

FIELD EDUCATION
The Log



Week # 3

Hours This Week: 17 Total Hours: 298 / 360

HOURS SPENT / TASKS & ACTIVITIES	REFLECTIONS JOURNALING THOUGHTS PROCESSING
6 hours / Caring for sick student	<p>Sheila texted me on Sunday morning to let me know she had to call the ambulance early that morning and she was in the hospital. Because she seemed to have it under control and would be going home soon, I offered to come visit her after my church Sunday service that afternoon. I was so touched that she came to me first. I stopped on my way to get her lunch and tea and met her at home. We talked for a long time, and then I got her meds and some groceries so she wouldn't have to go out during the week as she recovered at home. She was very grateful, but I was more touched that she asked me to care for her. I reflected later how important it is to be the "home away from home" for students who are away from their families. It really means something.</p>
1.5 hours / Staff Prayer Meeting	<p>Kevin led the staff prayer meeting. This is a regular meeting, and I appreciate the consistency and devotionality of it.</p>
2 hours / Mentor Meeting	<p>Lauren and I discussed our ideas for the Tandon campus, and we caught up about some personal things.</p>
2 hours / Volunteer Dinner	<p>Lauren had invited me to join her in a dinner with a potential new volunteer. It was fun to meet with the volunteer, and I gained some perspective as I heard Lauren give the spiel to the new volunteer. Some of the info had a certain twist – I don't think Lauren was manipulative, but I don't necessarily think things work as smoothly as she indicated. It reminded me of my first volunteer dinner and how I thought the ministry was slightly different than what I discovered later. I think Lauren really thinks of the ministry in that light, so I don't blame her; I learned about her heart that night too.</p>
2 hours / Difficult Conversation with a staff member	<p>I initiated/ set up a difficult conversation with a staff member who lives in London but has been messaging me to tell me how to handle a student (Sheila) in</p>

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	<p>Brooklyn. I felt his messages were condescending and controlling, and his reasons for his perspective were based on church practices/beliefs that I disagree with. I asked Lauren to join our call because (1) I was nervous and wanted someone to help me feel safe, and (2) I knew that if I got flustered, I'd need someone to help me. I prepared for a long time, writing a script, praying, and rehearsing. I wanted my points to be clear. In retrospect, I wish I would have established a longer time frame (we initially agreed on 15 minutes because we were both too busy) because I tried to hurry and share all my points quickly, and I glazed over the introduction and Michael's feelings, so I didn't allow enough time for us to talk clearly and slowly and ask questions and listen well. Michael didn't hear me (and I assume it's because I was too rushed) so he kept repeating his original points. I didn't want to argue, so after he shared his response, I wasn't going to take a turn again. Thankfully, Lauren was there and knew enough about the situation and was able to assure Michael that I had been doing a good job with Sheila, and she acknowledged his feelings and perspective. I was super disappointed after the call because I had been hoping he would see it from my perspective and generally think I'm a good person and had handled everything well. None of that happened. Thankfully my mom talked me down from my disappointment.</p>
<p>.5 hour / Debriefing the Difficult Conversation</p>	
	<p>I came to the staff meeting early to talk with Lauren about our conversation with Michael. I thought she would be just as disappointed as I was, but she wasn't. She said I did a great job speaking clearly and sharing my perspective, and she was glad that I was clearly so prepared. She told me not to worry about Michael's response; I can't control that part, and Michael is Michael. She also gave me some insight into why Michael is so insistent. I was super encouraged by her affirmations, and it helped to think about Michael's stress load in London.</p>
<p>3 hours / Staff Meeting</p>	<p>This was generally a normal meeting, but the extra is that Lauren asked me to share about spiritual development. I had prepared some resources and gave some suggestions for how each staff member could develop our inner life. I had hoped that we would agree on a book to read together or an activity we would each do (like a personal retreat) that we could talk about</p>

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	<p>later. That didn't happen. But Lauren suggested we keep a google doc and check in with each other each week to ask which of the ideas we had done throughout the week, and we would each add ideas to the google doc. I really appreciated her suggestion because it offered a sense of consistency and expectancy that we would each be doing something, and engaged each staff member in contributing ideas.</p>
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MEETING(S) WITH MENTOR(S) TOPICS OF DISCUSSION REFLECTIONS
<p>Lauren and I discussed the Tandon campus. She met with a Chinese student who is a new Christian and wants me to connect with her. I am eager to meet the student because I generally connect with Chinese students well, and I am excited to hear her story of salvation. On the other hand, I don't feel like I have time this semester to commit to a weekly meeting at Tandon, and with my regular engagements with Sheila and the Iranian students, I don't feel like I have time to add another one-on-one. The mixed feelings are stressful, but I agreed to set up a meeting with Nancy.</p>