

FIELD EDUCATION

The Log



Week # 1

Hours This Week: 50.5 Total Hours: 50.5 / 360

HOURS SPENT / TASKS & ACTIVITIES	REFLECTIONS JOURNALING THOUGHTS PROCESSING
<p>16 hrs - shadowing mentor on ministry sight (completed through previous weeks)</p> <p>8 hrs - Saturday ministry (lunch with church member and dinner / game night)</p> <p>8 hrs - Sunday ministry</p> <p>4 hrs - Interview and sharing expectations w/ mentor</p> <p>3.5 hrs - 30 min daily prayer and meditation (Daily Soul Care) as required by mentor</p> <p>4 hrs - preparation and leading weekly Genesis Bible study</p> <p>3 hrs - dinner night w/ staff and church members</p> <p>2 hrs - drafting contract</p> <p>2 hrs - meeting with mentor throughout the week</p>	<p>In all honesty, I genuinely dislike learning about all the things that need to be done in one sitting. Talking about expectations and seeing what needs to be done at the church was a daunting process for me. I know that this semester is already going to be extremely busy for me as I am taking 5 courses, preparing to graduate in May, and in need of having to sacrifice my entire spring break for cultural immersion week. However, I am also excited knowing that I have good staff and members of the church who are more than welcoming of me joining them.</p> <p>As an extrovert, meeting new people has been fun but also exhausting. However, I feel that I am starting to get quite close with a few key members. I am thankful that, just because we share in being a family in Christ and ministry, I am welcomed into a deep friendship. Relationships made through ministry, as expected, are always beyond what I could imagine in love, honesty, and depth. Obviously, I am still the “new guy” but I am excited about building friendships.</p> <p>I think I can do better at not trying to be perfect at every juncture. In reflection of the past three weeks, I am proud of how well I adapted into this new environment. But I am clearly stressed. I have been trying to do my best in every single thing and I think I need to either learn to delegate or lower expectations. Maybe, in some areas, I am even acting like someone I am not. I am projecting what I believe is a good minister, instead of doing my best despite my faults. I have shared this with my mentor and we will continue this conversation through “soul care talks” with my mentor in the following weeks.</p>

MEETING(S) WITH MENTOR(S) TOPICS OF DISCUSSION REFLECTIONS
<p>Met with mentor many times throughout the past 3 weeks to discuss expectations and to actually shadow his ministry. Through our meetings, what stood out the most to me was the mentor's honesty about his experiences and ministry expectations. As a newly ordained minister (~2 yrs), pastor Mitch is new to the context of teaching and leading as a reverend.</p>

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Although he had done ministry through all of his life, ministry at Gateway Alliance, Appalachian has been more challenging and rewarding than anything before. Through our meetings together, he was honest with me on what kind of mistakes he made and how he was able to work through them. Some, he was still working through it and finding opportunities to grow. When I visited the church, he was accurate in every aspect of what he shared with me about his ministry: number of attendees, newcomers, new believers, lack of technological aspects (band, recording of service, lights...etc.)...etc). Although there was a lot of work to be done (personally, it is always daunting to see the load of work at the beginning, similar to reading through the syllabus at the beginning of a semester...) I was glad to know that I knew exactly what to expect.

Since this is only the first few weeks, I can honestly say that I do not know exactly how everything will turn out to be. I am thankful and excited that everyone was welcoming and made themselves available to spend time with me. Through my time praying and meditating, I think it is still true that there is a part of me that wants to perform well to make a great first impression. I have found myself, multiple times already, stressing over things like meeting people (especially leaders/staff) and preparing Bible study. Instead of doing my best, I am stressing over trying to make it perfect. I have spent time speaking with my mentor who was extremely gracious and loving. Reminding me that expecting to do perfect from the start will simply set me up for failure. Instead, in places of improvement, he gently guided me to understand what could be done better in the future. He continued to comfort me that I am still at the beginning stages. Furthermore, he continued to encourage growth by reminding me of expectations set on our first meeting. Although still quite nervous, I feel loved and cared for by both my mentor and staff of the church.