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To embrace, encourage, and empower through a network of Christian educators.

Nazarene
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Intergenerational Learning - By Jan Wilton, Christian School Representative



What could an intergenerational learning experience look like? What would an intergenerational classroom involve? How old is too old? These and many other questions may come to mind as a teacher considers involving a variety of ages in the inner workings of the classroom. Unfortunately, we have become a society that sits the “blue hairs” on the sidelines and discounts their value to the community.

We are reminded in the Word of God of the benefits of the elderly interacting and teaching the children and mentoring younger adults. Senior adults have much knowledge and experience to share with children and teachers in our classrooms.

In the following scriptures, we read that wisdom is associated with gray hair, growth, growing up, and growing old. God wants to use our skills, no matter how young or old we are.

Leviticus 19:32, NIV

“Rise in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly and revere your God. I am the Lord.”

Psalms 71:9, NIV

“Do not cast me away when I am old; do not forsake me when my strength is gone.”

Job 32:7, NIV

“Age should speak; advanced years should teach wisdom.”

Psalms 143:5, NIV

“I remember the days of long ago; I meditate on all your works and consider what your hands have done.”

Deuteronomy 32:7a, NIV

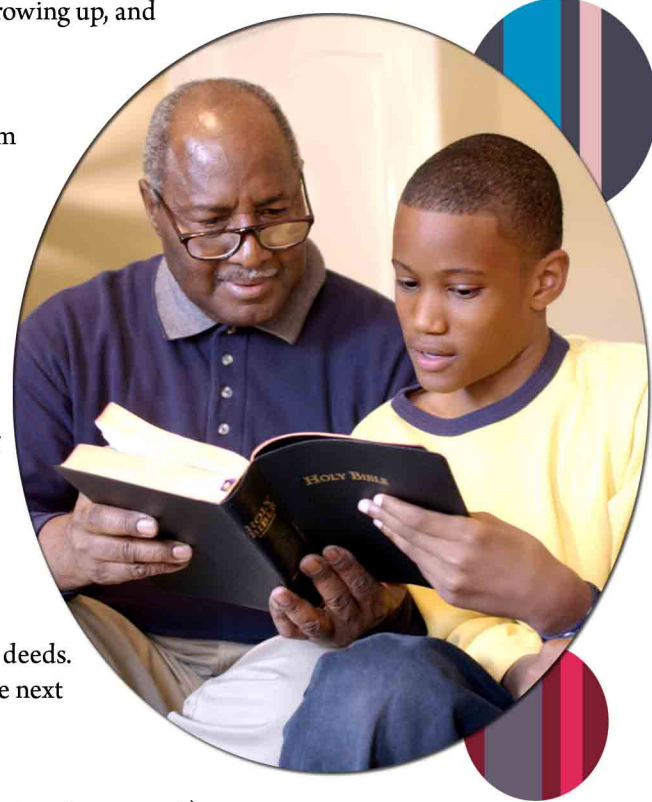
“Remember the days of old, consider the generations long past.”

Psalms 71:17-18, NIV

“Since my youth, O God, you have taught me, and to this day I declare your marvelous deeds. Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, O God, till I declare your power to the next generation, and your might to who are to come.”

Job 12:12, NIV

“Is not wisdom found among the aged? Does not long life bring understanding?” (Continued on page 4.)



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Jesus Is Still the Same

By Melodee Simmons, Childcare/Preschool Representative



During the week I am with preschoolers, but on Sunday mornings I teach middle-elementary children. I love talking with them as they arrive and we are preparing for Sunday School. You never know what they will say, or ask!

On a recent Sunday, as I was getting ready for class, I picked up my phone to silence it. I put it down. Genesis, one of the girls in my class, asked, "Did you have telephones when you were a little girl?"

Even though I have seven grandchildren, I'm not THAT old. I told her, "Yes we did, but they were very different from the phones we have today."

Genesis thought about this a moment, and then she said, "Yeah, you probably had flip phones."

