



Christian Seniors: Making the Most of Ministry in Our Later Years

Seth Halpern
Editor

Christian seniors possess a wealth of experience, wisdom, and faith, positioning them uniquely to make significant contributions to their communities. Their journey through life's various seasons equips them with insights and perspectives that can profoundly impact those around them. This article explores the multifaceted ways in which Christian seniors can actively engage and influence their communities, all while grounding their actions in biblical teachings.

1. Mentorship and Discipleship

The Bible underscores the importance of elders imparting wisdom to younger

generations. In Titus 2:3-5, older women are encouraged to mentor younger women, guiding them in virtuous living. Similarly, Proverbs 27:17 states, "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another," highlighting the mutual growth that comes from mentorship. Christian seniors can lead Bible study groups, offer one-on-one mentorship, and share personal testimonies, providing invaluable insights that inspire and educate.

2. Volunteering and Community Service

Retirement often provides seniors with the time to engage in volunteer activities. The Bible frequently praises the virtuous nature of helping those in need, which is the essence of volunteering. According to

scripture, it is right to give our time and resources when we have the ability to do so. Engaging in community service not only addresses communal needs but also fosters a sense of purpose and fulfillment among seniors.

3. Prayer Ministry

Prayer is a cornerstone of Christian faith. Seniors can dedicate time to prayer ministries, interceding for their communities, churches, and families. James 5:16 emphasizes the power of prayer: "The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." Organizing prayer groups or participating in existing ones can strengthen communal bonds and provide spiritual support to those in need.

4. Sharing Life Stories and Testimonies

Personal narratives of faith journeys can be profoundly impactful. Revelation 12:11 speaks to the power of testimony: "They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony." Seniors can share their stories through church newsletters, community gatherings, or informal conversations, offering encouragement and demonstrating God's faithfulness across generations.

5. Engaging in Faith-Based Senior Living Communities

For those residing in faith-based senior living communities, there are ample

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Senior Ambassadors

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Life Matters

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- ✂ **The Ambassador** has a circulation 6,000 - 7,000 and is distributed in local churches and businesses in the community.
- ✂ The purpose of **The Ambassador** is to pursue the great commission of Christ by making disciples and to encourage, inform, challenge and connect the local body of Christ.
- ✂ We believe in the inspiration and authority of the Bible as the written word of God. We believe that God exists as One, in three distinct persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
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INSPIRATION

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- Snow- The Great Equalizer -

By Christy Boals

www.gracefilledpurpose.com

Snow does strange things. I did not know this until I lived with it. I had gone to play in the snow periodically in my life, enjoying sliding down hills on giant tubes. I have had my share of misadventures with traveling in snow as well. However, it wasn't until I lived in it that I began to see all the different qualities and characteristics it contains.

The first thing I discovered is that snow is very, very messy. I had not thought about what happens after the snowfall is over. I just saw beautiful pictures of pristinely white landscapes. In actuality, that part lasts for a very short time before the trees begin to rain melting snow and the snow gets dirty from a variety of sources. I have also found that people seem to either love it or hate it, there don't appear to be many in between.

The most interesting thing about snow though, is that it acts as a great equalizer. In the forests around where I live, the pine beetles are destroying the trees at a fast rate. There are large swaths of brown trees among the green, but when the forest is blanketed with snow all the trees are beautiful. There is no longer alive or dead, everything is white.



Snow does the same thing to people. No matter who you are or what your economic circumstances are, if the roads are closed because of a snowstorm, you are not going anywhere. We can strive, complain, or try to push, but when the snow is feet thick on the highway, no one is getting through.

