



## **A mentoring church will provide for their student...**

**Hospitality:** *This involves more than just saying hello.* It is an atmosphere of welcoming. It is showing an interest in who they are, before you put them to work and after they start. It is asking them to eat on Sunday after church. That is a particularly hard time to be alone when everyone is going home with family.

Hospitality is simply being the “presence of Christ” for people who are passing; it is not about getting a return on your investment. People tell me all of the time that college ministry is expensive and that they cannot afford it on their church’s restricted budgets. I had a pastor tell me once that his church would expect a direct correlation between the money that they put into college ministry and the number of students sitting in a pew on any given Sunday. I respectfully declined his contribution, because that is not how it works.

Hospitality is how we treat people who come to our homes, only in this case it is not our home, it is Jesus’ Home and He has some pretty strong mandates and expectations as to how we treat people in his house.

Hospitality is offering them a place to find out who they are in the family of God, where do they fit in, where do they sit at the table and who will notice if they join us or not? It is more than offering them a place to come on Sunday morning to sit on a pew, often alone and unacknowledged.

For some of us, we have to think long and hard about why we would NOT to be in church on any given gathering. Conversely this generation decides each time what reason DO they have for coming into community with other Christians. They understand the need to be in relationship with Jesus, but we taught them that they only needed to go where they are welcomed.

Think of the students who come to Christ's church as our children and grandchildren and love them accordingly. I believe that is our calling as a hospitable community of the Christian faith. How are we doing?