

Name – Andrea Oliveros

Peer mentoring triads

Victor Rincon and Sarah Bourns were part of my peer mentoring triads. It has been a great experience to do this assignment with them because they have been two of my closest friends during my time in Seminary. One of the reasons why we decided to be together in the same group, is because of the diversity among us (country of origin, ages, gender, etc.). As we expected, each of us brought a different perspective to the table in regard to the different topics that we talked about and it was very enriching to hear the different points of view. Even though we knew each other very well, having the time to talk about our spiritual challenges, personal spiritual formation issues, and ministry in general, was a great opportunity to go deeper into how we feel and what are the major problems that are experiencing in ministry and in our calling.

One of my favorite sessions was when we talked about “the call” in our life, it was very encouraging and a big confirmation for me to be able to listen from other people (specially close friends), what is their perspective in terms of my own dreams and struggles. Something that I realized during this session is that I tend to be very excited about certain things and that can be an overdone strength when I am not balancing my emotions and my actions/decisions. They helped me to see how my enthusiasm is not something bad, but the way that I approach it is not always benefiting my personal spiritual walk and ministry. I learned that my goal for this next season is to find balance when I have strong emotions (excitement, fear, insecurity, etc.). I tend to be very practical and make decisions fast, but God has been teaching me that sometimes I will have to make decisions that do not “make sense” or are not the most “practical solution”, but it is because He is doing something that goes beyond my understanding at the moment.

Another session that was a highlight for our group was when we shared our Maxwell assessment results. During this time, we were able to share what kind of a leader we want to become in the near future. We realized that during our time in Seminary we did not have the opportunity to be in leadership as much as we used to be before Seminary; however, this helped us to grow in our own personal spiritual life and figure out what kind of leadership we wanted to develop as we transition from Seminary to full-time ministry/work. We also talked about the next steps and action plans that we had for next year, especially since all of us are finishing Seminary and starting new adventures in the coming year. In my personal case, I big eye-opening was that I do not feel that God is calling me to do full-time ministry in a church setting, but that a considerable part of my work was going to be outside of it in a more entrepreneur way.

As the semester was going on, we realized that the three of us were called to move to the city once we finish seminary, which is going to happen at the end of this semester. Victor is getting married in February, so he is planning on moving to the city on February; Sarah is planning on moving to the city during the end of January because her lease in Nyack is done by then, and Piero and I are planning to move to the city at the beginning of February. It was incredible to see how God placed the three of us in the same group the last semester as we transition to the city. I believe that God has amazing things for us to do together in the city, and this group was a seed that was planted in our friendship to be able to grow in our future ministries and friendship.

As we shared this time together. I have realized the importance of having strong believers walking together, especially in a busy city like NYC. One of my favorite things about this group was the opportunity to be vulnerable and real with our struggles and dreams. When we are

around friends that we can trust, we do not need to be someone that we are not, we are able to be ourselves and I believe that it is through it that healing, restoration, and encouragement come.