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Inspiration and Resources for Leaders in Second Half Ministry



A publication
of
CONVERGE
Worldwide
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2nd 1/2 for
Him



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The Intergenerational Challenge

By Dr. Pete Menconi

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If everyone in the church effortlessly found his place and did his part to make church ministry successful, a pastor's job would be a lot easier. But that is not the way it works. Church ministry is, in fact, a messy endeavor that can be one of the most challenging anyone can undertake. Unlike business in which paychecks can be leveraged to get the desired responses and behaviors, the church is predominantly a volunteer organization with different motives and motivations.

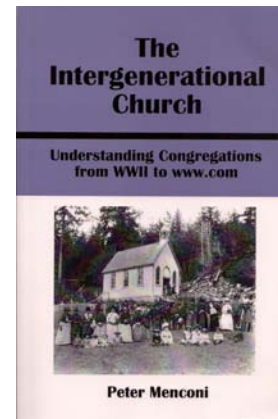
The primary motivation to be involved in church ministry should come from one's desire to follow Jesus Christ. Scripture repeatedly reminds us that the church is the body of Christ with Jesus as the head. And the local church is just one small part of a much bigger whole and reality: the kingdom of God. Without a kingdom perspective a local church runs the risk of becoming a mutual admiration society. Simply put, the church is not about us—not the pastor, not you, not the congregation, not the denomination.

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Dr. Pete Menconi is the featured speaker at a seminar entitled "Generations Apart, Generations Together" on June 30, 2010, in Denver. This event, sponsored by 2nd 1/2 ministries, is for all generations. See page 3 for more details.

The major role of church leaders is to help members of the congregation take the next step in their journey with Jesus, perhaps one of the first for a new follower or one of the last for those who have followed Christ for many years. Helping congregation members find their calling is a key role for church leadership. Just as the apostle Paul urged Timothy "to fan into flame the gift of God" that he had been given, so pastors and church leaders are to fan the flame that God has put in the hearts of each of his children. The challenges of an intergenerational church will be met only when church leaders learn how to advance people along their ever-maturing journey with Jesus. Additionally, leadership will need to pass this ministry skill on to others within the congregation as the body builds the body.



The challenges of the intergenerational church are also best met when we understand the unique needs of each generation and think creatively about how these needs can be met. When we address needs within a congregation, we not only are dealing with what people will receive, but we also are addressing what people need in order to serve and give. Most people in our local churches want their lives to count for something, and leaders need to be able to make this happen.

The following matrix summarizes some of the major differences between generations today. Pastors, church leaders and attendees can use it as a tool to begin the process of becoming an intergenerational church

	GI Generation 1906-1924	Silent Generation 1925-1943	Boomer Generation 1944-1962	Gen X Generation 1963-1981	Millennial Generation 1982-2000
Worship Style	Formal/traditional	Traditional/predictable	Informal	Eclectic/artistic/informal	Eclectic/informal
Preaching	Practical	Professional	Relational	Interactive	Integrated
Worldview	God is in control of the world	The laws of the universe are at work	The physical, emotional and spiritual worlds are all interrelated	The world is chaotic and broken	The world can be "fixed"
Values	Family/country/security	Truth/education/security	Tolerance/money/time	Genuineness/acceptance/fun	Competence/options
Theology	Private	Propositional	Practical	Contextual	Global

Editor's note: Menconi's book defines five generations and compares their values in 12 categories that pertain to the church. Above is a sample of his comparisons. For the entire table, please refer to his book, *The Intergenerational Church: Understanding Congregations from WWII to www.com* (available at Amazon.com).

NEWS and EVENTS

Converge Northeast 2nd 1/2 for Him will host a one-day Learning Community at Elim Park Retirement Community, Cheshire, Conn., Thursday, May 20 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Pastors, church leaders and 2nd 1/2 ministry teams will gather to discuss current issues facing aging adults, define solutions, develop strategies for ministry and determine new directions. For more information contact Chaplain Glenn Havumaki at 203-272-7550 or email 2nd 1/2 for Him at: Leona.Bergstrom@convergeww.org

Generations Apart, Generations Together: THE INTERGENERATIONAL CHURCH

Wednesday, June 30, 1:00 - 4:30 pm at the Denver Marriott Tech Center (prior to the Converge Worldwide/Bethel University biennial meetings.)

There is much talk today about reaching targeted age groups and establishing mono-generational ministries. While exciting and effective, sometimes the outcomes of our efforts divides rather than unites, and our generations drift apart. The mandate to pass a legacy of faith from generation to generation is a predominant theme of Scripture. How do we recapture the joy of intergenerational relationships without losing our respective distinctive? Is there a way to build healthy churches in which generations grow together and not apart?

Dr. Pete Menconi, outreach pastor at Greenwood Community Church (Greenwood Village, Colo.) and author of *The Intergenerational Church*, will explore the reasons why and what pastors and churches can do to bring the generations together in worship and in service. In addition, attendees will discuss and explore ways they can customize their ministries to meet these generational challenges. Cost: \$20 per person. Register: www.convergeworldwide.org.



