

**PRIMETIME SENIOR SUMMIT**  
**Olivet Nazarene University, Bourbonnais, Illinois**  
**June 7, 2003**

**“Unleashing The Power Of Age  
In Your Congregation”**

**A Ministry Report**

**Purpose of the Seminar:**

The purpose of the seminar was to convene pastors, church leaders, older adult ministry leaders, and persons interested in older adult ministries representing many churches to:

- Define the challenges and opportunities facing the church as a result of radical demographic changes in the next several decades,
- Discuss the issues,
- Determine resolutions and
- Derive strategies for effective ministry.

**Summary:**

The “Unleashing The Power of Age In Your Congregation” seminar was held at Olivet Nazarene University, Bourbonnais, Illinois, on Saturday, June 7, 2003.

Eighty-six persons attended, representing Churches of the Nazarene from Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, Michigan, Nebraska, Ohio, and Florida. Most participants were leaders in Older Adult Ministries, while others were pastors, educators, denominational executives, and pastoral staff. The seminar was convened by the office of Adult Development Ministries and Prime Time Ministries of the General Board, Church of the Nazarene.

Derl Keefer, Adult Development Ministries Coordinator, welcomed participants and introduced the agenda and leadership for the day.

An opening worship service was led Brian Allen, Director of University Relations, Olivet Nazarene University.

The keynote lecture, delivered by Dr. Richard Bergstrom, was entitled “Unleashing the Power of Age in Your Congregation.” The lecture discussed the radically changing demographics in our country and in the world as the numbers of people living longer increases dramatically. These changes call for a defined response on the part of church leadership. We must conclude whether the vast amounts of older adults in our society and church will be viewed as an “obstacle or an opportunity.” As churches look at the coming age wave, it would behoove them to recognize the needs of older adults and acknowledge the contributions they can continue to make. Dr. Bergstrom challenged participants to discover four biblical principles in order to unleash the power of age in congregations. Taken from Mark 2, the story of the paralytic who was carried to Jesus by his friends, Dr. Bergstrom suggested the following characteristics required by a church to be effective in ministering to and with older adults:

- Compassionate fellowship
- Creative freedom
- Corporate faith
- Leading to complete forgiveness!

A second lecture, delivered by Richard and Leona Bergstrom, was entitled “The Times, They Are A-Changin’: How the Age Boom Will Transform the Church.” This lecture discussed some of the social implications of the “longevity revolution.”

The question was also asked, “How will thee new re-defined attitudes toward retirement impact and transform the church?” The Bergstroms outlined 8 things that can be expected in the next few decades:

1. Increased longevity will drastically impact the composition of the church.
2. Today’s concept of “retirement” will be re-defined.
3. Expectations in retirement and old age will change.
4. Lives will be characterized as “cyclical” rather than “linear.”
5. The age boom will redefine “old age”
6. Ministry infrastructures that are sensitive to changing demographics will change.

7. There will be greater degree of diversity in values, lifestyle and population mix.
8. New retirees and baby boomers won't fit into traditional categories.

What is the essential message to the church?

1. If we expect to reach the emerging generation of retirees and attract their interest in the church and kingdom ministries, then we must recognize the uniqueness of this new generation of retirees.
2. We have the opportunity to provide them with significant and meaningful involvements around purposeful relationships to replace those lost from career and family.
3. The involvements offered must be tailored to the goals and desires of this population group.
4. We need to be sensitive to the kind of language that we use in seeking to reach out to them and involve them:
  - a. Many of the traditional labels, with which a current generation of 70-100 year olds may in fact be comfortable, are not acceptable to the newly emerging generation of retirees;
  - b. By using words that build upon their potential or their contribution, we may open doors that would otherwise be closed.
5. We need to create a completely new infrastructure that will capture the imaginations of new retirees, motivate them to live lives of purpose and direction, and release them to meaningful and significant service.
6. We need to thoroughly understand and teach that God has a purpose for long life.

