

BOOMERS and beyond

Connecting.
Coaching.
Communicating.

Inspiration and Resources for Leaders in Second Half Ministry

A publication of BGC 2nd 1/2 for Him

June 2007



For it is in giving that we receive. -St. Francis of Assisi

Boomers looking for purpose in life often find it in serving those in need -- all around the globe.

There are many facets to leading effective ministries with persons in the second half of life. There must be occasions for fellowship and opportunities for spiritual nurture and growth. But it is in the process of generativity, or “giving back” to the community, that Boomers and Beyond begin to find purpose, significance and God’s plan for long life.



The word *generativity*, coined by psychologist Erik Erickson, means that persons in midlife must find ways to give back to society and to the next generations through relationship and service. The alternative is to become stagnant and dissatisfied.

Boomers today are looking for ways to find significance in their lives through serving those in need, seeking justice and sharing the good news of life in Christ. Opportunities abound at home and abroad for 2nd 1/2ers to give back, and in so doing, to receive. **More on page 3.**

Pictured above: Dorothy teaching in Belize, Leona at a feeding program for elderly in Moldova (see page 3), and Bobbi meeting another grandma in Nicaragua. Left: 2nd 1/2ers help rebuild a church in Katrina-ravaged New Orleans.



If you get rid of unfair practices, quit blaming victims, quit gossiping about other people’s sins; if you are generous with the hungry and start giving yourselves to the down-and-out, your lives will begin to glow in the darkness, your shadowed lives will be bathed in sunlight. I will always show you where to go. - Isaiah 58:9b-11 The Message

Boomers and Beyond Leadership Conference Coming Soon!

A half-day conference designed to challenge pastors, church leaders and others who minister with 2nd 1/2ers will be held on Wednesday, June 27, from noon to 5 p.m. at the Anaheim Marriott in Anaheim, California. The afternoon features several challenging presentations by ministry leaders including keynote speaker Dr. Ward Tanneberg, pastor, author and teacher.



The conference begins with a luncheon at noon followed by other presentations and workshops. The day will educate, encourage and inspire you. Deadline for registration is June 22, so don't delay! Call the BGC office at 1-800-323-4215 or BGC 2nd 1/2 for Him Ministries at 206-362-2621.

For more information about the conference or to obtain brochures, please visit www.chonline.org/bgc,

Other training opportunity:

GPS (God's Plan for Significance) Conference. June 23, 2007. Calvary Church, Visalia, CA. www.significantliving.org/events.html

Bethel News:

Seminary Offers Certificate Program in Adult Development and Generativity

New non-degree certificate programs offered by Bethel Seminary are designed to enable pastors and lay people to respond to some of the most pressing needs of 21st century culture, including the needs of an aging population.

The certificate in Adult Development and Generativity will focus on encouraging adults in midlife and beyond to offer their creativity and wisdom in ways that enrich future generations. Certificate students take six courses over an 18-month period. Every course has an online component, and four of the six involve a week-long intensive.

Applications are being accepted for a program start in Fall 2007. For more information, contact the Bethel Seminary Office of Admissions at 800-255-8706, ext. 6288.



Bethel University Seeks Director of New Aging Studies Department

Bethel University Graduate School is seeking a Director for the new Legacy Initiative. The Legacy Initiative encompasses the development of programs and services that are positioned to benefit the 50+ year-old population both directly and indirectly. For a job description and application, please contact Bethel's Human Resources department at <http://www.bethel.edu/human-resources> or call 651-638-6400.

Around the Districts

Northern California

Pastor Rick Moe, 2nd 1/2 for Him District Champion, and Dr. Don Reed, District Executive Minister, are hosting an Israel Study Tour this fall. The group will leave from San Francisco on November 16 and return November 29. Cost is \$2,809. For more information call Don Reed at 209-830-6222.

Rocky Mountain

The RMBC will host an all-day "Unleashing the Power of Age in Your Life" seminar on October 6, 2007. Richard and Leona Bergstrom, Co-directors of BGC 2nd 1/2 for Him, will facilitate. The seminar is an opportunity for participants to focus on God's purposes for their individual lives -- in the second half.

Southwest

Dozens of 2nd 1/2ers will be volunteering their time as hosts and hostesses at the BGC annual meeting to be held in Anaheim in June.

BGC National Office

Be sure to log on to BGC's new and improved Web site! www.bgcworld.org Here you will find the latest news about BGC ministry in the U.S. and around the globe. You can also sign up for newsletters, get the latest news from missionaries, discover service opportunities and even donate! For real time updates on 2nd 1/2 for Him ministries: www.chonline.org/bgc.

