



four stories [about mentors]

by daniel riemenschneider

It was the summer before I started high school, 1996. My **dad**, brother, and I had taken on a daunting project: building a 19x27 porch addition to our home. That summer and fall, we dug the 42-inch foundation, ran the electrical, hung the dry wall, sanded the dry wall, sanded the dry wall again, painted, hammered in the wood-paneled ceiling, and completed the project with finishing touches. That was 14 years ago. I still remember it vividly.

My favorite memories from this grand project were simply being with my **dad**. As we slopped Spackle on the drywall we had great conversations about going to high school and making new friends. We talked about what I thought about doing with my future and what activities I wanted to do. I also got to learn from my **dad** as we built the room together. I will never forget those memories.

When I think of the holidays, I smell the holidays: homemade red-marinara sauce, which our family affectionately calls gravy. Sliced pepperoni, provolone cheese, olives, artichokes tossed together with olive oil and garlic and "voila": antipasto. I smell layered tiramisu and apple cheese cake. Some of my most favorite memories of the holidays were spent with my family, particularly my **mom** in the kitchen. I learned from her as she would throw in a dash of this and a smidgeon of that, never using a cookbook. I remember when she would invite guests into our home and delight them with delicious Italian food. My brother and I were told to "FHB" (Family Hold Back) if there was not enough food. We never could figure out why. (We cooked for an army.)

Guess what I enjoy about living on my own today? I enjoy entertaining. I love having friends and family over to share in life's stories. I believe this is because I learned the art of hospitality from my **mom**.

parent youth connection spotlights various adolescent issues, gives focus to spiritual formation, and highlights the upcoming activities in the life of the youth group at bloomingdale church

When I was in high school, I met a youth pastor from another church named **Dave Monreal** at a combined youth group function. We ran into each other at numerous other events that year: a concert, a college fair, a worship night. After chatting at one event, **Dave** said to me, "Hey, let's grab a bite to eat sometime." This began a mentoring relationship of **Dave** taking time to connect with me, a high school student from another church. He was interested in who I was, and who I was becoming. We talked about music, being a pastor's kid, how I was growing in my faith, and being a student leader. **Dave** also helped me to make a final decision about which college to attend.

To this day, I have remained friends with **Dave Monreal**, a spiritual mentor.

I have heard that a great leader is a teacher. This is very true of **Pastor Bill**. For the last 6 years, he has met with me every other Thursday to mentor, coach, and encourage me. Each time we meet, **Pastor Bill** says, "whose turn is it to pray this time?" We pray and then talk about master planning, leadership development, using technology in the church, outreach ideas, and other topics related to my job. He has coached me in doctrine, how to find volunteers, and how to work through conflict. At the end of our meeting time he always asks me how I am doing in my personal life and my walk with the Lord.

In the prime of his ministry, **Pastor Bill** has chosen to invest his time in developing and mentoring young staff like myself.

4 Stories / 4 themes

In each of these four stories I believe there are four parallel themes that each mentor emanated. First, they **intentionally pursued the relationship**. I would not have any stories to tell about their influence in my life if they had not first pursued the mentoring relationship with me. Second, the tasks and the events we did together were an **"opportunity" to invest** in my life. For example, at the time, I may have been interested in learning how to build with my dad. But looking back on that experience, the memories that I cherish the most were the time we spent together, not just the things I learned. Third, we did **life together**. Each mentor entered into my world and allowed me to enter into theirs. Therefore I could learn from them by simply watching their actions. They could give me feedback on my life because they were an active part of it. Fourth, **who I am today is directly related to their mentoring**. Their influence has greatly impacted my life.

What is your story?

+What "opportunities" can you use to begin a mentoring relationship?
(ex: building an addition, getting fast food together)

Parents: What stories will your teenage son or daughter tell about you some day?

Adults: What stories will a teenager who you decided to mentor tell about you some day?

Students: What stories will someone younger than you tell about you some day?

Upcoming

www.storiesof.us/highschool/calender

www.storiesof.us/jrhigh/calender

Feb 5: Live Bands @ Coffeehouse

Feb 7: Adult Leader Lunch @ Jen's

Feb 7: HS Superbowl Party, 5p @
Padrons home (4N550 Anthony Ct, Wayne).
Please bring a snack or drink to share!

Feb 13 [9:30a] + Feb 18 [7p]: Winter
Banquet prep

Feb 19+20: Winter Banquet

Feb 26-28: Junior High Winter Camp

March 5: 6on6 Volleyball Tourney

March 12-14: Disciple Now

March 21: Life Training, 5:30p

April 2: Experiencing the Passion

Jr High

Every Thursday 7-8:30p

High School

Every Sunday 6:30-8:15p

All Youth

Every Sunday 9:45-10:45a



John 10 fulfilling living God's plan for my life | youth group 2010



calendar



Jr High + High School Youth | February 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>31</p> <p>No High School YG</p> <p>8:30am - SMT [Daniel's office]</p> <p>9:45am - Sunday School</p> <p>5:30pm - CLT</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Cassie S's Bday</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Meagan Ds Bday</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Craig G's Bday</p> <p>5:45pm - Matt P's bball game</p>	<p>4</p> <p>6:15pm - Youth Leader</p> <p>7pm - Jr High Youth Group @</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Live Bands @ Coffeehouse</p> <p>Tyler W's Bday</p> <p>7:30pm - High School</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Karalena Y's bday</p> <p>WN & GBW Turnabout</p>
<p>7</p> <p>8:30am - SMT + CLT [Daniel's office]</p> <p>9:45am - Sunday School</p> <p>12:30pm - All Adult Leader</p> <p>5pm - HS Superbowl Party @</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Mike F's Bday</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>7pm - Jr High Youth Group @</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Youth Alpha Party @</p> <p>7:30pm - High School</p> <p>7:30pm - Youth Alpha Leader</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9:30am - Winter Banquet Prep</p>
<p>14</p> <p>8:30am - SMT [Daniel's office]</p> <p>9:45am - Sunday School</p> <p>6:30pm - HS Youth Group:</p> <p>6:30pm - Parent Prayer</p>	<p>15</p> <p>L.P. Bartlett, WN & Glenbards,</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Alex M's Bday</p> <p>8:30am - Youth Ministry</p> <p>7pm - Jr High Youth Group @</p> <p>7pm - Winter Banquet Prep</p>	<p>19</p> <p>4:30pm - Winter Banquet</p> <p>9:30pm - High School</p>	<p>20</p> <p>5:30pm - Winter Banquet</p>
<p>21</p> <p>9:45am - Sunday School</p> <p>5pm - CLT</p> <p>6:30pm - HS Youth Group:</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Meghan M's Bday</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Nick P's Bday</p>	<p>25</p> <p>7pm - Jr High Youth Group @</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Winter Camp @ Lake Geneva, WI (LG Youth Camp)</p> <p>L.P. Bartlett, WN & Glenbards &</p> <p>7:30pm - High School</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Charlotte W's Bday</p>
<p>28</p> <p>Winter Camp @ Lake Geneva,</p> <p>9:45am - Sunday School</p> <p>6pm - HS Adult Leader Prayer</p> <p>6:30pm - HS Youth Group:</p>	<p>1</p> <p>LP no school</p> <p>Melissa E's bday</p> <p>7:30pm - Kaitlyn's Band</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>6:15pm - Youth Leader</p> <p>7pm - Jr High Youth Group @</p>	<p>5</p> <p>6on6 Volleyball Tourney</p> <p>7:30pm - High School</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Quinn U's Bday</p>