This may sound like a stretch, but in some of these ways I see snow like Jesus. He makes circumstances and people that look like they might be dead beautiful, and He does it in the same way, by covering us with Himself. He is also not a respecter of persons. It does not matter how much money we have, or how little. It does not matter how much we try to strive, work or push, none of us can make it through on our own. Jesus is the only way and He is waiting for everyone to turn to Him. "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'" John 14:6

NEW YEAR PRAYER:

Thank You Lord for giving me
 The brand new year ahead.
 Help me live the way I should
 As each new day I tread.
 Give me gentle wisdom
 That I might help a friend,
 Give me strength and courage
 So a shoulder I might lend.
 The year ahead is empty,
 Help me fill it with good things
 Each new day filled with joy
 And happiness it brings.
 Amen.

Don Monroe

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What Does Philippians 4:13 Really Mean?

by Seth Halpern/Editor

The Bible verse Philippians 4:13, which says, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me," is one of the most frequently quoted scriptures, offering encouragement and empowerment to Christians. This powerful declaration has become a favorite for athletes, leaders, and individuals seeking motivation in challenging circumstances. For instance, basketball star Steph Curry of the Golden State Warriors even features the verse's reference on his shoes. However, understanding the verse within its broader biblical context reveals a deeper and more profound meaning.

Context

Philippians 4:13 is part of a letter written by the Apostle Paul while he was imprisoned. In the verses leading up to it (Philippians 4:11-12), Paul reflects on his ability to remain content in all circumstances—whether experiencing abundance or facing hardship. He explains that his contentment and perseverance do not come from personal strength or external conditions but through his reliance on Christ. This context shifts the verse from being a simple statement of personal triumph to a testament of unwavering faith and dependence on God.

Deeper Meaning



Contentment in All Circumstances

Paul's message is not about achieving personal ambitions or defying limitations. He is not suggesting that Christians can accomplish any task they desire, like winning a race without preparation or becoming an NBA superstar overnight. Instead, he is teaching that through Christ, believers can endure all situations with grace and faith. Whether in times of scarcity or abundance, Paul's contentment stems from his trust in God's provision and plan.

Strength from Christ

The verse underscores the source of true strength—Christ. Paul's ability to persevere does not rely on his natural abilities but on the power and grace of Jesus. This strength is not about physical might or human effort but an inner fortitude rooted in faith. It reminds believers that Christ equips them with the

resilience and courage needed to navigate life's challenges.

Faith Over Circumstance

Philippians 4:13 invites Christians to shift their focus from external situations to God's eternal promises. It is a call to trust that God's strength is sufficient for every situation, whether it involves enduring hardship, finding joy amidst trials, or fulfilling His purpose. The verse assures believers that they are never alone and that God's power enables them to overcome and thrive.

Practical Applications In Difficult Times

When life feels overwhelming, Philippians 4:13 serves as a source of hope and encouragement. It reminds believers that Christ provides the strength to persevere, even when circumstances seem insurmountable. By leaning on

His power, Christians can find peace and endurance during trials.

In Success

Success can be a moment to reflect on God's work in our lives. Achievements should be seen as opportunities to glorify God, recognizing that it is His strength and guidance that enable accomplishments. This perspective fosters humility and gratitude.

In Daily Life

The verse is a reminder to seek Christ's help in all areas of life, from the smallest challenges to significant decisions. It encourages believers to develop a habit of relying on God, fostering a deeper relationship with Him and a greater sense of peace.

In conclusion, Philippians 4:13 is not a declaration of self-sufficiency but a profound reminder of reliance and trust in Christ. It reassures Christians that they can face any situation—not because of their own power, but because of Christ's power working in and through them. This verse encourages believers to embrace both the highs and lows of life with faith, knowing that God's strength is sufficient for every moment.

Dave Greenetz

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ROAD TO RECOVERY - Sundays, 7:00pm
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Christian 12 Step support group

MONDAY

GRIEF SHARE - Mondays at 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Praise Chapel Church 398 Aylor Ave.
A grief support program that meets weekly to help give encouragement after the death of loved one. Anyone can attend on any week because each class is "self-contained." For more information about GriefShare you can go to www.griefshare.org or contact the church at 530-870-0511.

