

Mentoring the Opposite Sex



It is usually easier to mentor those of the same gender. However, with a lot of young ladies involved in missions' ministry it is important to have an understanding of mentoring/mentee relationship. Some of these guidelines are the same you might expect in counseling the opposite sex and relationships of any kind. There are a number of things to keep in mind:

1. The relationship must be guarded to avoid appearance of evil.
2. E-mails or correspondence perhaps should be copied to the spouse as well.
3. Social media chats/Facebook should be filed away.
4. It is inappropriate to expect to travel with the missionary (of the opposite sex) alone to activities.
5. Never be alone, at the same time, in the same car or office. Always keep the third party rule.
6. Remember nationals can't adequately tell the difference between one American and another. To some, we all look the same. For example: it is easy for them to think that an AIMer is actually your wife.
7. Keep physical distance. For example: a man hugging a lady only when the spouse is present (generally).
8. Topics are restricted. You cannot discuss everything.
9. Assignments may best come from the missionary of the same gender (wife or a single missionary of the same gender).
10. Correspondence may come from the missionary of the same gender on behalf of the missionary supervisor.