

# Mentoring – God’s Spirit in our Lives

**Tita:** Alicia got very angry when her husband Pedro gave her the news: they would have to leave the village where they lived. Pedro’s boss had just told him that if he wanted to keep his job he would have to move and work in the company’s factory. This was a good opportunity for Pedro because he would be in charge of the warehouse. This job had more responsibility and a bit more money, but the main problem was that the factory was in the capital city, 10 hours away from the village where they lived...

**Carol:** Welcome. It’s good to be together again on *Women of Hope*, I’m Carol and that was the voice of our friend, Tita’s - She’s here today to tell us the story of Pedro

**Tammy:** I’m looking forward to hearing it. Hi, I’m Tammy and you probably know my voice *really* well by now! It’s really good to be here. Tita, thanks for coming to join us today...

**Tita:** It’s a pleasure Tammy. Hello there, are you ready for the story to continue?...

Well here goes...

**Tita:** Both Alicia and Pedro were young. Alicia was 17 and Pedro 18 and they had only been married for 6 months. The idea of leaving their families behind and moving to the big city was scary. They didn’t know anybody there. They had never lived away from their families. What would happen if one of them got sick? What if Pedro lost his job? They would not have any of their friends or relatives near them to support them. But there was really no choice. They needed the money from Pedro’s job...so they moved.

Pedro began working soon after they arrived. But it didn’t take them long to realize that life was more expensive in the city so Alicia had to go out and find a job. After 6 weeks of looking for a job, she was finally offered one at a nursing home for elderly people. She was to clean, and also to take care of some of the elderly people. She was relieved to have a job but in reality she did not like the idea of having to take care of old people.

During the first week her boss called her to have a talk. He told her that she would be in charge of taking care of Margarita, an 85 year old disabled woman who could not move from the waist down and was in a wheel chair.

That day she came home feeling very discouraged. She said to her husband, “Pedro, I can’t believe it; I have to take care of Margarita, the woman in the wheel chair. Why have they given me this job? There are other people who don’t need so much help. It’s not fair...I don’t want to do this. Everybody says that she does not speak much. This is going to be a horrible job. But we need the money so I’ll have to do it.”

Pedro tried to encourage her. “Well – I’m sure you can do it. You’re good at taking care of people. And maybe you’ll learn something new... Maybe she’ll be very pleased to have you to take care of her.”

“Maybe,” Said Alicia, “but I really don't want to!”

**Carol:** On *Women of Hope* today, Tita is telling us the story of Pedro and Alicia, who had to move to the city for work. It was expensive to live there and Alicia had to find a job. She found herself working in a nursing home for elderly people...and having to take care of a woman in a wheelchair. Alicia was not happy about it...

**Tita:** Margarita was a very quiet woman. Alicia noticed that no family members came to visit her. One day Alicia asked Margarita: "Why don't you have any visitors? Don't you have a family?"

"My husband died 3 years ago," Margarita answered. "I have 3 children and 7 grandchildren. They don't visit me because they think I'm useless now...since I had the accident and can't move. I miss them so much. I wish I could talk to them but if I say something, they laugh and say: "Oh! You have such old fashioned ideas". So I don't talk anymore. What's the point?"

Alicia never forgot Margarita's words. One day Alicia came to work very angry at Pedro. She had not spoken to him the whole weekend. After a long chat, Margarita helped Alicia understand that she was being unfair and that she should go and apologise to Pedro for her rudeness.

Another time when Pedro got sick and Alicia did not know what to do, Margarita told her how to make a remedy at home. Alicia followed the instructions and soon Pedro's pain was gone. "Wow Margarita, you seem to know so much about everything, I wish your family knew this, they are missing out on so much".

Soon Alicia knew that she could talk to Margarita about anything...health problems...cooking ideas...marriage difficulties with Pedro. She shared her sadness at times when she was missing her family...and every time Margarita was there for her and listened. Margarita had so much wisdom and was always willing to share it with Alicia. When Alicia got pregnant, she was very excited and shared her joy with Margarita. Those 9 months, Margarita was there to support her when she felt sick. And later when she felt a bit scared about giving birth. Margarita was able to reassure Alicia. Their relationship was beautiful: Margarita felt useful, appreciated and loved by Alicia and Alicia felt supported and guided by this wise older woman! Margarita became Alicia's mentor.

