

MINNESOTA SENIOR ADULT MINISTRIES NEWSLETTER

“I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the Lord forsake the righteous....” Psalm 37:25

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A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR – Another year passed into history and I am pleased to report that our seniors have been active! 2016 was a good year for SAM here in Minnesota! It has been exciting to see so many of you participating! As we expand our ministry I trust that many more of you will become engaged. I am endeavoring to develop a group of sectional ‘field representatives’ throughout our state who will begin to coordinate events in their areas that will bring the seniors of our churches together. We have five in place now and I am looking for others. It is encouraging to see seniors meeting together for times of fellowship and encouragement. Yvonne and I travelled to Rochester last November for the SE Section’s Thanksgiving meal and singspiration which was held at the Rochester A/G. There were about 100 seniors in attendance from 5 or 6 churches. Mark Geselle led us in some of our favorite songs and choruses – some we haven’t sung for quite some time! Retired Pastor



A great night of fellowship in Rochester!

Bruce Kallies brought the devotion. It was a very special evening of fellowship. We would like to thank Rochester A/G Pastor Jim Filbeck for hosting this event. Loren Molskness / SE Sectional Field representative assured those of us in attendance that he will be planning future senior events for the section. Let me encourage you to use this event as a model for planning something in your area of the state. Winter may limit us in some ways, but let’s begin now to plan for spring activities. “**On the Go**” events do not have to be limited to the Twin Cities area; you can do things right where you are! Just plan an event and then invite other churches in your section to join you. Our SAM Committee



Mark Geselle

would like to wish each of you and your families a happy and prosperous New

Year filled with God’s richest blessings! “Love God – Love people!”

Bruce Talso, Director



included 10 friends that came all the way from Willmar!) We would like to thank Chris Fleck – University Relations, Director for hosting our group once again this year. The evening certainly put us in the Christmas mood! Our SAM Committee is working on future outings including a **spring bus tour to the Ark Encounter and Creation Museum in May**. The enclosed flyer will give you that information. Watch for more “On the Go” events in our next newsletter.

Our last “**Seniors on the Go**” event for 2016 was held on December 2nd at North Central University in Minneapolis. About 70 seniors gathered for a delicious meal and then moved to the worship center for a delightful evening of Christmas music presented by the combined choirs from North Central. (Our group



We enjoyed “Songs of the Seasons” by NCU choirs



Some of our seniors who enjoyed the scrumptious dinner!

PUT US ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW – 2017 SENIORS SPRING LUNCHEON – Saturday, April 1 at noon – Cedar Valley Church in Bloomington. The Chancellor’s Quartet will be with us again! More information in our next newsletter.

Editor's Note: Recently, I attended a meeting at the Maranatha A/G in Forest Lake, Mn where I was introduced to a ministry to....women dancers! I asked Sue Werneke, staff member of the church, and also one of our SAM Committee members to write an article about this unique ministry. Seniors are a part of this ministry! Here is Sue's article.....

- Bruce Talso



A ministry at Maranatha A/G, "Into the Light" is not your typical outreach ministry. A group of women go once a month to the strip clubs in the area and minister to the dancers! Their goal is to pull back the darkness in these women's lives – "Into the Light" as

stated in 1 Peter 2:9b, ***"This is so you can show others the goodness of God, for He called you out of darkness into His wonderful light."***

The first visit, they show up at the clubs with gifts for the women, along with baked goodies for the managers. They briefly explain who they are, along with printed business cards and an introduction letter for the managers, telling each club they will be back the next month. They do this over and over and eventually, they are permitted into the dressing rooms. They build relationships with the managers as well as the women. At this point, each month this group of ladies is welcomed in to pray for the dancers! **Many of Maranatha's seniors take part in this ministry every month by supplying delicious baked goods.** The gifts given at each of the clubs speak acceptance. Many of the women's lives are filled with "What will you do for me" expectations, so gifts given freely to them breaks their perceived Christian stereotypes; it communicates that they have value. Each woman in these clubs is someone's daughter, mother, wife, and sister. Our prayer is that you will see these women, not as objects as society portrays them, but as the beloved of Jesus Christ.

The statistics are shocking! Organizations like *Into the Light* have found that 99% of the women in the adult entertainment industry have experience some sort of sexual abuse at least once in their lives. **There are over 250,000 women dancing on any given night in an excess of 3,000 clubs in North America.** We share this ministry with you to remind you that there is always an opportunity to share the love of God with others – regardless of their social status. Is there a club in your community? You can begin to pray for the women caught in this lifestyle and also consider a like ministry in your area. If you would like further information on how to participate in a ministry like this, contact orleen@realchurch.org "Your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should be lost." (Matt.18:14)

- Sue Werneke

GOD'S PLAN FOR SENIORS

Most seniors never get enough exercise! In His wisdom, God decreed that seniors would become forgetful so they would have to search for their glasses, keys and other things, thus having to walk more. And God looked



and saw that it was good. Then God saw that there was another need. In His wisdom He made seniors lose coordination so they would drop things, requiring them to bend, reach and stretch. And God looked down and saw that it was good. Then God considered the function of bladders and decided that seniors should have additional calls of nature, requiring more steps to the bathroom, thus providing more exercise. And God looked down and saw that it was good. So if you find at your age that you are getting up and down more, remember it is God's plan for more exercise! It is all in your best interest even though you mutter under your breath!

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DO YOU HAVE A SENIORS MINISTRY IN YOUR CHURCH?

Send for two articles that can get you started!

- How to Begin an Organized Seniors Group
- 50 Senior Adult Ministry Ideas

MNSAM

1315 Portland Avenue So. Minneapolis MN 55404

WHO WOULD YOU THINK is the fastest growing demographic in the United States? If you answered single moms, you would be correct! Also, did you know that of the approximately 19,000,000 single moms in our country, 18,000,000 are not involved in a local church? James 1:27 says, *"Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this; to visit the fatherless and widows in their distress....."*

Bridging The Gap (BTG), the Minnesota District Council's women's department, is working to reach single moms and their family units, and we invite you to help support this effort. On June 2-3, 2017, BTG will host its 5th-annual Single Moms Retreat at Lake Geneva Christian Center, involving biblical teaching, relaxation, giveaways, a car care clinic, and much more! This two-day event is offered to single moms at a minimal cost, made possible through donors, volunteers, and prayer supporters. Our event's mission is to give single moms an opportunity to be wrapped in the loving arms of the Father and dream BIG dreams that only He can fulfill. Through past retreats, God has touched hundreds of single moms and their families in powerful ways with His love and hope!



Single Moms Retreat

The cost for an individual to attend this event is \$69 (single mom ticket) and \$89 (volunteer ticket), which includes registration, food, and lodging (two nights for a volunteer). While many individuals can afford this ticket price, we also receive scholarship requests from women wanting to register. **We need your help!** Would you, as an individual or family unit, be willing to sponsor a ticket for a single mom or volunteer to be part of the Single Moms Retreat? Tickets can be donated online at mnbtg.org/retreat or by mailing a check (please put "SMR Registration Donation" in the memo.) to the following address:

Bridging the Gap
1315 Portland Ave S.
Minneapolis, MN 55404

Through your donation-gift, you can offer support to a single mom in a meaningful way! Thank you for your consideration!
Carol Lund - Bridging the Gap, Director