## **Small Workgroups:**

Participants were divided into small workgroups to brainstorm and discuss the needs and issues facing three groups of aging adults: Midlife (ages 50-65), Retired life (ages 65-80) and Senior Life (ages 80+). The following are the lists of needs that were generated:

### **Mid-Life (Ages 50-65)**

#### **Physical Needs:**

Food  
Rest  
Exercise  
Relaxation  
Recreation  
Stimulation  
Recognizing our limits  
Prescription glasses  
Hearing aides  
Medications  
Insurance – health, life, Rx  
Transportation  
Shelter – home base  
Less yard work  
Adaptations  
Increased need for lighting  
Increased print size  
Long range plans – plan ahead  
Technology and “how to”  
More time to get things done  
Need hearing devices  
Wheelchairs  
Stairs  
Slowing down; need exercise classes, low impact exercise  
Finances for health care  
Print too small, need glasses  
Depression  
Need daytime meetings so don't have to out at night  
Diseases become more debilitating (arthritis, Parkinson's, diabetes)  
Depending on more medication  
Longer time required for healing/recovery  
Need more assistance when “pushed out” of hospitals too soon  
Inclement weather poses traveling difficulties  
Harder to get out and shop for food, medications and other essentials

Tire easier  
Get injured easier  
Prescription needs increase  
Hearing decreases  
Sound system volume increased!  
Beginning of mobility decrease  
Eyesight problems: cataracts, macular degeneration  
Mobility good but may need helps  
Need clear directions: maps, signs, verbal, large print  
Inability to remember  
Slower processing of information  
Help with care of dwelling  
Transportation – appointments and pleasure  
Physical stress from caring for aging parents  
Pain management  
Men push beyond physical limits

Social/Emotional Needs:

Financial independence  
Feel needed  
Not feeling lonely/need friends  
Transition from work to retirement  
Acceptance of age  
Loose spouse/don't want to do things alone  
Transportation  
Money for dinner, etc. on senior trips  
Need different activities; different interests  
Adjustment down in income  
Have gifts used – still useful  
Companionship  
Fellowship  
Combat isolation  
Education  
Stimulation  
Meaningful relationships  
Friendship  
Worth/value  
Responsibility  
Outlet for frustration  
A listening ear  
Compassion  
Challenge  
Authenticity  
Motivation  
Counseling

Understanding  
Adjustments  
Downsizing  
A plan  
Re-define the roles  
Support  
Grandparenting  
Slow to accept aging  
Not in touch with new technology/TV/movie programs/characters  
Resistant to change  
May not be preparing for retirement (anxiety)  
Grandparents raising grandchildren  
Adult children living at home  
Inflexibility  
Singles (never married, divorced, widowed)  
Advocacy with medical needs  
Adult day care  
Widow/widower  
Loneliness  
Start taking care of parents  
Work stress  
Being a "5<sup>th</sup> wheel" at times (widowed or single)  
Depression  
Pride  
No longer feeling needed in the workplace  
Becoming widowed  
Families move away  
Families move back in!  
Won't "admit" they are senior adults  
Taking care of elderly parents - burned out  
Limited income (but don't like to make it known)  
Facing possible assisted living  
Facing your own mortality  
Affording medical needs  
Empty nest  
Losing parents  
Losing friends to death  
Loss of independence for some  
Need to laugh

Spiritual Needs:

Changes in church services  
Ability to participate  
Shut in contact  
Fellowship times  
Marriage crisis

