

BOOMERS and beyond

Connecting. Coaching. Communicating.



*Inspiration and Resources
for Leaders
in Second Half Ministry*

A publication of
BGC 2nd 1/2 for Him



April 2008

[A Push in the Right Direction](#)

June Seminar Focuses on Coach/Mentoring

Few things in the Christian community shine brighter than a person transforming and growing to be more like Christ. Spiritual growth flourishes in the nurturing environment of relationships, one of the richest being friendship with an intentional coach/mentor.

People in the second half of life have experienced many ups and downs. They have known the joy of good times and the challenges of bad. Who better than people over age 50 to coach and mentor the next generations?

BGC 2nd 1/2 for Him will offer two opportunities to explore the biblical basis and imperative for coach/mentoring during the Salt and Light Leadership Conference at Bethel University, June 2008. We will hear from a young pastor whose life has been impacted by the skillful guidance of coach/mentors. We will be challenged to examine our own lives, reservations, fears and resistance to becoming involved in a mentoring relationship. And we will hear of successful coach/mentoring models that result in developing successful emerging leaders.

Plan now to attend the 2nd 1/2 for Him Breakfast on Thursday, June 26, where the theme will be "An Irresistible Transfer." A seminar which further explores the subject of coach/mentoring will be held the same afternoon from 2-4:30 p.m. The theme is "A Push in the Right Direction." More details follow on page 3.



*"A mentor is a brain to pick,
an ear to listen,
and a push in the right direction."*

— Uncommon Individual Foundation

Certificate in Pastoral Counseling Offered at Bethel Seminary

by Rebekkah Eller, Center Program Director, Bethel Seminary

A new *Certificate in Pastoral Counseling* will be launched for learners all across the nation in June 2008 by Bethel Seminary's Center for Spiritual and Personal Formation. This certificate is being added to the roster of other optional certificates including the Certificate in Spiritual Formation, which successfully launched last fall.

The *Certificate in Pastoral Counseling* was developed in response to the need for a greater number of lay leaders and pastors to be a faithful presence to others in their experiences of personal, spiritual, and relational difficulty. This course of study prepares participants to provide competent, ethical counseling for education, prevention, and intervention. It will also equip them to know how, when and to whom to refer individuals/families who are facing complex and challenging issues.

"The idea of 'certificates' was formed after faculty members heard from churches that there was a need for flexible, distance-based training for lay-leaders," explained Daniel Jass, a program instructor. It also was made clear that many adult lay leaders desired a program in which they could expand mentally without having to pursue a formal degree.

The certificate programs are intended for students of all ages, but are uniquely designed to fit well into the lives of midlife and older adults who have numerous life commitments. The format also allows students from any area of the nation to complete the certificate.

Each certificate is comprised of six classes offered one at a time over an 18-month period. Four of these courses require students to come to the Bethel Seminary campus in St. Paul, Minnesota, for a one-week intensive classroom experience with peers (two weeks total per year). Two of the courses are offered in a distance learning format. The four intensives allow students to engage others in discussion and to interact with professors who are currently working in the field. This enables students to understand the theological and theoretical realities of their disciplines while encouraging them to develop camaraderie within their cohort.

Patty Beadle, a current certificate student, affirmed, "I have so enjoyed interacting with my cohort and professor in this intensive format. It allows for great flexibility after that week, and yet we still feel connected as a group."

If you are interested in receiving more information on the certificate programs offered, please call 1-800-255-8706 (Ext. 6288) or visit www.bethel.edu.

News About 2nd 1/2 for Him Ministries Around the Districts

Boomers and Beyond Getaway, Northern California Baptist Conference
..... May 19-21, 2008. Mt. Hermon Conference Center.
..... Speaker: Rev. Jim Achilles
..... Contact NCBC Office at 209-830-6222

Retired Chaplains, Missionaries and Pastors Retreat, Columbia Baptist Conference
..... April 14-16, 2008. Lake Retreat Camp and Conference Center
..... Speakers: Don Windmiller, Lee Jantzen, Jim Spickelmeir, Ric Olson
..... Contact Lake Retreat at 425-432-4293

Boomers and Beyond Leadership

Newsletter

This newsletter is produced bimonthly by BGC 2nd 1/2 for Him. Editor: Leona Bergstrom. To subscribe for free electronic editions via your email, please visit www.bgcworld.org and click on "lists." 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 biennial conference is one of those opportunities. 2nd 1/2 for Him leaders are available to come to your church or district to provide 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

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Coach/Mentoring:

A Push in the Right Direction

Plan now to attend both 2nd 1/2 for Him events during the Salt and Light Leadership Conference (and BGC Biennial meeting) at Bethel University, St. Paul, Minnesota! The emphasis at the 2nd 1/2 breakfast and afternoon seminar is on the imperative for coach/mentoring the next generations toward faith and service.

