

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 2007



Boomers and Beyond Conference to Equip and Encourage Leaders

Is your church ready to lead the most powerful generation ever in the history of America?

Whether they like it or not, ten thousand people celebrate their 50th birthday every day in America. Beyond the jokes, demeaning birthday cards and the surprise arrival of an AARP card, this event triggers a quiet alarm in the soul. It signals that indeed we are in the second half of our lives and things are beginning to look a little different. What a critical time for churches to be on heightened alert! The most powerful generation in American history is confronting and experiencing aging, and it is seeking to discover what it means to live extra years with passion, purpose and significance.

Who is teaching *your* congregation how to age successfully? Whether you are a senior pastor, a pastor to midlife and older adults or a lay person, the *Boomers and Beyond* conference, sponsored by BGC 2nd 1/2 for Him ministries, will help equip and train you to be an excellent and creative leader. The conference will be held Wednesday, June 27, 2007 from noon to 5 p.m. at the Anaheim Marriott Hotel. This event precedes the BGC annual conference.

Dr. Ward Tanneberg, pastor, teacher and author, will launch the afternoon with a luncheon keynote address entitled "Why Should Anyone Be Led by You?" Ward believes that discovering purpose, demonstrating worth and value, and fueling spiritual growth individually and in community are keys to a long, happy and fulfilling life.



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Boomers and Beyond Conference

June 27, 2007 Noon - 5 p.m. Anaheim Marriott Hotel

Cost: \$37 if register before May 15; \$40 after May 15

Register at www.bgcworld.org/events/am07/am07reg.html

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Ward's ministry and interests have taken him to more than 45 countries of the world. He is a cofounder of The Center for Global Urban Leadership, "connecting and cultivating leaders to bring positive change to the cities of the world." *Without Warning* and *Vanished*, Ward's most recent novels, tell the dramatic story of an American family caught in the midst of post-9/11 terrorism. Ward has been involved in leadership with CASA and has served as a pastor, an executive pastor and as a seniors pastor. He and his wife, Dixie, have two adult children and three grandchildren.



A critical issues session entitled "Who Is Teaching Your People How to Age Successfully?" will be led by **Rev. John Thill**, Director of Ministry for Significant Living and CASA. He has served as a pastor, counselor, senior residence administrator and CEO of an eldercare company. He is devoted to helping churches address the needs of middle and senior adults. John brings a unique biblical understanding to aging and God's provisions for the second half of life.

Richard and Leona Bergstrom, co-directors of BGC 2nd 1/2 for Him will facilitate a workshop entitled "Breaking the Boomer Code," discussing ways to reach Boomers for Christ and to help them discover lives of purpose and significance.

For more information about the conference or to obtain brochures, please visit www.chonline.org/bgc, call 206-362-2621, or email leonaberg@comcast.net

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

Around the Districts

Upcoming Events:

Northern California

Upcoming event:
Senior Adult Retreat at Mount Hermon. May 21-23.
805-238-6376

Columbia

Retired Pastors, Missionaries and Chaplains retreat.
Lake Retreat Camp.
April 30-May 1

Reports:

Southwest

2nd 1/2 ministries sponsored two mini-conferences in Feb., one in San Diego (Clairemont Emmanuel) and one in Santa Clarita. Both conferences welcomed Bruce Sumner, DEM, as keynote speaker. He challenged attendees to "make every moment count." Hymns were sung, classes attended and delicious catered meals enjoyed. Missionaries Dave Burdette and Don and Chris Lovingfoss spoke about their respective ministries in Mexico.

Florida

Trinity Baptist Church in Sun City Center has allocated funds in 2007 to begin a new senior church in a large retirement community. Pray for Pastor Bill Millican as he explores the possibilities.

BGC 2nd 1/2

Several enjoyed the Fire & Reign cruise in February - especially the adventure trip to the Belize Mission and Retreat Center!

Embrace That Smaller Space

Organizing Tips When Downsizing - by Elisa Adams

The reality is that most of us will likely face a downsizing situation in our lifetime, and it can be a challenge. Some might consider it quite emotional, even traumatic, but it can also be a pleasant change. So look for all the positives that you can in making your decisions.

The actual parting with treasures and extra belongings takes time, planning and above all else sensitivity. A common question is, "What do I take with me when I downsize?" The following guidelines may be helpful when faced with the task of downsizing.



1. Begin with and cling to the **goal** of ***a simpler life*** in your next residence.
2. Give yourself permission to lighten your load of accumulated stuff, even if it includes items gifted to you but you find yourself just **storing** them now.
3. It will take **many sweeps** through closets, drawers, cupboards and every room to identify what you truly want and **need** to take with you, so get started with the process soon.
4. Begin now to share and **bless others** with items and treasures that you no longer **use or need**. There is great joy in giving to those in need and who will be appreciative. If possible, tell the new recipient of a treasure the story behind the item so the value and history will also be passed along.
5. The favored **order of giving and gifting** others with your 'stuff' and 'treasures' is to give first to family, then friends, and then charities. This can be followed with an estate sale.
6. Try to think multifunctional in using the new space, i.e. office in part of the living room, guest room or bedroom. There are many attractive wall units now on the market that hide all the necessary components for an office behind cabinet doors. With an efficient and organized filing system, it is possible to have a dual-purpose room that includes an office.

Hold onto the thought of 'a simpler life' as you approach your downsizing opportunity, and remind yourself of the many benefits you will enjoy with less space to clean and maintain and more time for the passion the Lord has given you for your life.

This simple rule may help:

Take with you what you need and use, what is beautiful and what will fit well.



Elisa Adams is the founder and owner of HOW2, LLC . . . get positively **ORGANIZED!**™ Her services include speaking and consulting with both residential and businesses to help people find a simpler life-- a life with less stress, increased productivity and more time for their passion in life.

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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 360-676-4824 or 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.

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The "Lois" Legacy

by Lois Matson, RN, MSHA,

VP of Christian Life Ministries, Fairview Village, Downers Grove, Ill.

As a little girl, I didn't like my name. In the Bible Lois was just a grandmother. Now having 15 grandchildren, I take this role very seriously. Timothy was the grandson of the biblical Lois. In 2 Timothy 1:5 Paul says, "I know how much you trust the Lord, just as your mother Eunice and your grandmother Lois do..."

In our mobile society many grandparents rarely see their grandchildren. Communicate your faith through letters, Christian books, games and magazines. Dr. Dobson gives this advice to grandparents:

1. Lead your grandchild to Christ.
2. Understand when a grandchild is ready.
3. Be a good example.
4. Realize your powerful influence.
5. Preserve your family history.



It's true that each child and grandchild has to make his or her own decision, but I want to do everything that I can to influence them to know Jesus. Deuteronomy 6:7 says, "You must teach them to your children and talk about them when you are at home or out for a walk; at bedtime and the first thing in the morning." Be intentional about sharing your faith. Spend much time in prayer for your grandchildren. When you can't sleep at night, **pray** for your family.

What do you want your grandchildren to remember about you? The greatest gift a grandfather can give is a life lived for Jesus. And the greatest gift a grandmother can give is the knowledge of the Lord. The only things that you can take to heaven are your children. (Pictured above is Lois with 13 of her 15 grandchildren.)

Boomers and Beyond
Leadership Network

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