Need the Lord  
Comfort zone missing  
Adjust to new music forms and lack of “old hymns”  
Deeper relationship  
Continue mentoring younger Christians  
Inclusion in ministries, activities and sermon application  
To touch base with the old songs  
To be able to reach all people  
Need to reach out to new people  
Probably need to have more groups (50-60,60-70,70-80) not lump into one group  
Devotionals at meetings  
“Jesus” film in local church  
Bible study or special topic groups  
Acceptance  
Watch critical spirit  
Watch tongue  
Patience  
Involvement in ministry  
Fear of being alone  
Discipleship  
No hope  
Deepen spiritual life  
Constancy  
Place of service/ministry  
Stimulation  
Good books  
Purpose  
Re-focus  
Role models  
Mentors  
Sensitivity to reality of eternity  
Small group: Bible study; fellowship  
Facing mortality  
True worship  
Knowledge of Scripture  
“Retirement” from Christian service happens  
Resisting change in methods  
A need to feel needed  
Hard to admit their prayer needs  
Danger of leaning toward being merely a spectator  
Closed off to reaching the unchurched  
Need someone to reach out to them  
Involvement in ministry  
Hard to reach with the gospel  
Relevant Bible studies  
Reluctance to change

Relevant worship  
Complacency  
Need to stay close to God – be sure of salvation

## **Retired Life (65-80)**

### Physical Needs:

Disfigurement  
Homebound  
Alzheimer's disease/dementia  
Transportation  
Hearing changes  
Visual limitations  
Limited walking (mobility)  
Penmanship  
Handicap access  
Depression  
Support Groups  
Activities  
Nurse program  
Diet  
Exercise  
Safety  
Slow down – less energy  
Blood pressure changes  
Memory loss  
Different dietary needs  
Medical needs  
Food delivered (groceries)  
Doctors appointments  
Lawn/property care  
Wheelchair/canes/walkers, etc.  
Grooming needs – barber, beauty shop  
Decline vision, hearing  
Dementia  
Nutrition  
Housing  
Prescription drugs  
Physician changes  
Dental health  
Food  
Rest  
Work  
Recreation

Family support  
Helping others  
Financial resources  
Friends

Social/Emotional Needs:

Transportation  
Transition – work to retirement  
Death of spouse  
Learning computers  
Economic status change  
General vulnerability (scams)  
Family problems or situations  
Changes in neighborhood  
Remarriage issues  
Hairdresser  
Fellowship with others (all ages)  
Still need to feel productive  
More time for prayer and reading God's word  
Loss of finances  
Struggle to cope with change in family situations (moving, death, etc)  
Change in health insurance – or have none  
Available information  
Divorce  
Bereavement  
Know the needs of others  
Depression  
Change  
Support groups  
Activities  
Legal advice  
Recreation  
Meaningful hobbies  
Eating out  
Help from others  
Taking food to others  
Need to belong  
Opportunity to serve  
Family life  
Financial resources  
Friends  
Need to be valued  
Loss of independence  
Significant relationships (outside their homes)  
Dealing with loss of family or friends (death)  
Security - feeling safe

Loneliness

Loss of home and personal items

Dealing with physical limitations

Spiritual Needs:

Saved and sanctified

Changes in church

Changes in values – society

Role in faith community

Loss of ability to attend church

Adjustment to change

Needs and desires visits from church people

Dealing with death

Dealing with failing health

Do not take for granted that they are right spiritually

Know needs

Depression

Support groups

Bible studies

Group prayer

Activities

Personal devotions

Help from others

Fellowship groups

Opportunities to serve

Worship

Family devotional

Friends

Spiritual fellowship

Phone calls

Notes

Home visits

Feel that others care about us and pray for us

Many need to know the Lord as Savior (salvation)

Struggle with loss of spouse

Concern for children and grandchildren spiritual needs

## **Senior Life (80+)**

### Physical Needs:

Hearing impairments  
Vision impairment  
Wheelchair availability/handicap accessibility  
Frailty  
Day care  
Diet  
Transportation  
Facing death  
Walking  
Housekeeping  
Grooming  
Visitation  
Paying bills  
Upkeep of home/yard  
Moving  
Cooking  
Diet  
Facing debt  
Arthritis  
Financial issues  
Surgeries – longer to heal  
Speech  
Wide doorways  
Doors that stay open  
Exercise  
Bathroom facilities  
Health care/companion  
Financial resources  
Memory loss; Alzheimer's disease  
General health concerns  
Steadiness and balance/ falls  
Health and medical insurance

