

MIDWAY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Founded 1850

MESSENGER

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Rev. Joel Smit, Assistant Pastor
Rev. Todd Allen, Pastor Emeritus

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FROM OUR GUEST PASTOR

Rev. Chris Bowen

When Mr. MacAfee learns that his teenage daughter Kim has run away, he and his wife voice their frustration in a musical lament, Kids! I don't know what's wrong with these kids today! Kids! Who can understand anything they say? Kids! If you identify with Mr. and Mrs. MacAfee on the pains of child rearing and seeming implausibility of understanding them, you might be interested to learn that this is the sentiment of the characters in the Tony-winning, stage musical *Bye, Bye, Birdie*, released fifty-one years ago. What is ironic about the MacAfee's words when we hear them is that they were expressed not to describe today's youth (even though they would be accurate), but the "Boomer" Generation (1946-1964). This means that if you are 47 – 65 years of age, then your generation was once a cultural enigma and the inspiration for this popular satire on American society set in 1958.

If you are a parent, a teacher, a youth worker, a coach, or even an employer of youth and you are at loss for how to relate to the emerging generation (1984-2002), then I commend to you the book *Generation iY – Our Last Chance to Save Their Future* authored by Dr. Tim Elmore, founder and president of the Atlanta-based, non-profit GROWING LEADERS. Dr. Elmore's book is written to provide adult readers with gainful insight on understanding a generation that has never known a world without the internet, always cooked popcorn in a microwave, never ridden in a car without a seatbelt, or had the phrases "roll down your window" or "you sound like a broken record" explained to them (p. 172).

In *Generation iY*, Dr. Elmore connects the struggle of nearly every kid to develop into an emotionally mature, responsible adult with the effects of growing up in a world that has them overwhelmed, overconnected, overprotected, and overserved. These children have grown up with either too much or too little adult involvement, which has stunted their emotional maturation process through the abandonment or abundance of their parents' influence. The ills of abandonment are obviously detrimental, while those of an abundance of parental involvement are more socially acceptable. What we learn is that the lingering effects of a

mom that hovers over her children can be just as damaging as the dad that walks out on his family at an early age. Both instances lead to children getting 'stuck' in adolescence, because they don't want to grow up or simply have never seen an example of what this process looks like. When the ordinary risks of life are minimized for a child, the result for Generation iY can be that a child is unprepared from the rigors and responsibility of college life and holding a steady job in tomorrow's workplace. Certainly, every parent wants their child to succeed, but the question is are we equipping them with the confidence and tools to handle tomorrow's life problems or are we eliminating risk for them, thus enabling their continued dependence on us. And let's face it, the complexity of adulthood, with the economy's uncertain future, healthcare issues, a domestic job market that is going overseas, taxes, etc., can be intimidating. Thus, the question we have to ask ourselves is, how are we preparing the next generation to become tomorrow's leaders in politics, business, medicine, and education, while being cognitively aware that our parental efforts to sanitize the world of risk and failure is counterproductive to the pursuit.

If your desire is to prepare your children or grandchildren, Generation iY, for the world ahead of them, then you should strongly consider reading this insightful book. But before you do, allow me to provide one caveat. *Generation iY* presents conclusions from statistical research and data, thus it is more of a demographic analysis on the state of today's youth than a Christian book on parenting. It will help you understand how cultural, societal, and even parental influences have shaped (both positively and negatively) their desires, emotions, and approaches to life, yet you might find that it raises more questions than it answers. This book encourages adults to come alongside the next generation and help them make the transition from adolescence to adulthood, instead of being ambushed by this inevitability. It won't be an easy endeavor, but it is a one well worth the time and effort.

¹ Tim Elmore, *Generation iY—Our Last Change to Save Their Future* (Atlanta: Poet Gardener Publishing, 2010).

Announcements



Dear Midway family,

Thank you so much for your love, hospitality, gifts, thoughtfulness, and prayers since December. Charlie and I are so thankful for you all. The Lord has certainly blessed us with all the love showered upon us. You have greatly exceeded our needs and continue to do so.

The food basket provided while I was in the hospital was such a wonderful surprise. To those of you who babysat for my precious grandson, Beckett, -- thank you so much. Because of you my daughter, Laura, was able to be at the hospital and go to doctor appointments with me.

Your prayers for me and the weather concerning Lisa's wedding were much appreciated. God is so good. It couldn't have been a more beautiful day! The weather was great and I was able to be a part of Lisa's special day.

The constant flow of encouraging cards and delicious meals has been an overwhelming blessing to us. Even when I was put on a low sodium diet, you met my dietary needs.

