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HIM ONLY.**

MATTHEW 4:10

Prime Time

CONNECTION

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

Welcome to *The Prime Time Connection!*

The Prime Time Connection is a quarterly resource newsletter for mature adults in the prime of life and strives to connect members and friends age 55 and above to the ministries, activities, and programs of the local, district and general Church of the Nazarene. Your comments, ideas and thoughts are always welcome.



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Prime Time Centennial Celebration Retreat 2008 Kansas City Hyatt Crown Center

Three hundred and twenty five senior adults from across the U.S. and Canada gathered for the annual Prime Time retreat in Kansas City, Missouri. Prime Time Centennial Celebration Retreat 2008, featured inspirational worship services and music, learning through informative seminars, reconnecting with old friends, and building new relationships.

Prime Time Ministries coordinator, Derl Keefer, stated his ministry partnered with Pensions and Benefits, Don Walter, director; Clergy Services, Dan Copp, director, Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries, Woodie

Stevens, director; and the Bethany, Oklahoma, Association of Retired Ministers and Missionaries led by Ralph West for this year's retreat.

Both Pensions and Benefits and Clergy Services offered scholarships for retired clergy, spouses, and widows and widowers. During the Thursday evening service, Clergy Services recognized the 92 retired clergy, spouses, and widows and widowers present. Without these scholarships many of the retired clergy would have been unable to attend. Prime Time Ministries acknowledges and applauds the generosity

and support of Pensions and Benefits and Clergy Services and their directors, Don Walter and Dan Copp.

Inspirational morning and evening services were led by Stan Toler, Dr. Jim Diehl, and Dr. Dan Copp. Uplifting music was provided by Adam's Voice from Indiana and The Toler Brothers from Oklahoma (Stan, Terry and Mark). David Hubbs from College Church of the Nazarene in Olathe, Kansas led the group in congregational music accompanied by Marla Shank from Olathe, Kansas. Testimonies of faith given by prime time adults (Roger Bowman of Tem-

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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 on line to register at <http://web.nazarene.org/willowvalley>.

Upcoming District Events

Southern California District is sponsoring an Alaskan Cruise August 15-22, 2009. Starting in Seattle, Washington, participants will enjoy seven days of spectacular, scenic cruising. The Toler Brothers from Oklahoma City will provide special music and Dr. Stan Toler will provide inspirational messages. Contact Darrell Rotz at 909-694-6254 or email drotz8@cs.com for more information.

The Prime Time Arizona District Retreat is scheduled for February 20-21, 2009, at First Church of the Nazarene in Mesa, Arizona. Registration before December 31, 2008, is \$35 and after December 31, 2008, is \$45. Registration does not include hotel or meals. Contact Dr. Rollan J. Gongwere, 1194 E. Boulder Pass, Oro Valley, AZ 85755; email rgongwer1968@q.com; or call

520-825-2346. Keynote speakers include: Dave Anderson, Ira Brown, Craig Coulter, Doug Pierce, Bryon Schortinghouse, Wesley Trace, and Jack Zimmerman. Worship music is provided by Roger Collins.

For information on the Prime Time Work and Witness trip Eastern Michigan District, contact Charles Bledsoe at ulnazarene@aol.com.

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Walking Into Retirement Beginning the Journey

By Ken Crow

I have just retired. I am not yet sure what this new status will mean, but I know it is an important phase in my walk with the Lord. Many years ago when a change of assignments was taking us into unknown territory, a wise advisor, Helen Temple, told us to write down what we saw and experienced as soon as possible. People who were unfamiliar with that territory might be helped by our descriptions as we walked into that assignment. There are better writers than I who know more about each of the territories I've entered, but a newcomer's viewpoint is sometimes helpful. However, she said, write quickly because the newcomer's perspective is temporary. Very soon the things that were most challenging and unique become routine and scarcely noticed. In that spirit, I am

responding to a suggestion that as I walk into retirement it might be helpful to write about some of my thoughts and experiences in this territory unknown to me.

Retirement is for me another journey into the unknown. It reminds me a little of the time I went off to college. Like now, that was a positive prospect. I was excited and challenged, but also somewhat uneasy. I was leaving a situation where I knew the people, places, and rules in order to enter a situation where I would have to become familiar with key people, locations, and expectations.

Actually, a lot of my friends and heroes have gone this retirement way before me. There are millions of us in this stage of life and the numbers are rapidly increasing. I have done some preparation, but life has

never seemed to have enough discretionary time or income. I know I should have done better. So, I have some uneasiness.

On the other hand, in every stage of my life God has been faithful, so I am confident that I can depend on Him now. Exodus 33:14-15 reports a conversation between Moses and the Lord. Moses was asking for assurance that God would be with him in challenging circumstances. The report is that the Lord said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." That has been my experience. In every assignment and life stage God's presence has been with me and given me rest. Still, as I enter this retirement stage, I find myself repeating to the Lord something like what Moses said, "If your presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here." **PT**



Legacy Corner

Estate & Gift Planning Matters

Who Is My Beneficiary

By Bob Crew

One item that can be easily overlooked in estate planning is keep-

ing beneficiary statements up to date. Stories abound of inheritances flowing to unintended individuals, such as ex-spouses or ex-son or daughter-in-laws, who were a valid beneficiary at one time but due to life changes (death, divorce, remarriage, etc.) should no longer be included in inheritance planning. If you have made, or are considering making changes to your estate plan don't forget to update accounts or assets that have designated beneficiaries.

