

Church Break-Out session

October 12, 2006

Questions Vera posed to us to tackle:

How do you reach them?

What are their stories?

How do they make their decisions?

We discovered that there is quite a bit of diversity among the church community. We had a Hispanic lady that gave insight into penetrating the Catholic Church.

We had a couple of African Americans discuss the nuances of navigating the “black church” culture.

Donnovan and I have the most experience with Evangelical, predominantly white churches.

We approach each church uniquely as they have different decision-making processes. We target the senior leadership of the church and seek to compel him that mentoring is something the Scriptures instruct the church to do.

We seek to get “buy in” from the leadership. It usually requires building a relationship with him and his staff.

We do well in churches where a staff pastor actually mentors.

We utilize existing mentors give testimonies, man our display and get stories placed about their relationship in church publications.

We seek to get time in front of the congregation for a brief presentation, or in some instance an extended presentation. We also make rounds in Sunday school classes.

In larger churches, we have various strategies that we incorporate, from men’s ministries, missions fairs, missions committee, outreach groups, etc.

We seek to partner with the church and stress that we have access and trust from social service agencies and have families screened and ready for a Christian mentor to invest in their child.