airfare). Contact the Youth Division for more information at 314-837-7300.

General Superintendent David Bernard on *HM Live* – The first and second Tuesday of January, Bishop David Bernard will be the guest on *HM Live*. I anticipate working with our new Superintendent. Please plan to join us for these webcasts.

Christmas for Christ Training for Church Planters – CFC has long provided resource for training missionaries. This year the training will be provided online. It will be available the month of April. Presenters will include church planters Chester Mitchell and David Bernard. *Christmas for Christ* recipients are required to participate in the training. In the interest of providing a resource to our fellowship at large – this training will be made available to all. CFC helps plant churches!

Christian Prisoner Fellowship Conference – The Christian Prisoner Fellowship conference is March 26-27 at First Church in Nashville, TN. Pre-registration is \$35.00. Registration at the door will be \$45.00. For information about having a display table, or to pre-register go to christianprisonerfellowship.net or call 314-837-7300 ext. 360. Two distinct tracks of training will benefit veteran chaplains as well as those just starting. Pastors this is a great opportunity to get someone in your church passionate about prison ministry.

Pentecost Sunday – This year, Pentecost Sunday is on May 23rd. Once again, we are going to commemorate our deliverance from spiritual bondage by celebrating the power that breaks chains and sets people free! For promotional items please visit www.HomeMissionsDivision.com/PentecostSunday/.

Congratulations to the Atlanta West Pentecostal Church – This is a bit afield from Home Missions but deserves headline level accolades. Atlanta West Pentecostal Church (Pastor Darrell Johns) was voted Best Church Choir in America in the *Verizon Wireless Choir Competition*. These folks presented Oneness Pentecostalism at its best. They praised, worshipped and looked distinctly righteous and modest. Of the finalist this choir was also the only one to be culturally diverse. I commend Atlanta West for representing the United Pentecostal Church so well. Take a look at www.howsweetthesound.com.

Metro Missionary Deputational Schedule – A Metro Missionary will soon be in your district. Please host them for a service. Metro Missionary services are a great opportunity to awaken your church to what a mission field North America is. (Thirty-eight countries around the world have more Apostolic churches per capita than exist in North America.) Another option - contact your District Home Missions Director or our office (dwiseman@upci.org) and commit to become a monthly partner with the Metro Missionary. This will allow for a *Rapid Deployment* of the missionary to their city of calling.

Metro Missionary Jonathan and Jessica Buckland to Cleveland, OH

January 3 – 24, 2010	Southern California
January 25 – February 4, 2010	Arizona
February 5 – 15, 2010	Texico
February 16 – March 8, 2010	South Texas
March 9 – 29, 2010	Texas

Metro Career Church Planter Scott and Karla Sistrunk to Detroit, MI

January 12 – 18, 2010	Connecticut
January 26 – February 1, 2010	Louisiana
February 9 – 15, 2010	Florida
February 23 – March 1, 2010	Alabama
March 9 – 15, 2010	Missouri
March 23 – 29, 2010	Tennessee

Metro Career Church Jerald Staten to Washington (represented by Kyle and Jenna Houk)

January 6 – 20, 2010	South Carolina
January 23 – February 5, 2010	West Virginia
February 7 – 18, 2010	Kentucky
February 21 – March 4, 2010	Indiana
March 6 – 15, 2010	New Jersey – Delaware
March 17 – 25, 2010	New Jersey Metro

IntraCultural Missionary Evangelist to African Immigrants – Edwin Forkpa

January 24 – February 3, 2010	Maryland
February 5 – 18, 2010	Pennsylvania
February 20 – March 4, 2010	Illinois
March 6 – 18, 2010	Michigan
March 20 – 31, 2010	Wisconsin

Happy New Year –Happy New Year from the Home Missions Executive Team and the entire staff. We are in this together. Our sole purpose for existing is to serve the local church.

People of the Mission
January/February 2010

Home Missionary Reports

Home Missionary **Daniel Orten** (Marion, KY) is averaging 41 and has purchased a building, allowing them to expand their Sunday school program. Home Missionary **John Arcovio** (Rohnert Park / Santa Rosa, CA) has averaged 30 in attendance, taught 27 Bible studies and has had 5 receive the Holy Ghost. **Lonnie Vestal** (Mason, OH) set a new attendance record of 24. **Johnny Barnswell** (Louisville, KY) is averaging 55-65 with 9 baptized and 2 receiving the Holy Ghost in recent weeks. **Philip Bowers** (Lincoln, NE) launched a new church on September 13 with 21 new people. **Jason Savoy** (Guelph, Ontario) is building a network of acquaintances. To get acquainted he is volunteering with the Cancer Society. Home Missionary **Robert E. Hohman, Sr.** (Dixon, MO) is conducting anger management classes and jail services. Pastor **Jathan Maricelli** (Ruston, LA) had 140 in attendance at their Fall festival. Pastor **Glen Donnellan** (Wolfville,