Life insurance policies, company retirement plans, and Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) are the

most common beneficiary statement assets. The beneficiary statement on these assets will determine distribution of the account upon your death, even if your will or revocable trust has different instructions. So, be sure you cover all the bases and the beneficiary statements are coordinated with your other estate planning instructions. **PT**

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ecula, California; Lyle Campbell of Mount Blanchard, Ohio; Ralph West of Bethany, Oklahoma; and Marie Zweringer from the North Central Ohio District) blessed all who attended. Prayers offered by Joe Brown, Susan Dillow, Juanita Porter, Gene Sanders, Woodie Stevens, and Rex Walker warmed our hearts.

Seminars speakers included Amy Hanson, Graig Fisher, Stan Igersoll, Ken Roney, Woodie Stevens, Paul Wardlaw, and a panel: Chuck Crow, Ken Crow, Jim Diehl, Larry Morris, and moderator, Derl Keefer.

A special feature of the Centennial Celebration was a surprise visit by Susan Fitkin (portrayed by Linda Hardin) and Uncle Bud Robinson (portrayed by John Comstock) both historical figures in the Church of the Nazarene.



Prime Timers Take the New GMC by Storm

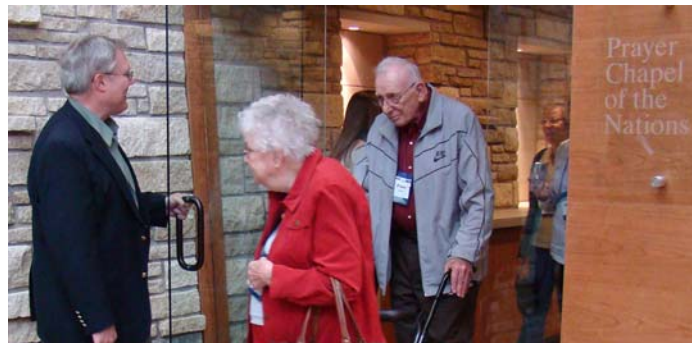
During the Prime Time Kansas City Centennial Retreat, three hundred prime time adults visited the new

GMC building. They were greeted by General Superintendent Jim Diehl. Dr. Marilyn McCool gave a brief presentation and shared some amazing testimonies of how God had worked and blessed the



building process, and then answered questions about the Global Ministries Center.

Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International invited the group to share in a time of refreshments and then the prime timers were given tours. The chapel, "new" globe, and General Superintendents' offices were of special interest to the group.



Discerning Your Place in God's Kingdom

By Jerry Rose, *President of Significant Living*

I have a question for you: What is your place in the Kingdom of God? If you are a Christian, then, "I have no place," is not the correct answer. Working for God is not reserved for the more gifted. We all have a role to play, and our work doesn't end at a certain age; it is a life-time calling. In fact, some of our more productive years can be during midlife and beyond.

If you think you have nothing to offer or that you are the least in the Kingdom, I want to put that idea to rest. God doesn't. The worker toiling alone in an isolated mission field is as important to God as the best-known evangelist.

Christians often minimize their role in the Kingdom. A few years ago, while I was in West Berlin, Germany, I decided to cross the border into East Germany. I passed between some of the remaining walls, and for a few hours wandered through the cold, drab backstreets of East Berlin trying to get a feel for what it must have been like living under the heavy hand of communism.

Late in the afternoon, I made my way to an East Berlin hotel and caught a cab back to West Berlin. The driver asked me a question I

didn't expect from an East German cabbie: "Have you ever been to church?" he inquired with a heavy German accent.

"Yes," I said, "I have been to church."

It was quiet for a moment and then he continued, "Have you been to church very often?"

"Yes," I responded, "Very often; I am a Christian."

"Praise the Lord," he shouted. "I am struggling spiritually and I prayed today that a Christian would get into my cab."

God had placed me in the middle of a ministry opportunity with a cab driver named Wolfgang. Wolfgang had a passion to do something for God, but he couldn't see how driving a cab could be a ministry. I asked how many people rode in his cab on an average day. The number was quite high. Then I asked him approximately how many different nationalities the riders represented. I explained that from my perspective, God had placed him in a position for an international ministry. His eyes lit up as he visualized his ministry opportunity.

I haven't seen or heard from Wolfgang since that God-ordained meeting, but my prayer is he took

full advantage of his opportunity. Wolfgang was in the midst of a ministry opportunity, but couldn't see it because it didn't look or feel like what he believed ministry to be. All he had to do was realize the potential of his position and let God work through him.

If you are seeking a ministry, begin by looking around you. It may be that God has given you more opportunities than you realize. God has a plan and a place for you. That place is valuable and He will work through you to achieve His purposes.

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