### Social/Emotional Needs:

Loneliness  
Isolation from families  
Choice of activities within seniors group  
Death – friends and families  
Death – our own  
Getting through stress  
Attitude

Depression  
Transportation  
Visitation  
Family contact  
Outings  
Financial change  
Phone numbers in large print  
Life Alert  
Hospice  
Church  
Writing letters  
Companion  
Need to share stories  
Purpose for living  
Fear to enter/act  
Social services  
Knowledge of current events  
Continuing education  
Care group  
Holiday meals  
Meals on wheels  
Telephone reassurance  
Carry in lunch  
Conversation  
Technology  
Available social services  
Fear to interact  
Change  
Financial issues  
Being valued as a person

Spiritual Needs:

Communion  
Bible Study  
Prayer group  
Christmas cards  
Shut-in visitation  
Involvement  
Faith in Christ  
Avenue of service  
Cross-age experience]  
Christ-like attitude  
Adaptability to change  
Church  
Reading – books and Bible

Provide audio books  
Praying partners  
Visiting  
Evangelism  
Taping services  
Sacraments  
Individual needs  
Fellowship  
Hearing  
Seeing  
Transportation  
Family restroom and handicap accessibility  
Corporate growth  
Church support  
Individual determination  
Fellowship/interaction  
Handicap accessibility  
Tape ministry  
TV broadcast  
Friendships  
Corporate worship  
Continuing spiritual growth  
Staying involved in church, etc.  
Shut-ins, communion served, visitation  
Retreats – spiritually centered  
Leadership

## **Top Priorities Identified:**

Through a process of combining similar suggestions and multi-voting (each participant was allowed to vote for their three “top” needs per category), the following needs were identified as priorities:

### **Midlife (50-65)**

#### **Physical**

1. Diseases become more debilitating (i.e. Arthritis, Parkinson’s, diabetes)
2. Physical stress from caring for aging parents
3. Prescription needs increase

#### **Social/Emotional**

1. Companionship
2. Loneliness
3. Need to feel needed

#### **Spiritual**

1. Deeper spiritual life
2. Need the Lord (salvation)
3. Inclusion in ministries, activities and sermon application

### **Retired Life (65-80)**

#### **Physical**

1. Medical needs
2. Financial resources (tied with #3)
3. Depression
4. Housing (tied with #5)
5. Exercise

#### **Social/Emotional**

1. Need to be valued
2. Economic status change
3. Depression (tied with #4)
4. Change

#### **Spiritual**

1. Changes in church
2. Salvation (many need to know the Lord)
3. Opportunity to serve

## **Senior Life (80+)**

### Physical:

1. Wheelchair availability/handicap accessibility
2. General health concerns (Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, heart, etc.)
3. Hearing impairment (tied with #4)
4. Housekeeping

### Social/Emotional

1. Change
2. Loneliness
3. Transportation (tied with #4)
4. Technology

### Spiritual

1. Adaptability to change (tied with #2)
2. Christ-like attitude
3. Faith in Christ
4. Corporate worship

## **Designing Our Future**

The final lecture/discussion was focused on how to develop powerful and effective ministries for middle and older adults. It was concluded that ministries must reflect the following:

- Middle and older adults represent a rich source of wisdom, service and giving. Ideas were shared on how an older adult ministry group can equip members to pass on a heritage of faith, be involved in service, and be encouraged to give.
- Middle and older adults need the opportunity to hear the gospel and respond to its life-changing message of forgiveness and renewal. Ideas were shared regarding evangelistic outreach targeting middle and older adults.
- Middle and older adults need communities of faith surrounding them as they face unprecedented transitions, changes and loss. Ideas were shared regarding activities, caring ministries, lifelong learning opportunities, and purposeful planning.

Many exciting and helpful ideas were shared by both the presenters and participants.

Helpful resources for ideas to develop powerful and effective ministries can be found! One suggestion is obtaining the Bergstroms' book, **Amazing Grays: Unleashing the Power of Age in Your Congregation**, available online at [www.chonline.org](http://www.chonline.org) or by calling 360-676-4824.

