

I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first.

Revelation 2:19

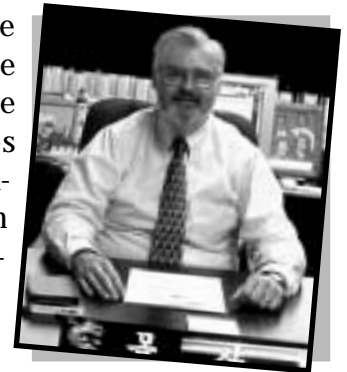
PrimeTime

A quarterly resource newsletter for Nazarene mature adults in the prime of life.

Churches are encouraged to copy and distribute this publication to all adults 55 and older in their congregation. Individual subscriptions are available for an annual donation of \$2.00.

ISSUES FOR PRIME TIMERS

Last November I had the privilege of attending the Christian Association of Senior Adults (CASA) in Orange County, California. Approximately three hundred people from a variety of denominations and nineteen states attended including twenty-one Nazarenes. Several workshops and seminars were on the menu for those two jam packed days. Some of the articles in this issue were triggered by my participation in those sessions. My hope is that they will help in your journey with your Prime Time ministry. *-BY DERL G. KEEFER*



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REACHING PRIME TIMERS FOR JESUS

Amy Hanson, director of Church and Community Relations at Risen Son Christian Village in Council Bluffs, Iowa, shared a seminar on “Fueling Our Passion for Evangelizing 50+ Adults”. She posed three vitally important questions that each local Nazarene church must consider.

Question #1. Why evangelize mature adults? Basic as it may sound her answer should hit us squarely; “Not all mature adults are Christian!” Every seven seconds someone in this country turns 50 and for a large majority they have **never** experi-

enced the saving grace of Jesus Christ. Many of them have attended church, but never made a commitment to Him. Others have never attended church or been approached about a decision for Jesus. Christ himself commanded us to make disciples of all people and that included prime timers!

Question #2. Are older adults really open to the Gospel?

Because of the uncertainties of today’s society from job changes to retirement

Churches must become intentional in their outreach ministry to prime timers.

and from health issues to multiple losses of friends, spouse, and independence the answer is YES! In life’s

uncertain tomorrows God brings a stabilizing anchor into existence. Prime timers, like everyone else, want to know about the great STABILIZER—Jesus.

Question #3. How do we connect the disconnected to Jesus? We must define who we are attempting to reach. Knowing who they are helps us get connected. What needs exist? Each church must decide they want to reach out to this age group. Churches must become intentional in their outreach ministry to prime timers. That occurs as we:

- Build relationship with the unchurched of the community.
- Organize outreach events.
- Create a climate of evangelism.
- Move from an elementary stage to a discipling stage for the newly converted.
- Become available in times of need and crisis.

Take a good long look at your church and the evangelism effort that you have in place. What do your efforts communicate to the prime timers of your community? Determine now to help them find that Jesus is the answer and He is in your church.

MEETING THE SPIRITUAL NEEDS OF PRIME TIMERS IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

Dr. Harold Koenig from Duke University combined his efforts of identifying the spiritual needs of the prime timers with other researchers for the past 15 years. He outlines these spiritual needs in the following manner.

I. Needs are met by how you treat one another.

- A. A need for personal dignity.
- B. A need for a sense of usefulness.
- C. A need to express feelings.
- D. A need to believe that God is on one's side.

II. Needs are met by preaching and programming. (Openly talking about the subject gives people permission to also think and talk about it).

- A. A need for vision (seeing and anticipating a future).
- B. A need for continuity with the past.
- C. A need to prepare for death and dying.
- D. A need to experience God's presence.
- E. A need to pray alone, with others and for others.
- F. A need to read and be inspired by Scripture.
- G. A need to worship God, individually and corporately.
- H. A need to love and serve God.
- I. A need for fellowship with others.
- J. A need to love and serve others.

