



## A MENTOR'S EXPERIENCE

Directing the Mentoring/Discipleship program is one of my responsibilities here at IGo and is a tremendous joy and blessing! I am grateful to have the privilege of sharing at this level with a group of youth whose hearts beat after God and who desire to know Him more intimately.

What is the Mentoring/Discipleship Program and what does it look like?

It is certainly more than just a 'program'! It's an experience that takes the students out of

the classroom, away from the busyness of life, and into the presence of God! It brings them to a place of looking inward, and honestly evaluating their life. It allows them to process tough issues in their lives, as well as realizing with renewed gratitude how much God loves them by the blessings He has given them.

The student body is separated into groups of 4-5 and assigned a mentor. Each group meets weekly to share in accountability and prayer. These are very special times, and I always look forward to this time of sharing together.

*"Be still, and know that I am God."* In the mentoring experience, each student spends one day each term in solitude, alone with God. In their first semester, the day is spent in worship, reflecting on

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Men's Mentoring Group Prayer Time

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Ladies Mentoring Group Prayer Time



Barb Yoder & Celesta Barkman's Mentoring Group

their salvation and who they are in Christ. They look at events and experiences in their lives, both pleasant and painful, and see how God is using these to shape them and bring them into their life purpose as well as identifying their calling. Ultimately they are drawn into a closer relationship with Himself.

During their second semester of attendance, the student also defines his values, position in Christ, giftings and purpose.

Each day of solitude is followed by a group mentoring day. The groups spend the day with their mentor sharing their life and solitude day experiences and praying for each other. There are times we shed tears together and times we laugh together. Another important time of our day is spent in some form of recreation or enjoyable group activity.

As a mentor, I have been tremendously blessed by the honesty and fervent desire for God that I see in the students! There has been healing, renewed vision, and prayers have been answered. God continues to build His Kingdom, and it's awesome to have the privilege of sharing with these youth during this part of their journey of life!

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## EMAIL NEWSLETTER

Please contact us at [igoasia@hotmail.com](mailto:igoasia@hotmail.com) if you would prefer receiving this newsletter via e-mail.

## STUDENT TESTIMONIES

“When I got here, I originally wasn't sure about mentoring groups. It was scary to me to think of sharing so deeply with people I didn't know, but I cannot begin to say how happy I am that we have mentoring groups. It has been so good for me to have people to share with. They have helped me through a lot of things.”

“Solitude helped me get my focus back on God when things started to overwhelm me or pull me away from Him. It was a time of refreshment and building the one relationship that is the most important in the end. It was a time of listening to God since the busyness of life can keep me from it, and a time of God putting me back on track since it's so easy to stray.”

“I loved every minute of our solitude days! I love people, but I also get to the point where I need some alone time. I hope to continue this practice after going home, and to spend that time in meditation, reading of books, and journaling.”



Bike Trip on Mentoring Day



Val Yoder & Gaylord Barkman's Mentoring Group

## MENTORING & DISCIPLESHIP PROGRAM

MDP involves intensive interaction with a mentoring team as well as specific experiences designed to take the student into a deeper, clearer, and more radiant relationship with Jesus Christ. The MDP provides both solitude and group sharing. It is a walk with God alone, and a walking together, giving and receiving in a small group setting. It is designed to help the student identify areas of growth, and to give direction to stimulate growth by seeing the "fingerprints" of God in the experiences of life, both pleasant and painful.

The objectives of the MDP are fourfold:

1. ***To establish the student as a child of God.***

Basis - Col. 1:23 If you continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel.

2. ***To "build up" the student so that the student becomes actively thankful to God in all their life experiences.***

Basis - Col. 2:6-7 As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in Him; rooted and built up in Him, and established in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

3. ***To provide an environment where the student matures into a person of character and integrity, with spiritual discernment and personal resolve in their response to evil.***

Basis - Heb. 5:14 But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

4. ***To assist in equipping the student to not only reproduce the life of Christ in others, but to be able to properly mentor and disciple new believers into a faith that continues to reproduce.***

Basis - 2 Tim. 2:2 And the things that thou has heard...the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

## CONTACT

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## A MENTOR'S EXPERIENCE CONT.

The Mentoring/Discipleship Program is designed to ultimately bring the student to a closer relationship with Him. This is successful to the degree that each person gives him/herself to it. And by drawing closer to God, God reveals more of Himself to us, both in our relationship with Him, and clarity in our calling.

I am excited, not only to be a part of mentoring these youth, but to anticipate what God will do through them in the future!

- Pastor Gaylord Barkman



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## I WITNESS NEWS

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Delight Yoder's 2012 Mentoring Group



Men's Mentoring Group