

Reaching the Zoomers Generation for God



The Zoomers Generation goes by a number of labels: Adults over Fifty, Baby Boomers, Leading-edge Boomers, New-Old, Third-Agers, Second-Halfers, and Young-Old. For me Zoomers captures the generation's esprit de corp. They expect to live longer, they are seeking to live healthier, they have more resources at their disposal and they are wired to think differently. The second half of life challenge lies in the response-ability to give back, to find the best way to contribute money, talent, and time to address the needs of community and world. It is a time of a more caring life.

"A man in his second half of life is far from done. By maximizing those years, he extends his influence beyond his lifetime. Any of my influence that outlives me is because of some very special individuals who had a part in my formation," Ken Horn, Editor of the Pentecostal Evangel! , author and co-author of thirteen books and journalist.

"Today we are OneGeneration. Not seniors or youth. Not college and singles or Elders. We are not the old and the young or the single and the married. We are one... OneGeneration. The World will be changed only when we learn to live as OneGeneration," Chuck Stecker, Founder/President of A Chosen Generation (www.achosen generation.org).

"There has been a paradigm shift in the way our society views the second half of life. Compared with pre-Boomers (those born prior to 1946), the "new old" expect to live longer, they are seeking to live healthier, they have more resources at their disposal

and they are wired to think differently. That difference is summed up with the idea that the second half of life for them is an encore. We (I too am a Boomer) enjoyed the first half of life like a good concert and now we don't want it to end. We want more! We want an encore! And we expect that just like in a concert, the best is saved for last!" Chris Holck, President, Encore Generation, Pastor of Live Oaks Community Church, The Villages, Florida.

Gary L McIntosh in his book, *One Church Four Generations*, provides insights into **Baby Boomers' differences**:

Committed to relationships rather than organization

Crave meaningful activities, rather than empty Desire to design their own program rather than attend ones developed for them

Long to be seen as unique individuals rather than a monolithic group

Supportive of people, rather than programs days

Yearn to serve others, rather than only being served

Want to belong, rather than join

Possibly the most critical issue is **proper preparation** for after graduation from full time employment in the traditional work place:

"When we talk or write about the subject of leaving a legacy, it is generally presented as a worthy topic to consider. However, there are clear signals in scripture that there is accountability, a review date. This is not an optional add on to life, but rather a topic that we are expected to master," Nelson Malwitz, founder and Chief Innovative Officer of MissionNext (Missionnext.org/).

Spiritual Gifts Analysis (cchurch.com/resources/)

Christ's Church of Oronogo in Missouri offers a free spiritual gifts test. The Spiritual Gifts Inventory is a discovery tool that provides you with a personalized analysis. It is not a test, rather a simple questionnaire consisting of 108 questions this provides a profile of your God given spiritual gifts. Discovering and exercising your God-given spiritual gifts allow you to experience maximum fulfillment with minimum frustration in your Christian life and ministry.

Balancing the Second Half

"It is an incredible time to be growing older. The skill of medical technology has given us a whole new stage of life. Of all the people who have lived to be sixty-five or older, the majority are living today. This longevity factor creates new opportunities for people in the second half of life. For the first time in the history of humankind, we or our children or grandchildren may live to be 120. In the past few years we have added years to our lives at an unprecedented rate. A person born in 1900 had an average age span of forty-seven years. Today the average life span is eighty or more years. In the retirement

community where I live, the median age is ninety-one, and some are centenarians. We are living in a time dominated by what Lydia Bronte calls, 'the longevity factor.' More people are entering the second half of their lives than any other time in history. These extra years offer new opportunities and challenges. The person who retired at the turn of the century had a life expectancy of two years. Retirement, rest and leisure and waiting for death. Today, the man or woman can anticipate living twenty to thirty or more years and needs to design a new beginning. Paul Tournier calls this new beginning 'a second career,'" Richard L. Morgan, an Octogenarian, author of many books, former professor and former career counselor.