## **Let's Get Going**

The final workgroup session placed participants at new tables to discuss ideas for programming that would meet the top needs for each age group identified in earlier breakout sessions. The following ideas were generated:

### **MIDLIFE (50-65):**

Top needs identified:

#### **Physical**

1. Diseases become more debilitating (i.e. Arthritis, Parkinson's, diabetes)
2. Physical stress from caring for aging parents
3. Prescription needs increase

#### **Social/Emotional**

1. Companionship
2. Loneliness
3. Need to feel needed

#### **Spiritual**

1. Deeper spiritual life
2. Need the Lord (salvation)
3. Inclusion in ministries, activities and sermon application

#### **Ideas for meeting midlife physical needs:**

1. Have a senior advocate in the church that can connect people with community services and agencies.
2. Have Compassionate Ministries Funds to help in emergencies (especially with prescription drugs)
3. Have a Parish Nurse program; have supplies on hand for diabetics, etc.
4. Provide education on health care issues
5. Invite a pharmacist to come to a Seniors program (perhaps a member of the congregation) who can meet with individuals about personal concerns regarding medications
6. Invite a funeral director to speak about pre-planning
7. Invite Social Security office or send a speaker to Seniors program.
8. Develop a system that is available to:
  - a. Check up on those who can't get out to see how they're doing and what they need
  - b. Run errands for them
  - c. Steer them to the right resources
  - d. Assist the wheelchair bound

9. To relieve stress from caring for elderly parents, provide
  - a. Adult Day Care – even one day a week
  - b. Provide “parent sitters”
  - c. Offer to take those parents to their doctors’ appointments
10. Provide health education programs
11. Offer a Health fair in the church
12. Provide foot care on a regular basis (one church provides footcare two times per month for \$6 fee)
13. Develop a Parish nurse program
14. Provide First Aid equipment
  - a. Gurney
  - b. Defibrillator and trained staff (near the welcome center)
  - c. Have Emergency plan in place (call 911/fire dept. etc)
15. Day care for needy seniors to provide “time out” for the primary caregivers
16. Write a grant for money to do laundry, household chores
17. Develop exercise programs, sports, trips
18. Have a nurse come to speak on interaction of drugs and drug use
19. Provide some nursing care
20. Provide relief duty to people caring for aging parents
21. Have a class for bereaved

**Ideas for meeting midlife social and emotional needs:**

1. Have a visitation program
2. Go to homes; take people out
3. Phone and card ministry
4. “TLC” ministry
5. Adopt-a-grandparent
6. Mentoring program
7. Give them a job at church
8. Include shut-ins as members of prayer chain
9. Develop support groups
  - a. “Griefshare”
  - b. Divorce care
  - c. AA
  - d. MOPS – “Seniors” as mentor and/or childcare givers
10. Adult day care to give caregivers a break; also bring individuals together for fellowship
11. “Marvelous Mondays” program at church: provides events, game days, speakers about resources
12. Regular trips to eat out or potlucks
13. Develop a “buddy” system
14. Card ministry (thinking about you, birthday, get well, missing you)
15. Phone tree – check in regularly
16. Share from a compassionate heart – really listen!
17. Make yourself available.

18. Seniors group goes to low-income housing to have senior lunches; invite residents who live there to join.
19. Take people to stores, shopping, etc.
20. Phone calls, cards to absentees
21. Let people know they are missed.
22. Have sports activities, baseball, bowling, etc.
23. Sponsor father-son, Mother-daughter breakfasts, banquets. Take kids without parent
24. Provide food to needy
25. Class on divorce
26. Provide material and spiritual counseling to pregnant girls
27. Take meals to domestic assault centers

