

THE *Abundant Living* CHALLENGE

Abundant Living Can Help You Mobilize Your Seniors

Choose from these options...

- Provide your seniors with a one-year subscription to the *Abundant Living* magazine (\$14 each or \$12 each in groups of 10 or more).
- Select a few of your senior members and tell them you will pay for them to attend the *Abundant Living* Retreat in Branson, Mo., Oct. 9-12, 2018. Tell them you are looking for ways to develop your ministry to Christian seniors and that you want them to report back to you regarding what they learned at the *Abundant Living* Retreat. Better yet, pay for all of your elders and someone who works with seniors to attend.

The registration fee is \$150 per person, and housing at the Branson Radisson, where the retreat is being held, is \$98 plus tax per night. (Less expensive housing is readily available nearby.)

- Provide transportation for your seniors group to attend the *Abundant Living* Retreat together.



"It was he [Christ] who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ" (Eph. 4:11-13).



For more information about seniors ministry and the services of *Abundant Living*, contact Kay Gowen, director of this outreach.

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Seniors Ministry

Sometimes we hear people speak about the *graying of the church* as if it were a terrible tragedy. At *Abundant Living*, we happen to believe that this trend presents the church a wonderful opportunity! Today, in churches of Christ, approximately 500,000 members are age 65 or older. Many of these have greater freedom and financial resources than they ever enjoyed in their preretirement days. They also possess a wealth of wisdom from long years of Bible study, life experience and walking with the Lord. Consequently, one of the greatest questions that the church in the 21st century will face is, "What are we doing to mobilize our incredibly valuable older members for 'works of service'?" (Ephesians 4:12).

Abundant Living is a ministry within the Office of Church Relations at Harding University in Searcy, Ark. Its primary offerings are an annual retreat in Branson, Mo., each fall and a high-quality quarterly magazine devoted to seniors. From the feedback we receive, we know that the retreat, the magazine and other events we host are inspiring senior Christians and helping them find "works of service" during what may be their most productive years in the kingdom of God.

Our Challenge

We want to challenge church leaders to pay special attention to your senior members this year. Look around and see what they are doing in your churches.

- Do they feel sidelined by age or inspired by their opportunities?
- Are they turning inward or reaching out to others?
- Have they become discouraged, or do they radiate Christian joy and hope?
- Do they speak mostly about the "good ole days" or about the excitement of an upcoming service project?

If you are looking for ways to equip and inspire your members who have retired from the work force, check out the suggestions in the column to the left. *This could be the best investment your church will make in the Kingdom this year.*

