



WORLDWIDE  
CHURCH OF GOD

*Living and Sharing the Gospel*

# GC2 equipper

[www.wcg.org/mindev/](http://www.wcg.org/mindev/)

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*Equipping workers and leaders for Great Commandment–Great Commission (GC2) ministry*



WCG Next

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Dan Rogers

Dear fellow traveler:

At the recent WCG international elders' conference, elders and spouses came together to...

- **Look back:** Thanking God for bringing us from *WCG Past* to *WCG Now*—a journey that is an amazing testimony to his grace. Praise God; and thanks for your part.
- **Look forward:** Sensing God's call to *WCG Next*—confirming a vision for what that looks like.

*WCG Next* is a vision for going forward together: embracing new people—in new places, new cultures and new (emerging) generations. It's about new ways of experiencing and expressing the intimate, joy-filled connection we have with the Triune God in our union with Jesus.

That union includes active participation in what Jesus is doing in our world: *loving God and loving people* (his *Great Commandment*) and *making disciples who make disciples* (his *Great Commission*).

We seek to actively participate with Jesus in his *GC2 ministry*.

*WCG Next* is not about programs or strategies (though both have their place). Rather it's about renewed and refocused ministry vision, passion and ability. It involves congregations partnering within district pastoral networks to do together what they could not do individually.

Church Administration and Development (CAD) assists congregations in moving together toward *WCG Next*. We'll provide equipping through *Generations Ministries*, *Church Multiplication Ministries* and *Ministry Development Team* seminars, consulting services and other resources.

I encourage you to learn more by reading the *WCG Next* flyer posted at [www.wcg.org/mindev/Web%20Documents/WCG%20Next.pdf](http://www.wcg.org/mindev/Web%20Documents/WCG%20Next.pdf). Also take a look at the resources available to you at [www.wcg.org/mindev/](http://www.wcg.org/mindev/).

I believe that our *WCG Next* vision is God's gift. I look forward to partnering with all of you as we go there together. It will be a challenging journey; but a joy-filled one. We're here to assist you, including providing resources here in *GC2 Equipper*.

Journeying together with our Lord,  
Dan Rogers, superintendent of US ministers

## Q: What are some *WCG Next* critical concerns?

A: One is reaching out to all generations;  
*young adults* included.

Because God is concerned, our *WCG Next* vision embraces all age-groups: children, teens and young adults through senior adults. We seek to join with Jesus in ministering to, with and through these age-groups in *intergenerational* ways. Doing so is not easy. Each presents particular challenges—but in all cases, our principal questions are:

- *What is Jesus doing among them?*
- *How may we participate with him?*

We're asking these important questions concerning young adults. Though answers are not always easy to find, we're assured that the Spirit is moving in their midst and wants to involve us in two ways:

- Help young adults discover the connection that is theirs with the triune God in Jesus Christ.
- Help young adults find joy and purpose through active participation with Jesus in ministry in and through the church.

The pressing need for ministry to, with and through young adults is made clear in a recent USA Today article:

Protestant churches are losing young adults in *sobering* numbers, a survey finds. Seven in 10 Protestants ages 18 to 30...who went to church regularly in high school said they quit attending by age 23, according to the survey by LifeWay Research. And 34% of those said they had not returned, even sporadically, by age 30. That means about one in four Protestant young people have left the church...

"This is sobering news that the church needs to change the way it does ministry," says Ed Stetzer, director of Nashville-based LifeWay Research, which is affiliated with the publishing arm of the Southern Baptist Convention. "It seems the teen years are like a free trial on a product. By 18, when it's their choice whether to buy in to church life, many don't feel engaged and welcome," says associate director Scott McConnell...

The survey found that those who stayed with or returned to church grew up with both parents committed to the church, pastors whose sermons were relevant and engaging, and church members who invested in their spiritual development.

"Too many youth groups are holding-tanks with pizza. There's no life transformation taking place," Stetzer says. "People are looking for a faith that can change them and to be a part of changing the world."

"Ministry takes place when divine resources meet human needs through loving channels to the glory of God."

-Warren W. Wiersbe

*On Being a Servant of God*  
(Baker Books, 1993)



Read the full article at:

[www.usatoday.com/news/religion/2007-08-06-church-dropouts\\_N.htm?csp=34](http://www.usatoday.com/news/religion/2007-08-06-church-dropouts_N.htm?csp=34)



Threads website  
www.threadsmedia.com

"Young people are not looking to *BUY* into the church. They understand the church is not a *product*. They are looking for a people who will actually live something called the way of Jesus.  
--on the *Out of Ur* blog



Facilitating community:  
not easy, but essential.

## Q: How do we connect with young adults?

### A: Think intergenerational community.

A hunger for authentic community is huge for young adults (age 18-34). This is confirmed by LifeWay in research posted on their *Threads* website. Here's an excerpt:

"When our LifeWay team went out to study Young Adult Ministry in churches, we had thought Community might be the highest priority. But we had no idea to what extent it occupied the top spot. Seventy-three percent of [young adult] church members and 47 percent of young adults outside the church told us community with other young adults is extremely important in their lives. That's true of every generation, but it is particularly true of people in the 18 to 34 age group."

Such community, though an important goal, can't be created by fiat or through mere programs. It must be "real"—developed *organically* through the Spirit's work.

So what can we do? Provide *environments* where authentic community forms. What does that look like? Ask some young adults. You may learn that many yearn for *intergenerational* community that values them as young adults, gives them opportunities to "hang" with peers, and provides learning opportunities and leadership roles shared with older adults.

We don't have all the answers—but by God's grace we're learning. And a lot of that learning is coming through our GenMin camp experience. These camps (16 and growing) are a vital part of our journey to *WCG Next*. Thanks to the many who are helping our camps thrive as *incubators* of intergenerational community. Keep up the good work! If you'd like to help, contact the director of the camp nearest you (go to <http://youth.wcg.org/generations/campministries.htm>).

- See the full LifeWay research on young adults at:  
[www.threadsmedia.com/index.php?/lead/the\\_importance\\_of\\_relationship](http://www.threadsmedia.com/index.php?/lead/the_importance_of_relationship)
- See the WCG young adult ministry resource list at:  
<http://youth.wcg.org/generations/familyministries.htm#young>.
- See the *Out of Ur* young adult ministry blog at:  
[http://blog.christianitytoday.com/outofur/archives/2007/08/evangelical\\_dro.html](http://blog.christianitytoday.com/outofur/archives/2007/08/evangelical_dro.html)