

**WORSHIP THE
LORD YOUR
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MATTHEW 4:10

PrimeTime

CONNECTION

Churches are encouraged to copy and distribute this publication to all adults 55 and older in their congregation.

Evangelism God Uses People



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By Lyle Pointer

In his book, *Better than Imagined*, Dr. Lyle Pointer speaks specifically to how and why Christians need to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with their family, friends, and neighbors. Throughout the book, he reminds readers that God uses people to communicate the Good News.

Throughout history, God has used influential spiritual leaders to minister to people. Because of their intimate walk with God, these leaders have allowed God to shape and mold their lives, and many have become role models. These godly saints may or may not have occupied a “lofty” or “noble” position, but are a great reminder that God also works through the common person.

God has chosen to use us, His people, to draw others to himself. Christ’s followers tell others how God has changed, encouraged, strengthened, and aided them. They explain how God has brought peace, deliverance, balance, and perspective to their lives. They testify to the hope, love, faith, and assurance He provides. Their words are supported by their actions; they practice what they preach. As a result, millions of people have come to know God and the changes He brings to our lives.

With whom are you sharing the gospel? Who are you disciplining? And who is disciplining you?



To purchase a copy of *Better than Imagined*, visit the Beacon Hill web site at www.beaconhillbooks.com.

Dr. Lyle Pointer is the senior pastor at Blue Springs Church of the Nazarene and on staff as professor of Evangelism at Nazarene Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Missouri. Dr. Pointer is also an author and coveted speaker.

Prime Time Willow Valley Retreat



Prime Time coordinator, Derl Keefer, announced the 2009 Prime Time retreat will be held at the Willow Valley Retreat and Conference Center in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, October 6-9, 2009. Willow Valley is a Christian retreat and convention center located in the heart of Pennsylvania Dutch country and adjacent to the original Amish community.



Located less than two hours from Baltimore and Philadelphia and less than three hours from Washington, DC, this retreat offers great opportunities for pre or post retreat events. Well known for its exceptional facilities and amenities, Willow Valley, offers a nine hole executive golf course, indoor and outdoor pools, lighted tennis courts, Jacuzzis, saunas, and a complete fitness center.

The daily schedule will include a variety of informative, challenging seminars and inspirational worship services featuring the dynamic preaching of General Superintendent Nina Gunter. Afternoon excursions options include visiting



the quaint Lancaster area, the Sight and Sound presentation of The Beginning, relaxed shopping, and more.



For more information about this exciting event, call 877-240-2417 or go online to register at <http://web.nazarene.org/willowvalley>.

Recognizing the Value of All Churches

by Ken Crow

To carry out the mission of our denomination, we need all kinds of churches. . .large, regional churches, intimate, neighborhood churches, and every size in between. While the value of large congregations is generally accepted, the value of small ones is sometimes questioned. I am reminded of a denominational leader who told me he was converted in a small

Nazarene church. The church was in a small town where some of us might have argued there was no need to try to establish a holiness church. Still, in the providence of God, that church was there when it was needed by a young man who later was used of God to make Christlike disciples globally.

There is a tendency for people and pastors in small churches to see themselves as inferior, deficient, or

inadequate in comparison with mega churches. In many places Mom and Pop stores are not as popular or viable as they once were. Small establishments have been replaced by huge firms with many attractions and nearly limitless products and services. This is an era of mega stores. Still, with a different strategy and value on small establishments, during about the last

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Legacy Corner

Estate & Gift Planning Matters

A Testament of Faith: What is the “testimony” of your Last Will & Testament?

Years ago it was common practice for Christians to include a written personal testimony of faith, trust, and belief in God as part of the preamble to their

will. That is how the term “Last Will & Testament” came to be commonly used. Although this is no longer a common practice the fact remains that an estate plan is a testimony. Through this document we give away the possessions we value most in life. Without our even being conscious of it, this document reveals much about us.

If someone were to read your estate plan what does it say about what is important to you? No, doubt it would reveal that family was important. What about God? Would anyone know of your personal faith, trust, and belief in God? Would your estate plan let the reader know you invested a great portion of your life in the ministry of your local church

or other ministry where the primary purpose was to spread the good news of the gospel?

