

## Primer adiestramiento de Camino de fe

Del 11 al 13 de enero de 2001, se reunieron unas treinta personas líderes de la Iglesia Metodista de Puerto Rico, la Iglesia Bautista de Carolina (PR), la Iglesia Evangélica Metodista de Panamá y la Iglesia Metodista de Costa Rica para celebrar el primer adiestramiento de líderes congregacionales de *Camino de fe*. El evento de capacitación tomó lugar en el Seminario Evangélico de Puerto Rico y fue patrocinado por dicho seminario y la Junta General de Discipulado de la Iglesia Metodista Unida. El propósito del adiestramiento fue capacitar a líderes para ofrecer el estudio bíblico *Camino de fe* en sus iglesias locales.

El Coordinador de la proyecto es el Dr. Víctor Pérez Silvestry, Director del Centro Calidad Total del Seminario Evangélico. La Hna. Sarai Rosa de Pérez y la Rvda. Irma



Enthusiastic worship and festive balloons set the tone of celebration for the launch of Spanish language FaithQuest

Violeta Cruz sirvieron como adiestradoras del adiestramiento.

Después del cierre del adiestramiento de líderes congregacionales, se llevó a cabo un taller para certificar a adiestradores y adiestradoras de líderes congregacionales del 13 al 14 de enero. La Hna. Marigene Chamberlain de la Junta de Discipulado sirvió como facilitadora para el taller. Las nueve personas que participaron recibieron sus certificados como adiestradores durante el culto de clausura.

Una participante de los dos eventos, Lourdes Martínez, dijo que estos adiestramientos "me han significado una experiencia refrescante y capacitadora para afianzar nuestro compromiso con la iglesia y el mundo."

## FaithQuest in Spanish Launched

On January 11-13, 2001, 30 representatives of the Methodist Church of Puerto Rico, the Baptist Church of Carolina (PR), the Evangelical Methodist Church of Panama, and the Methodist Church of Costa Rica celebrated the first congregational leader training session in *Camino de fe*, the Spanish-language version of *FaithQuest*. Hosted by the Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico and the United Methodist General Board of Discipleship, the event took place on the seminary campus. The purpose was to equip church leaders to offer the *Camino de fe* Bible study in their congregations.

The project coordinator for the consultation and the leader training was Víctor Pérez Silvestry, Director, Total Quality Center, Evangelical Seminary. Sarai Rosa de Pérez and Rev. Irma Violeta Cruz led the training event.



Marigene Chamberlain is Director of Hispanic Ministries at the General Board of Discipleship. She has participated in the FaithQuest Bible study and is collaborating with the FaithQuest Office in the launch of the Spanish materials.



These trainers are prepared to lead Camino de fe training for congregations in Puerto Rico, Panama, and Costa Rica.

You and your congregation are invited to enter into a partnership with a Latin American congregation by sponsoring their enrollment in FaithQuest. The enrollment fee for Latin American congregations will be \$200US. If you wish, we can link your congregation with a specific congregation in Latin America so that you may share your experiences, ministry, pictures, and faith. If your congregation wishes to sponsor a Spanish congregation, please send a check *made payable to the General Board of Discipleship* to Joan Newell for Spanish FaithQuest, P.O. Box 340003, Nashville, TN 37203-0003.



Victor Pérez Silvestry and Marigene Chamberlain award certificates to those who completed the trainer course.

After this training event, 9 persons participated in a workshop to become certified *Camino de fe* trainers. Hosted by the Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico and the United Methodist General Board of Discipleship, served as facilitator for the workshop. Participants received their certificates as trainers during the closing worship.

Lourdes Martínez, who participated in both events, said, "These two training events have refreshed and equipped me to deepen my commitment with the church and the world."