**Carol:** This story makes me think. I wonder if today you feel abandoned, or useless, because you are older and feel you have nothing to give? Please remember that the wisdom you've gained from your experiences in life is something very valuable to share with others. You, like Margarita, can make a big difference in somebody else's life. Your honesty in sharing your successes as well as your mistakes can be of great value to another person.

**Tammy:** Or perhaps you feel like Alicia: nervous, anxious living away from your family or your loved ones. If this is you, my advice is: find a mentor - an older person who has a whole life of experiences to share with you. They may not always have the perfect answer but they can be there to help, support and guide you the best possible way.

**Tammy:** It's good to be with you on *Women of Hope* today. We've been hearing the story of Alicia and Margarita. Alicia found that Margarita was a wonderful mentor to her, even though it was Alicia's job to take care of Margarita who was in a wheel-chair.

**Tita:** Yes, Alicia was so surprised that Margarita was able to be a mentor to her – but you know, she was even more help than Alicia first realised. Let me tell you some more of her story...

Alicia had a baby boy and called him Pedro. Being a mother was wonderful, she enjoyed seeing her little baby grow. But she also found it scary sometimes when he got sick and she was not sure what to do. He would sometimes cry and cry and she couldn't do anything to calm him down. It was always so good to be able to ask Margarita for advice on what to do. When Pedro started teething, Margarita told her of some home-made remedies that helped her baby to be more comfortable.

There were times when Alicia would ask Margarita for her opinion or advice on something and Margarita would say: "I'm not sure about this Alicia, let me pray about it first and then we can talk about it." And you know something? It was amazing...many times after praying Margarita would

come up with an answer that was perfect for that situation. This intrigued Alicia so much that one day she asked, "Margarita why do you say you need to pray first?"

"Ah my dear girl, I may be an old woman but I don't know everything" she answered. "But I *do* know that the only one who has every answer to every situation is Jesus. I discovered this many years ago when my husband died. I was so sad and worried, and I did not know how I was going to cope with my children. I had no job and no money. A friend had told me about Jesus, and that he is able to help people who invite him to be part of their lives. I did not know how to do this so I just talked to him and said: 'Jesus I have heard that you are the son of God, that you came to Earth many years ago because you knew that we people needed you. We do things that are not pleasing to God like cheating, telling lies, robbing, killing and much more...and this separates us from God. You came and you died on the cross to take the punishment we all deserve when we behave like that. A friend has told me that if I believe this and I ask you to be part of my life you will send the spirit of God to live in me. She said that I would then experience an amazing peace and that you will help me live a better life here on Earth. Jesus I need you and I need your help. Please come into my life.'

Well since that moment I can tell you that I've had peace and somehow I felt that I could face my life as a widow. Every time I've had to make a difficult decision I've turned to Jesus and asked him about it, and somehow he would always answer me. My friend told me to read God's word the Bible to find out more about him. Sometimes as I read my Bible, suddenly something that I read was the perfect answer to my problem. Other times a friend would give me some wise advice. Sometimes after praying to God, the situation would change and the issue would be resolved. And even other times I felt a little quiet voice inside me guiding me to the right answer.

So Alicia, now do you understand why I always pray first. It is good because when I don't know what to do, Jesus knows what is best and he lets me know one way or another."

**Tita:** Margarita went on to tell Alicia more about her faith in this Jesus, who she found would answer her prayers.

"Before Jesus died," she said, "he told his friends that he was not going to leave them alone...that he would ask God to send his spirit to live in those who believed in him. Jesus said, 'When the Spirit of Truth comes he will guide you into all the truth. He won't draw attention to himself, but will make sense out of what is about to happen and, indeed out of all that I have done and said.' (John 16:12-15 The Message)

"Wow! That is amazing," said Alicia, "I want that too. Being a mother is scary. I don't know if I can always make the best decision for Pedro. I don't always know what is best for him. So if I invite Jesus into my life will he also help me?"

"Of course dear!" Margarita answered. "Would you like to invite him to come into your life now?"

"Yes," Alicia said.

