

of Ponca City, OK. Bob held a high position in Conoco oil. He was a very successful person who was already saved, he just wanted to know more about God. I was able to help his entire family into the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. This occurred many times while he was traveling on business. He would often stop by to visit. Bob became the first president of the newly organized chapter of the Full Gospel Business Men's chapter in Ponca City for several years. He then took an early retirement from Conoco, started the strongest church in the city and county and became a positive influence in that area. This man and his family had their lives pretty much together and my position as a mentor was more or less as an encourager.

Final Comment:

Usually, the Lord will show me men of leadership ability. Other times I am attracted to them like J.R. Ools and Jay Drawbridge. I was obnoxious to some of them at first but became a dad to them over time. Some were friendships that developed into deeper ministry times as we grew to know each other. There are several pastors, missionaries and business men serving in God's Kingdom that I have had the pleasure of mentoring.

Several of these men took five or more years to get them into their God given calling and in most cases I now see them as doing much better and greater than myself. I think everyone should mentor someone but there are some of us who have a calling to be mentors for God's Kingdom. The scriptures below are very important to pray over any one you are mentoring (inserting their name in the places I used my son Alan's name):

Philippians 1:6 Amp "And I am convinced and sure of this very thing, that He Who began a good work in Alan will continue until the day of Jesus Christ [right up to the time of His return], developing [that good work] and perfecting and bringing it to full completion in Alan."

Philippians 2:13 Amp "[Not in Alan's own strength] for it is God Who is all the while effectually at work in Alan [energizing and creating in Alan the power and desire], both to will and to work for His good pleasure and satisfaction and delight."

Ephesians 2:10 Amp "For Alan is God's [own] handiwork (His workmanship), recreated in Christ Jesus, [born anew] that Alan may do those good works which God predestined (planned beforehand) for Alan [taking paths which He prepared ahead of time], that Alan should walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for Alan to live]."

MENTOR
A LOYAL FRIEND AND ADVISOR
A WISE LOYAL ADVISOR, TEACHER OR COACH

The range of mentoring is very wide and varies from each individual, just as God's calling on each person is unique. Mentoring covers a whole range of issues, which includes, but is not limited to, self-acceptance, encouragement, guidance, direction, establishing priorities, and finding God's purpose and/or calling in one's life. I think self-acceptance is required before a person can be mentored. They also need to realize their need for a drastic change in their lives by making Jesus the Lord of their lives, not just Savior only. After they make Jesus Lord there is a time of growing up and maturing that needs to take place, with the mentor helping to show the way. This is where the mentor comes in alongside them to offer Christian fellowship and continuous times of studying the Word of God. During the process of being mentored it is important for the individual's personal development that he or she attends a Word Church, home Bible studies, and live a disciplined life according to the Word of God. Sometimes the individual desiring mentoring seeks out a mentor and sometimes it is by the Lord's leading that the two in the mentoring relationship are brought together.

Examples are a few of the men that I was blessed to mentor in their God given calling:

I. I started by mentoring my son, Alan. This was prior to my salvation and total dedication to God; I used my son Lynn who was 2 years older as a model for Alan to live by. Alan learned at an early age (maybe 2 or 3 years old) that he could not equal his older brothers maturity. As a result, Alan would not even try. Why compete if you are already defeated; always second best. This attitude controlled Alan's life until I (his dad) saw the light and realized the damage that I had inflicted.

Even though Alan was 22 years old and married, I explained that I had destroyed his zeal and apologized to him personally and asked his forgiveness; which he gave to me. I told Alan he could do anything through God's help and encouraged him. It was a little slow at the beginning, but gradually we became better. He went from a minimum wage earner to the most sought after professional man in his home state of Oklahoma. Alan says, "My Dad was the man that destroyed me and later he was the man who made me an overcomer." When it is your own son which you as a father destroyed; you realize there is a multitude of similar cases that need help.