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*This is a periodic newsletter to resource FaithQuest congregational leaders.*

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### Other Resources for Generational Information & Life Span Ministry

**Information** is a General Board of Discipleship newsletter series for family and life span ministries. Each issue is written by one of the following specialists. Current editions can be found online at the URLs listed below:

#### **Information: Children's Ministries**

Mary Alice Gran, mgran@gbod.org  
www.gbod.org/children/information/default.html

#### **Information: Youth Ministries (congregational youth)**

Susan Hay, shay@gbod.org  
www.gbod.org/youth/newsletter/default.html

#### **Information: Young Adult Ministries**

Bill Crenshaw, bcrenshaw@gbod.org  
www.gbod.org/adult/information/youngadultw01/default.html

#### **Information: Family Ministries**

MaryJane Pierce Norton, mnorton@gbod.org  
www.gbod.org/family/family\_newsletter/spring00/default.html

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# FQ NEWS & NOTES FOR FAITH QUEST

# FOR PARENTS

THEME:  
GENERATIONS  
IN THE  
CHURCH  
(add to Lesson 13 section  
in your leader notebook)

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 2

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## A Church for All Ages

*A message from Betsy Heavner, Director, FaithQuest*

*"In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters will prophesy, your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams" (Acts 2:17, NRSV).*

These words are familiar, but as with other Bible truths, it is so hard to remember that everyone of every age is valuable in God's sight. We have a hard time living and learning together as God's people; it requires being open to others' perspectives about the world, the church's work, and the basic way we live our lives.

Recently, I worshipped with a traditional congregation that reminded me of ways to live together with several generations. The bulletin included helps for parents in guiding their young children through the worship time, and "if children become restless..." there were directions to the nursery. The pastor's time with children was age-appropriate. She did not manipulate the children with questions or activities to

entertain the adults. The message was introduced with this comment: "The sermon today is my work with this text; as always, I invite you to discuss it with me after the service or during the week." It was full of illustrations designed to make the Scripture relevant for each age group.

In the 21st century, leaders must learn *all* we can about all God's people so that we can live and serve together.

## Focus on Experiences

*By Craig Miller*

When it comes to being in ministry to particular generations, must we divide and conquer? One approach to meeting the needs of different generations is to create separate programs for specific groups. For the GIs, travel clubs would be good. For the youth, youth camp could be offered. And when it comes to worship? How about one service for the '50 and above' set and one for those under 40?

Although this may sound reasonable, there is another way to meet the needs of different generations without putting each one in a separate box: *experienced-based ministry*.

Look at religious life in the U.S. in the 1950s . . . most

people joined a denomination because they agreed with a specific set of beliefs and practices. People became Methodists or Baptists or Catholics because their identity was linked to a particular denomination and all it represented.

Today people become active in a church because of the experiences it offers. To believe something, they must experience it first. As a result, what happens in worship, Sunday school, and small groups is formational to their understanding and experience of God. *After the experience*, they are interested in the underlying beliefs.

Where does this happen? Walk to Emmaus, a weekend experience, has changed many

### IN THIS ISSUE

Our first bilingual article, plus photos of the launch in Latin America of the Spanish language version of **FaithQuest**. At a consultation in May 2001, plans will be developed for Spanish FaithQuest in the U.S.

Guest writer for this newsletter is Craig Miller, who helps leaders develop new faith communities for effective evangelism. See page 2 for a list of Craig's recent books.



Betsy Heavner is Director of FaithQuest at the United Methodist General Board of Discipleship, Nashville, TN. You can e-mail her at bheavner@gbod.org.

lives. By encountering God in a new way, persons see the world and their lives differently. Disciple Bible Study has also changed persons' understanding of themselves and their relationship to God. Why are these so successful? Because they invite people into a life-changing experience.

