

The Pattern for Mentorship

*By Austin Gardner,
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Mentoring or on-the-job training is done in the following way:

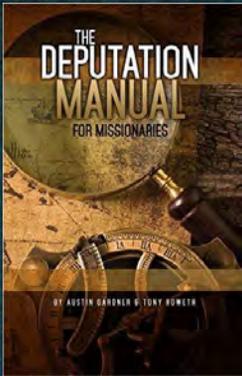
1. I do it!
 - a. I learn to do the job.
 - b. I understand the why and how.
 - c. I try to perfect my craft.
2. I do it and you watch!
 - a. I demonstrate it while you observe.
 - b. During the process I explain what I am doing and why.
3. You do it and I watch.
 - a. As soon as possible we exchange roles.
 - b. I give you permission and authority to take over the job.
 - c. I stay and continue to offer advice, correction, and encouragement.
4. You do it!
 - a. You gain proficiency.
 - b. I step back and let you work alone.
 - c. This takes you to a higher level.
 - d. The teacher moves on to higher things .
5. You repeat the process with your learner!

Moses and Joshua illustrate the mentoring relationship:

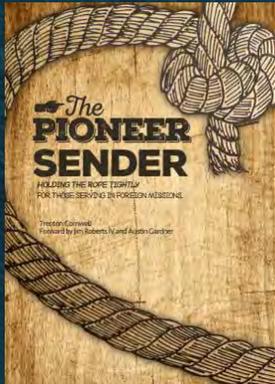
1. Moses is the leader that God calls to lead Israel.
 - a. Moses has to learn how to talk, how to lead, and how to trust.
2. Moses continues to do the work, but Joshua begins to spend a great deal of time with him.
3. Joshua leads the nation of Israel in battle.
4. Joshua becomes the leader of Israel.
 - a. Moses is told to charge Joshua.
 - b. Moses is told to encourage and strengthen him.



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Elijah and Elisha and Jesus and the disciples also illustrate mentoring relationships.

Points to apply:

1. Never work alone.
2. A blind man's world is bound by the limits of his touch; an ignorant man's world by the limits of his knowledge; a great man's world by the limits of his vision.
3. General George Patton said, "There is one thing I want you to remember. I don't want any messages saying we are holding our position. We are advancing constantly. Always take the offensive. Never dig in."
4. "Man's mind, once stretched by new ideas, never regains its original dimensions." Oliver Wendell Holmes
5. John Wooden said that the greatest obstacle to growth isn't ignorance. It's knowledge. The more you learn, the greater the chance you'll think you know it all. And if that happens, you become unteachable and you are no longer growing or improving.
6. If a person will spend one hour a day on the same subject for five years that person will be an expert on that subject.
7. Don't let learning lead to knowledge; let learning lead to action.
8. Winning is a habit. Unfortunately so is losing.

Missionary Spotlight

As a child, Lexi had an unusual upbringing. She grew up in China and even went to Sunday school as a child. However, when her family moved to a new city, she could not find a church. For many Americans, that is hard to believe since we have churches on nearly every street corner, but not having a church is common place for the vast majority of Chinese people.

As she got older, she began asking foreigners if they were Christian. If they would say yes, she would ask questions about the Bible, but sadly, many foreigners would not be able to answer. When she would ask where she could go to church, they would tell her that it was too dangerous. Lexi's story is unusual in many ways to most Chinese, but it is the same in some ways: there is no church for most Chinese even if they wanted to go, and many foreigners (even professing Christians!) cannot answer Bible questions and will not invite them to church.

What is needed in China is ministry that openly preaches the Gospel. That is the only way that the true Gospel will spread across China so that the 1.35 billion Chinese can know how God loves them and came to this earth to die for them.

We are excited and thankful that God has called us to this sort of ministry. We are now at 81% of our support and are leaving January 26, 2016. We only need 25 more partnering churches in order to have our support raised! Please pray that God will provide our needed support.

– Benjamin Johnson, China