Nova Scotia) is having first-time visitors nearly every week in their First Nations outreach. **Stephen Wentworth** (Roma, TX) is having street services. Drug addicts are receiving the Holy Ghost. Home Missionary **Miguel Lacsamana** (Kent, WA) recently had 60 visitors. Home Missionary **Nestor Villarín** (Long Beach, CA) baptized 1 in October. Church planter **Lorin Bradbury** baptized 1 in Toksook Bay, AK. Missionary **Marty Bryant** (Puxico, MO) had 72 one Sunday in November. Over a six week period he baptized 20 and had 10 receive the Holy Ghost. Pastor **Larry Garcia** (Kankakee, IL) is averaging 61. **Stuart Young** (Livermore, CA) reports a miracle allowing them to get into a building they lease 24/7. Home Missionary **Scott Wilbourn** (Lindsay, OK) had 1 get the Holy Ghost and 2 baptized. **Ricky Kennon** (Bacliff, TX) reports 8 filled with the Holy Ghost in 5 months. **Peter Fraser** (De Pere, WI) has people they first contacted on their arrival several years ago beginning to visit church. Home Missionary **Jim Woodruff** has older saints (converted 3 to 4 years ago) now beginning to be an asset to the church. Michael Menendez (Excelsior Springs, MO) had a 3-day revival with Evangelist **Billy Huey**. Four were baptized and 2 received the Holy Ghost. Additional help came from Elder **John Morgans** (Liberty, MO), Pastor **Mike Williamson** (Lee's Summit, MO), and students from Gateway College of Evangelism. Home Missionary **Philip Phillips** (Chatham, Ontario) had 9 first-time visitors at their Church Dedication. Thanks to *Church in a Day* for funds used to purchase the building. Home Missionary **Jay Davis** (Lincoln, AL) broke the midweek record with 66. Four received the Holy Ghost. **Dean Lunsford** (Hamilton, OH) held their first marriage seminar, which had new guests. **Shane and April Brown** (Flowood, MS) have been using Facebook to make contacts. They had 117 first-time visitors in the last quarter with 21 being baptized. Home Missionary **Rashidi Collins** (Town and Country, FL) averages over 50 adults in Sunday school. Ten were baptized in September and October. Home Missionary **Horacio Lachica** (Laguna Hills, CA) did a special focus on tithing called "God's Guarantee" and added 4 new tithe-paying believers. Home Missionary **Shawn Plant** (Galveston, TX) hosted a block party with 400 in attendance and 19 baptized; 38 are attending a discipleship class. **Trent Gilliam** (South San Francisco) had 28 in service recently, 10 return guests in September, and 1 got the Holy Ghost. He expresses thanks for Christmas for Christ support.

All Nations Sunday Reports

City	Pastor	Nations Represented	Results
Tuscon, AZ	Paul Conner	12	2 Baptized
Fayetteville, NC	Robbie Mitchell	18	1 Baptized
Danielson, CT	Steven Leite	90 Spanish	
Clute, TX	Jeffrey Smith	4	2 Baptized/3 Holy Ghost
Woodbury, TN	Clayton Neal	3	
Hamilton, NJ	Arthur Naylor	16	6 Baptized
Colorado Springs, CO	Marney Turpin	3	1 Holy Ghost
Cookeville, TN	Ron Phillips	5	
Alabaster, AL	Tony Roberts	6	
Lowell, MA	Stephen Moody	4	17 in attendance
San Antonio, TX	Leon Suggett	16	2 Holy Ghost
Ruston, LA	Sammy Bozeman	6	
Trois Reveres, QB	(Needs Pastor)	8	57 in attendance
Gaithersburg, MD	Ron Libby	28	5 Baptized/1 Holy Ghost
New Westminster, BC	Paul Reynolds	12	2 Baptized/2 Holy Ghost
Los Alamos, NM	Allen Weiser	2	
Colorado Spings, CO	Edward Cantu	8	1 Holy Ghost
Apex, NC	J.P. Fuller	7	
Jacksonville Beach, FL	Ron Strong	3	3 Baptized
Worcester, MA	Robin Craft	8	2 Baptized
Cleveland, OH	Robert Mason	6	
Mankato, MN	Jeremy Cox	6	
Washington D.C.	Jerald Staten	18	2 Baptized
Ft. Lauderdale, FL	David Elms	15	1 Holy Ghost
Arcadia, LA	Donnie Underwood	15 Spanish	

