

**Meeting the Needs of Senior Members**

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1. We must have a right perspective concerning Senior Members.
   1. They are important because they can provide a great example for others to follow as they are faithful to church when they could use viable excuses of why they can’t come. - Psalm 92:13-15 “*Those that be planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God.* ***14****They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing;* ***15****To shew that the Lord is upright: he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.”* ; Titus 2:1-8
   2. They are important because they can pass old-time Bible Christianity on to the next generation. - Psalm 71:18 *“Now also when I am old and greyheaded, O God, forsake me not; until I have shewed thy strength unto this generation, and thy power to every one that is to come.”;* I Chronicles 23:1 “*So when David was old and full of days, he made Solomon his son king over Israel.”*
   3. They are important because they provide the knowledge while the young generation provides the zeal. - Psalm 148:12-14 “*Both young men, and maidens; old men, and children:* ***13****Let them praise the name of the Lord: for his name alone is excellent; his glory is above the earth and heaven.* ***14****He also exalteth the horn of his people, the praise of all his saints; even of the children of Israel, a people near unto him. Praise ye the Lord.”*
   4. They are important because even Jesus noticed when the widow woman cast in her two mites while everyone else paid attention to who cast in out of their abundance. - Luke 2:36-38
   5. They are important because they can become some of your greatest prayer warriors you’ll ever have in your church just like the widow woman’s importunity got her need met from the unjust judge in Luke 18:1-8.
   6. They are so important that deacons were appointed to take care of their needs so that the pastor would be freed up to spend the necessary time in prayer and Bible study to feed the flock. – Acts 6:1-7
   7. They are important because they can provide excellent counsel if the younger generation will listen. - I Kings 6:6-10
2. They need to feel like they are needed and that there’s still something that they can do though they may not be able to do what they used to do. - Psalm 71:9 *“Cast me not off in the time of old age; forsake me not when my strength faileth.”*
   1. This will help them feel involved though perhaps they can’t be involved as they used to be; it will keep them tied in.
   2. This will help them feel like there is still something that they can contribute to the church as they strive to continue to serve the Lord where they can.
   3. This will give them opportunities to be a part of others’ lives and to be a help to others.
   4. This will make them feel like they are still important.
      * 1. This could be accomplished by standing as a sign of respect when they enter the room. – Leviticus 19:32 *“Thou shalt rise up before the hoary head, and honour the face of the old man, and fear thy God: I am the Lord.”*
        2. Proper respect should be shown to our elders. – I Timothy 1:1-2 *“Rebuke not an elder, but intreat him as a father; and the younger men as brethren;* ***2****The elder women as mothers; the younger as sisters, with all purity.“*
   5. A lot of this can be facilitated through the Sunday School program.
      * 1. Make cupcakes and then ice them for a bus route while spending time with them at their house.
        2. Allow them to use their talents by drawing pictures and making handouts to pass out at church to try to be an encouragement or using some other talent that they have.
        3. Assign someone to take care of sending out birthday/anniversary/sympathy/ encouragement cards to class members or church members.
        4. Assign someone to take up the offering in their Sunday School class.
        5. Assign someone to take care of the offering or Sunday School class offering and prepare it to be picked up.
        6. Assign someone to pass out Sunday School lessons as students come in for class.
        7. Assign someone to help pass out refreshments in class.
        8. Get volunteers who will purchase or provide baked goods to serve for breakfast in their Sunday School class.
        9. Assign several to oversee a prayer team so they can check up on other class or church members during the week.
        10. Assign several to come up to the church and make phone calls to remind those that have signed up for the upcoming big day what time the services begin.
        11. Get volunteers who would be willing to provide transportation to class or church members who need it.
        12. Get them involved in passing out tracts especially during a campaign.
        13. Assign someone to make coffee for their Sunday School class.
        14. Assign someone who will be responsible for emptying the coffee pot at the end of class.
        15. Assign someone to empty the trash a replace the trash bag at the end of class.
        16. Assign someone to vacuum their Sunday School class room.
        17. Assign someone to put up or straighten the hymnals when class is over.
        18. Assign someone to make phone calls to Sunday School class members on Saturday to let them know about a Big Day or any changes in normal schedule (ex. combined Sunday School in the auditorium this Sunday).
        19. Get them involved by getting them to be a part of a visitation team on Saturdays that will go out and make class visits, hospital visits, or shut-in visits.
        20. Assign someone to greet first-time visitors and regulars who will also get first-timer slips filled out and turned in to the teacher.
        21. Get them involved in serving in the Nursery.
        22. Get them involved in preparing and/or delivering meals to families after a surgery.
        23. Assign someone to take prayer requests in class.
        24. Assign someone to be the Records Secretary in class – filling out individual student’s attendance records.
        25. Assign someone to be the Attendance secretary – filling out a class roll sheet marking students’ present or absent and then tallying up the number in class and recording the total attendance for the teacher.
        26. Assign someone as the Absentee secretary – filling out a form noting those who were absent from class that week making it easier for the teacher to prioritize next week’s visitation efforts.
        27. Assign someone to make the announcements in class (this individual would have to be energetic and enthusiastic so as to promote excitability in the people to want to be involved).
        28. Assign someone to be the Activities director for the Senior Saints by organizing and planning and running an activity once a month.
        29. Get them involved in the choir or singing in the special music program.
        30. Get them involved in serving meals at a conference or helping with the kitchen staff to prepare meals.
        31. Get them involved at working on the buses and using their skills as an auto mechanic.
        32. Get them involved in helping mow the lawn or provide other lawn care maintenance at the church.
        33. Get them involved in helping trim trees or bushes at the church.
        34. Get them involved in doing some maintenance work at the church.
        35. Get volunteers who would become a part of the janitorial staff.
        36. Get volunteers who will responsible for putting rubber bands on a bundle of tracts.
        37. Get volunteers who will come up to the church office and help file or organize or stuff envelopes, etc.
        38. Get them involved in going out soul winning.
        39. Get the ladies involved in mentoring the younger ladies how to sew, knit, crochet, cook, clean, keep house, etc.
        40. Get the men involved in mentoring the younger men how to do carpentry work, how to change oil, how to shine their shoes, etc.
3. They need someone who will just spend time with them realizing that they have a lot of time on their hands. James 1:27 *“Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.”*
4. They need someone to just stop by and chat with them and to check on them. (One of the biggest things a Senior member deals with is loneliness.)
5. They need someone to listen to their stories. (They have a lot of stories and whoever listens to them will find out a lot about them that you did not know which will endear your heart to them even more. You will also glean wisdom from them as you listen.) - Psalm 37:25 “*I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.”*

