

4 LUCKY ENOUGH TO HAVE

A SECOND DAD

By John Bennett

A young man with no father figure shares his heartwarming story of being mentored by one of Open Bible's beloved leaders.

5 MENTORING: LINK TO COMPLETENESS

By Randall Bach

Too many members of the Body of Christ have not "finished well." Randall shares one method to greatly increase a person's probability of success.

6 SUPERHEROES NEED NOT APPLY

By Paul Floyd

Many people think they have to have a specific calling or unique gifts to be used of God. Paul shows us otherwise.

9 TENACIOUS AS A BULLDOG

By Joanne Campe and Jolene Fritz

One young woman's life is changed by the power of the Holy Spirit working through a mentor who refuses to give up on her.

12 ACCOMPLISHING HIS PLAN

By Don Tietz

"Constructing buildings is only part of the purpose for MOVE trips," says Director Don Tietz. Discover what other elements of these trips inspire men to sacrifice so much to join.

Plus Much More!

Investment Opportunity



ANDREA JOHNSON/Editor

Phil was approximately seven or eight years old, old enough to know better than to run in the church lobby. So when one

of the ushers, a huge farmer standing over 6 feet 4 inches tall, told my son he wanted to talk to him, Phil knew he was busted. Bob towered over my out-of-breath child, trying his best to look innocent. Instead of the expected reprimand, Bob told Phil about the church's upcoming father/son road trip to a Kansas City Royals game. The gentle giant had two beautiful daughters but no sons. Would Phil like to go?

Game day found my "little leaguer" dressed and waiting when Bob drove up in his big, red pick-up. Phil did most of the talking as they rode to the church, where they met the other dads and sons and clambered into the van. There are more relaxing ways to travel to a baseball game than riding nearly three hours in a vehicle filled with vociferant boys, but Bob was a good sport. For once Phil would not feel like the only one in the group without a dad. Both blonde and blue-eyed, the duo could have passed for father and son, except for the fact that Bob had to lean far over to keep hold of Phil's hand, and the little guy wasn't letting go. As they stood in line for a long-awaited snack during the seventh inning stretch, Phil planted himself right in front of his dad-for-the day, planting Bob's huge hand on his own small shoulder.

My son experienced more than a ball game that day. He saw how men interact with those around them, something I could not teach him.

God has given Phil several such people in his life.

Even before we were married, my husband attended Phil's ball games. My brothers took him fishing. Youth leaders disciplined him. One of Phil's newest mentors is his father-in-law, a former pastor and chaplain for the YMCA of Des Moines.

Phil watches the way these men treat their wives, their kids, the homeless. He sees how they react to life's disappointments. Yet, he is troubled with a kind of "survivor syndrome." He feels guilty he had such good people to mentor him when there are so many that have no one. What about the teen who gets bullied at school because he's autistic and doesn't communicate in the "usual" manner? Or the young lady who just arrived from war-torn Liberia and speaks with an accent? Or the child who comes to school smelly because no one at home cares if he showers or not?

When Phil interviewed for his current position as Teen and Community Involvement Director for the YMCA, he was asked his qualifications for the job. He answered, "I wouldn't be the person I am today if it weren't for people caring and investing in me, to help build me into a whole person. I would love to do the same for the teenagers in our programs."

Who are you mentoring? What about that new guy on the job? Or the first-time mom who could use some mothering of her own? Or the young widower trying to understand why God would take his child's mother? It is said that time is more valuable than money. If so, what better way to spend your time than by investing it into another person?

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea".

Andrea Johnson,
Managing Editor