**Ideas to meet midlife spiritual needs:**

1. Have Bible studies
2. Conduct evangelistic campaigns geared to seniors
3. Develop church library
4. Have accountability partners
5. Cottage prayer meetings
6. Evangelism training
7. Include Jesus in every gathering
8. Have programs that help us dig deeper – what are our gifts? How do we use our gifts?
9. “Marvelous Mondays” at one church has worship services planned by seniors for seniors
10. Have hymn sings
11. Gaither video gatherings
12. Small group Bible studies
13. Go to nursing homes and conduct church services
14. Have Bible studies at church AND take to the homebound
  - a. Have small groups (2-6) go to the home and have a study
  - b. Have assigned group leaders to organize
  - c. People could drive others who need transportation
15. “Dare to Care” ministry.
  - a. Send care notes
  - b. Have prayer chain
  - c. Visitation
16. Ask for “referrals” of those who need spiritual care
17. Cassette tape ministry to homebound

## **RETIRED LIFE (65-80):**

Top priority needs:

### Physical

1. Medical needs
2. Financial resources (tied with #3)
3. Depression
4. Housing (tied with #5)
5. Exercise

### Social/Emotional

1. Need to be valued
2. Economic status change
3. Depression (tied with #4)
4. Change

### Spiritual

1. Changes in church
2. Salvation (many need to know the Lord)
3. Opportunity to serve

### Ideas to meet **retired life physical needs:**

1. Exercise
  - a. Walking groups
  - b. Line dancing
  - c. Stationary machines (treadmills, bikes, etc)
  - d. Sitting exercises
  - e. Water aerobics
  - f. Age appropriate video exercise classes
2. Seek medical advice
3. Develop and renew friendships
4. Finances
  - a. Have a seminar series on budget planning, investment strategies, living trusts
  - b. Crisis counseling regarding finances – refer to resources
  - c. Individual counseling to make aware of future needs (financial)
  - d. Group sessions on financial topics
5. Housing
  - a. Volunteers help make accessible
  - b. Repairs
  - c. Financial help
  - d. Safety and security checks
  - e. Cleaning and painting
  - f. Surprise helping event

**Ideas to meet retired life social/emotional needs:**

1. Caring ministries
2. TLC (send cards)
3. Group socials
4. Counseling
5. Dealing with changes
  - a. Training/counseling
  - b. Financial advisement
  - c. Dietician counseling
  - d. Social worker advisement (regarding housing choices)
6. Need to be valued
  - a. Compliment them
  - b. Express appreciation
  - c. Recognition and encouragement
  - d. Include in social functions
7. One on one lunch out

**Ideas to meet retired life spiritual needs:**

1. Confirm salvation
2. Prayer partners
3. Bring communion
4. Bible Study
5. Salvation
  - a. Building friendships
  - b. Follow up
6. Small groups
  - a. Bible Study
  - b. Singing
  - c. Activities
7. One on One
  - a. With prayer support
  - b. Making opportunities to talk
  - c. Crisis times to assure salvation
8. Opportunity to serve
  - a. Identify gifts/passion = service
  - b. Casting a mission of ministry
  - c. Organize Work to Witness teams (both local and international)
9. Dealing with changes in the church
  - a. Prayer
  - b. Show interest
  - c. Encourage to hold steady in pastoral and staff changes

## **SENIOR LIFE (80+)**

### Top Priority Needs:

#### Physical

1. Wheelchair availability/handicap accessibility
2. General health concerns (Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, heart)
3. Hearing (tied with #4)
4. Housekeeping

#### Social/Emotional:

1. Change
2. Loneliness
3. Transportation (tied with #4)
4. Technology

#### Spiritual:

1. Adaptability to change (tied with #2)
2. Christ-like attitude
3. Faith in Christ
4. Corporate worship

### Ideas for meeting **senior life physical needs:**

1. Parish Nurse
  - a. Monthly blood pressure checks
  - b. Flu and pneumonia shots
  - c. Health care screening
  - d. Health care speakers
  - e. Mayo Clinic newsletter
2. Have someone to call on the homebound
3. Run errands; pick up medications
4. Provide transportation
  - a. To doctors
  - b. To get food
  - c. To visit friends
5. Relieve caregivers
6. Provide weekly visits – take bulletins, tapes, etc.
7. Wheelchair availability/handicap accessibility
  - a. Have wheelchair available close to the main door
  - b. Have people assigned to greet and take person into the sanctuary
  - c. Have a handicapped restroom or facility
  - d. Make information available about Medicare, VFW, Service clubs, Shriners about help with wheelchair availability
  - e. Have a ramp, wide doors, unisex restrooms
  - f. Have a door person
  - g. Service assistant