A unique **breakfast gathering** will be held on Thursday, June 26, at 7:30 a.m. The theme is “An Irresistible Transfer,” with special speaker, **Pastor Jonathan Alexander**. Jonathan is senior pastor elect at Northshore Baptist Church in Bothell, Washington. In June he will assume the “mantle of leadership” from Pastor Jan Hettinga who has pastored the church for the past 29 years. Jonathan will share stories of the importance of coach/mentors in his life, as well as his conviction that people in the second half of life have the responsibility to mentor the next generations. Basing his talk on the story of Elijah and Elisha in 2 Kings 2, Jonathan will paint a picture of a mantle of leadership passed on with such passion and purpose that the transfer was absolutely irresistible!



Nathaniel Olson, a student from Wheaton Conservatory of Music, will provide special music.

The **afternoon seminar (2-4:30 p.m.)** will again challenge pastors, church leaders and people of all ages to consider the opportunities for coach/mentoring.

Dr. Ward Tanneberg, Executive Director of CASA (Christian Association Serving Adult ministries), pastor, author and teacher, will speak on the “Art of Becoming a Coach/Mentor.” He maintains that the art of being a coach/mentor is simple: “It is to be salt, be light and be generous!”



Ward has degrees from Northwest College, Western Evangelical Seminary, Seattle Pacific University and California Graduate School of Theology. He has written several books, his latest being the novel, *Vanished*. Ward has pastored churches in California and Washington, and currently lives with his wife Dixie in Bellevue, Washington.

Also speaking in the afternoon seminar is **Chris McNiven MA CP**, Director of Organizational Development for VibrantLiving Communities. Chris, a licensed counselor and business consultant, is married to Jennifer, has a one-year old son, works for VibrantLiving at the Fairview (Downers Grove) campus and is an adjunct professor at Trinity International University. He is passionate about coach/mentoring and has developed an exciting theory and model for growing emerging young leaders.



The afternoon session will conclude with an opportunity for brainstorming, discussing and designing ideas for establishing coach/mentoring models in the local church. This session will be facilitated by Richard and Leona Bergstrom, co-directors for BGC 2nd 1/2 for Him ministries.

The day’s events are co-sponsored by BGC 2nd 1/2 for Him and *The Senior Living Network*, a group of BGC-endorsed retirement communities and long-term care providers.

For more information visit www.bgcworld.org or www.chonline.org/bgc.

Sixty is the New....Well, 60!

by David Solie, M.S. P.A.

One of the new mantras of aging in the 21st century is the refrain “60 is the new 40.” Maybe.

Good health and an impressive array of lifestyle options certainly make many of today’s 60-year-olds look different compared to their parents’ generation. But appearances can be misleading. In their rush to celebrate biological vibrancy, 60-year-olds could miss a crucial piece of information about what occurs developmentally on the journey to 70. Biology is not psychology, and failure to appreciate the difference could leave elders uninformed and ill prepared for their final mission.



Sixty-year-olds represent an “in between generation,” meaning not quite middle age and not quite old. Developmentally, “in between” is an appropriate characterization of a transition period marked by “agenda crossover.” What do I mean?

Middle age and old age have markedly different developmental agendas. The transition between these age groups is not sudden. It is a crossover process where one agenda ramps off while the other ramps on. From a psychological perspective, knowing where you are coming from is interesting; knowing where you are going is essential. Here is where elders are coming from.

Middle age is dominated by two primary developmental tasks, the “mission” of being fifty-something:

1. Preserve stability in world of increasing personal volatility.
2. Reinvent purpose and direction for the second half of life.

The instability of middle age is well known. It is an involuntary passage into life-changing currents that include death in the family, unsettled children, chronic illness, career upheavals, aging parents and changing partnerships. It is a complex and sobering period that requires super-human effort just to “keep things together.” Truth be told, most of us don’t keep things together, but we do get better at coming to terms with the “physics” of how life operates, negotiating a fragile peace with a vast list of items that remain outside our control.

The other task of middle age is reinvention in an environment essentially devoid of public goals. This is in sharp contrast to the clear marching orders of the first half of life, a period in which society offers young adults concrete guidelines for their life’s journey. Getting an education, landing a good job, finding the right partner, starting a family and becoming successful are themes that inundate conversations in the first half of life. As such, they are a public refrain that define and reinforce social goals. And then, almost overnight, this social broadcasting mysteriously ceases. In middle age, public goals give way to private goals, a navigational shift in which life’s purpose and direction becomes like a 401K, self-directed with the increased burden of trying to sort through a long list of confusing and, at times, conflicting choices.

Despite the demands of the middle age, by 60 most adults have successfully adopted to the tasks. They have found their version of personal stability and made significant headway in defining what they want and where they are going in the second half of life. But beneath this success is a new set of developmental currents that are beginning to surface as middle age recedes. Their arrival over the next 10 years will usher in what is arguably the most difficult and magnanimous mission in life. As Bette Davis remarked, “Old age is no place for sissies.” *D.S. 12/07*

Reprinted with permission from David Solie’s blog at www.dsolie.com. David shares many helpful insights about aging on both his website and blog. He has written [How to Say It to Seniors: Closing the Communication Gap with Our Elders](#), a resource we highly recommend!

--LB, Editor