



Mentoring Now-Generation Ministers

by Steve Bradshaw, Director of Maturing Churches and Church Health Strategist, Central-East Region

Who knows whom God will call next out of that ministry and mentoring experience?

“Our young people are not the ‘next’ generation; they are the ‘now’ generation,” says Brian Autry, pastor of Parkway Baptist Church in Moseley.

At Parkway Baptist Church, high school and college students are given the opportunity to lead out and participate in children’s ministry, Vacation Bible School, pastoral research, media/technical design, sound, facilities assistance, worship team, praise team, choir, and playing instruments. It was out of this first-hand ministry and mentoring experience that Mike Camire

became a summer intern at Parkway.

“For the first couple of summers,” says Derek Futrell, pastor of worship and missions, “Mike was our only intern. At the time, he was a junior and senior in high school.” After graduation, he interned at Parkway year-round while attending a local community college and working at the neighborhood Ukrop’s. Mike later transferred to Liberty University to finish his degree. Pastor Derek

shares, “Mike was more than a student/youth intern; he was a pastoral intern. While I served as his primary mentor, he learned from all of the staff and lay leaders and had responsibilities throughout the entire church. He was even on the team that wrote our church constitution.”

How does Parkway invest in the lives of students like Mike to train them as now-generation ministers?

PERMIT ::: Allow students/youth to serve alongside adults for mentoring

RECOGNIZE ::: Identify students interested in learning about and participating in ministry

PRESENT ::: Offer students the opportunity to apply for summer internships

EQUIP ::: Conduct a once-a-week discipleship training time for interns

STAFF TIME ::: Have supervising staff eat lunch once a week with interns—in the office or at a restaurant

PASTORAL TIME ::: Designate intentional pastoral time for ministry training

STUDY ::: Assign interns a book to read and discuss at weekly meetings

PARTICIPATE ::: Allow interns to work with ministers in ministry tasks and participate in staff meetings

Pastor Derek adds, “We just disciple them as we minister, and they just labor beside us. It isn’t a formal and stale hour or two a week; they are with us throughout the day. They share our space. They really get to know us and us them.”

Today, Mike Camire is the student minister at Parkway. Just as he was given the opportunity as an intern, he gives the “now” generation opportunities to minister.



Derek and Mike

RESOURCE

Website: www.parkwayfamily.org

SBCV Contact:

Call 888-234-7716 for details from your region’s missionary.

Consider:

Are you ready to invest in the lives of now-generation ministers?

