



Mentoring Works: Laurie's Story

Laurie drove by a church in her hometown and noticed a URL on a banner. Later at home she loaded up the website and was connected to one of TruthMedia's chat rooms. It was there she engaged in a conversation where a mentor asked her about her spiritual life.

Laurie realized she was completely unsure of where she stood with God. She prayed and received God into her life. Laurie came back to chat a week later and learned that she lived in the same town as the leader. The leader invited her to attend a local Alpha Group. Over time, Laurie's entire family started going to church and chose to follow God.

Laurie & her husband became involved in the church, two of their children were baptized and one of them is now attending Bible College. Laurie has led countless people to the Lord. It all began with her local church displaying a URL on a banner, and a mentor who knew how to share the gospel online.

It's all about listening

Your Ministry & Social Networking

People in your community are asking questions every day. *Can I save my marriage? Are my kids ok? Could God really love me?* Email mentoring gives you a chance to help with these questions, even if the person asking hasn't stepped into your church yet. Instead of asking people to come to you, with mentoring, you can go to them.

It can be easier to talk about the stuff that really matters if you don't have to do it face to face. Through email mentoring, members from your church can reach out to the community and connect with each other like never before. You will be amazed how open and honest people can be in a simple email. It is a perfect place to watch God work.

For approximately the cost of a monthly cell phone plan, you can run an online mentoring ministry. Mentoring is simply starting a conversation and encouraging someone to take the next step in his or her faith adventure. With email mentoring, every Christian in your organization can know the joy of being actively involved in ministry.

Why have an online mentor ministry?

- Connect, mentor and minister to people **within your ministry.**
- Mobilize believers to actively **engage in evangelism & discipleship**
- Reach **people in the community** and to connect them to your ministry.

1. Minister to people in your ministry.

How do you ask if you can't say it out loud? Whether it's a question about this week's sermon or a deep personal need some things are hard to say. Email mentoring makes it much easier to ask.

Put a link to mentoring in your brochures and print material. Let your people know that there is a safe, confidential place for them and they will start asking questions.

2. Mobilize believers to get involved evangelism

Mentors are trained to share the gospel in a relevant way. People who become mentors find that they grow in their faith as they are able to come alongside and minister to others. Mentors tell us they are thrilled with how God uses them to help others in their spiritual journeys.

Many mentors report spending more time in prayer and in the Word as a result of their involvement. Mentors can also invite participants to join your existing programs. Mentoring dovetails perfectly with Alpha and other programs.

3. Reach your community

Use print media, your sign, even Facebook ads to encourage people to talk to someone about their questions. As emails come in from your neighborhood, your mentors respond. This gives you an opportunity to reach out locally and invite people to participate in your ministry.



Benefits of a mentoring ministry:

An online mentoring ministry mobilizes people to get involved in ministry in a way that works with their skill and availability. Our system lets each mentor set his or her own schedule.

Connecting with the felt needs of people

In our busy world, people often are unable to share what is really happening in their lives. Online mentoring creates opportunity for people to share their current realities. This opens the door to spiritual conversations.

Cross-generation mentoring

Email mentoring has no generational barriers. The Mentor Center (TMC) has seen many teens pour out their heart concerns to seniors who feel so privileged to make a difference to a young person. Our system helps connect each mentor to the person who needs their expertise.

Ministry growth

As individuals feel cared for, they are eager to get involved. But for many it can be difficult to get connected. Email mentoring is a perfect way to invite people into a deeper relationship with your ministry. This connection leads to deeper spiritual growth, more involvement, and makes people more likely to introduce others to you.

How does it work?

The Mentor Center (TMC) is a piece of software that creates a safe environment where people with questions are matched with Christians who can answer them with the hope of Christ.

The system is secure and easy to use and is accessible anywhere there is an Internet connection. No special skills are required.

TMC puts you in control. Mentors choose the types of questions they want to answer and how many emails they want to receive. All of the training happens online and Community Leaders are there to offer support. If you have a heart for God and can send an email, you can be a mentor.

This mentoring program is designed to work with your church. The easiest way to get started is to become a mentor yourself.