- h. Automatic door openers
- 8. Hearing impairments
  - a. Governmental program assistance – make aware
  - b. SERTOMA
  - c. Be aware of hearing impairment – face to face conversations
  - d. Reduce background music

**Ideas for meeting senior life social/emotional needs:**

- 1. Adjust to change
  - a. Grief recovery classes
  - b. Classes or assistance in
    - i. Computers
    - ii. Tax preparation
    - iii. Balancing check book
    - iv. Financial statements – Medicare, Bank, Credit Card
  - c. Assistance in changing residences
  - d. Counseling
  - e. Provide education
  - f. Communication
- 2. Loneliness
  - a. Weekly visits, take church bulletin, tape, serve communion
  - b. Furnish meals
    - i. After surgeries
    - ii. Times of illness
  - c. Set a visiting schedule
    - i. Organize a way to communicate needs to group involved in visitation or calling
    - ii. Check bulletin
- 3. Other ways to help
  - a. Write letters
  - b. Hospice care
  - c. Outings
  - d. Companionship
  - e. Continuing education
  - f. Holiday meals
  - g. Carry-in meals
  - h. Help share stories
  - i. Help with technology
  - j. Value persons

**Ideas for meeting senior life spiritual needs:**

1. Regarding adaptability to change (in regards to church)
  - a. Develop good two way communication
    - i. Why change
    - ii. When change
  - b. Trial for short period
  - c. Value to them of change
  - d. Be in prayer
    - i. Corporately
    - ii. Individually
    - iii. To make needed changes in attitude
  - e. Keep an open mind
    - i. Keep in mind our main purpose
  
2. Faith in Christ
  - a. Groups or person who will check up on their personal walks
  - b. Read the Bible
  - c. Get them involved in responding to needs
  - d. Provide transportation
  - e. Appropriate literature – Sunday School material
  - f. “Cookies and Christ”
  - g. Visitation
  - h. Be a friend
  - i. Develop evangelism strategies
  - j. Develop relationships with un-churched

At the end of the day, participants were encouraged to begin to think strategically about purposeful and effective older adult ministries by considering the following:

Define your purpose. *Why does your ministry exist?*

1. What is your church's purpose (mission statement)?
2. What is the purpose or mission of your senior adult ministry?

Discover your passions. *What are the core values of your ministry?*

1. What are the values that you can affirm within our ministry to older adults?
2. Write out 3-7 core values as a part of your plan for ministry.

Determine your potential. *Where do you want to be in 2-5 years?*

1. What vision do you have for your Senior Adult ministry?
2. What are the major objectives for your ministry?

Develop your plan. *How will you accomplish your vision?*

1. What goals do you have for your Senior Adult ministry?
2. What programs and ministries can you undertake to accomplish your vision?

Decide on your priorities. What will you do now? Later?

Deploy your personnel. *Who will carry out this ministry?*

### **Conclusion:**

The seminar concluded with the reading of a set of "resolutions" defining our commitment to developing powerful and effective ministries by and with older adults in our congregations and in our communities.

**Reflection and Evaluation:**

Participants gave input via an evaluation form. These evaluations are currently under review by the Adult Development Ministries office. Results will be posted soon.

**Thank you.**

We hope that the insights shared during this day will inspire the churches involved to continue to develop powerful and effective ministries to and by older adults in the future. If we can be of further assistance in helping you fulfill that mission, we would be honored to do so. May God richly bless you as you follow His leading.

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