TUESDAY

PRAYER FOR THE NATION - Every Tuesday Night 7PM - 8:30PM
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WEDNESDAY

GRIEF SHARE; GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP - Wednesdays, 6:00pm,
Crossroads Community Church - 445 B. St. Yuba City
For those dealing with the loss of a loved one.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY - Wednesdays, 6:00 pm (Starting January 8th)
Crossroads Community Church - 445 B. St. Yuba City
Gideon! Your Weakness Is God's Strength!

THURSDAY

EMBASSY HOUSE OF PRAYER - Every Thursday Night 7PM - 8:30PM
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"My house shall be called a house of prayer." (Matt. 21:13). The church today is in an all-out war against the evils of darkness. The body of Christ is called to step up and be aggressive in their prayer life.

**"Ongoing Events"
Continued....Keep Reading.**

ONGOING EVENTS

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FREEDOM NIGHT - 2nd Friday of each month
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PRAISE CHAPEL COMMUNITY GAME NIGHT
Starting January 17th - Every 1st and 3rd Friday
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SATURDAY

BETHESDA HEALING WELL - 3rd Saturday of the Month 10AM - 12PM
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PRIME TIMERS - First Friday every month at 12:00 (Noon)
Crossroads Community Church - 445 B. St. Yuba City
Potluck luncheon for 55+, bring your favorite dish and enjoy an afternoon of fellowship


MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST -
Every 3rd Saturday of the month at 8:00 am.
Crossroads Community Church - 445 B. St. Yuba City
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NIGHT OF PRAYER
Every Last Saturday of the month from 6:00-7:30pm
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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!

• Prayer List for January 2025 •

- 1-Jan Pray for God's blessing on our nation this new year!
- 2-Jan The Ambassador Newspaper - Increased readership and Impact.
- 3-Jan Homeless - Safety, health and provision. Bless the Twin Cities Rescue Mission and other local homeless ministries.
- 4-Jan World Affairs - Pray about international activities that point to the Last Days.
- 5-Jan Veterans - Pray for all those who served our country and their families to get the assistance they need.
- 6-Jan Marriages- Pray that relationships would grow and families would seek the Lord together.
- 7-Jan Local Ministries - Pray for continued financial support and volunteers to meet needs (see page 3)
- 8-Jan California - pray for our Godly representatives (including James Gallagher and Doug LaMalfa) to fight against liberal and harmful state policies.
- 9-Jan Discipleship- Pray that believers would seek to follow Jesus and become more like Him every day!
- 10-Jan Mental Health - Pray for all the millions of people who are dealing with depression. Pray they feel loved.
- 11-Jan A Woman's Friend - Unborn children/Pregnant Women.
- 12-Jan Israel - Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem in all conflicts with other countries.
- 13-Jan Human Trafficking - Pray for the freedom, healing and restoration of survivors and for traffickers to repent.
- 14-Jan Restore America! - Pray against the divisiveness and violence in this nation.
- 15-Jan Addicted - pray for those under the control of substances that they would surrender to the Lord, pursue and receive the treatment they need.
- 16-Jan The Persecuted Church around the world. Pray that believers would stand strong in the midst of brutal persecution.
- 17-Jan Orphanages - Pray for children to find a loving, bible believing home.
- 18-Jan Race Relations- Pray for Race relations in our nation. Pray for understanding and collaboration between races and an ease of rational tension.
- 19-Jan Pray for your neighbor - for opportunities to serve them, pray with them and share the Gospel with them!
- 20-Jan Pray for President Trump for positive leadership, resolve of conflict with other countries and for his physical protection from harm.
- 21-Jan Youth - Pray that they will wake up and become aware that "woke" thinking is a tool of Satan.
- 22-Jan Pray that fathers would give Godly wisdom and have a positive impact and influence on the lives of their children.
- 23-Jan Unity of Churches/Global impact - Pray for churches to unite & influence the world!
- 24-Jan Pray for each of us to be bold by the Holy Spirit to speak and act in accordance with God's Word and His Way!
- 25-Jan Seniors and Elderly - Pray for renewed physical and mental strength.
- 26-Jan Global Revival- Pray that our global chaos would lead multitudes to repent and follow the Lord!!
- 27-Jan Pray for China, Sudan, North Korea and other nations that God would intervene and the leadership would restore civil rights.
- 28-Jan Revival - Pray for a revival in the hearts of His children to spread the world to all nations!
- 29-Jan Life - Pray that abortion clinics would be shut down that people would choose life for their babies!
- 30-Jan Mental Illness- Pray for those who deal with Mental Health issues or suicidal thoughts.
- 31-Jan Pastors - That God would give them strength, courage and wisdom to speak the truth from the pulpit.