You can learn more and fill out an application at TheMentorCenter.com

One of the keys to the success of TMC has been the low barrier of entry for those who want to get involved. We have a phased approach that helps your ministry take the next step when you are ready. Online mentoring accelerates and supplements ministry that is already taking place.

To learn more about TMC, watch the video at: <http://truthmedia.com/thementorcenter/introvideo>

Start today:
info@thementorcenter.com

HOW TO GET RESPONSES

Prayer requests

Your current prayer ministry can be expanded into mentoring. Put a “need prayer?” form on **your website** and feature it on various materials.

Print materials

Use webcards to advertise your mentoring program. Add conversation starters that link to mentoring in brochures, event calendars, newspaper ads and any other materials.

Presentations & talks

Encourage people to send in emails or go to your site to talk further regarding a specific issue related to a presentation.

Youth

Teens will talk online! They will share their deepest concerns and will do so with any age. Create opportunities for them to submit responses and they will talk.

Events

TMC works wonderfully for follow-up. Your mentors can respond within hours of an event.

Advertising

Use electronic signs, newspaper ads, Twitter or Facebook to reach your community.



rates

Your ministry or church can use The Mentor Center (TMC) to offer mentoring to your community. TMC organizes the mentoring process for you. It keeps track of all the emails coming in and when they have been answered. It helps mentors to form small groups for prayer, encouragement, and sharing of insights. As your mentoring ministry grows, you'll always be in control of the process, managing the flow of email, taking care of your mentors.

Starter	Bronze	Silver	Gold
\$25/month	\$50/month	\$100/month	\$500/month
One community *One Community Leader One mentor Unlimited messages Email support One time set up fee & leader training: \$125 *Community Leaders also serve as mentors	One community One Community Leader Four Mentors Unlimited messages Email support One time set up fee & leader training: \$125	One community with *sub-community options Multiple Community Leaders 14 Mentors Unlimited messages Email support One time set up fee & leader training: \$125 *Each subcommunity has a mentor limit of 15	Unlimited communities Unlimited users Unlimited messages Own brand & subdomain Admin access to reporting Email support and 3 hours phone support during first month One time set up fee and training: \$300

Training

Effective mentors will make your program successful. The Mentor Center online training has taught hundreds to have effective, evangelistic conversations. This training is available for you at a reduced cost. Each community requires a leader. TMC will train and coach your leader during the training. If required, TMC leaders are available to manage your community for a fee.

Training for additional leaders: \$75/leader
Mentor training: \$35/mentor

Shared Mentors:

A Shared Mentor is someone who is willing to answer emails for their primary community as well as assist with other communities for a year. They would clearly indicate the amount that they could manage. This enables someone who is answering emails for your church, but possibly also has a passion for teens, marriage or another group to expand their ministry. These mentors will have a TMC coach who trains them at a reduced cost to you.

If your mentor is willing to be a Shared Mentor, the training is available to you at a reduced cost to you. TMC will also handle the administration application process for these mentors.

Training for TMC shared mentor: \$20/mentor

Take a test drive

Mentoring changes lives. Come and see how mentoring works with what you're already doing. We will train you so you can get started right away as a TruthMedia mentor. You can choose the types of questions you feel comfortable answering and set your own schedule. When you purchase one of our packages we'll set up a community for you in TMC. This allows you to answer questions that come in locally from your own ministry. Use this option to get hands-on experience and see what a mentoring program looks like.

Contact us: If you have questions or if you're ready to start mentoring we'd love to talk to you. You can email us at info@thementorcenter.com, go to <http://truthmedia.com/thementorcenter/start> or call 604.514.1952

FAQ's

1. How does the test drive work?

Go to <http://thementorcenter.com> and sign up to become one of TruthMedia's mentors. Go through the application and training process and then begin mentoring!

2. Can I change plans at any time?

Yes - just sign-up for the new plan and indicate that you are an existing client.

3. When the mentee receives a reply, who is indicated as the sender? Is it TMC or our organization?

The email will come from your organization. When the community is set up, you will indicate the name and email address that will show as the sender. It is important that the recipient recognizes the sender.

4. Where will the emails come from for our mentors?

There are many ways that you can generate emails. A form off your website, prayer requests to an email address that forwards to your community, church bulletin, print materials, presentations, events and advertising. Read section on [how you can get responses](#).

