

I am an Artist... Why Do I Need a Mentor?

What comes in all shapes and sizes, genders and generations, wears multiple hats, and can be likened to a friend, parent, uncle, coach, scoutmaster, or counselor? Beginning with the Ancient Greeks, mentoring is one of the oldest forms of influence. **Mentor** was the trusted advisor and counsel of Odysseus. A mentor is not a teacher. A mentor goes beyond teaching. Mentoring occurs when one individual actively builds into another individual by sharing his knowledge, experience, wisdom and heart. What do all mentors have in common? Is it really important for the independent minded artist to seek mentoring relationships? How will they benefit?

Charles David Kelley is Latvian-American, citizen of both countries. Born in Los Angeles, he has lived in Oregon since 1980. His professional training is in Bible, theology, and missiology. He began ministering in Latvia in 1985. Before founding Bridge Builders International, an Oregon based mission that focuses on Latvia, in 1994, Charles served in pastoral ministry in California, Texas, and Oregon for 21 years. He is chairman and director of BBI's Latvian affiliate, "Partners." He serves as Dean of International Relations at Baltic Pastoral Institute in Riga. Charles is founder of the Imago Dei Artists Network in Latvia and co-founder of the imagiNATIONS Annual Art Festival for Estonia and Latvia. He is a member of the Arts Centre Group in London and is the LausanneARTS Advocate at Large for Europe. Charles is an author, pianist, and painter, having studied at the feet of two masters, professors both, from the Latvian Academy of the Arts. He lives in Latvia 4-5 months per year. He has been married to Nancy for 40 years and has four grown children and nine young grandchildren.

I. Introduction – The Fathers of My Life

II. The Importance of Mentoring

A. Relevant Bible Verses

B. Basics

1. Historic Examples

2. Definitions

- III. Nine Mentoring Models – adapted from Bobby Clinton (circle what you need)
- A. Discippler – help with the basic habits of the Christian life
 - B. Spiritual Guide – evaluation and help with spiritual depth and maturity
 - C. Coach – improvement of specific skills
 - D. Counselor – wised advice related to needs, problems and issues
 - E. Teacher – transfer of relevant knowledge
 - F. Sponsor – guidance and linking to key people and potential resources
 - G. Contemporary Model – values and inspiration learned for the example of others
 - H. Historical Model – values and inspiration learned from the lives of those who have gone before us, often derived from reading.
 - I. Divine Contact – timely guidance from God via some human source.

IV. Finding a Mentor

- A. Potential benefits for the protégé

- B. The Ideal Mentor – Key questions

“What you’re really looking for is a person that you know cares for you, believes in you, and encourages you. A good mentor is a person that you naturally enjoy being with, that has more experience than you have, that would be happy to help you win in life, to help you grow in sensitive areas most other friends simply “put up with” on a day to day basis. If you have found this person you have found a mentor.” – Bobb Biehl

C. Keys to Growth as a Protégé

V. Being a Mentor

A. Keys to Success as a Mentor

1. General principles

2. Specifically, for artists

VI. Conclusion

A. List the Fathers or Mothers of your life.

B. Is there anyone you would like to mentor?

C. Is there anyone you would like to ask to be your mentor?

Suggested Readings:

Bobb Biehl. *Mentoring: Confidence in Finding a Mentor and Becoming One*. Nashville, Tennessee: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1996

Bobb Biehl. *Asking Profound Questions*. Scottsdale, Arizona: Masterplanning Group International.

Paul D. Stanley and Robert Clinton. *Connecting: The Mentoring Relationships You Need to Succeed*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 1992.