So speak life, speak life. To deadeest, darkest night. Speak life, speak life. When the sun won't shine and you don't know why. Look into the eyes of the brokenhearted. Watch them come alive as soon as you speak hope. You speak love, you speak.. You speak life. You speak life.

by TobyMac

Bible Search Word

BEATITUDES QUEST

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RIGHTEOUSNESS
SALT OF THE EARTH
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ANSWERS ON PAGE 13

SPECIAL EVENTS



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Liberty Quartet

Crossroads Community Church
445 B St., YC
Thursday January 16, 2025
at 7:00 PM

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January CCN Weekly Schedule:

1-7 John Gaiser
1-14 Roger Shadd
1-21 Linda Kurtz
1-28 Prayer

*Schedule subject to change

We hope you can join us!
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SENIOR AMBASSADORS

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• Senior Mentorship & Discipleship •

Mentoring and discipleship are powerful ways for seniors to invest their time and wisdom, nurturing others in their faith and creating meaningful connections. It's a biblical model of passing on spiritual truths and walking alongside others as they grow in their relationship with Christ.



1. The Biblical Call to Mentor and Disciple

- **Titus 2:3-5:** *Older men and women are called to teach and guide younger generations, modeling godly living.*
- **Matthew 28:19-20:** *The Great Commission encourages every believer to make disciples.*
- **Proverbs 27:17:** *"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another," emphasizing the value of spiritual guidance.*

2. Practical Ways to Mentor

- **One-on-One Relationships:**
 - Meet regularly with someone for prayer, Bible study, and life discussions.
 - Be a spiritual advisor to a young believer navigating faith challenges.
- **Group Settings:**
 - Lead a small group focused on a specific topic, such as marriage, parenting, or Christian living.
 - Host a mentorship circle for young adults or new believers.
- **Through Writing:**
 - Share your faith journey in written form through letters, devotionals, or a blog.
 - Create a journal or book of life lessons and spiritual insights for your family or mentees.

3. Discipleship Opportunities in the Church

- **New Believer Classes:** Teach foundational Christian principles to those new to the faith.
- **Youth Ministries:** Mentor teenagers by helping them navigate life through a biblical lens.
- **Marriage and Family Counseling:** Guide couples or parents using your own experiences and God's Word.
- **Accountability Groups:** Help others stay committed to spiritual disciplines and personal growth.

4. Mentoring in the Community

- **Schools and Youth Programs:**
 - Volunteer to mentor students in Christian or secular settings.
 - Be a presence of encouragement in after-school programs or tutoring initiatives.
- **Workplace or Vocational Ministries:**
 - Mentor young professionals in aligning their careers with God's calling.
 - Offer guidance in balancing work, family, and faith.

5. Keys to Effective Mentoring and Discipleship

- **Be Authentic:** Share your victories

and struggles honestly, showing that faith is a journey.

- **Be a Good Listener:** Understand the needs and concerns of those you're mentoring.
- **Pray Together:** Make prayer a central part of your relationship. Encourage Accountability: Lovingly challenge mentees to grow in their walk with Christ.
- **Stay Humble:** Acknowledge that you are still learning and growing in your faith.