* The widow woman in I Kings 17:8-24 could tell her story how she obeyed the man of God and God increased her faith and provided oil and meal to take care of her needs.

1. They need someone that actually is interested in what they know. (They can become great counselors because they’ve already been where you are and could be a great source of information when you don’t know what to do in a particular situation.)
2. They need to feel remembered and that they are not forgotten. (The average church ministries revolves around the youth a lot of times and certainly great emphasis should be placed there as we train the next generation, but perhaps we can kill two birds with one stone by having the young people to visit the Senior adults and sing for them or schedule a time to go and work at their house to be a blessing while at the same time teaching our young people to serve.)
3. They need to feel loved and cared for.
   1. They need to feel like they’re missed when they are not able to come to a church service.
   2. A phone call or a text message goes a long way in letting Senior adults know you care.
   3. An occasional visit should also be considered if possible. (The average visit will last anywhere between 30 minutes to an hour.)
   4. With Senior adults, it is just as discouraging for them when they miss, as it is for you when you miss them being in your class; so this will provide the needed encouragement both of you need.
4. They need to feel like there’s someone they can turn to if they need help.
   1. For many Senior adults, they are just now entering a time of life where they are facing health problems when they really haven’t been sick a day in their life before now. - I Kings 15:23 “*The rest of all the acts of Asa, and all his might, and all that he did, and the cities which he built, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah? Nevertheless in the time of his old age he was diseased in his feet.”*
   2. For many Senior adults, they have always done things for themselves but now they have reached an arena of life where they need help, though many of them won’t ask for it.
   3. There are many things that a church could do to be a blessing and help to them. (This could become a person or group’s ministry.) I Timothy 5:16 *“If any man or woman that believeth have widows, let them relieve them, and let not the church be charged; that it may relieve them that are widows indeed.”*
      * 1. To take care of oil changes
        2. To take care of changing a flat tire
        3. To take care of lawn care needs
        4. To take care of painting that needs to be done
        5. To take care of things that need to be fixed around their house
        6. To take care of trying to transport them to and from doctors appointments if needed
        7. To take care of changing a light bulb or emptying the trash or carrying the trash to the curb
        8. To take care of computer problems if that’s in your area of expertise because it’s pretty certain that it’s not in theirs
        9. To help interpret important documents that they receive in the mail - Isaiah 1:17 “*Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless,* ***plead for the widow****.”* (The older folks are a prime target that many try to scam or take advantage of.)
        10. To help with groceries at times when they come up short at the end of the month - Deuteronomy 10:18 *“He doth execute the judgment of the fatherless and widow, and loveth the stranger, in giving him food and raiment.”*
5. They need fellowship (again, one of their greatest discouragements is loneliness and having a lot of time on their hands.)
   1. A favorite fellowship opportunity of Senior adults is eating out together as a group on Sunday afternoon after the morning service concludes.
   2. Taking a trip somewhere on a Saturday evening as a group is great fun and creates memories; it really ties their heart to your heart as well.
   3. Taking a trip to go hear preaching is something that may interest your Senior adults, too.
   4. Scheduling a time to go their house and play a game or have a board game night up at the church on a Saturday afternoon
6. They need someone to help bear their burdens and to carry their prayer requests to the Lord on their behalf.
   1. Having a designated prayer time as part of your Sunday School schedule for the Senior adults is so vitally important.
   2. A prayer list that is updated weekly might also be a good idea to pass out in class each week.
7. This way they can take it home and pray over the needs of fellow class members.
8. You could also add praises to the prayer list as prayer requests are answered.
9. This would increase their faith and yours!
   1. A text message to let them know that you are praying for them as they go to a doctor’s appointment means a lot.
   2. Arriving at the hospital to pray with them before they go in for surgery is important; sitting with the family while they are in surgery is helpful if possible.