

Hey Seniors (Parents, please pass this on to your Senior BUT PLEASE READ IT as well!),

I am writing this letter to those who are planning on participating in our Senior Service on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. We will soon begin the process of putting together the printed program, producing the video and ordering the food. There is one thing more I need from you. It is a simple request, but it is one that requires something on your part.

We have talked about how one of the biggest issues in the church is the dropout rate among those who are 18-24. The years you are about to enter are among the most exciting, but they are also some of the most challenging. Staying strong and continuing to grow will be tougher than you can imagine. New freedoms bring new choices . . . and often very real consequences. You will not be able to do this alone.

In our ministry, we may have done an adequate job of providing you with opportunities to serve and to grow while you have been among us, but a real challenge I have seen is our ability to follow-up with our Seniors once they move on. While it is true that as you move on, we will have a new group of 7<sup>th</sup> graders move into our care that will require our full attention, it is also true that we will continue to care about you and the unfolding story of God as it is woven into your life. I want us to do better at "holding up your arms" in the new battles that await you.

I am asking that **EACH senior choose ONE person, who is NOT a family member to serve as a "mentor" for your first 80 days of college.** If you have been in this group for any time, you have heard me talk about the theme of "80 days" . . . which is the average length of your first semester in college. I maintain that these are among the most important days of your LIFE. There are not many other 80 day periods where you will face as many new choices, meet as many new people, or make as many key decisions that will affect not just your life, but also the generations that follow you.

This person you choose needs to be of the same gender as you. They need to be several years older than you, and we prefer that they be a member at North Boulevard since this will make it easier for us to stay in contact with them as they encourage you but that is not a necessary requirement. This person will need to agree to the following:

- a. They will pray for you weekly by name during these first 80 days.
- b. They will call, e-mail or write you once a week to see how you are settling in.
- c. They will get with you at least once during this time (if at all possible) to have lunch or dinner, etc. to talk about how you are making this transition.
- d. They will encourage and even assist you as you seek a church to be a part of.

They will help you to find a ministry to be a part of. They will encourage you to not just "warm a pew" once a week.

We will ask these people to stand on the stage with you on May 3<sup>rd</sup> as we issue a challenge to you both (and to our other Seniors and their mentors) to remain faithful as you leave our group. **You need to extend an invitation to this person and let them know about the date for the banquet. They are welcome to attend the banquet. Show them or give them this letter or maybe take a screen shot of it and send it to them so they will understand what we are doing, and then you need to e-mail their name AND e-mail address and mailing address/Phone # to me, and we will send them a follow-up letter with additional instructions. They need to sign the covenant at the bottom of this page, and you will return that to me. *The only other requirement I ask as you choose this person is that you do not choose someone who has already been chosen by another student (so invite them now!).***

Please do this as soon as possible and get back with us. We will compile a list and invite them to join us for that evening. I am taking this request very seriously, and I hope you will as well. We care about you deeply. We know that God has great plans for you, but for you to navigate the rough waters that lie ahead you will need someone in your life to help guide you. If you are not planning on being a part of the service on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, I still strongly encourage you to choose a person to serve as your "80 Day Mentor." If you have any questions, please call or e-mail. I look forward to hearing from you and to hearing who you have chosen! We are excited about May 3<sup>rd</sup>!

In the shadow of His cross,

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(Please fill out and return to SKID in person or via a screenshot, or email scan)

I have read this letter, and I understand what is expected and I agree to be the 80 Day Mentor for \_\_\_\_\_.

(print first and last name of student)

80 Day Mentor Phone Number:

\_\_\_\_\_

Mentor's e-mail address: (write clearly)

\_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(print your name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(sign your name)