6. The Benefits of Mentoring

- **For the Mentee:**
 - Guidance in spiritual and life matters.
 - Encouragement to persevere in faith.

• For the Mentor:

- A renewed sense of purpose and joy in sharing your faith.
- Deepened understanding of God's work through others.

• For the Church:

- Stronger connections between generations.
- A thriving community focused on spiritual growth.

7. Leaving a Legacy Through Discipleship

- Mentoring and discipleship are eternal investments. By pouring into others' lives, you help create disciples who, in turn, mentor and disciple others. This ripple effect fulfills Christ's mission and ensures your faith and wisdom continue to bless future generations.

"Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing." (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

Serving as a mentor or disciple-maker is a beautiful way to embody this verse, building up the church and sharing Christ's love.



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SENIOR AMBASSADORS

Billy Graham - Finish Well

In his later years, Billy Graham continued to achieve remarkable milestones, demonstrating unwavering dedication to his faith and ministry. Here are some of his key accomplishments during this period:

1. Continued Evangelistic Outreach

- Despite health challenges, including Parkinson's disease, Graham remained active in ministry.
- Conducted his final crusade, the "Metroplex Mission," in Dallas-Fort Worth in 2002 at age 83, drawing large crowds and significant media attention.
- His televised sermons and interviews reached millions, ensuring his message continued to spread even when he could not travel extensively.

2. Literary Contributions

- Published several influential books in his later years, including:
 - Just As I Am (1997) – His autobiography, which became a bestseller and offered profound insights into his life and ministry.
 - The Journey: How to Live by Faith



in an Uncertain World (2006) – A guide on navigating faith during challenging times.

- Nearing Home: Life, Faith, and Finishing Well (2011) – A deeply personal reflection on aging, legacy, and preparing for eternity, written when he was in his nineties.

3. Advocacy for Global Evangelism

- Promoted and supported global evangelical efforts through the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association (BGEA).
- Encouraged the use of modern

technology, such as internet and video, to spread the gospel to younger generations.

4. Mentorship and Leadership

- Provided spiritual guidance to Christian leaders and his son, Franklin Graham, who assumed leadership of the BGEA.
- Maintained relationships with global leaders and U.S. presidents, offering counsel on moral and spiritual issues.

5. Legacy Building

- Oversaw the development of the Billy Graham Library in Charlotte,

North Carolina, which opened in 2007. The library preserves his ministry's history and serves as an evangelism tool.

- Established the Billy Graham Training Center at The Cove in Asheville, North Carolina, as a place for Christians to grow in their faith.

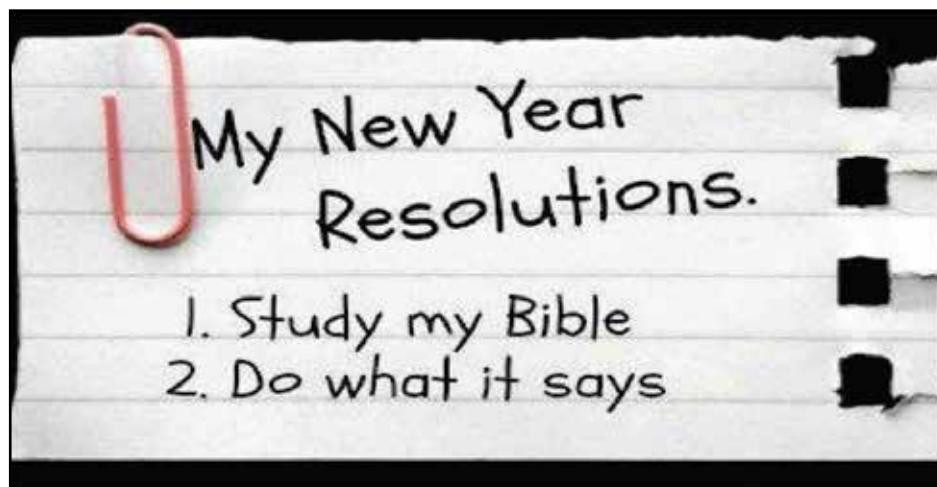
6. Personal Witness of Grace in Aging

- Graham's humility and honesty about his struggles with aging and health challenges inspired many older adults to remain steadfast in faith.
- His reflections on eternity and "finishing well" resonated deeply with Christians of all ages.