Why not include a testimony as part of your estate plan? Prayerfully consider a simple estate plan gift to your favorite Christian ministry or to an endowment fund that will support the ministry until the Lord returns. What a wonderful testimony to all, especially your family, of your love for God and His Kingdom.

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Senior Adult and Single

By Linda Hardin

Recently, I adapted a profile for single adults from the book *Now and Not Yet: Making Sense of Single Life in the Twenty-First Century* by Jennifer Marshall. I want to share some information from this book that can help us as we prepare for life as single, senior adults.

- Single Adults live deliberately. They make choices and decisions from a wide perspective, knowing that decisions made now will affect all of life. *As senior adults, we'll have a foundation to build on as we make the decisions related to senior adulthood.*
- Single Adults are reflective about their experiences. They use life to learn about their strengths, weaknesses, and rough edges in the personality. *Some of us will continue to work on this all of our life. We'll also continue to face life's*

disappointments and live in the tension of reality and hope.

- Single Adults seek balance in life. They learn the importance of relationships—both with family and friends. They understand the need for work and play and seek to balance them. *We've learned the importance of friendships and will continue to develop them, wherever retirement takes us.*
- Single Adults view life as an adventure, not a pity party. They understand that life as a single people is different, not worse (or better) than married life. *We understand there could still be some pity parties but we'll keep them short since no one comes anyway!*
- Single Adults take reality in stride. Unexpected things happen like illness, family crisis, job changes, and so on. They learn to deal with these



challenges and use them as growing experiences. *We've learned to depend on friends as well as family to get through these times. This will serve us well as senior single adults.*

- Single Adults are encouraged by God at work in their lives. They see how God is using them during the season of singleness, recognizing they have opportunities for ministry they might not be able to pursue if they were married. *We know for experience that God is faithful. We'll share our*

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Prime Time Ministries and Prime Time Connection.



stories and continue to search for ministry opportunities. Singleness may continue to offer unique opportunities, too.

- Single Adults have a support and accountability network. They realize the importance of community, whether married or single. *Should we move to a new location as part of retirement, we'll develop a network. We know we need others and the importance of community.*

- Single Adults are anchored in God. They have "decided to follow Jesus" with "no turning back." Even when life is challenging, they find hope and security in their relationship with God and trust the future to His guidance. *We know this life stage will have its set of challenges. While change is rarely easy, God is unchangeable. So wherever life takes us, God is already there.*

I wasn't sure how I felt about the next stage of life. As I wrote this, I realized it's not quite as frightening as I thought. In fact, I feel a sense of anticipation. It's a journey we can take together, whether we're married or single.

Linda Hardin is the Single Adult, Women's, and Young Adult Ministries coordinator for the Nazarene Global Ministries Center.



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 – *Recognizing the Value of All Churches*

twenty years Starbucks has increased their outlets in the US by about 9,000 and greatly increased the number of people they serve.

It is absolutely vital to our mission that we have churches in urban settings, suburbs, small towns, and rural areas. The impact of prime time adults in these churches is dramatic. Their value is an inestimable quantity in making disciples in these church settings. Prime Time adults are helping to keep churches viable in cities, suburbs, small towns, and rural areas through:

- Teaching Sunday School classes
- Remodeling, building new structures, beautifying landscapes
- Visiting in homes, hospitals, and retirement centers
- Volunteering in the church office
- Coordinating wedding and funeral dinners
- Organizing musical programs
- Participating in prayer ministry programs

- Serving on church boards, councils, and committees

Adapted from *Holiness Today* web site. Used by permission.

Kenneth E. Crow graduated from SNU with a major in religion. While pastoring in Boulder, Colorado, he earned M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in sociology at the University of Colorado. He has served as a Nazarene missionary in South Africa, a pastor in Minnesota and Colorado, and a professor and registrar at MidAmerica Nazarene University and Nazarene Bible College. He recently retired as the manager of the Research Center at the Global Ministries Center.



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