

Why We Must Be Intentionally Intergenerational in Ministry

It was only a five-minute encounter. But that brief meeting changed my life.

I've written before about Dr. Charles Green and what I now know was our divine appointment. It happened when his son Michael and I, both 17-year-old high school seniors, made a quick stop by the Word of Faith Temple. Our choir would soon sing in the church's huge auditorium, and our music teacher sent us to work out a performance detail.

I'd heard of Green's effective ministry with high school students. But I didn't expect a busy pastor to notice me, much less stop and speak to me.

I don't remember just what he said. I do remember that the words of life he spoke over me blossomed in my salvation two years later. They also grew within me the same desire he had to impact generations.

I spent many years replicating Green's impact in the young souls God sent my way. We shared life, love, laughter and a whole lot of my wife's shrimp etouffee and jambalaya.

But I also had the opportunity to speak words of life and to share Spirit-birthing truths—to go call the next generation up higher by listening to them more than I spoke.

Years later, when Green and I had another divine encounter at the memorial service for Chancellor Oral Roberts at the University he founded under instructions from the Lord, I took time to thank him for the significant spiritual deposit he made on that day in his church. We continue to speak regularly, and he never fails to impart wisdom and stories only he could tell.

When I think back over my years in education, marketing, ministry and now publishing, I see how God has woven the call to reach, teach and impact the younger generation(s) throughout my life. My staff knows the Lord called me to Charisma to change lives, particularly of those in succeeding generations. And that's how I see Him using me every day. I'm called to speak life into the next generation.

Not long ago, I had the privilege of spending time with Apostles Craig and Colette Toach and their team of Next Gen Prophets. The Toaches have an international ministry of speaking, writing and hosting the Next Gen Prophets podcast on our network and their own prophetic training school. They pour their lives and hearts into equipping the next generation for kingdom ministry.

"As the Lord led us from country to country, and He opened the door slowly, the vision came into view, because it's progressive," Colette says. "Nobody decides this is what they're going to do. Nobody decides they're going to have a next-generation ministry until one day you wake up and you realize that all the steps you've taken in ministry have led to your answer to that question."

"God is bringing back the fullness of the fivefold ministry," she says. "And I see in each one of these new generations, not just a passion to want to belong, but to be part of a team; they get it: 'I can't do this solo anymore.'"

But the desire to impact coming generations doesn't arrive in the natural, she says. "Make no mistake—spiritual parenting is not a career choice—it's a mandate and call," she writes on their website at [.](#)

Craig adds another essential word about next-generation ministry: Character counts.

Of course, this idea of intergenerational impact has a powerful precedence in Scripture. As the apostle Paul wrote to

Timothy, “You share the faith that first filled your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice. And I know that faith continues strong in you” (1 Tim. 1:5b, NLT).

Timothy’s mother and grandmother invested in him, and the resulting fruit blessed Paul and impacted the nations. No doubt, that knowledge lay behind Paul’s later word to the young pastor to “teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others” (2 Tim. 2:2b).

Do you have five minutes? Consider investing time in a young person. The next life you change could impact generations to come.{eoa}

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