7. Final Public Address

- Released a video message called The Cross in 2013 at age 95, part of the "My Hope" evangelistic project. It was his final public outreach, viewed by millions worldwide.

Billy Graham's later years exemplified a life of faith, perseverance, and a commitment to finishing his race well, leaving a legacy of hope and inspiration for generations to come.



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LIFE MATTERS presented by Yuba-Sutter Right To Life

"The Poster (Unborn) Child"

Pam Stenzel was conceived in an act of violence. Today, she's a living witness to the dignity of every human life-especially those who aren't politically convenient to defend.

40 Days for Life: How did you learn the circumstances of your conception?

Pam: I always knew I was adopted. In high school, my mom showed me the birth certificate. It listed only information about my biological mother. When the social worker from the adoption agency retired, they had a big picnic for all of the families that she had helped. We were invited, so I asked, "Why do I not have information on my biological father?" She shared that my birth mother had been in foster care and that she had been raped. That was a seismic earthquake. As adopted kids, we dream about who our birth parents are. Maybe they were young and in love, but they just couldn't take care of me. Instead, I realized the depth of the pain and trauma that my birth mother must have experienced.

40 Days for Life: How did that news affect you?

Pam: My first reaction was first, "What must my birth mother have gone



through?" The other big struggle in my mind was theological. "God, did you plan me? Was I a big mistake?"

God does not plan rape. But God still had a purpose for me. God is in the business of redeeming. And so in that trauma, there is hope. The person who bore all of the pain in my conception, in

carrying me, and in my birth and adoption was my biological mother. She is my hero.

If you advocate for abortion as an answer for rape, you're taking the life of an innocent child and you're further traumatizing the mother because you don't allow God to redeem those horrible circumstances and bring something good

out of it. The only person helped by abortion is the rapist. He's the one who enjoys the fruit of abortion, because there is no proof of his assault.

When people say there should be abortion in the case of rape, what they're saying is that they care about the rapist. It's completely misplaced compassion.

40 Days for Life: Even many pro-lifers support abortion in cases of rape and incest. What is it like to know that even among your fellow pro-lifers, your own existence has to be justified

Pam: On almost every bit of pro-life legislation, they throw the rape and incest excuse out there. They've never fully argued for the humanity of the unborn. Every time that you say, "I am against abortion, except, except, except for whatever reason," what you're actually saying is, "I am okay with killing unborn children under these circumstances." We have had these arguments in the pro-life movement for decades. "Well, Pam, the law won't pass if we don't make these exceptions." We've played a political game, not a moral game. And the reality is that we should always speak about what

CONTINUE ON PAGE 13

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CONT'D FROM PAGE 1: "...CHRISTIAN SENIORS..."

opportunities to engage in spiritual activities. These communities often provide on-site chapels, Bible studies, and worship services, allowing seniors to practice their faith actively and share it with others. Engaging in such environments fosters a sense of belonging and spiritual growth.

6. Advocacy and Social Justice

With a lifetime of experiences, seniors can advocate for social justice issues, drawing from their faith's teachings on compassion and justice. Micah 6:8 calls believers to "act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." Engaging in letter-writing campaigns, participating in peaceful demonstrations, or supporting charitable organizations aligns with this call, allowing seniors to be voices for the voiceless.

