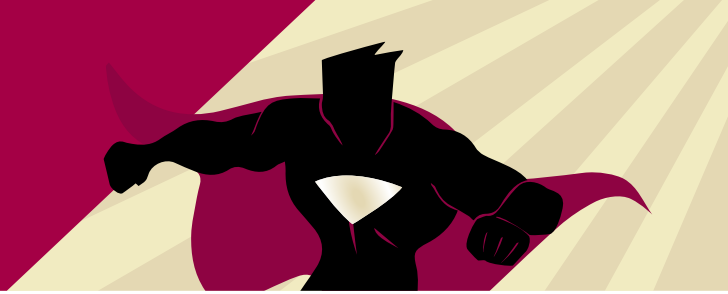


REFLECTION



Spiritual mentoring is extremely important because it provides people with guidance and helps them understand important things about their faith. For many people, spiritual mentoring is a tool for getting a significant psychological relief so they feel more secure and confident about choices they make. Sometimes, people need a person who would encourage or explain to them something based on ideas found in religion because such an explanation would help a person to determine his or her future acts. Thus, spiritual mentoring is important because it provides people with many solutions for psychological problems they experience and reminds them that they are not alone in their problems since their faith can guide them through the challenges and provide them with solutions.

Spiritual mentoring in Christianity is extremely important because it allows gathering people and giving them hope while using words from Bible. Spiritual mentoring allows encouraging people and strengthening the point that God is always there with them. Spiritual mentoring is also important because it allows showing a great example of a religious person on practice, so people can follow it. For example, a spiritual mentor has to act in accordance to Christian principles and lead a life of a decent Christian that would serve as a great example for other people to follow. Spiritual mentoring encourages people to act in accordance with Christian beliefs, and gives them a push in the needed direction.

Spiritual mentoring is an important part of Christianity because it allows mentors to help those in need and provide assistance to people who seek it. Even more, spiritual mentoring allows spreading ideas of Christ which are based on love, respect and taking care of others. Thanks to spiritual mentoring, mentors are able to do that for people around them which shows the huge importance of spiritual mentoring and its influence on people.

The first difference between the interviews lied in the reasons for starting

spiritual mentoring. Mrs. McIntyre stated that the mentees were the ones interested in having a spiritual mentor. They felt like they did not know enough about their religion, and they also had many questions regarding Christianity and faith. Mentees wanted to strengthen their relationship with God, and that was why they needed a spiritual mentor. Hence, Mrs. McIntyre became one in order to help the mentees to strengthen their faith and relationship with God.

Dr. Blanton, on the other hand, initiated spiritual mentoring oneself. The spiritual leader realized that young people needed somebody to guide them and help them to establish a strong relationship with God. Hence, Dr. Blanton became a spiritual mentor thanks to one's own initiative viewing it as a tool to direct young people toward God.

Despite different ways of becoming spiritual mentors, the overall mentoring of Mrs. McIntyre and Dr. Blanton is not that different. Dr. Blanton meets with youth after service on Sunday because students have time on that day, and they also learn many things during service itself. Youth talks with a mentor in church gardens which serve as a good place for productive talk, thinking and sharing. During the meetings, students usually talk about their relationships with God. Dr. Blanton said that youth was asking many questions regarding God's presence among people and His influence on them. The group also talks about ways of improving the lives of youth so they would act in accordance to Christian principles and God's will. Hence, the group's meetings are rich with discussion because young people can ask questions which matter to them, get an answer from the mentor as well as feedback from their peers.

The meetings organized by Misiki McIntyre are not that different from the ones organized by Dr. Blanton. McIntyre's group meets in the evenings at the local youth center. The overall meeting is very similar to the one Michelle Blanton has. Similarly to the meeting described above, McIntyre's group asks questions about God. They ask the questions which trouble them regarding the relationship with God and ways to act as a Christian. Thanks to the questions, Mrs. McIntyre is able to determine the flow of conversation.

She can also understand a lot about mentees personalities by analyzing their questions, and that helps her to find appropriate answers. The mentor answers questions, and then, the meeting becomes more personal because group members form a pact and share personal stories. This allows group members to become closer to each other and seek solutions concerning their faith together.

In the end of the meeting with a group, Misiki asks people questions as well as asks them to do a personal stock on their relationships with God.

The descriptions provided by both mentors showed that their group meetings were very similar because they aimed to help people to find needed answers about God and faith as well as support them psychologically and help them deal with certain problems and issues which were pressuring them. Both mentors emphasized on communication as a key to solving many issues and learning more about God, and that was what they were doing during their group meetings.

Still, the interviews also showed a difference between mentors while choosing the most difficult part of their mentorship. Dr. Michelle Blanton claims that the most difficult part of the mentorship was choosing the right category for mentees. According to mentor, it was difficult to match the young adults and their respective mentoring groups because in the very beginning, a mentor did not know a lot about the youth, their personalities and beliefs. Hence, the process was rather complicated for Dr. Blanton, and it required a lot of wisdom.

Mrs. Misiki McIntyre, on the other hand, found the entire mentoring process to be rather difficult because there were moments when she did not know how to act with the mentees since she did not have a clear vision of ways in which mentorship worked. The answers provided by both mentors differed greatly because Dr. Blanton showed some insecurities concerning the initial stage of the process while Mrs. McIntyre had doubts regarding the entire process since she was not sure whether she could always provide people with the best solutions and advice concerning God.

Hence, both mentors had some doubts and showed that the process of mentoring was not an easy task. Nevertheless, they both enjoyed it very much finding great consequences of their teaching. Dr. Blanton stated that helping troubled youth was the most important part of the mentoring because it filled the mentor with sense of purpose. Dr. Blanton was very happy that the mentoring allowed young people to lead productive lives afterwards while following the Bible. The mentor also marked the fact that mentees were becoming mentors later on, and that was very important for Dr. Blanton.

Mrs. Misiki Mcintyre described the same things while talking about the best parts and consequences of being a spiritual mentor. She stated that the spiritual growth of her mentees was the most significant part of her mentoring because she was truly happy for mentees becoming closer with God and acting in accordance to Christian principles. She also stated that mentoring helped her because it allowed her to stay closer with God. She remembered Jesus' example who was also a mentor, and she was happy to follow Him and contribute something to her religion.

Hence, both mentors shared the same vision concerning the goal of spiritual mentoring and the role a mentor had to play for the mentees. Although mentors started mentoring because of different reasons, they focused on the same things and wanted their students to achieve the same results of becoming closer with God. Thanks to their hard work, devotion and faith, both mentors were able to achieve it.

The mentors gave me many valuable lessons concerning mentorship. Firstly, they taught me that mentoring was not a typical teaching, but a process of sharing during which a mentor could also learn something from his or her mentees. Thanks to the interviews, I realized that mentorship was about establishing trust among people and helping them with an honest advice based on the relationship with God. Spiritual mentoring was not about forcing people to act in a certain way. On the contrary, it was about guiding people by showing one's own example. A mentor should be guided by God so he or she can guide his or her mentees.

The second lesson I learned was that mentorship was not something you could read and memorize from the book. It was a constant challenge because you always had to search for answers as well as question oneself, but with faith and perseverance, it was possible to be a good mentor.

The third lesson was that mentoring people did not only strengthen their relationships with God; it also strengthened the mentor's relations with God. Being a mentor allows you to be close to Jesus because when you try to answer people's questions, you ask Jesus for answers and communicate with Him.

These three lessons were very important, and I will use them during my implementation of mentoring. Thanks to them, I will be prepared to deal with challenges, be open toward my mentees, share with them as much as they share with me as well as always seek answers from God as the only guidance a person may have.