This led to an explanation about the phones we had that were hard-wired into the wall. I told my students about the phone man who would come to our home and install the phone where you wanted it. The children thought the idea of a "phone man" was hilarious.

A few days later I was thinking about our conversation. I thought about the many changes that have occurred over the years. Just the changes since the turn of the century are more than I can count. Phones now are small computers on which you can do just about anything, including taking very good pictures. Our computers are amazing for obtaining instant information. I can visit with my grandkids in another state through Skype. (This is right out of the Jetson cartoons I watched.) Cars are driving themselves, and thermostats are learning your living patterns to keep your home at the perfect temperature at all times. Morals seem to be a thing of the past. Countries are going bankrupt. New strains of diseases are appearing. Everything is changing. We wonder what the world will be like for our children and grandchildren!

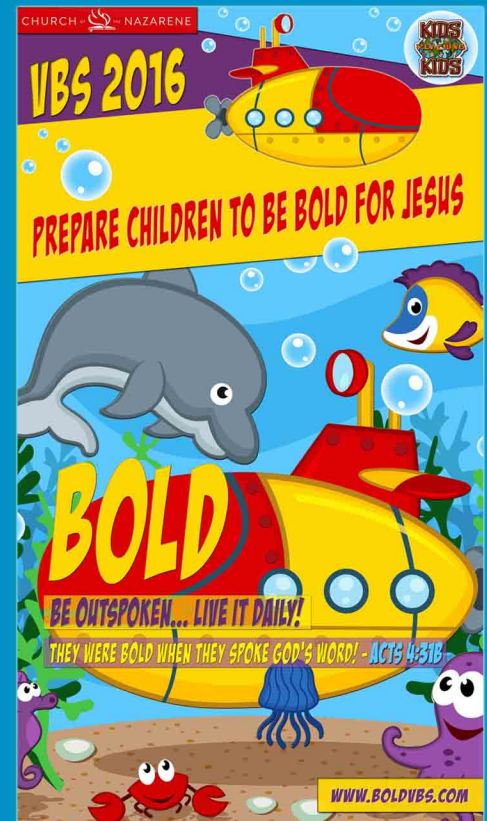
With all these changes, there is one thing on which we can depend. There is one thing that never changes--Jesus, and His love for us. Hebrews 13:8, NIV, tells us, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." What a wonderful thought. Regardless of what happens in this world, we can depend on Jesus to stay the same. His love for us will not change or be taken away from us. Romans 8:38-39, NIV, says, "... neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

These are the things we need to share with children. Joel 1:3, NIV, says, "Tell it to your children, and let your children tell it to their children, and their children to the next generation." We need to take every opportunity we have to share these truths with the children with whom we have contact.

Regardless of what the future brings, our children and grandchildren need to know that Jesus will never change. He will be with them, just as He has been with me and with Christians everywhere throughout the years.

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Hebrews 13:8, NIV



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Pray for Children Around the World - From NCM Magazine*

[Editor's Note] It is easy to be so concerned about the immediate prayer needs of our families, churches, and communities that we forget that there are many children around the world who also need our prayers. This reprinted article from NCM Magazine reminds us to include children from around the world in our prayers.

Pray with us:

Dear Lord,

We are overwhelmed sometimes by the pain and need we see around the world. Would you please give us the words when we don't know how to pray?

"I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come?" (Psalm 121:1, NRSV)

On April 25, an earthquake ripped through Nepal's Kathmandu Valley. A couple of weeks later, another earthquake struck near Mt. Everest. More than 8,000 people died, and more than 500,000 homes were completely destroyed. Another 200,000 homes were damaged. Millions of people were fearful.

Lord, we continue to pray for those in Nepal who were affected by the earthquakes. We pray for comfort for those who lost loved ones and peace for those whose lives are still in upheaval. We pray particularly for vulnerable children and elderly adults who most need your help and protection.

"The Lord is good, a stronghold in a day of trouble; he protects those who take refuge in him" (Nahum 1:7, NRSV).