“BETTER TOGETHER” Leadership Conference Sponsored by CASA Network and Converge 2nd 1/2 for Him

Join leaders from around the country at the Hilton Atlanta/Marietta Conference Center, November 10-12. Featured speakers include Gordon MacDonald, Dolphus Weary, Chuck Stecker, Amy Hanson, Ward Tanneberg, Doug Fagerstrom, Richard Bergstrom, Cavin Harper, Wes and Judy Wick, P.K. Beville, Peggy Fulghum, Ted Sprague, Michael Sharp, Chris Holck and others. This is a premiere training and networking event designed to address intergenerational ministries from a 2nd 1/2 perspective. Visit www.goCASA.org or email Leona.Bergstrom@convergeww.org for more information. Don't miss this unique opportunity to be encouraged and inspired.

Check out our new and improved website at www.convergeworldwide.org! Click on 50+ ministries for new information and resources for

2nd 1/2 for Him Ministry

Boomers and Beyond Newsletter

This newsletter is produced bi-monthly by Converge Worldwide (BGC) 2nd 1/2 for Him. Editor: Leona Bergstrom. To subscribe for free electronic editions via your email, please visit www.convergeworldwide.org and click on convergeLIST. To submit articles or ideas, please email Leona.Bergstrom@convergeww.org 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. We are partnering with CASA Network (www.gocasa.org) to provide excellent leadership training 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 resources to provide you with up-to-date information. Check our new website at www.convergeworldwide.org click on “U.S.” and then go to 50+ Ministries. Or go to www.chonline.org/bgc

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CRISIS IN HAITI: WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP?

Our hearts break as we watch coverage of the devastation left in Haiti following January's earthquake. Many 2nd 1/2 ministry groups are asking how to be involved in meeting some of the tremendous needs. Converge Worldwide has actively responded to the crisis. You can read updates at www.convergeworldwide.org. Here are two suggestions for ways to help Haitian families:

1. Donate money.

Converge World Relief has received more than \$327,000 from individuals and churches to assist victims of the January 12 earthquake in Haiti. Some funds were used for initial relief efforts. Longer-term projects are in development or underway.

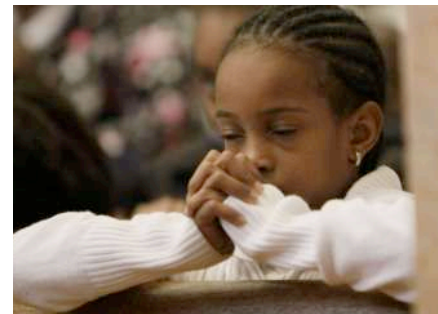
Initial projects provided:

- Temporary shelter (housing) and food for the families of four pastors who perished in the quake. Several churches have "adopted" these families.
- Help for 23 families to relocate to Cap-Haitien
- A Christian clinic near Port-au-Prince to treat quake victims.
- Funds for a Haitian team of 16, including Medical doctors, from Beraca Baptist Church, Brooklyn, N.Y., who traveled at their own expense to provide medical care, food and shelter.
- Funds to help Milot Hospital near Cap-Haitien to treat 250 injured people who fled Port-au-Prince.
- Funds to feed 350 families in Port-au-Prince and Leogane, and 700 patients in Cap-Haitien and Milot
- Funds to Baptist World Aid and to World Relief (NAE), our long-term partners in relief efforts

To make a donation, make your check payable to Converge World Relief and mail it to Converge Worldwide, 2002 S. Arlington Heights Rd., Arlington Heights, IL 60005. In the memo line of your check, note: Haiti Earthquake Relief, account 10537.

2. Help a Child through 1by1/Haiti

Involvement with the 1by1/Haiti child sponsorship program is another way to support the long-term needs of Haiti. This project enables poor children to attend Melchisedek Baptist School in Maissade, Haiti. Begun by Pastor Lunique Yoyo from the First Baptist Church of Maissade, the goal of this school is to inspire confidence, assure a prosperous future and lead children to Jesus Christ. Sponsorship of \$30 per student per month covers the cost of tuition, supplies, lunch and a uniform. This program is an opportunity to help educate and train Haiti's future family and community leaders.



1 by 1/Haiti, begun in 2003, currently has 460 sponsored children. The town of Maissade was not directly affected by the earthquake, however sponsored children lost family members in Port-au-Prince and many refugees have migrated to Maissade. All families in Maissade will be affected as poor families struggle to provide food and necessities to their children. One-time gifts, as well as ongoing sponsorship, provide ongoing support for the children and families of Maissade.

Donations to the program can be sent to Converge Worldwide at the above address. In the memo line of your check, note: 1by1/Haiti, account 510144. For more information contact Pam Putman at 1-800-323-4215, ext.#3235, or Pam.Putman@convergewww.org

Photo (above) by Huffington Post