



MARCH 2022 NEWSLETTER

Minnesota Seniors Enjoying the Second Half of Life!

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Bruce Talso

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR – The harsh Minnesota winter is waning and now we can look forward to warmer weather and reduced restrictions on our gatherings. Our next event is planned for April 23rd. That is the date for our Spring Luncheon which will be held at Cedar Valley Church. Our special musical guests will be Sweetwater Revival. You will certainly enjoy their gospel music. Reservations are coming in, so I remind you to use the enclosed flyer to send in your reservation now. Our Ark Encounter bus tour has 46 friends who have signed up to join our happy band of travelers in May. If you are interested in coming along, I encourage you to get your reservation in ASAP as we only have 4 places left. We look forward to a fun-filled excursion!

In our last newsletter we introduced you to “**Grandparent Legacy**,” a ministry that is springing up in churches across the nation. It is simply a movement to motivate seniors to minister to younger generations – especially their own children and grandchildren. I included a prayer card in our last mailing as both a reminder and guide for praying. Several of you have asked for the template so additional cards can be printed up and distributed among people in your church. Email me if you want the template. (brucetalso@comcast.net) One of the greatest things we can do for younger generations is to pray for them. They are facing some very difficult issues ahead of them! For those of you who can attend the **EQUIP CONFERENCE** at Cedar Valley Church, April 29-30, I am pleased to announce that 2nd Half Ministries will sponsor a workshop addressing the beginning of a Grandparenting Ministry in your church. The workshop will meet on **Friday, April 29 beginning at 4:30 pm**. I hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to learn more about this needed ministry. There is no cost for the workshop. We are planning another grandparenting workshop during the Fall Retreat in September.



JESUS USE ME!

In his book ‘*Say it with Love*’ Howard Hendricks tells of an 83-year-old woman he met during a Sunday School

conference in Chicago some years ago. He learned that she was a teacher of **13 Junior High boys in a church of 55 people!** He asked her why she was attending the conference. She replied, “I’m on a pension....my husband died a few years ago and this is the first time I could afford to attend. I bought a bus ticket and rode all night to get here, and this morning I attended two workshops. I want to learn something that will make me a better teacher.” Hendricks said, “While speaking with her she told me she had a passion to communicate! I heard a sequel to this encounter sometime later when a seminary teacher told me that there were “84 young men in or moving toward Christian ministry as result of this women’s influence. She is the most unforgettable person I’ve ever met. She is still going strong; fills her car with kids and brings them to Sunday School.” Awesome! This kind of life is a challenge to all of us. Too many seniors think they “**have done it all.**” Now its time for the younger generation to take over. Well, I think we should start thinking about making what time we have left in life, count. I see nothing in the Bible that says it

might be time to ‘retire’ from our service to the Lord. In fact, I am reminded of the verse of Scripture that tells us to “occupy until I come.” I am also reminded of the chorus we used to sing years ago that says.....

**Jesus use me, and oh Lord don't refuse me
Surely there's a work that I can do.
And even though its humble
Help my will to crumble
Though the cross be great I'll work for You.**

Hendricks goes on to say; “Look at the name of God. Two thirds of His name is “**GO**” and if that is turned around, by the same thinking, two thirds of His name is “**DO.**” Therefore, the Gospel is both go and do! It is an opportunity of going and doing something for God.” I am an advocate for our churches to use folks in the ‘2nd Half of life.’ Surely there is something our seniors can do to enhance the local ministry of our churches. I appeal to our seniors – reach out in ministry to others. I appeal to our pastors and church leaders – use your seniors! They still have much to give – especially to younger generations. And remember – praying for others – especially our children and grandchildren is the highest calling we can have.

Be sure to read Marilee Simon’s article on ‘WAFFLES AND WIDOWS’ on page 2. It introduces another unique way in which we can reach out and touch people for the Lord.

WAFFLES AND WIDOWS



When my husband went home to be with the Lord in September 2015, I knew the Lord was leading me into a ministry with widows, I just didn't know how that would happen since I was the only widow in my local church. When a friend whose husband

passed away about the same time as mine approached me about reaching out to the widows in our community, I knew it was God! At that time there were about 1300 widows in Koochiching County, which has now grown to 1627. We chose to reach out to the widows by means of a brunch, every 2nd Saturday of the month, using the facility at a local church and calling it "Waffles and Widows." We of course, serve waffles along with whatever else God lays on our heart. Each month we have music, a



from the could be another shares her with her husband, leader who that are available

special speaker community, who widow who journey of loss or a community shares services to widows such

as, help with taxes, yearly Medicare re-enrollment, investments, aging needs, COVID interests, to name a few. We have also scheduled a widower to come and share his 22-year journey with his wife's cancer. We include a devotional and Word from the Lord during each meeting. We are excited to see what God is doing with this group as we reach our community for Christ.

About half of the ladies who attend do not have a personal relationship with Christ but come to be pampered with other women who have experienced the loss of a husband. (1 Timothy 5:3 "Honor widows that are widows indeed" KJV) **By Marilee Simons**

Gateway Assembly Church, International Falls, MN

GOT AN IDEA TO SHARE WITH OTHERS?

Give our readers an idea that you might be using in your church to reach seniors.

Send to 2nd Half Ministries, PO Box 43953, Minneapolis MN 55443 or mn2ndhalf@gmail.com

OLD, OLD, OLD, JOKES

- What did the little chicken say when it found an orange in the nest? (I see the orange mama laid)
- When is a door not a door? (When it is a jar)
- Why did the chicken cross the road? (To show the raccoon that it could actually be done)
- Why does a fireman wear red suspenders? (To keep his pants up) Try these on your grandkids!.

Would you prefer to receive our mailings by email? Notify us by writing to: MN2nd Half Ministries – PO Box 43953 – Minneapolis MN 55443 or emailing us at mn2ndhalf@gmail.com

SMILE AND SAY HELLO – "During my second year of nursing school our professor gave us a pop quiz. I breezed through the questions until I read the last one. 'What is the first name of the woman who cleans the school?' Surely this was some kind of joke. I had seen the cleaning woman several times, but how would I know her name? I handed the paper in, leaving the last question blank. Before the class ended, one student asked if the last question would count toward our grade. 'Absolutely' the professor said, 'In your careers you will meet many people. All are significant. They desire your attention and care, even if all you do is smile and say hello': "I've never forgotten that lesson. I also learned that her name was Dorothy."

Joanne Jones – Guideposts

FEEDBACK.....

To those who attended the "Mourning to Morning" workshops at the retreat last fall, Pastor Harold Kamppi and I would like to thank you for taking time to attend. We hope our sessions helped you. If you need prayer or support for any reason do not hesitate to call me at 763-425-7515 - Linda Enno



SPRING LUNCHEON

Saturday, April 23 - Noon

Cedar Valley Church

Information Enclosed

FAMILY CAMP LUNCHEON

Tuesday, July 5 - Noon

Speaker: Doug Graham

Minnesota District Asst. Supt

2ND HALF FALL RETREAT

September 8 – 10

Lake Geneva Christian Center

Speakers: Paul & Carol Alexander

Full details in our May newsletter



Do you want to begin a senior ministry in your church, or do you want to give your present ministry a little more zip?

We invite you to send for the 35 – page manual "Taking Your Senior Ministry to the Next Level" authored by Dr. Ray James of the A/G Potomac District. We will mail you a copy by your request to 2nd Half Ministry, PO Box 43953, Minneapolis MN 55443.