Lord, we also pray for others around the world who are experiencing crisis. We pray for children and families who were forced to flee their homes in Syria to seek safety somewhere else. We pray especially for those who had no way to leave or nowhere to go. We pray for those being terrorized in places like Iraq and Nigeria. We pray especially for the children who are particularly vulnerable to unthinkable violence. We pray for those who continue to be affected by diseases such as Ebola, HIV, and AIDS—both for those who have lost loved ones and those who are lonely and scared.

"For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed, says the LORD, who has compassion on you." (Isaiah 54:10, NRSV).

Lord, we pray for friends and neighbors who are experiencing personal crises that may remain silent and hidden. We pray for the words to say—or to leave unsaid. We pray that these people would experience and sense your compassion.

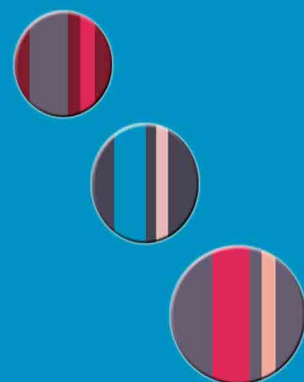
"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'" (Isaiah 52:7, NRSV).

Lord, we pray for churches around the world, that they would be people who seek to live out your good news in their communities. AMEN.

(This article originally appeared in the Summer 2015 edition of NCM Magazine. To learn more about the work of Nazarene Compassionate Ministries and its work around the world, go to www.ncm.org.)

Summer is a time for teachers to
Unwind and find time to be renewed as we
Meander down quiet paths in order to
Meditate on God's Word and find time to
Explore those topics that seem always to be beyond our
Reach during the normal school year. A
Break from required study, but now we have the opportunity to
Read books for fun and pure
Enjoyment, to discover the excitement and that
Allurement of personal learning again, realizing that
Knowledge is the inspiration we will need to share again in September.

Summer Break By Becky Ramsey



Intergenerational Learning - By Jan Wilton, Christian School Representative

(Continued from page 1.)

1 Timothy 5:1-2, ESV

“Do not rebuke an older man but encourage him as you would a father, younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, in all purity.”

When you utilize all ages in the classroom, everyone-- old and young-- begins to realize their strengths, and they learn from and appreciate each other. How can this be accomplished?

When is a person too old and too fragile? How old is too old? At what point is a senior adult not able to go and do? Even the very senior adult can listen to children practice reading, assist a child with a project, or be a part of the classroom by just being there ready for a caring conversation.

In the classroom, plan for one day a week when the “Grandmas and Grandpas” come. During these days, include such activities as a lunch, review games, a field trip, an Historical Reenactment Day, etc. Students could conduct an interview and learn about their “Grandparent’s” life as a child. The day might include art and crafts, interactive discussions about science or social studies, or history. For example, when children hear from someone who actually lived during the Vietnam War, that period of history comes to life. Children can feel compassion for those who suffered and perhaps lost family members.

Consider an Adopt a Grandparent project with a nearby Elder Care Center. Many in these centers do not have visitors. Children bring life into the center, and they can make a difference in the life of someone who needs hope. As a sixth-grade teacher, I began such a program. It was very rewarding to see my students interact with their adopted grandparent. At each visit, encourage each student to take something to share: class work, an art project, a picture, even a grade report. Yes, it does come with a risk of loss. One of my students had an adopted grandma who passed away. It was a time to grieve and remember the joy and friendship with the “Grandma.” One of the students chose a “grandpa” who refused to talk to anyone. The nurses said he had never spoken to any of them. On one of the visits, the “grandpa” began to participate in conversation! The student had prayed for his “grandpa” to talk, and God answered his prayer. Needless to say, my students were changed forever. They grew in faith, compassion, and love for others.

As with any program, it takes time to develop, train and implement. How and when you include intergenerational interaction into your classroom is up to you. It can be as simple or complex as you want.. But, no matter how or when, I personally have found the benefits outweigh the time and effort spent in planning.

Children need friends of all ages. The classroom can provide a safe place for children and older adults to interact as they learn and grow together.