7. Providing Emotional and Spiritual Support

Seniors can offer counseling and support to those facing life's challenges, such as grief, illness, or family issues. Their empathetic listening and faith-based guidance can provide comfort and direction to those in need. Galatians 6:2 encourages believers to "carry each other's burdens," fulfilling the law of Christ.

8. Participating in Intergenerational Programs

Engaging with younger generations through storytelling, tutoring, or shared activities fosters mutual respect and understanding. Psalm 145:4 declares,

"One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts." These interactions can bridge generational gaps and enrich the faith experiences of both seniors and youth.

9. Leading by Example

Living out one's faith authentically serves as a powerful testament to others. Matthew 5:16 encourages believers to "let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." Seniors can model Christian virtues in their daily lives, inspiring others and strengthening the moral fabric of their communities.

10. Continuous Learning and Growth

Engaging in lifelong learning through Bible courses, theological studies, or attending workshops keeps seniors mentally active and spiritually enriched. Proverbs 1:5 states, "Let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance." This commitment to growth exemplifies the Christian journey of continual transformation.

Christian seniors possess a wealth of resources—time, experience, and faith—that can significantly impact their communities. By actively engaging in various forms of service and leadership, they fulfill their spiritual callings and leave lasting legacies of love, wisdom, and faithfulness. Embracing these opportunities not only enriches their own lives but also strengthens the communal bonds that reflect the body of Christ.



CONT'D FROM PAGE 13: "LIFEMATTERS..THE POSTER..."

is morally right.

40 Days for Life: Are there any notable stories that you have about times when someone had to confront your existence not as an abstraction, but as a real human being?

Pam: I've had numerous occasions where people have said, "We always thought, 'What about rape?' We never saw it from your perspective." That's a pretty consistent thing. I've been speaking in high schools and have had numerous occasions with teenagers who changed their opinion.

I was speaking at a high school in North Dakota, and a young girl just started sobbing. After my talk, she said she had gotten pregnant the year before and placed the child for adoption. It's a small town, everybody knew, and she had been getting a lot of bullying. Some classmates said it was a terrible thing-how could she give up her child? She said, "Today, in front of my entire school, you explained why I chose to give my child a family, and you called me a hero."

40 Days for Life: Pro-lifers on the sidewalks have had more success encouraging moms to parent than to place their children for adoption. We, too, hear, "Adoption? I could never give my child away." But they could abort that same

child? Why?

Pam: First, adoption probably needs to be introduced as an option before the actual point of crisis; otherwise it's going to be immediately thrown out. The other thing is that the sidewalk is a stressful place to discuss adoption. But in the pregnancy center, one of the things I always say is, "You don't make a decision to place for adoption the day you find out you're pregnant. You have months to make that decision." Women experiencing a crisis pregnancy deserve every option in front of them that doesn't involve the death of their child. The folks on the other side only want to offer one option. That's it. The only option they care about providing is abortion, and they're not about offering any other option to moms in crisis.

40 Days for Life: Going back to the rape and incest exceptions, what's an effective way to change hearts when these conversations come up?

Pam: Lead them back to the main discussion: "Do you believe that the child in the womb is a human person?" Once you get them to agree that this is a person we're talking about, it focuses the discussion. "Under what circumstances do you think it's okay to take the life of an innocent human being?" That's where we're having an honest conversation



Continued from Page 7 Bible Word Search Answers

J	S	N	K	P	D	E	B	P	E	R	S	E	C	U	T	E	D
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He Understands

by Sharon Schultz

Suddenly, unexpectedly at the girls' softball game—Whap! The hard hit ball, low and fast, flew straight at the pitcher's wrist. Instantly, without hesitation the catcher, each girl in the field and dugout as well as the coach converged as one on the injured player to assess the damage. All were ready to render aid, support and relief.

While I was going through a stressful time recently, my friend said, "I'm concerned. How can I help?" My heart was warmed, my burden lightened.