How are you going to be effective in later life if you do not evaluate and balance what is important, your effort, and your satisfaction from the three? The following exercise provides a simple evaluation and balancing method:

Evaluate Importance/ Effort/ Satisfaction of each life area with a 10 for most important and with a 1 for least important (10 may be used more than once):

Evaluating First Half Life Areas

- Career/ Work
- Charity/ Community
- Church/ Religion/ Spiritually
- Education/ Growth
- Family/ Relatives
- Financial/ Money
- Friendships/ Relationships
- Health/ Fitness
- Home/ Relocation
- Leisure/ Recreation
- Romance/ Spouse

Planning Second Half Life Areas

- Is there balance?
- What areas may have been neglected?
- What do you want to do?
- What do you enjoy most?
- What people or causes do you wish to help?
- How do you wish to be remembered?
- Do you need to make money?

Activities:

Arts & Crafts

- Act

- Draw

- Paint

- Photography

- Writing

Employment/ Business Venture/ Self-Employment

- Part/Full

- Current Profession/New Field

- Freelance
- Teach
- Consult
- Education
 - Advanced degree
 - Certificate/License
 - Online/Campus
 - Self-help books/workshops
 - Small group
 - Physical/Sport
 - Bicycling
 - Fish
 - Golf
 - Swimming
 - Walking/Hiking
- Hobbies
 - Board games
 - Collecting
 - Facebook page/Website
 - Gardening
 - Scrapbooking
- Relationship
 - Alumni associations
 - Charitable organizations
 - Extended family/relatives
 - Faith-based organizations
 - Service groups
- Travel
 - Family (Grandchildren, Children, Parent) Trips
 - Historical Sites
 - Learning Vacations
 - Missions Trip
 - National Parks
- Volunteer/Mentor
 - American Red Cross (www.redcross.org)
 - Environment Alliance for Senior Involvement (www.easi.org)
 - Feeding the Hungry (www.feedingamerica.org)
 - Habitat for Humanity (www.habitat.org)
 - Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (www.senior.gov)
- Spiritual/Faith-Based
 - CASA Network (www.gocasa)
 - Christian Grandparenting Network (www.christiangrandparenting.net)
 - Finishers Project (finishers.org)
 - New Beginnings (www.gonewbeginnings.org)
 - YES! Young Enough to Serve (www.yestoserve.org)

Implementing Second Half Life Areas Plan

Select three activities
Create a schedule
Share plan for Support, Advice, Companionship, Inspiration

Staying engaged is the best indicator for successful aging in the second half.

Creative Resources

Effective Growth Strategies

Based on seven years of research the following ministry steps are held-up in my book, *Basic Ministry for the Second Half of Life* as 21st century growth strategies:

Commitment to a self-study learning experience about the ageing process (body, mind and spirit)

Establishment of gifted volunteers working alongside gifted pastors together on second half ministry (“to” and “among”; and “by” and “with”)

Addition of second halfer services and expand small group relationship building opportunities with the unchurched to address issues that affect people in the second half of life: Addictive behavior, Estate planning, Family budgeting, Benevolent and generous lifestyle, Grandparenting, Grief share, Legacy planning, Generational mentoring, Second half planning, Stewardship, Wellness

Creation of new positions (volunteer, part-time, non-pastor): Estate and planned-gift design service, Development ministry, Church foundation, Second halfer ministry, Volunteer management (recruitment, development, placement) and Wellness

Establish of a system to have meaningful contact with those leaving full-time employment and six months thereafter.

Complimentary steps for individual second halfers include preparation for the second half of life; practice stewardship and service; volunteer and work alongside gifted pastors; become a second half unchurched evangelist; develop your own benevolent and generous lifestyle; be an intergenerational mentor and help yourself and others finish extremely well.

There is a direct need for training of Aging Process & Gerontology; Discipleship (Service); Evangelism (Outreach); Stewardship (Time, Talent, & Gifts); and Inter-generational. New Beginnings (www.gonewbeginnings.com) is a website dedicated to seeking, sharing and serving second halfers. New Beginnings offers many free resources and has made a committed to work with any congregation without charge.

Claim your free electronic documents from chism.w.robert@comcast.net:

Basic Ministry for the Second Half of Life

[Second-Half Ministry Guide](#)

[The Family Budget Guide](#)

[Second Half of Life Reading Certification Guide](#)

[The National 2013 Church Health Plan Report](#)

[An Elderhood Directional Guide](#)
[A Practical Guide for the "Longevity Factor"](#)
[Ageism in America Reprint](#)
Elderhood Reflections Reprint

Valuable Links

50 Alive! 50 Plus Adult Ministries

Amy Hanson Creating a new story for the New-Old.

