

**2015**

**Second-Half &  
Inter-Generational  
Ministries Training  
& Equipping  
Challenge**

**NEW BEGINNINGS**

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Nothing just happens, it is made to happen. A number of ideas are discussed. Hopefully, there will be one idea that has your name on it in your area of influence.

## Introduction

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever [YOUNG and OLD] believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life,” John 3:16 (NIV).

This change has been written on behalf of seminary students, post seminary ministers, elected church leaders, elderhood churched/ unchurched lay people and legacy builders of all ages. This change has been written

Some of the terminology used maybe unfamiliar. To clarify these words the following definitions is provided:

**Elderhood** is a new life stage (sixty-five to eighty-four); the next life step after adulthood. This paradigm shift has occurred due to a combination of events: longevity, better education, greater health awareness, discretionary time, and self-dependency.

**Longevity Bonus** is the life expectancy increase of 30 years between 1900 and 2000 which was first named by Dr. William Sadler.

**Ministry to the Whole Person for the Whole Life** is exactly what it says “ministry to the whole person for the whole life,” not just until retirement.

**New Life Course Ages** In his book, *The Third Age*, Dr. William Sadler defines a new life course. The following chart outlines each age having twenty to twenty-five years in a given life span, stage and the particular focus:

Age	Stage	Focus
0-25	Preparation	The first age is a time of growing up.
26-50	Achievement	The second age is a time of establishment.
51-75	Fulfillment	The third age is a time of a more caring life.
76-up	Completion	The fourth age is a time of integration.*

\* Polishing off, coming to terms with life, acceptance of eternity.

**Protirement** (proh.TYR.munt) means retiring or quitting an unattractive job to pursue work or hobbies more suited to one's personality.

**Sandwich Generations** The term sandwich generation refers to a generation that is simultaneously caring for two generations. Usually the term is used for those who are caring for aging parents and caring for their own children, but it can also apply to those caring for parents and grandchildren, especially if the grandparents are raising the grandchildren.

Due to longevity the traditional human life stages have become outdated. The new life stages are as follows:

Emerging Adults (20-34)

Full Adults (Late 30s)

Sandwich Generation Adults (40s-Mid 60s)

Elderhood Adults (65-84)

Frail Adults (85 plus)

There are two distinct arenas for second-half and inter-generational ministry:

The first are meaningful challenges “by” and “with” elderhood protirement adults, such as the financial and mental stress of the sandwich generation, raising grandchildren (over six million live with their grandparents), second-half adults adopting high school seniors and other common vital issues

The second is the growing need for increased ministry “to” and “among” the frail oldest old.

Today seminaries do not have any curriculum for students on aging or mass-aging. Also, there is no post seminary self-help. Based on facts that the median age of Senior Pastors are 50; that Senior Pastors have little personal exposure to ageism or to

the many other second-half issues by their life stage; that congregational pastoring experience has been with only 50Minus adults; Senior Pastors are ill prepared for ministry to those in the second half of life.

“A thirty-six year-old minister explained that nothing in seminary had really prepared him for dealing with the real-life challenges of an aging population. With half of his congregation fifty and older, he was mainly interested in reaching young people. Besides, he felt clueless about how to engage second-halfers. He found it difficult to relate to elderhood adults who seemed to be caught up in their own world, and he dreaded ministry to the oldest old who were struggling with chronic health issues, loss of mobility and a lack of purpose. Primary church life stages exclude elderhood. Instead only childhood, adolescence and adulthood are included. The primary focus is on youth. Seminary training and equipping does and does not provide elderhood preparation, according to a young pastor,” reported by Miss Buchanan in an article on her blog.

One of the reasons given by pastors leaving the ministry annually has been lack of second-half ministry training & equipping.

### **Proposed Training & Equipping**

Aging is not more of the same, but rather an evolution of changes that none of us fully comprehend,” Milton Crum.