5. What are the benefits and why would we want a mentoring program?

It's often easier for people to talk about things that really matters if they don't have to do it face to face. Through prayer requests and email mentoring, members from your church can reach out to the community and connect with each other like never before. An online mentoring ministry mobilizes people to get involved in ministry in a way that works with their skill and availability. Our system lets each mentor set his or her own schedule. Read [benefits of a mentoring ministry?](#)

6. Can the mentees remain anonymous?

Yes, they can by completing a form on your website where they do not need to give their full name. They may wish to disclose that information later as they feel comfortable with the mentor. You may wish to set up your community so that your mentors can only see part of the email address or none of it. More information is available at time of set up.

7. Why would we need to do this through this software?

The TMC addresses issues related to privacy, accountability, and ministry effectiveness. It is designed to be a tool that will supplement and enhance your ongoing ministry and programs. It is not intended to replace the face-to-face, but to expand your ministry.

8. We don't have a staff person to manage this program?

If your mentors become shared mentors, all the training, coaching is done by TMC staff. You only pay your monthly fee and your volunteers can then take care of the rest.

9. What if we need more mentors for a short term?

If you have no mentors or temporarily require additional to help through a busy time, TMC mentors are willing to be trained by you to specifically answer your emails. There is a monthly administration fee for this service. \$10/month per Mentor and \$50/month per Community Leader

10. What does it mean to have our own subdomain and branding?

When your mentors log into The Mentor Center, the software will have your logo and you can link to all your own resources. You will have your own website address that includes your organization. When you link to the system, it is as if you have your entire separate software. The only difference is you do not need to provide IT staff to work on the system. If you do not have individual branding and your own area, your community is part of our system. Your mentors will log into The Mentor Center and have a generic inbox.

11. What is a subcommunity?

A community can be divided into subcommunities to lower ratio of leader to mentors. This enables more effective ministry. (10 to 1 is ideal)

tips

Conversation Starters

Effective use of compelling text is key to the success of a mentoring program. Your organization starts the conversation by using a question or solution oriented text. This will help people talk about heart issues which can transition to spiritual discussion. Here are a few tips to keep in mind when creating powerful conversation starters.

You start the conversation

You only have a few short words to start a meaningful conversation with a person. Well written content can compel someone to action. Take a look at headings on magazines and watch how they try to get your attention.

Keep tag lines or questions short and direct.

Simplicity is powerful when writing conversation starters. Strong solution oriented text will draw responses. “Feeling alone? We care. Email us at ____” “Do more than just cope” or “Experience true love” all encourage people to respond.

Stay on topic

If your mentoring is designed to be a next step for a sermon, talk or conference, begin with a question or copy that **defines or clarifies the topic of discussion**. If a talk is on the topic of stress, offer a next step for stress. You could say, “Stressed out? Talk to us at ____.”

Focus on the individual

Increase the personal impact of the conversation starters by addressing the individual. Write your text in such a way that someone may think it is directly for them. “Discover purpose” or “Don’t go it alone”

Beware of using a “passive voice”

“Passive voice” occurs when the action is detached from an object, making it appear that the action happens passively. For example, saying “It was given to me” uses a passive voice. **To have more impact, the object should be defined and precede the action**. Here are some examples for questions that might accompany a sermon for the purpose of mentoring:

- How were you impacted by reading this? (passive) or **How did the passage impact you? (active)**
- How is joy taken away from your heart? (passive) or **How do you lose your joy? (active)**

Use singular personal pronouns

Singular personal pronouns have more impact than plurals. It forces the person to answer more personally rather than at a general level.

- instead of “Share what can be done to increase the thankfulness in our hearts” (plural and passive) try **What can you do to be more thankful? (Singular)**
- What steps can we take to begin to be more grateful in our lives? (plural) **What steps can you take to be more grateful? (singular)**

Avoid text that results in one word responses

Write text that encourages the person to respond with an answer from the heart. A question like “Do you feel anxious?” would result in a yes or no response. “What makes you feel anxious?” generates a much deeper response.

The purpose of the conversation starter is to talk about spiritual issues.

As you connect with people’s current reality and heart felt needs, you then can transition to spiritual conversation where you can share Christ and also help that person take the next step in their spiritual journey.