

The Gifts of a Learning Environment

Recognition ... Who noticed me?

The word speaks for itself. “Who saw you?” may be the simplest way to define recognition. The word conjures up for each of us a deep-seated and grateful memory of being noticed. God has been and is our primary recognizer. We have come to trust this through looking at our own life story, and hearing the incredible stories of the already present action of God in the lives of those around us.

Support ... Who is with me?

The notion of being “backed up” by someone in particular, or by a community of others. It is an unassuming dynamic of leadership development which can make or break the possibility for life change. Who we are for each other in the discovery process raises the level of awareness, ownership, and learning. In the context of support, learning, and change take place.

Challenge ... Who invited me to go further?

The art of providing stretching insights and probing questions, while at the same time offering affirmation, belief, and encouragement. What begins as a particularization of a person, ripples out to provide challenge to my family, to my companions on the journey, as well as a challenge to my larger communities of church and beyond. We don't stay the same.

Inspiration ... Who offered vision and hope?

To be inspired means to gain hope for the past, present, and future of our lives. We become stimulated toward a better way of thinking, believing, acting, and responding to the world around us, and our role in it. Inspiration ignites us with a movement toward the future.