Compassion for those in need

Whatever you did for the least of these, you did for me. - Jesus

John Dallmann is the Director of Compassion Ministries for the Baptist General Conference. He is a water engineer, missionary and spokesperson for the poor and oppressed. Part of his vision is to see persons age 50+ involved in providing humanitarian outreach meeting physical and spiritual needs around the world. We asked him to explain:

Q. What is Compassion Ministries and how does it differ from the other global missions efforts of the BGC?

John: The BGC has always been involved in ministries of compassion via its medical and education efforts. Compassion Ministries was developed to come alongside these existing ministries and to enlarge our vision and involvement in "physical ministries." Too often spiritual and physical ministries are separated and/or prioritized. Yet from Christ's example we see that the two should be artfully woven together. Christian relief and development organizations struggle with maintaining spiritual focus. Church planting efforts in turn often neglect the physical needs of those they seek to reach. My prayer is that Compassion Ministries will foster that balance of ministering in both word and deed.

Q. What are some of your current projects?

John: (1) Disaster Response -- both developing local disaster response teams and global relief efforts; (2) Water projects and relief rehabilitation in Lebanon; (3) Water development projects in Cameroon and Chad, Africa, HIV/AIDS ministry in Nigeria and community development in Senegal; (3) Outreach to the urban poor in Bangkok.

Q. What are ways that people aged 50+ can be involved in Compassion Ministries?

John: I have envisioned the 50+ group playing a significant role. I would love to see many of them plug into ministry overseas in a particular country. With their experience, skills and availability of time, they can have significant ministry impact. There are all sorts of opportunities that can be tailored to the gifts and skills of people serving.



Q. Tell us a little bit about you and your calling.

John: My call is to "reach people for Christ that would only hear if a water engineer went to them." As such I have served in water development in the Cameroon and Ethiopia as well as church planting. I'm married to Gala and am father to Jonathan, Luke, Josiah, Elissa and Titus.

Editor's note: John will be presenting a workshop on Compassion Ministries at the BGC annual meeting in Anaheim on Thursday, June 28 at 2 p.m.

Minister in Moldova!

Richard and Leona Bergstrom will be leading a short-term ministry team to Chisinau, Moldova, in September 2007. The group will be partnering with Bethany Baptist Church, a visionary church in Chisinau, to develop a feeding program for elderly persons severely impacted by poverty. Most older persons lost all of their money when the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991 and now live on pensions equivalent to \$30-\$40 per month. 2nd 1/2 for Him has the opportunity to assist the church in providing both food and love in the name of Christ. If you are interested in more information, please call the Bergstroms at 206-362-2621 or email leonaberg@comcast.net.



Boomers and Beyond Leadership Network

Newsletter

This newsletter is produced bi-monthly by BGC 2nd 1/2 for Him. Editor: Leona Bergstrom. To subscribe for free electronic editions via your email, or to submit articles or ideas, please write to leonaberg@comcast.net or call 206-362-2621.

Training

Our goal is to train leaders who are effective in leading the local church toward powerful midlife and older adult ministry. The annual conference is one of those opportunities. 2nd 1/2 for Him leaders are available to come to your church or district for on-site training. Call Richard Bergstrom at 425-216-4408.

Resources

We are continually updating our resource list to provide you with up-to-date information. Check our website at www.chonline.org/bgc.

BGC 2ND 1/2 FOR HIM

DICK AND LEONA BERGSTROM
CO-DIRECTORS
P.O. BOX 1493
EDMONDS, WA 98020
206-362-2621



Recommended Resources for 2nd 1/2 Ministries

BOOKS:

Second Calling: Finding Passion and Purpose for the Rest of Your Life

Written by Dale Hanson Bourke, this book is written primarily to women over the age of 50. Not only is it an interesting reflection on Bourke's life and journey, but a challenge to women to invest their lives in something bigger than themselves. This book is a great discussion starter for a group of midlife women. Published by Integrity Publishers, 2006.

DVDs:

Recently PBS broadcast a fascinating documentary entitled *Boomer Century*. Hosted by gerontologist Dr. Kenneth Dychtwald, this two-hour film traces the evolution of the strongest and largest generational cohort in history. It will help you understand the history, trends and predicted future of the Boomers. You can order it for \$10 through www.agewave.com.

For a great discussion starter about finding purpose in the second half of life, you must see *Musical Chairs*. This powerful 10-minute short film is available for \$19.99 plus shipping through ChurchHealth at 206-362-2621 or office@chonline.org. For more information visit www.musicalchairsthemovie.com.

MINISTRY SUPPORT:

CASA (Christian Association Serving Adult Ministries -- formerly Christian Association of Senior Adults) provides resources and support for churches seeking to develop midlife and older adult ministries. www.gocasa.org

SIGNIFICANT LIVING www.significantliving.org produces a quality Christian magazine full of helpful articles and resources for people age 50+. It also sponsors training events, travel and short-term service opportunities.

Boomers and Beyond
Leadership Network

2ND 1/2 FOR HIM
BAPTIST GENERAL CONFERENCE
2002 SOUTH ARLINGTON HEIGHTS RD
ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, IL 60005