"Well just talk to Jesus. You could say this: 'Dear Jesus I ask you to forgive me... for the times I have done or said things that are not pleasing to God... I understand that this separates me from God... I believe that you died on the cross for me, to take away my punishment so that I can be close to God again... So please come into my life... I want you to be in control of my life from today... Amen...'"

When Alicia had prayed that prayer she felt a wonderful peace come over her – the peace of God. She knew now that she could do the same as her dear friend and mentor did ...she could ask Jesus to help her in every situation.

Dear friend from that day onward, Alicia prayed and asked Jesus to guide her and give her wisdom. She asked him to help her be patient with little Pedro when he was difficult, and to make

the best possible choices in her life. Pedro learned about Jesus because he heard his mother pray so often. When Pedro grew up he became a follower of Jesus too.

**Carol:** On *Women of Hope* today Tita has told us the story of Alicia and how she found a wonderful mentor – Margarita. But Alicia she found more than she expected didn't she! Margarita told Alicia how she prayed to God - so Alicia prayed to God and He helped her at a very difficult time in her life.

Thank you for coming to share this story with us Tita.

**Tita:** You're welcome. I love to share stories like this one – where people have found faith in Jesus.

**Tammy:** What about you my friend? Are you already taking care of your elderly parents? Are you a mother...a wife...somebody's friend? Have you ever thought that you might be influencing other people's lives?

Do you find that people come to you for advice, or guidance? If so, you are already a mentor to someone else.

Or maybe you're in a similar situation to Alicia. You need the advice of someone who is older and wiser.

Whichever situation you are in, you can do what Margarita taught Alicia to do – go to God and ask him to help you and guide you when you are not sure what to do.

He loves you and cares about every part of your life. And he will answer your prayer for help. He will provide what is best for you.

**Carol:** Remember what Margarita told Alicia about how she invited Jesus to come into her life? Would you like to do this too? Maybe you would like to pray the same prayer that Alicia prayed.

Let's pray this prayer together, and you can repeat it after me.

*'Dear Jesus I ask you to forgive me...  
for the times I have done or said things that are not pleasing to God...  
I understand that this separates me from God...  
I believe that you died on the cross for me to take away my punishment so that I can be close to God again...  
So please come into my life...  
I want you to be in control of my life from today...'  
Amen...*

**Tammy:** If you prayed that prayer with us today, you can be sure that God has heard you. You are now a child of God, and he will guide you in all the decisions you have to make. I would like to read something from God's word, the Bible now. In John chapter 1, verse 12 it says: 'To all who believed in him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.' And in another part of the Bible (1John 3:1) it says: 'See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children.'

**Carol:** **Before we go**, Mornette is going to share something more on prayer. Thanks Mornette...

**Mornette:** Do you think that praying is mostly asking God to do the things we want? It's more than that, but yes, 'asking' is a very important part of praying. We can ask for things that we need, or for what another person needs. Jesus encouraged us to ask. Listen to what he said: 'Ask, and it will be given to you: seek, and you will find: knock, and the door will be opened to you' (Matt 7:7).

You may be thinking, 'But I did ask and God didn't answer.' We need to look at the rest of what Jesus said. He went on to say, 'Would any of you who are fathers give your son a stone when he asks for bread? Or if he asks for a fish, would you give him a snake? Bad as you are, you know how to give good things to your children. How much more then, will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him!' (Matt 7:9-11)

God is our good and loving Father, whether he is giving us what we want or saying 'No'; because he gives us what he knows is best.

As we ask, we also need to seek - that is, we put effort into our search for what is right for us or for the other person. And we knock - that is, we continue praying until we know God's answer. This shows that we really mean what we are praying. When we ask God for what we need, we admit that we depend on him for absolutely everything. That's a good place to begin our prayers.

*(Developed from Prayer: Talking with God – "Praying in Faith", pages 14-15 Stonecroft Ministries, 2006) Used with Permission*

**Carol:** We would love to hear *your* story too. You can write to us in care of this station or at Women of Hope. We do hope you will be with us again.

God bless you as you ask him for the things you need, as you seek – and put effort into your search, and as you knock – and continue in prayer until you know God's answer.

Goodbye for now... Have a great week filled with God's blessings.