This way of thinking is true across the generations. As you create worship, rather than targeting a specific age group, focus on the experience of the grace of God that people will have every week at that hour. At my local church the 8:45 service focuses on recovery. Every week, through music, prayer, healing, and communion, people seek to heal rela-

*Continued on page 2*

GENERATIONS	BIRTH DATES	CHARACTERISTICS
GIs	1910–1927	Also known as Builders. The Depression and WWII shaped their values.
Pioneers	1928–1945	Also known as Silents. They have led social change in music and culture. The Korean War and the Civil Rights Movement influenced their young adult years.
Baby Boomers	1946–1963	Led by the high school class of 1964, they were shaped by the events in the 1960's and 1970's.
Postmoderns	1964–1981	Also known as Gen X and Busters. They were born right after the assassination of President Kennedy and are the first generation to live out of a Postmodern perspective.
Millennials	1982–1999	Led by the high school class of 2000, they will set the trends in the first two decades of the twenty-first century.

tionships and physical illness, overcome addictions, and find emotional well-being.

This is different from the new 11:00 service that will focus on cele-

bration. God as creator will be the focus of the experience. Jesus who calls you to use your gifts to build up the Body of Christ will be a dominant theme. Worship ele-

Chart adapted with permission from *NextChurch.Now: Creating New Faith Communities* by Craig K. Miller, page 40. Copyright © 2000 Discipleship Resources.

ments will include drama, video clips, Top 40 hits, and contemporary praise songs. Who will attend? People new to the faith, seekers, and those wanting to use all their spiritual gifts for the work of God in transforming this world.

These experiences are multi-generational. They offer people who are at particular points in the spiritual journey a faith community where they can grow and worship together.

As you create ministry for people in your faith community, ask how this experience speaks to their hearts and helps them grow in faith in Christ. How does it shape their beliefs and values over the long term? Start at this point and you will create ministry that speaks to people of all ages.



Craig Kennet Miller is Director of the Center for Evangelism Through New Congregational Development at the United Methodist General Board of Discipleship. You can reach Craig at [cmiller@gbod.org](mailto:cmiller@gbod.org).

# The Bookshelf

The following resources will help church leaders learn about generations and the church. Other book reviews are available at [www.gbod.org/quest/bookreviews](http://www.gbod.org/quest/bookreviews).

Available from Discipleship Resources 800/685-4370 • [www.discipleshipresources.org](http://www.discipleshipresources.org):

- *Aging: God's Challenge to the Church and Synagogue* by Richard Gentzler, Jr and Donald F Clingan
- *Hand in Hand: Growing Spiritually With Our Children* by Sue Downing

Books by Craig Kennet Miller:

- *Baby Boomer Spirituality*
- *Encounters with Jesus*
- *Postmoderns*
- *Culture Shifts: A Group Bible Study for Postmodern Times*
- *NextChurch.Now: Creating New Faith Communities*

## BOOKS FROM OTHER PUBLISHERS

### *Generations: The History of America's Future*

By William Strauss and Neil Howe (William Morrow, 1991)

A foundational text on generational theory, Generations introduced the idea that U.S. history is a series of generational biographies that will repeat into the future.

### *The Fourth Turning: An American Prophecy*

By William Strauss and Neil Howe (Broadway Books, 1997)

Applies generational theory to identify our current period and to help us see that the way we view our times is influenced by our own generation.

### *Millennials Rising: The Next Great Generation*

By Neil Howe and William Strauss (Vintage Books, 2000)

Shows how today's teens are defying conventional wisdom about youth. Includes a brief review of generational theory, chapters on the values of the millennials, and a discussion of this generation's potential for greatness.

### *Virtual Faith: The Irreverent Spirituality of Generation X*

By Tom Beaudoin (Jossey-Bass, 1998)

A challenging look at the effects of popular culture on the theology of young people.