II. The second man was an individual by the name of J.R. Ools. This started with my wife and me showing love to his wife, Mary Ann, as she was sitting beside us in church crying. They started to attend our home Bible study and a good church and a relationship developed. They were still baby Christians though and J.R. told me later that he prospered in business by buying drinks for his clients at a local Go-Go club. He said that his normal liquor bill ran at about \$5,000 per month. He continually criticized his wife, who in my view, was a high quality person. They even separated during this time before I was able, with God's help, to turn his life around. My wife even advised me to leave him alone saying, "he isn't worth your time." One day I went into the office of the company he owned, told his secretary to hold all his calls and visitors. J.R. told me later that I read him the riot act for three hours. I really don't think it took that long but it was a lengthy conversation. As a result of our meeting, J.R. realized his whole attitude of life had been wrong and that God had a perfect plan for his life. He went back to his wife and continued to grow in the Lord. Now he is an executive in the largest independent telephone company in America and has led many in the company to the Lord, including the President and two of the other top three men. He has ample income and has a weekly Bible study (a small church) in his home, as well as having Bible sessions in the main office of his company.

Side note: He had trouble understanding the Bible so he started learning the truths of scripture by reading a Children's Bible. The Lord is not limited in His ways of teaching you His truths, if you seek Him.

III. Probably the slowest to respond was Jay Drawbridge of Enid, OK. His father abandoned the home before he was two years old and his mother constantly told him that he was as hopeless as his dad. Even though he was extremely athletic, he would cop-out by saying, "Only the rich kids are favored by the coach, because of the fathers' gifts to the coaches." He couldn't hold a job or make any quality decisions in his life. The local church had given up on him along with many others in his life.

I started sharing with him that he was special in God's eyes and said he had to start making proper decisions. He got into prison ministry, later was ordained and is now building the first new church in his community in the last 25 years. He told me that there are people from sixteen other communities now attending his church. He is now a very decisive person (his weakest point has now become his strongest through God's help), highly respected, and very

influential. This did not occur quickly in his life but took years for the seeds we planted to start bearing fruit. So don't give up too quickly on an individual that God has put in your path for a purpose.

IV. I met Jim Englander when I was ministering in a county jail. He was there for manufacturing drugs within 300 feet of a church. He owned three businesses and was a millionaire when out of curiosity he wanted to see if he was smart enough to make meth. He didn't sell the drugs but gave them away to his friends. Also (before he went to prison) his mother (a school teacher) committed suicide with one of Jim's hunting guns. While in prison he asked the Lord if he would ever see his mother again and got an answer from God, "Yes, you will if you make Me Lord of your life." With this, I was able to mentor him into salvation, the infilling of the Holy Spirit, and the ways of God. He is a natural leader and he led more than 20 people to the Lord while still in the county jail. Jim recently wrote me a letter stating that he had never experienced a high like he has now in his relationship with God through the Holy Spirit. At his bail hearing between jail and prison, he married Patricia, the lady he had lived with for six years prior to being arrested. He is still leading people to Jesus while serving his prison term and is now close to being released.

V. Gary Cox was arrested for driving the get away car in an armed robbery of a convenience store. The robbery was to obtain money that he owed for drugs. He was a seasoned auto salesman with a good income and sold drugs on the side. I met him while ministering in a county jail. I was able to spend time with him while he was in prison and have continued to write him letters and make phone calls to him over the years we have know each other. He later told me how he was mad because he had gone to church all his life and had been lied to because no one told him the truths of God until I did after he was in prison. I told him that it was more likely that he wasn't to a point of being ready to hear those truths until he came to this low place in his life.

These are the words from a letter I received this week, "You need to know how much you have inspired me and taught me and mentored me since the day you led me to the Lord in 2001. You are like my dad, my mentor, & my best friend all in one." He has taught the word in prison, been chaplain assistant, and has led well over 400 into salvation and the infilling of the Holy Spirit. He plans to go into full time ministry upon his release from prison in October 2010, and I believe that he will be extremely effective.

VI. Not all that I've mentored are extreme cases. Some are like Bob Innes