

Basic Second Half Ministry for 21st Century 'Tigers'

“Age should speak; advanced years should teach wisdom” ([Job 32:7](#)).



The dawn of the **21st Century 'Tigers'** has arrived. Age 65plus is the fastest growing part of the population and will continue to be for the next 20 years

Aging concerns are not new. The Church has always served those who are aging. However, as we enter the 21st century the new second half ministry challenge is not merely aging but mass-aging.

There are two distinct arenas for ministry to second halfers. The first arena is the growing need for increased ministry to and for second halfers. The majority of all current programs and literature on concentrates on this first arena. The second arena is the growing need for older adults to engage in meaningful ministry. This is ministry by and with older adults.

Dr. Herb Shore of the Jewish Retirement Center in Dallas, Texas developed four **21st Century 'Tigers'** categories to differentiate appropriate church leadership focuses:

Go-Go Independent-Able This is the largest portion in the church. They'll either be going in Kingdom work or in secular work or personal goals. They can be challenged to pursue Kingdom goals and objectives.

Slow-Go Transition-Able They can do anything younger groups can, slower. Health, economics, family commitments may slow them down. Kingdom work through the church's ministry can be adjusted to allow participation.

Can't-Go Dependent-Able Physical, economic, or family may prevent active engagement in Kingdom work. They want to be a part of the church's ministry. Creative planning can enable them to make contributions according to their available physical, emotional, and relational resources.

Won't-Go Unchurched-Able They can, but

choose not to be involved. The task is to discover their motivational blockage. Creative thinking and training can evangelize this group.

Based upon personal research, accumulated knowledge from all my second half heroes, gathered over seven years, here are a few tested pastor, deacon, teacher and lay person opportunities. The following Kingdom Building steps are recommended:

A commitment to learning about the ageing process. Examples of available independent online and Church sponsored curriculum include: Certification in Aging Ministry, a Certification in Gerontology and Second Half Ministry Reading programs.

Establishment of a gifted volunteer system to work together alongside gifted pastors on second half ministry ("to" and "among"; and "by" and "with").

Create of a new second halfer service, newsletter 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 and Wellness.

Establish a system to have meaningful contact

with those leaving full-time employment and coordinate a six months second meeting.

Create new positions (volunteer, part-time, non-pastor): Second halfer ministry and Development ministry with estate and planned-gift design service and a church foundation; Volunteer management (recruitment, development, and placement); Wellness.

Complimentary recommendations 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.

No matter what we attempt, it works out best when we pray. Without prayer, all efforts are fruitless! If we want the Lord's blessing on our labors, prayer is the thing we do:

Heavenly Father

Help us **Submit** to what gives **You** satisfaction
Help us **Inspire** a life of integrity, purpose and significance
Help us **Identify** our unique gifts and strengths for **You**
Help us **Reach out** to those who are spiritually lost
Help us **Pray** with faith and pure motives
Help us **Volunteer** our time and talents;
Help us **Study** and practice the Bible
Help us **Lead** with a servant's heart
Help us **Maintain** a humble attitude

Help us **Guard** against worldliness
Help us **Love** others as ourselves
Help us **Complain** about nothing
Help us **Match** faith with deeds
Help us **Care** for those in need
Help us **Make** Your will our will
Help us **Persevere** under trial
Help us **Connect** with others
Help us **Control** our tongue
Help us **Draw close** to **You**
Help us **Affirm** each other

This we pray in the name of the Father, Son
and Holy Spirit
Amen

Celebration is basic to second half ministry.
You will want to set goals and objectives
consistent with your Esprit De Corps. Examples
of achievement measurement could be based
upon baptisms, growth, numbers, satisfaction,
awareness, commitment, heroes, examples,
activities, testimony. When God grants
achievement of your goals, celebrate!

Possibly the most critical issue in the second
half of life is proper preparation for after
graduation from full time employment in the
traditional work place.

Spiritual Gifts Analysis
(ccochurch.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 which provides a profile of your God

given spiritual gifts. Discovering and exercising your God-given spiritual gifts allows you to experience maximum fulfillment with minimum frustration in your Christian life and ministry. When you have completed the questionnaire, you will be able to view a bar graph of your scores for each gift, a description of your dominant gift, and several pages of personal analysis. You will also have the opportunity to print out the results.

Balancing the Second Half

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 game
- 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

Christian Grandparent
(www.christiangrandparenting.net)

New Beginnings
(www.gonewbeginnings.org)

- YES! Young Enough to Serve
(www.yestoserve.org)

Implementing Second Half Life Areas Plan:

- Create a schedule
Share plan for Support, Advice,
Companionship, Inspiration
Staying engaged is the best indicator for
successful aging in the second half.
Select three activities

Take Away Point

Commitment to Second Half Ministry Training
Cultivation of a 'We Serve' Culture
Early Second Half Preparation
New Beginnings Nurturing
Effective Disciple Making