

COMPASSIONATE FELLOWSHIP – IDENTIFYING THE NEEDS OF OLDER PEOPLE:

Top needs identified at NW District Seminar on June 15, 2002. Ministry ideas generated for follow up meeting at Camp Berachah – May 7, 2003.

Middle Adults (Age 50-70):

Physical:

1. Changes in health
2. Care and concern for aging spouse, parents, grandchildren
3. Increased medications (tied for 3rd)
4. Chronic illnesses (tied for 3rd)

Social/emotional needs:

1. Need to reach out to others
2. Need to belong
3. Fellowship

Spiritual:

1. Need for service opportunities/ministries/vision
2. Opportunities for spiritual growth
3. Scripture orientation

Ideas for meeting those needs:

Physical:

1. Changes in health
 - a. Parish Nurse program
 - b. Exercise programs
 - c. Support groups (disease related)
2. Care and concern for aging spouse, parents, grandchildren
 - a. Classes on issues regarding caregiving
 - b. Respite program
 - c. Caregiver Support Groups
 - d. Educational programs regarding elder law, financial planning, caregiving pitfalls
 - e. Visitation programs
3. Increased medications
 - a. Benevolence funds for prescription medications
 - b. Parish nursing – observing for drug interactions, education regarding Rx

4. Chronic illnesses
 - a. Support groups
 - b. Educational programs
 - c. Facility adaptations: ramps, improved lighting, restroom accessibility
 - d. Prayer
 - e. Respite
 - f. Handy Man programs

Other ideas for how a Compassionate Fellowship can exercise Creative Freedom and meet these physical needs of middle adults?

Social/emotional needs of Middle Adults:

1. Need to reach out to others
2. Need to belong
3. Fellowship

Ideas for meeting social/emotional needs of Middle Adults:

1. Need to reach out to others
 - a. Develop outreach and service projects that appeal to middle adults: tutoring, ESL, Pregnancy centers, soup kitchens, missions
 - b. Assess middle adults' spiritual gifts, aptitude, passion and help them refocus on new directions of service
 - c. Volunteer centers – match needs with skills
2. Need to belong
 - a. Assimilation strategies – from welcome in parking lot to placement in small groups
 - b. Develop affinity groups, i.e. grandparents, widowed men, retired pastors and missionaries, etc.
 - c. Phone trees
 - d. Card ministry
 - e. Name tags
3. Fellowship
 - a. Develop wide range of activities “beyond the potluck”
 - b. “Older Geezer” coffee
 - c. Dinner for 8 Clubs
 - d. Trips, entertainment, dinners
 - e. Intergenerational activities

Other ideas for how a Compassionate Fellowship can exercise Creative Freedom and meet the social/emotional needs of Middle Adults?

Spiritual Needs of Middle Adults:

Spiritual:

1. Need for service opportunities/ministry/vision
2. Opportunities for spiritual growth
3. Scripture orientation

Ideas for meeting the spiritual needs of Middle Adults:

1. Need for service opportunities/ministry/vision
 - a. Assess individual's spiritual gifts, passion, aptitude and help place people in appropriate ministry opportunities
 - b. Help people capture a vision for ministry
 - c. Assist middle adults in personal renewal, re-visioning and re-inventing
2. Opportunities for spiritual growth
 - a. Small group studies
 - b. Discipleship schools – in-depth study in Scripture, topics of Christian growth
 - c. Adventure – wilderness ministry, endurance hikes
 - d. Short term missions projects
3. Scripture orientation
 - a. AWANA listeners – or other Bible memory programs with children
 - b. Scripture memory activity
 - c. Bible study

Other ideas for how a Compassionate Fellowship can exercise Creative Freedom and meet the spiritual needs of Middle Adults?

MATURE ADULTS (71+)

Physical needs:

1. Long term care
2. Transportation
3. Home maintenance

Ideas for meeting physical needs of mature adults:

1. Long term care
 - a. Church sponsored housing projects with subsidy for member/residents
 - b. Classes regarding residential options
 - c. Presentations regarding long term care insurance options
 - d. Presentations regarding community based long term care programs

- e. Respite care programs – in church and in community
 - f. Parish nurse
2. Transportation
- a. Church van programs – pick up for church
 - b. Taxi voucher programs
 - c. Driver pools
 - d. Volunteer driver pools for medical appointments, shopping, attending church events
 - e. Presentation regarding public transit system availability
3. Home maintenance
- a. “Honey Do’s” program
 - b. Youth group help days – raking leaves,
 - c. “Borrow a Back” – help put up and take down Christmas decorations, etc.
 - d. Volunteer pool in church of plumbers, carpenters, electricians

Other ideas for how a Compassionate Fellowship can exercise Creative Freedom and meet the physical needs of Mature Adults?

Social/Emotional needs:

- 1. Loneliness
- 2. Needing to belong
- 3. Fellowship and Activities

Ideas to meet the social/emotional needs of mature adults:

- 1. Loneliness
 - a. Telephone trees
 - b. Visitation
 - c. Prayer partners
 - d. Church attendance
 - e. Email partners
 - f. Intergenerational involvement – Adopt a Grandparent programs
- 2. Need to belong
 - a. Assimilation strategy for mature adults
 - b. Hall of Faith
 - c. Share stories
- 3. Fellowship and Activities
 - a. Dinners, luncheons, teas, theme parties
 - b. Supper clubs
 - c. Trips, cruises
 - d. Gardening

- e. Take shut ins out to bakery, lunch
- f. Widows/widower groups
- g. Book clubs

Other ideas for how a Compassionate Fellowship can exercise Creative Freedom and meet the social and emotional needs of Mature Adults?

Spiritual needs of Mature Adults:

- 1. Salvation
- 2. Involvement in Ministry
- 3. Mentoring

Ideas for meeting spiritual needs of Mature Adults:

- 1. Salvation
 - a. Specific evangelistic outreach events
 - b. Train seniors to reach other seniors
 - c. Nursing home, retirement home, assisted living outreach
 - d. Hospice
 - e. Visitation
 - f. Relationships
- 2. Involvement in Ministry
 - a. Self-evaluation and refocus
 - b. Ministry opportunities in solitude
 - c. Missions, mission support
- 3. Mentoring
 - a. Grandparenting classes
 - b. Intergenerational partnering
 - c. Serve in children/youth programs as support, listener
 - d. Share stories

Other ideas for how a Compassionate Fellowship can exercise Creative Freedom and meet the spiritual needs of Mature Adults?

For Further information, visit our website at <http://www.chonline.org>

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