

Encore Generation Ministries

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Bambi Encarnacion, First Evangelical Free Church, Fullerton, CA (www.evfreefulleton.com)

Intergenerational Ministries

With almost 50% of our people over 50, we have to be intentional about intergenerational ministry.
Be sensitive to the DNA of the different generations in your church.

Why should we intergenerate?

- It's biblical: Ps 71:18 - Declaring God's power to the next generation.
- Doing it for the sake of mixing generations will fail; it has to be a kingdom value.
- To grow a new mind, a new heart and new hope on both sides of the generation gap.
- For survival of *all* the generations. Sharing oral histories and traditions and skills.
- To share understanding of what young folks and older folks experience.
- Spiritual legacy: so that the next generations will come to know God.
- To give a sense of family founded in the family of God instead of gangs.

Where can we start? Find common ground. We have 8 strategies for this at our church:

1. Back to the future night – old and young play Wii, look through year books, pray together
2. Family Fix-It Day – service outreach for seniors in the church and community
3. Ageless Ties – a 3-month prayer partnership between sr. adults and jr/sr high students
4. Senior Prom – Swing dancing, with swing music in a local theater
5. Forget Me Not – outreach for assisted living facilities
6. Difference Makers – music program visits nursing homes and also presents the gospel
7. Faithful Servants Awards Night – awards for people with 50+ years of service
8. Pen Pal Program – outreach to public schools; seniors and 3rd graders write to each other

Dave McClamma, First Baptist Church at the Mall, Lakeland, FL (www.fbclakeland.org)

Creating Opportunites for Boomers and Builder to Lead and Serve

First, identify who they are.

Boomers: Born 1946-64, they represent ½ of U.S. population. They're educated, healthy, independent and knowledgable. They like variety, choices, hands-on, and want to make a difference. They have energy, value quality, and possess excellent resources.

Builders: Born 1925-46, known as the Greatest Generation. They have a pioneer spirit, dedicated, committed, people of great wisdom, strong leadership. They are facing health and financial concerns.

How do we get them involved?

You need to rethink what you are doing and restructure why and how you're doing it.
Some of our ministries include compassion, GED education, disaster relief, mobile ministry unit, dental, health screening, shots, shut-ins, health and financial services, sports, clothing giveaway, school supplies, community cleanups, construction, prayer ministries.

It's not about age; it's about people—people being involved, caring, giving, serving and reaching.
Ministry to the unsaved, the unwanted and the unchurched.

Our Compassion House ministry makes a difference in the lives of those who serve and are served.
Boomers and Builders are working together.

We have to get people out of their seats and into the community.

- *Is your church going where Jesus would go?*
- *Is your church talking to people Jesus would talk to?*

Dave McElheran, Cedar Mill Bible Church, Portland, OR (www.cmbc.org)

Increasing your Reach through Community Partnerships

In 2002 our church started a ministry to Boomers called “Encore.” It’s not about an age, but a life stage.

Encore is made up of people who are in transition from raising children to planning for retirement, people who may be caring for aging parents while handing off previous careers and looking forward to doing something significant with their lives for the Lord.

We asked Dream Teams to explore:

- What are your needs?
- What kingdom-building ministries would you like to see developed?
- What kind of ministries would you like to see for connecting with one another?
- What activities would interest you for impacting our local community?

Connecting ministries included fun activities, coaching new leaders, indoor and outdoor parties, intergenerational events, crazy awards, and a mother-daughter intergenerational tea.

Kingdom-building ministries include a high school mentoring ministry and elder care –helping to care for aging parents

Always say thank you! A card afterwards with a picture of the event goes a long way.