



SAFE HARBOR MINISTRY

Ellen and I started a "Safe Harbor Ministry" recently. We meet many followers of Jesus who have been battered by the storms of life. Their life compass and map have been washed away by the storm. They need to come into a safe harbor and regroup themselves by repairing their ship, redrawing the map, and recreating the compass. Sometimes they are in a critical transition of their lives, needing to discern what God is doing in their lives and clarify the future direction for them. Some people can navigate well through these transitions and storms of life on their own. But others, we find, are in need of life-based mentors who can come alongside them and encourage them to seize the teachable moments of life experiences with confidence in God and move with focused action toward transformational change and growth.

In His economy of developing the life and ministry capacity of His workers, God has ordained that their life experiences be filled with these teachable moments. John Piper refers to this process when he says: "The goal of our mission is that people from all the nations worship the true God. But worship means cherishing the preciousness of God above all else, including life itself. It will be very hard to bring the nations to love God from a lifestyle that communicates a love of things. Therefore God ordains in the life of His messengers that suffering sever our bondage to the world. When joy and love survive this severing, we are fit to say to the nations with authenticity and power: Hope in God" (*Let the Nations Be Glad*, p. 105). A missionary's life is full of transitions, crises, difficulties, conflicts, misunderstandings, and periods of isolation. When one responds with discernment and humility, these challenges in life can become great opportunities for learning, change, and growth. This is especially true when



one is encouraged and enabled by a life-based mentor who, responding to one's life experiences with discernment and intentionality, nurtures one to listen to God in humility and grace.

Ellen and I have had the privilege of hosting people to come and stay with us for a few days, as we provide "safe harbor ministry" in a life-based mentoring context. Ellen takes them on a royal world tour each mealtime, preparing delicious dishes from Indonesia, Vietnam, China, Japan, Korea to Mexico, Italy, France, etc.

And in-between times we walk them through a personal executive coaching time.

Lots of personal reflection and sharing times are built into this process. Ellen and I do lots of loving listening and drawing out. Sometimes we walk around the neighborhood as we share. In the evenings we play games and watch movies together also. Our hope and prayer is that we can encourage them to listen to God as they try to discern His life messages for them, so that they can gratefully embrace the shaping hand of God in their past, humbly walk in the present where God has placed them, and boldly move into the future with confidence and conviction.

Thank you so much for all your prayers and financial support for our ministry. Your investment in us makes it possible for us to provide "safe harbor ministry" to some followers of Jesus who need to come into a safe harbor and to regroup themselves by repairing their ship, redrawing the map, and recreating the compass.

In Jesus, the Ultimate Safe Harbor,

Daniel and Ellen