

# **Boomers and Retirement**

A New View of  
Retirement

# Facts About Boomers

- By 2030, 20% of the population is projected to be over 65 years of age.
- Americans over 65 are the fastest –growing population segment.
- In the last century, Americans over 65 increased from 3.1 million to 37.9 million.
- An American turns 60 every 7 seconds.

*Baby Boomers and Beyond* by Amy Hanson, p. 4.

# Thoughts About Retirement

- 70-80% want to continue to work
- Boomers want to stay young
- They are searching for a purpose through
  - Relationships
  - Education
  - Leisure time activities
  - Serving others

# Think About...

- ❖ How does this information about Boomers and retirement affect ministry in my church?
  - ❖ How many Boomers are in my church?
  - ❖ How close are they to retirement?
  - ❖ How can my church use this information about Boomers to reach those who are not part of the congregation?
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# Myths About Aging

- Most older adults can't adapt to change.
- Debunking the myth
  - Adapting to change is more about temperament than other factors.
  - Listening and feeling empathy helps people accept change.
  - Find a way for them to contribute to the mission.

# Myths About Aging

- Older workers aren't as effective as younger ones.
- **Debunking the myth**
  - They bring experiences, loyalty, and stability.
  - Physical strength changes so manual labor is more difficult.
  - Often older workers have good reflective and creative skills.
  - New research indicates brains become more creative with age (Hanson, p. 23).

# Myths About Aging

- Most older adults experience significant memory loss.
- **Debunking the myth**
  - Less than 10% of people over 65 have major memory loss.
  - Most memory losses result from disease or negative effects of medication.
  - Memory impairment isn't a characteristic of normal aging.

# Myths About Aging

- Older adults can't learn new information.
- **Debunking the myth**
  - Ways to enhance older adult learning:
    - Determine individual's pace
    - Create a good environment for hearing and seeing
    - Motivate them to learn

# Myths About Aging

- Older adults want to relax and live a life of leisure.
- **Debunking the myth**
  - Most want to be involved in meaningful and productive activities.
  - Many want to volunteer but have trouble matching skills and experiences with opportunities.
  - Retirement is not purely about leisure, and if we fail to recognize this, we will lose an army of people whom God can use to make a tremendous difference (Hanson, p. 28).

# Think About...

- ❖ Do you, consciously or unconsciously, believe some of these myths? People in your church? How can you change them?
  - ❖ What information did you gain to help you minister more effectively to Boomers?
  - ❖ What strategies need to be developed to involve retirement Boomers in meaningful volunteerism?
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# Create A New Mindset

- Find stories about older adults making a difference.
- Share these stories with the congregation.
- Draw from scriptures to show that retirement isn't a biblical concept.
- Educate others about the myths we hold and debunk them.
- Form intergenerational groups. Find ways to the bring generations together to form new relationships.

# Helpful Resources

*Baby Boomers and Beyond* by Amy Hanson. An important resource for depending ministry strategies for those over 50 years of age.

*The Second-Half Adventure* by Kay Marshall Strom. A book full of stories about retired boomers and information to guide them as they prepare for retirement.

# Informative Web Sites

Nazarene Missions Corps

<http://www.missioncorps.org>

Nazarene Jesus Film Harvest Partners

<http://www.jfhp.org>

Nazarene Work and Witness

<http://www.workandwitness.org>

Global Media Outreach

<http://www.globalmediaoutreach.com>

Operation Mobilisation

<http://www.om.org>

Leadership Development International

<http://www.ldichina.com>

Business as Mission

<http://www.businessasmission.com>

# A Global Phenomenon

- There were more older women than older men in the vast majority of the world's countries; notable exceptions were India, Iran, and Bangladesh.
- Of the 227 countries or areas of the world with at least 5,000 population, 167 (74 percent) had some form of an old-age disability or survivors' program in the late 1990s, compared with 33 in 1940.
- In the mid-1990s, public pensions absorbed 15 percent of the gross domestic product in Italy and Uruguay; 7.2 percent in the United States, and 0.4 percent in Mexico.

<http://usgovinfo.about.com/library/weekly/aa121701a.htm>

# A Global Phenomenon

- In many countries, persons over the age of 80 were the fastest-growing component of the population.
- More than one-third of the world's oldest people (80 and above) lived in three countries: China (11.5 million), the United States (9.2 million), and India (6.2 million).

<http://usgovinfo.about.com/library/weekly/aa121701a.htm>