**Subject:** Join us at brunch June 2nd to honor graduates and encourage “sticky faith”

Team…you are ministry leaders at King of Kings, and we would like to invite you to help us spiritually encourage our young people who leave our congregation and go off to college or career.  It’s a simple as this: when you see them come back for summer, take time to invite them to lunch and in the course of the conversation ask them about how their spiritual life is doing, especially how connected they are to other friends and fellowship with followers of Christ.  When we have our graduate blessing event on June 2nd we will tell our graduates that when they return for a visit here, they can simply say to any of us, “Lunch?” and any ministry lead here will take them to lunch GLADLY and hear about their world.  We are interested.  We also are part of their web!

Web…as in spiritual support web.  The tragic fact is that it seems that the 80% most connected graduating seniors…meaning most connected to their faith and their church, though they say they intend to stay with it when they leave home, within 18 months of leaving home, 50% are not active in any Christian fellowship and are growing farther and farther from God.  What helps?  A sticky faith.  A faith that has people in the web that encourage them to stick with the faith and choose friends and fellowship that help them stay connected to the faith.   We can be part of that web!

On June the 3rd, we invite our seniors and their families and their spiritual influencers (like small group leaders or godparents) to join them in the 9:00 service where we will have a blessing event.  We not only recognized them for their graduation, but we have parents speak a blessing over them while we pray for them and also have their spiritual support web around them as well.  Then at 10:30, after the service they all join together for a brunch where we will give them words of encouragement (about 30 minutes worth) from a variety of sources.  We will be talking with them about keeping a sticky web…so their faith sticks when they leave home!

So, this is the season to stop and congratulate graduates…and encourage them in their faith…and invite them to have lunch to catch up when they return home.  And about that lunch…if you don’t have money in your budget for it, Roger will pay for it in his budget for faith formation.  Let’s just do it.

Until Christ is formed in us!

Roger, Mike and Amanda