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The monthly ministry development newsletter of WCG Church Administration and Development.

Dear fellow traveler,

Recently I had the pleasure of meeting with leaders of WCG Generations Ministries (GenMin) camps and short-term missions. These wonderful men and women share a deep passion for helping our congregations participate actively with Jesus as he ministers in the Spirit across generational, cultural and geographic boundaries. Our camps have a significant role in helping us all journey with Jesus to *WCG Next*.



I invite you to visit one of our GenMin camps this year to see what God is doing through our camps to help us all go deeper in mission with Jesus in ways that are truly cross-generational. We believe what is happening in our camps is directly transferable to the ongoing life of our churches. Indeed, the *camp-to-congregation connection* is a big part of what our camps are all about.

A list of GenMin camps, short-term mission trips and retreats is posted at <http://genmin.wcg.org/calendar.htm>. If I can be of help in introducing you to a camp director, do not hesitate to email me at [Ted.Johnston@wcg.org](mailto:Ted.Johnston@wcg.org). The GenMin team is here to assist you.

In the rest of this issue, Greg Williams, leader of GenMin's camp and event ministry, shares what he has learned about the value of our camps in helping build our congregations. The insights Greg offers are not mere *theory*—they come from his years of hands-on experience in the “trenches” as a camper, camp staffer, camp director (including camp planter), youth minister, church pastor and now as leader of GenMin's camp and event ministry.

*Journey on!*

Ted Johnston  
National director, Generations Ministries

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## Using GenMin camps to build your congregation

By Greg Williams

GenMin camp and event ministry leader

Generations Ministries (GenMin) camps, mission trips and other events are tools to help build WCG congregations as, together, we journey with Jesus to *WCG Next*. *Camps* provide Spirit-formed “incubators” that give birth to *transformed values, revived mission focus, and new leaders*.

### 1. TRANSFORMED VALUES

GenMin camps knit together the hearts of children and teen campers and adult staffers, as together they embrace the core values of Jesus. GenMin camps emphasize the following core values:

- **Christ-centered** - experiencing and expressing the love and life of Jesus who unites all people and all creation together in the triune communion of the Father, Son and Spirit
- **Cross-generational** - uniting all age groups within families and churches
- **Young disciples** - helping young people discover and actively live the life that is theirs in Jesus
- **Emerging leaders** - identifying, equipping, and coaching a new generation of leaders to serve within families, churches and beyond
- **Spirit-led creativity** - innovatively stewarding the Holy Spirit's gifts
- **Local ministries** - engendering and supporting GenMin related ministries within local churches and families



### 2. REVIVED MISSION FOCUS

It amazes me that so many give sacrificially of their vacation time and other resources to serve as staff members in our camps. I think a reason for this commitment is a clear focus on our shared, Christ-centered mission. This focus is seen as staffers gather to pray for campers weeks before the event; as they enthusiastically welcome campers on arrival; and as they maximize every minute of camp to advance the GenMin camp mission, which is to share the gospel of Jesus in every aspect of camp life.

Our camp staffers are motivated in this mission focus by Jesus' love that overflows to the campers in dorm chats, recreational activities, shared meals and energetic worship. In all these ways, campers and staffers experience a “wave” of God's transforming love, and that wave sweeps them right into the Father's mission in the Spirit, with Jesus.

One of the most exciting things for me, is seeing staff members and campers from the same congregation being revived together at camp in passion for Jesus' mission, and then carrying that passion home to their church and families. I think that one of the most effective uses of our camps is for adults (pastors, ministry leaders and parents) to go to camp with the young campers and there build relationships, and be renewed in mission together. Many congregations have been transformed in this way.

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## Using GenMin camps to benefit your congregation [continued from last page]

### 3. NEW LEADERS

GenMin camps emphasize the development of emerging leaders. And our goal is to see them actively involved in their home congregation. Many pastors and ministry leaders have found camps to be a great place to identify and recruit new leaders and revitalize existing ones.

GenMin camps emphasize team leadership that is cross-generational. Seasoned leaders keep their eyes (and hearts) open to identify emerging leaders. Time and attention is then invested to help them develop. Titles and positions have less importance than helping individuals find and begin to live out of their God-given purpose. The humility to pass the baton of leadership on to others is a big key here.

### COME TO CAMP!

I believe that pastors and ministry leaders will benefit greatly by participating in a GenMin camp, mission trip or other event. They will see how a clear focus on values, mission and leadership development bears wonderful fruit.

Their participation can help them discover the Lord's answer to several questions related to their congregation:

1. How can our values be more fully aligned with those of Jesus?
2. How can we build loving relationships with our members and with new people (including young people)?
3. How can we gain greater passion and focus for mission?
4. How can we identify, develop and deploy new leaders?



Considering all of these questions at once can be a bit overwhelming. But they can be sorted out over time. And sharing the camp experience together can be a big help. Indeed, camp is a great place to “jump start” a renewed commitment to Christ-centered, cross-generational ministries within your home congregation. We invite you to come, to observe, participate and carry it home.

For a list of our 2009 GenMin camps, mission trips and events see  
<http://genmin.wcg.org/calendar.htm>