# ADULT AGE-LEVEL CHARACTERISTICS

	YOUNG ADULTS	MIDDLE ADULTS	OLDER ADULTS
<b>PHYSICAL</b>	Measure time since birth; learning preferences and abilities established by age 20; reach physical peak	Begin to measure time as "time till death;" coming to terms with mortality; mid-life physical changes	Losses, fear of loss; learning ability may be affected by hearing and sight losses; increasing healthcare needs and chronic illnesses
<b>SOCIAL</b>	"Intimacy vs. Isolation" (Erik Erikson); needing others vs. being emotionally distant; finding place in society and in community; struggle with independence, with independence, identity, and intimacy; early stages of occupation and relationship building	"Generativity vs. Stagnation" (Erik Erikson); serving others vs. being self-absorbed; range of interests include career planning, personal growth, relationship development, problem solving, and values clarification	"Integrity vs. Despair" (Erik Erikson); life has meaning vs. a life full of regrets; adjustment to retirement; close relationships dwindling through death; increasing dependence upon others; volunteerism and caregiving are important
<b>EMOTIONAL</b>	Entering adult world; intimacy; settling down; need to be accepted	Managing mid-life crises and transitions (e.g., death of parents, empty nest, etc.); shedding burdens of early childhood; parenting issues	Need to be valued, accepted, and respected by persons and institutions
<b>INTELLECTUAL</b>	Learn best when not under stress; time is valuable; prefer problem-centered learning over subject-centered; want to apply insights to daily living	Self-directed learning; want to be involved in decisions about learning; want input from knowledgeable persons, resources, and groups	Build on life experiences; use visual images and mental pictures to enhance learning; encourage self-paced and problem-centered learning activities
<b>SPIRITUAL</b>	Many seek spiritual experiences; may be returning to church; want answers; others want chance to raise questions and search	Want to understand the meaning of life, values and priorities, and one's place in the world; taking responsibility for one's own spiritual needs	Want arena to grow in faith and to accept life story; need purpose in life; need to feel life worth living; may want to share one's life and faith story and mentor others
<b>SPECIAL NEEDS</b>	Want to be treated and respected as adults and peers; want arenas for fellowship, service, and ministry to others	Context of learning is important; climate for learning and thinking; traumatic events or life crises often cause involvement in learning activities	Opportunities for continued growth; service vs. busy work; daytime activities and accessible surroundings; good lighting and acoustics
<b>GIFTS TO SHARE</b>	Expanding knowledge, creativity, and intimacy; willingness to take risks	Dependability; steadiness; concern for the future; financial resources	Wisdom; time; endurance; objectivity; life experiences; hope; and, acceptance of death
<b>VOCATION</b>	Seeking fulfilling work; on-the-job training	Questioning; reaping; career changes, mentoring	Retirement from primary career; may re-enter or reinvent work
<b>EXPECTATIONS OF THE CHURCH</b>	Often want answers	Want to live out answers discovered	Stable; place for friendships; sacramental nature of church

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# Generational Anchor Points

THAT WHICH HELPS DEFINE OR SHAPE A GENERATION

Elderhood (GI) 1905-25	Older Adulthood (Silent) 1926-45	Middle Adulthood (Baby Boomers) 1946-64	Young Adulthood (Gen X) 1965-82
World War II (The Big War)	Korean War (The Forgotten War)	Vietnam War (The Protested War)	Desert Storm (The CNN War)
Builders/ Problem Solvers	Openly Uncertain/ Facilitators	"Me" Generation/ Revolutionizers	Reactors/ Pragmatists
Conformity	Conciliatory	Individuality	Diversity
Depression	Rising Affluence	Economic Prosperity	Rising National Debt
Save Money	Save & Spend Money	Spend Money	What Money?
Large Extended Family	Extended Family	Nuclear Family	Single-Parent Family
Radio	B&W TV	Color TV	PC Monitors
LP Record	Reel-to-Reel Tape	Cassette/8 Track	CD/DVD
Operator-Assisted Phone	Rotary Phone	Touchtone Phone	Cell Phone
Roosevelt	Truman/Eisenhower	JFK/Nixon/Carter	Reagan/Clinton
Big Band	Swing	Rock 'n' Roll	Alternative
Prohibition	Alcohol	Marijuana/LSD	Crack Cocaine
Sex Taboo	The Pill	Sexual Revolution	HIV/AIDS/STDs
Farm	City/Town	Suburbia	Homeless
Coffee	Instant Coffee	Cola	Bottled Water/ Designer Coffee
Mainline Protestant	Rising Catholic	New Age	Spiritually Diverse

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