



TEN BUILDING BLOCKS FOR ESTABLISHING PRIME TIME MINISTRIES

Welcome to the exciting world of ministry *to*, *through*, and *with* mature adults in the Church of the Nazarene. Here are ten building blocks for effectively establishing an exciting ministry to meet the needs of Prime Timers.

1. Points to consider as you start a prime time program as a vital part of the total ministry of your church.
 - a. Has God placed a call on your life and given a vision for this ministry?
 - b. How vital is such a ministry at this time, in this place, among these people?
 - 1) People may not like or desire to be a part of a program.
 - 2) People can be challenged to be a part of a ministry with a purpose.
 - c. How will the ministry contribute to the total ministry of your church?
 - d. Will your ministry be inwardly focused or outwardly focused?
 - e. Will it be only a ministry *to* mature adults or ministry *through* and *with* mature adults as well?

2. Consult with the pastor, Adult Ministries director, and Sunday School superintendent regarding the organization of this ministry.
 - a. Prime Time Ministries will be most effective with the full support of current leadership.
 - b. Visibility and credibility are enhanced when ministries are a function of the church as a whole.
 - c. Enlist church leadership in the total prayer emphasis surrounding the start of this ministry.

3. Seek information about mature adults and important issues and strategies that affect them.
 - a. Consult the pamphlet, "Starting Prime Time Ministries" (available from the Prime Time office or online at <http://primetime.nazarene.org>). This will give a starting point for planning a well-balanced ministry.
 - b. A free informational packet for directors is available through the Prime Time Ministries office. These materials may also be accessed at <http://primetime.nazarene.org>
 - c. Prime Time retreats are available to enhance local ministries beyond the capabilities of most local churches (brochures available by contacting the Prime Time office).
 - d. Read *The PrimeTime Connection* newsletter (available by free subscription or a free download at www.amc.nazarene.org) and other strategic newsletters for ministry ideas.
 - 1) *Energizing Seniors* (Christian Association of Senior Adults)
 - 2) *L.I.F.E...LINE* (Win & Charles Arn)
 - e. Read books and magazines dealing with mature adult issues.
 - f. Take advantage of training opportunities.
 - g. Prime Time Summits help laity and clergy become better equipped for ministry (contact the Prime Time Ministries office for dates and locations).
 - h. Visit established Prime Time groups to see what they are doing.

4. Select a steering committee to brainstorm possibilities for your church.
 - a. Develop a purpose or mission statement
 - b. Discuss and determine core values.
5. Investigate the demographics, needs, interests, concerns, passions, and values of mature adults.
 - a. Seek out the demographic trends in your community and county.
 - b. Do a survey of the mature adults in your church and those in the surrounding neighborhood.
 - 1) Collect information concerning the interests, passions, and needs of your group.
 - 2) Examine this information in light of your core values and purpose or mission statement.
6. Determine a starting point.
 - a. Allow your purpose or mission statement and the passions, needs, and interests of your group to determine where you will start.
 - b. Seek, empower, and release individuals for ministry.
7. Do not be afraid to evaluate programs for effectiveness and either change or discontinue as necessary to fulfill the purpose and mission of the group.
8. Meetings and fellowship activities facilitate an environment in which other ministries can develop.
 - a. Regular meetings or outings provide the opportunity for relationships to develop and ministries to be launched.
 - b. Make some of your events intergenerational.
 - c. Have at least one major event per year to showcase your ministry and provide an opportunity for your Prime Timers to invite outsiders.
 - d. Maintain a strong evangelistic motive in all you do.
9. Start a variety of small groups to attract and meet the varied needs of your constituency.
 - a. Having only one kind of activity will attract only one kind of people and limit your outreach.
 - b. Special issue or interest groups, support and recovery groups, ministry or service groups all should be considered as you look at the possibilities of expanding your ministry.
10. Set goals.
 - a. Target both short-term and long-term results.
 - b. Accountability helps bring about action.

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