Perhaps that is why tears welled up in my eyes when I saw the team react as one. What a beautiful illustration of the way the family of God is designed to work when we go through difficult times!

"If one part suffers, every part suffers with it..." 1 Corinthians 12:25,26

"Carry each other's burdens..." Galatians 6:2

Sadly, the family of God doesn't always function lovingly as the girls' softball team and my friend did. We often fail one another. We hurt one another. We cause increased inner pain by our lack of understanding.

But there is the Wonderful Counselor who will not fail. One who understands because He created us.

"Counsel (advice, a plan) is mine, and sound wisdom: I am understanding (insight with discernment); I have strength." Proverbs 8:14

"COME TO ME, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest... learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." Matthew 11:28

The Lord Jesus understands. In faith "take your burden to the Lord and leave it there."

"Lord, hold me close. Draw me near. Cause Thine understanding ear to hear."

New Theme - Senior Ambassadors

This is a new year and it is time for a new theme. I'm not talking about The Ambassador 2.0 or a complete course change. However, as I am getting older and I believe our readership is also getting older, I have decided to make more of an emphasis on our Senior population. You will see the "kickoff" of that new theme in this month's cover story. "Senior Ambassadors" is our new theme. I have realized that our readership has been the older saints in our community. I hate to label people by numbers but if I have to, I would say those aged 50 and up seem to be our primary demographic. The truth is that it also extends to those of whom are mostly homebound due to illness or mobility issues. Even those who are not fans of technology but prefer hard copy reading materials would fall into this group.

I haven't forgotten about other readers, though. We will have much of the same type of content that we've had over our last 2 decades. You will see the



Seth Halpern, Editor

difference primarily in the cover stories and the featured "Senior Ambassadors" section. I'm always looking for well-written articles from our community and beyond. However, I am now seeking more content by and for our "silver" community. If you have expertise in an area that would benefit Christian seniors, please email me at editor@ambassadornewspaper.com. If you are active in ministry or have an inspiring story perhaps we can run a profile on you to inspire others.

I hope you enjoy and benefit from our new content!

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The deadline for submission is the 15th of the month for the next issue.



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Finding Freedom in God's Perfect Peace

If you would like to experience the peace and transformed life that God can provide through Jesus Christ and you are willing to commit your life to the only one who can truly set you free from your sin, you can pray to the Lord right now and ask Him to forgive you of your sins. Because of what His Son, **Jesus**, did by dying on the cross, your sins will not be held against you by God anymore. You can experience freedom for the rest of your life on earth and then have a life in Heaven with God for eternity. God's part of the deal is already done. Your part is to confess your sins, repent (or change your ways) and believe that He is Lord. If your life is out of control, let Him take over control.

For help, questions, or more information, contact us at The Ambassador or any of the churches listed on page 3.

Ideas for Growing Your Faith in 2025

1. Deepen Your Prayer Life

Resolution: Commit to spending a set amount of time daily in prayer, listening as much as you speak.

"Pray without ceasing." (1 Thes 5:17)

2. Read the Bible Regularly

Resolution: Start a Bible reading plan to cover the entire Bible or focus on specific books for deeper study.

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

(Psalm 119:105)

3. Serve Others Faithfully

Resolution: Volunteer at your church, a local shelter, or a mission project to reflect Christ's love in action.

"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." (1 Pet 4:10)

4. Practice Gratitude

Resolution: Start a gratitude journal, thanking God daily for His blessings.

"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (1 Thes 5:18)

5. Cultivate Generosity

Resolution: Tithe consistently, support missionaries, or find ways to bless someone in need.

"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Cor 9:7)

6. Share Your Faith Boldly

Resolution: Be intentional about sharing the gospel with at least one person this year.

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations." (Mt 28:19)

7. Forgive and Seek Reconciliation

Resolution: Release past grudges and make peace with those you've been estranged from.

"Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you." (Eph 4:32)