

How is Midlife Momentum a Missional Tool?

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In the past decade the church in the U.S. has recognized the need to move intentionally and radically into missions in the local community, as well as world-wide.

There has been a revival of sorts among many Christians who are realizing that we are called to engage the world, reach out in the name of Jesus with mercy and justice, and become the light, the ambassadors, the reconcilers that Scripture has described us to be.

I have heard a lot of talk about the need to be missional...to be in the world, sharing the love of God, but I also know that just saying this does not give those in the pew or the pulpit the tools to act. Instead I sense there are all kinds of guilt, because we recognize we probably should be doing this, but we don't have a clue where to start; and cookie cutter programs are not the answer.

Many people I talk with have no idea what their passion or calling is. They don't believe they are able to make a difference where they do see needs, so they feel paralyzed and guilty. Midlife Momentum is not designed to equip these folks for each and every possible option for mission, but it is designed to reveal their passions, and motivate them to connect with those who can help them engage.

What would it be worth to ignite the passions and gifts of the baby boomers as your congregation seeks to be Missional?

Midlife Momentum is relational. It is aimed at people who are hungry for more of God, more meaning, more reason to get out of bed in the morning.

What impact would a core of Christ Followers, engaged in discerning their calling, gifts, personalities, and passions have on your congregation and the Kingdom?

(See examples below.)

How are baby boomers uniquely positioned to step up their walk in the Spirit?

They are at a point of transition: from the empty nest, to retirement, to changing health, to job transitions, downsizing, etc. These folks are looking at what will happen in this next season of life, some intentionally, some less consciously. Along with all these, and many more changes, issues of identity raise stress levels, confidence concerns, and longing for meaning and significance. How can we tap into this stirring?

Midlife Momentum as a Missional Tool Addressing the Baby Boomer Generation

Below you will find several elements that can be a part of using Midlife Momentum as missional tool...with a missional coach:

- **Congregational Care:** One of the greatest needs for all ages is discovering our

identity in Christ and combatting the perspectives of the world. In order to celebrate and live into that identity it takes intentionally looking at who God has and IS creating us to be. Care for the boomer generation needs to look at these issues.

- **Consistory Retreat:** to identify what Entrepreneurial Faith would look like in this neighborhood and with the gifts available in this congregation.
 - Who do we have?
 - What are our strengths and the gifts (In terms of people)?
 - What are our resources and how is God calling us to use them?
 - What are the needs within (x) mile(s) of our church?
 - Who can we partner with?
- **Coaching Key Discipleship Core:** Coaching is a method of empowering servants of Jesus Christ to be intentional and effective Christ Followers.
 - How do I deepen my relationship with God?
 - Where am I going?
 - What is God calling me to?
 - What action steps do I need to take?
 - Who will journey with me?
- **Preach:** I would be excited to preach, to raise awareness in the congregation on how Midlife Momentum fits the missional focus, and to be a familiar presence.
- **Retreat:** Midlife Momentum retreat for those seeking to discern what God is calling them to do and be in the next season of life. (Friday evening/Saturday event with an ongoing small group experience available. Another option would be a women's retreat.)
- **A Taste of Midlife Momentum:** These events introduce the congregation to the concept and themes of this missional tool and can be held in a 2-3 hour block.

How will this impact the congregation?

Every Congregation is different and members each bring their own stories and passions to the table. The following are a few of the ways congregations have been impacted, as described through the mouths and lives of those involved:

1. Community is formed that is uniquely tied to living intentionally into who God has/is creating us to be. (Response: I value this community so much. I need to be with these people.)
2. People live with greater intentionality. (Response: MM didn't reveal that I needed to make a big change in my career path, but I am so much more aware and intentional about loving the kids I teach.)
3. Move into action. (Response: People chose to go on a mission trip and returned to invest more in the local, missional focus of the church.)

4. Recognize we have choices to make about spending our time and money.
(Response: Some have chosen to take early retirement so they can do the things they feel called to do, as they discover their passion.)
5. Recognition that what I am good at, what I love to do, is how God has created me and wants to use me. (Response: Many recognize how their hobbies and loves turn into ministry opportunities when they listen to the Spirit and seek to live intentionally.)

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