CASA Network The CASA Network provides resources, training tools and access to a nationwide network of pastors, teachers, professionals in aging and specialists who are passionate about ministry to and from adults in life's second half.

Christian Grandparenting Network Spiritual Legacy Builders

Finishers Project Your Bridge to Global Impact

Go Incentives People Building Two-Way Bridges to the Unchurched

New Beginnings Seeking, Sharing, Serving Second Halfers

YES! Young Enough to Serve Purpose renewed/Hearts energized/Lives changed.

Books

Aging Successfully (2012), David P. Gallagher

Baby Boomers and Beyond (2010), Amy Hanson

Basic Ministry for the Second Half of Life: The Second-Half Ministry Handbook (2012), Robert W. Chism

Finishing Life Strong (2011), John Heide

Follow Your Calling (2012), John Bradley and Nelson Malwitz

Heartbeat! (2011), Charles Arn

How to Finish the Christian Life: Following Jesus in the Second Half (2012), Donald W. Sweeting and George Sweeting

Joy Boosters (2012), Missy Buchanan

Longevity Response-Ability: An Elderhood Directional Guide (2013), Robert W. Chism

Pilgrimage into the Last Third of Life (2012), Jane Thibault and Richard Morgan

The Launch (2011), EFCA Encore

Tools

Baby Boomer Retreat Contact Amy Hansen, author, speaker, and consultant

Email: amy@amyhanson.org Phone: 402-932-2882

How to Harness the Passion in 50+ Adults Contact Chip Arn, President, Growth, Inc.

Email: Charles.Arn@ChurchGrowth.net Cell: 800-844-9286

Re-ignite Contact Leona Bergstrom, ChurchHealth Director

Email: leonabergstrom@chonline.org Cell: 425-314-8138

The Launch Contact Chris Holck, EFCA ENCORE Director

Email: Chris.Holck@efca.org Cell: 612-803-0881

Longevity Response-Ability Snippets

“People are often unreasonable, illogical, and self-centered...Forgive them anyway. If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives ...Be kind anyway. If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true enemies...Succeed anyway. If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you...Be honest and frank anyway. What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight ...Build anyway. If you find serenity and happiness, people may be jealous...Be happy anyway. The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow...Do good anyway. Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough...Give the world your best anyway. You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway.” —Mother Teresa

“Old age is a blessing from the Lord. Old age can carry with it meaning and purpose and passion, even though one has passed the active stage of living. It gives an opportunity to prioritize a lifestyle where one is communing with the Lord in a special way and sharing his / her experiences with those around them.” —Engaging in the Aging

“It’s in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for. Long before we first heard of Christ and got our hopes up, he had his eye on us, had designs on us for glorious living, part of the overall purpose he is working out in everything and everyone.” —Ephesians 1:11-12 (MSG)

Amazing “comebacks” thrill all of us who are still breathing and believe there is a reason for us to be alive today because God has not called us “home.” You can finish strong regardless of your beginning or where you are now. The choice is yours! — Chuck Stecker

“Do all the good you can, By all the means you can, In all the ways you can, In all the places you can, At all the times you can, To all the people you can, As long as ever you can.” —John Wesley

“Research shows that social detachment – having few close relationships – is as bad for us as smoking, and worse than obesity. Socialization creates a quality of life that is healthy, happier, and hopeful.” —Engaging in the Aging

“Legacy is not what's left tomorrow when you're gone. It's what you give, create, impact and contribute each day while you're here that then happens to live on.” ---Anonymous

“If I can put one touch of rosy sunset into the life of any man or woman, I shall feel that I have worked with God.”—George Macdonald

“The great temptations of old age are to whine, to recline, and to decline. But here is a fourth possibility: to shine.” —Richard L. Morgan

“Life is a gift to you. The way you live your life is your gift to those who come after.” ---Anonymous

“We make a living out of what we get. We make a life out of what we give.” —Winston Churchill

“And in the end, it’s not the years in a life. It’s the life in the years.”—Abraham Lincoln

“We are called upon every day to do small things with great love.” —*Mother Teresa*

“Life is like a bicycle...you don’t fall off until you stop pedaling.” ---Claude Pepper