What seminary leaders need to do is provide student education on second half of life. The basis for the following ideas are the result of being a sexagenarian experiencing directly many of the issues; a decade of personal research on each generation as noted above, protirement, longevity 30 year bonus, third & fourth age, Boomer bottom up individual leadership style, plus other pertinent issues; and volumes of books and articles on the need for the following:

Certification in Aging Ministries  
Certification in Gerontology

Certification in Second-Half Ministry Book  
Reading Series  
Elderhood Retirement Recruiting,  
Training, and Placement  
Second-Half Unchurched Evangelism  
Second Half of Life Planning:

Budgeting  
Legacy  
Long Term Health Care  
Sandwich Generation  
Estate

The above list is not necessarily complete or totally accurate. However, it is a starting point.

### **Implementation Traction**

What is needed is less talk and much more action. I like what Pastor Rick Warren has to say:

“Doers love God with their strength. They are the energetic activists of life — the achievers, the accomplisners, the worker, and the people that push things forward and make things happen in the practical sense of life. The world needs contribution. We don’t just need communication, compassion, and consideration. We’ve got to get to work and do it! We need people of action. We need people with initiative, energy, action, and a bias for achievement...when you become a believer, your past is forgiven, you have a reason for living, and you have a home in Heaven...your personality doesn’t change. God doesn’t slow you down when you come to Him. He just changes your direction. In fact, He wants to empower you. Remember, you got your personality from Him. God doesn’t want to make you a clone of everybody else in the way that you worship and serve and love Him. He wants you to serve Him with your personality. Not only that, but He will strengthen your personality, not dampen it. He’s going to

make you more you than you've ever been before.”

Implementation will require:

- (1) Not trying to fix past blame.
- (2) Second-Half & Inter-generational Ministries recognizing their similar goals and combining forces.
- (3) Accepting a personal responsibility and obligation for making an aging difference.
- (4) Pursing available second-half & inter-generational ministry training & equipping recommend professional experts below.
- (5) Educating the societal hierarchy (every theological educational institution, corporate church body, local congregation, nonprofit and private enterprise and governmental legislative body about the reality of elderhood).
- (6) Educating those in the second half of life to the choices for building a better society.
- (7) Personally doing what is right, with what you have, where you are, and for as long as you can.

Each person reading this second-half & inter-generational ministry challenge has a circle of influence. Traction maybe used with your circle of influence to make a real aging difference.

Let's work together to help make training and equipping second-half & inter-generational ministry a reality.

### **About the Author**

Robert W. Chism (Bob) is Certified in Aging Ministries, Gerontology, and Second-Half Ministy Reading; recognized for his second half of life research; founder of [New Beginnings](http://www.gonewbeginnings.org/) (www.gonewbeginnings.org/); a speaker; author, consultant and teacher on second-half ministry training & equipping tools that Bob has been instrumental in developing.

His eleven books focus includes a new life stage, longevity response-ability, elderhood

evangelism, elderhood, protirement, sandwich generation, stewardship, wellness, and works:

**VOLUME 1** *Second-Half Elderhood*

*Protirement Ministry* (formerly

[Basic Ministry for the Second Half Life](#))

**VOLUME 2** [Longevity Response-Ability](#)

**VOLUME 3** [Making an Aging Difference](#)

**VOLUME 4** [A New Life Stage](#)

**VOLUME 5** [Life Stages Lessons \(New Cover\)](#)

**VOLUME 6** [The Essential Ingredients for](#)

[Second-Half Ministry](#)

**VOLUME 7** [Planning the Life God Wants](#)

**VOLUME 8** [Daily Legacy Living](#)

**VOLUME 9** [Chism's Isms](#)

**VOLUME 10** [The Second Half of Life](#)

**VOLUME 11** [God's Grand Plan](#)

The most appropriate categories for these books are aging self-help and religious leadership.

The books were written as seminary texts for training and equipping students; for seminary graduate pastors self-help; and elderhood protirement laymen desiring training and equipping for the best use their time for the Lord.

Each book was also written as a volume for a Second-Half Ministry Reading Certification Series and for any age in planning their legacy life.

One of the goals is to help minister and train 142 Million second-halfers: 82 Million who need to be evangelized and 60 Million who need to be trained equipped. This is the largest domestic missionary field in the history of our nation.

All New Beginnings book are priced retail softcover copy at \$15.99 and Kindle copy at \$9.99. All royalties, after expenses, are contributed to fund second-half services and research for the oldest old (85Plus).

