**Deciding to Become a Mentor**

**God has called every Christian to “make disciples.” However, every Christian is not called to be a mentor**

**to prisoners, ex-prisoners, and their families. Mentoring this population is a special calling and is**

**one of the most demanding ministries within Prison Fellowship.**

**Prison Fellowship has recognized that effective Christian mentors generally meet the following**

**qualifications. They should:**

**• Model mature Christian character and stability**

**• Have the ability to build and maintain healthy relationships**

**• Respond well to supervision and direction**

**• Be honest, reliable, and trustworthy**

**• Have discernment and not be easily manipulated**

**• Be able to speak the truth in love**

**• Have no personal problems that might affect the mentoring relationship**

**• Understand the importance of rules and are willing to live by them**

**• Be teachable and willing to learn**

**• Thoroughly understand the mentoring requirements of the program**

**• Feel God is calling them to mentoring ministry**

**• Be willing to make a long-term commitment**

**One of the most important things a mentor does for a mentee is to provide a model of godly behaviors**

**and attitudes. Mentoring is an opportunity for growth and development for both mentor and mentee as**

**their relationship with each other and their fellowship with Christ grows.**

**Effective mentors have these common characteristics:**

**• The ability to look past circumstances in the mentee’s life and find positive potential that can be**

**developed**

**• An attitude of tolerance and patience, understanding that the growth process takes time and**

**trusting God for transformation of the mentee’s life**

**• The ability to empathize with the many failures the mentee has experienced and focus on being**

**an encourager rather than a fault finder**

**• The insight and wisdom to help the mentee maintain a balanced lifestyle**

**• The ability and willingness to share personal experiences that may encourage the mentee**

**• The ability to direct the mentee to specific Bible passages and Christian literature that will help**

**him or her become grounded in the faith**

**• Strong connections to a local church and a large network of resources within the community to**

**help the mentee with transitional needs**

**Romans 11:29 reminds us that “God’s gifts and His call are irrevocable.” Is being a mentor what God**

**is calling you to do? Set aside some time to seek the Lord’s confirmation of your becoming a mentor at**

**this season in your life. Is now the time? When you feel confident this is where God has called you to**

**minister, rest in the knowledge that He will equip and provide wisdom for this important role.**