

OPEN DOORS "God puts things in your path—let's call them doors—that we are invited to open. We have each always tried to open those doors."

In 2010, Bill Van Dyke and Sylvia Kiel were invited to participate in a new intensive small group process at Sunnybrook Church in Sioux City, Iowa, called The Journey. Neither of them knew what to expect, but they both recall a clear sense that God was inviting them to "walk through a door." And in faith, they did.

As the group finished up, participants were asked if they would like to facilitate their own *Journey* group the next year. "Another door," recalls Sylvia.

"My husband and I had always looked up to Bill and his wife," shares Sylvia. "We didn't use the word 'mentor' long ago, but that's what they were to us. So when the invitation to facilitate a group unfolded, it was just natural that I wanted to lead with Bill." And from Bill's perspective, "There are points in life when I've just known that God was inviting me to serve," says Bill. "And doing this with Sylvia was one of them."

What neither of them saw coming was the next nine years of co-leading *Journey* groups at Sunnybrook and investing into the lives of more than 50 adults.

"We have had a front row seat to a group of strangers becoming friends, bonding together, and encouraging each other through day-to-day life experiences. We try hard not to talk so they can discover for themselves what God is up to in their lives, and where God is inviting them to walk through open doors."

Watching Bill and Sylvia together for this interview made it easy to see why life change happens around them. Their comfort level with themselves and each other sets the table for adults to consider more deeply, Who is God? Who am I? And how does God desire to work through me?

"This has become such a beautiful opportunity to minister to others. We simply 'trust the process!'" Bill laughs knowingly.



"SUCH A BEAUTIFUL OPPORTUNITY TO MINISTER TO OTHERS"

What Bill and Sylvia have discovered is the deep joy of guiding others. They have also been humbled, overwhelmed, and blessed beyond their wildest imaginations at what God has done through the mentoring attention they have given other adults looking for more depth in their life with God and others.

When asked, "Nine consecutive years...do you ever consider stopping?" They quickly replied, "No. What we are privileged to do with others is amazing. And doing it together has been the added blessing."

MENTORING KINDS At VantagePoint3 we are privileged OF PEOPLE

to interact with Christian leaders in North America

who are looking for ways to help adults grow beyond the pew or the fellowship hall, and beyond Sunday morning hallway conversations.

A year ago we began what we call our **Mentoring Way Initiative**. We were noticing that adults were overcomplicating the idea of being a mentoring kind of person in their daily life and ministry. We noticed that ministry leaders were looking for resources to help encourage and train adults to be a mentor or guide or companion or friend to other Christ followers.

With the help of many VP3 colleagues, we created a new resource, A Mentoring Guide: Christ. Conversation. **Companionship**, and we are really pleased with the results and the feedback from early users.

We will be continuing our **Mentoring Way Initiative** into 2020 as we celebrate our 20th year as a ministry. We find ourselves increasingly focused on helping to de-mystify what mentoring is and can be. We think we can help with conversations around how adults best learn, grow, and desire to discover for themselves how God is already at work in their lives.

The Spirit is up to something good in this shift toward a more relational way of life and ministry. We will continue to put our heart and hands to the slow, patient, deepening work of discipleship and leadership

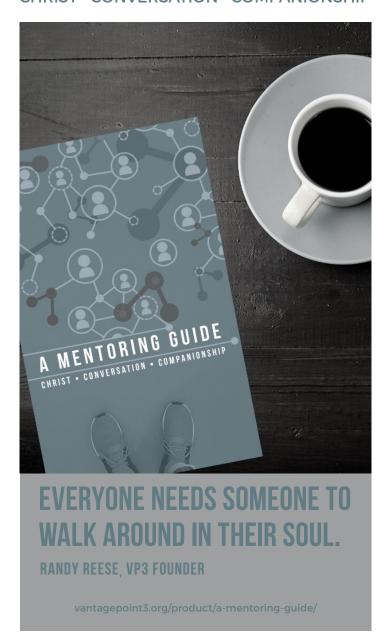


development that unfolds behind the scenes and takes root through spiritual conversations full of good questions, great listening, and prayer.

Dr. Pamela Edwards, Ph.D. Adult Learning & Growth

A MENTORING GUIDE

CHRIST · CONVERSATION · COMPANIONSHIP



A LASTING IMPACT



Each year 25-30% of our budget depends upon financial partners who believe deeply in VP3's lasting impact. As we enter into this 20th year of VP3 ministry, we are keenly aware of God's faithfulness through the generosity of people like you.

Will you consider an extra year-end gift to help us continue to lean into making mentoring

May you continue to pay attention to God's good work in and through your story (Eph. 2:10). We treasure your partnership and friendship. Let the name of Jesus live out... The VP3 Team