III. Needs that are met by identifying and participating in life's processes.

- A. A need for meaning and purpose. (Why am I here? What does suffering mean? What has my life accomplished?)
- B. A need for hope.
- C. A need for support in coping with loss and change.

- D. A need to adapt to increasing dependency and still feel worthwhile.
- E. A need to transcend difficult circumstances and move on with life.
- F. A need to be thankful.
- G. A need to be certain that God exists.
- H. A need to experience God's unconditional love through caregivers.
- I. A need to confess and be forgiven.
- J. A need to forgive others.
- K. A need to cope with the death of loved ones.

A book that identifies and discusses these needs is: *A Gospel for the Mature Years: Finding Fulfillment by Knowing and Using Your Gifts* by H.G. Koenig, T. Lamar, and B. Lamar, (Haworth Press, 1997). PT

GREAT RESOURCE:

Ray E. Barnwell, General Director of Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries of the Wesleyan denomination, has developed an excellent evangelistic tool titled, "Leading Your Grandchild to Christ". This short brochure gives some great ideas about leading grand-children to Jesus. We highly recommend it. If you want more information log on to www.wesleyan.org/bkex or call them at 1-317-570-5189.

SCHROON LAKE—WHAT AN EVENT!

Shortly after the terrorist attack of September 11, 2001, in New York, the Schroon Lake Prime Time was scheduled to occur. The Adult Ministries office was unclear as to whether we would be able to continue with our scheduled event for September in Schroon Lake, New York. As the time for the event drew closer, very few cancelled and over 300 prime timers from across the

United States converged on Schroon Lake, New York. An outstanding week was spent in the Adirondack mountains of beautiful upstate New York. Tours, games, food, fun, relaxation and spiritual restoration were the mainstays for the week. Dr. Holland Lewis from Yakima, Washington, and his talented wife, Mary, communicated God's message in word and song. Everyone appreciated the fantas-

tic spirit that both of them presented.

Bob Porter served as co-director for this year's event. As usual, Bob did a great job of keeping everyone on his or her toes. Our thanks go to the many people who made this prime time event a tremendous success. I know that all of us are looking forward to many more wonderful experiences at our prime time events in the future. P T

TAKING STOCK AND GIVING IT

Many people own stock that has risen in value over time. For example, one of Jane's stocks has grown from \$15 a share to \$75 a share. If her broker sold the stock she would owe tax on the \$60 of appreciation for each share sold. However, if she gave the stock to the Church of the Nazarene, she would avoid tax on the appreciation and receive an income tax charitable deduction on the full value of the stock. What's more, because the church is a qualified charitable organization, it could sell the stock without any tax on the appreciation. A win for Jane; a win for the church.

Have you considered making a gift of appreciated stock to the church? It may be better than making a gift of cash. To learn more about this, you may want to talk with your CPA and investment advisor.

Mike Thompson and Carolyn Lynn in the

Stewardship Development Ministries Office enjoy helping friends of the church make tax-wise gifts. Why not contact them today at 1-800-544-8413, steward@nazarene.org, or return this reply form to Stewardship Development Ministries, Church of the Nazarene, 6401 The Paseo, Kansas City MO, 64131.

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BOOK IN REVIEW

An Unstoppable Force by Erwin Raphael McManus. Group Publishing, Loveland Colorado. The subtitle says, "Daring to Become the Church GOD had in Mind" and that's exactly the point the author makes. As I read the text, I wrote in the margins, circled and underlined important

phrases, even rereading lines as I digested the material. Without a doubt prime timers can help the Church move forward. This book provides significant clues and strategies as to how we can make that happen. A bit pricey, but well worth the money for those wanting a challenge. PT

Up Coming Prime Time Events

Branson, Missouri

April 30-May 3, 2002

Nashville, Tennessee

National Laymen's Conference
July 3-7, 2002

Lancaster, Pennsylvania

Willow Valley
September 23-27, 2002

Niagara Falls, Canada

May 5-9, 2003

Walk With Wesley

European Tour
August 2003

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