City	Pastor	Nations Represented	Results
Cabot, AR	Tim Gaddy	3	1 Baptized
Utica, NY	Greg Smellie	12	2 Baptized/1 Holy Ghost
Port St. Lucie, FL	Chris Meehan	7	11 Holy Ghost
Montreal	Paul Graham	58	5 Baptized/5 Holy Ghost

Multicultural Ministry

Daniel Stirnemann (Lebanon, TN) has baptized over 90 from the African American community in the past 9 months. Pastor **T.A. LaFave** (Saratoga Springs, NY) has a campus ministry and has baptized a student from Sierra Leone. **David Wasserburger** (Denver) made connections with Nepali immigrants from refugee camps and has 37 coming to church, 2 Bible studies started, and 4 filled with the Holy Ghost. **Eugene Guerrero** (Salt Lake City) has 30 Burmese coming to church, and is teaching them English using *Search for Truth*. **Troy Fair**, HM Regional Director for the Southwest reports that Pastor **T. Paul Vang** has baptized 14 Hmong in Sacramento. Pastor Vang recently met with 12 Trinitarian Hmong Pastors who want him to come teach Oneness in their churches. These groups are scattered all over America. Intra-cultural Missionary Evangelist **Darrell Collins** began a Hispanic daughter work (Georgetown, Delaware – Home Missionary **Janet Trout**) and had 71 the first service (52 were Hispanic). **Vani and Marshall Xavier** are reaching the Asian community in Alexandria, LA, by teaching English as a Second Language. So far, they have reached Chinese, Burmese, Filipino, and Korean families.

Metro Missions

Metro Missionary **Ryan Crossley** (Hollywood, FL) opened up 2 new cell groups in the past 2 months and is launching a third. They have seen over 90 first-time visitors in an evangelism campaign. Metro Missionaries **Rick and Stacey Perry** (New Haven, CT) have passed out 4,500 flyers and 100 coin bags of quarters at Laundromats. Metro Missionaries **Scott and Liane Grant** (Montreal) have a weekly Sunday service, a bi-weekly home group, and are developing contacts through daily French classes.

Daughter Churches

Sunday School Secretary **Robbie Knox**, former pastor in Carrollton, KY, started a daughter work in Warsaw, KY. This daughter church, now autonomous just celebrated its one-year anniversary with Bro. Knox preaching. Pastor **Mark Sanders** recently had 49 in attendance.

Prayer Needs and Giving Opportunities

Home Missionary **Daniel Phaeton** (Norristown, PA) needs prayer for the establishment of a Spanish daughter work in Philadelphia and building in Norristown. Multiple French-speaking communities in New Brunswick need a church. Home Missionary **Shawn Plant** (Galveston, TX) is asking Galveston city officials for a city building to use for church services. Home Missionaries **Stacey and Melody Meeks** (Hermitage, TN) request prayer for Sunday school laborers.

Christmas for Christ - Jesus Gives Back

Home Missionary Knox Handkins is in Exton, and Pottstown, PA. Bro. Handkins recently said, “God moved on me to double our goal for CFC. We always push to give at least \$1000.00. Our family had already given \$200. I felt to give \$400.00 and told the church. We had one person give \$1000.00. I feel we will go above \$2000.00. Revival is happening in Exton and Pottstown!” This is getting Christmas for Christ back to the intent of giving one’s largest gift to Jesus! What a great example. Arkansas HM Secretary Don Richardson (Maumelle, Arkansas) had something similar happen, “About four weeks ago my wife and I pledged to the CFC offering. We feel as a result of our willingness to give, God has brought blessing back to us. Since making the pledge, we have received 31 times the amount back to us. We give God the glory!”

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**The future is now. Establish a legacy of impact.
Include Home Missions in your estate plan.**
Call Brian Hord (314) 837-7300 ext. 367
Stan Thrift at (318) 680-3208.



Ministry Toolbox

***Devotions with DAD* provides
weekly interaction time for
fathers and their kids.**

Devotions with Dad

Sometime back I heard Granville McKenzie (Toronto, Canada) preach an excellent message on “Home Missions.” His title caught my attention. His topic was not “North America,” but the mission found right in our home.

We often challenge our fathers to be better parents. God established that a father train and instruct his children (Deuteronomy 6:7; Ephesians 6:4). Studies show that children in a home where Dad loves Jesus are five times more likely to stay in church, than those in homes where Mom is the religious leader. Have we provided the resources for our fathers to do what we have asked?

Let me suggest a resource developed by Home Missionary Daniel Koren of Neosho, MO. Folks, this deserves a look. Visit the website www.DevotionsWithDad.com to take a look at the online edition of Devotions with Dad.