Charlie and I are so overwhelmed by all you've done for us. You have been a wonderful testimony of the love of Christ in action to many people, many who do not attend Midway.

Above all, Charlie and I appreciate the many prayers offered on our behalf. We have felt the power of your prayers and praise God as He graciously answers them. We covet your continued prayers and look forward to how God will continue to work His plan in our lives. The Lord has taught us much about receiving from the body of Christ. You have been a great part of that.

Our love and gratitude goes out to you all.
Teresa and Charlie Bursi

FIELD USAGE

The field west of the cemetery will be leveled, graded and seeded next week and will be unavailable for use during May and June. Please schedule all activities involving the use of the field with the church office.

EMPLOYMENT OPPURTUNITIES

Midway Covenant Christian School is currently accepting employment applications for an Elementary teaching position and a Coaching/PE Teacher position. Contact the school office at 770-590-1866 or drop by to pick up an application.

HELP WITH MEALS

If you would like to help the Bursis with a meal please sign up on their schedule at www.takethemameal.com, password 1015; or call Karen Barnett at 770-422-0926.

GRADUATING SENIORS

If you have a graduating senior, please get their information to Joel Smit at joel.smit@midwaypca.org as soon as possible for recognition in the Youth Sunday evening service on May 15th.

BABY SHOWER

Ladies of all ages are invited to a Baby Shower Brunch honoring Mary David on Saturday, May 7th at 10 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Mary and Justin are expecting a boy and are registered at Target and Babies R Us.

SPECIAL DONATION FOR REFORMATION HOPE

If you would like to assist financially with an effort to bring three of the Reformation Hope boy scout orphans to Atlanta from Haiti this July for summer camp, contact Jim Wolff at jwolffs@bellsouth.net or in person. The financial need is for airfare/travel expenses.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Mark your calendars for July 18-22nd. Volunteers are needed; contact Marc Harrington at meh8171@yahoo.com

Missions

MIDWAY-SUPPORTED MISSIONARIES

Stanley and Donna Armes - MTW, South Africa
Peter and Diane Bakelaar - MTW, Japan
David and Stacy Bergmark MTW National Associate – Sweden
Chris and Jen Bowen – RUF Kennesaw State University
Roy and Kristy – Restricted, Asia
Benji and Esther Campbell – WBT Papua New Guinea
David and Sue Cunningham - MTW, Australia
Alan and Chinglien Fiol - MTW, Taiwan
Dan and Rebecca Gregoire – MTW, Slovakia
Sebastian and Isabel Heck – R2G, Germany
Tim and Lois Hunter - WBT Orlando/Nigeria
Gary and Linda Johnson – MTW, Sweden
Scott and Tracy Ketrow - CCC, Italy
Dale and Nancy Knudson - MTW, Cambodia
Albert & Jennifer Kona – MTA, Albania
Endi and Kati Kovacs - CRM, Hungary
John and Kathy Lesondak - MTW, Slovakia
Steve and Ann Lutz – SIM, USA
Tim and Nicole - Restricted, Europe
David and Jill Martin - MTW, Ukraine
Demetrios Marmaras - PEF, Greece
Mike and Robin McMahan - MTW, Ecuador
Bob and Patty Meredith - NAV, Kenya
Harry and Julie Miller - PEF, Atlanta/Bulgaria
Wayne and Amy Newsome - MTW, Japan
Young and Soon Park - MTW, South Korea
Jean Paul – RHI, Haiti
Andy and Sue Peck - WBT, Orlando
Chuck and Wyema - Restricted, Europe
Clay and Darlene Quarterman - MTW, Ukraine
Nathan and Clare Richardson – HCCF, Panama
Palmer and Joanna Robertson - ABU, Uganda
Guillermo and Jeannie Salinas - PEF, Mexico
Roger and Dianne Smalling - MTW, Latin America
John and Liz - Restricted, West Africa
Jan – Restricted, Europe
Linda Summer - PEF, The Agape Puppets
Jim and Catalina Tate - MTW, Ecuador
Johan and Stephanie van der Westhuizen, MTW, Chile
Bruce and Barbara Wannemacher - MTW, South Africa
Becky White - MTW, Taiwan
Linda Wixon - MTW, Japan
Steve and Kathy Womack – WBT, Waxhaw / Africa
Pat Wood - PEF, Freedom Ministries

Mission Organizations supported by Midway

ABU -- African Bible University
CCC -- Campus Crusade for Christ
CRM-- Church Resource Ministries
MTA -- Missions to Albania
MTW -- Mission to the World
NAV - The Navigators
PEF - Presbyterian Evangelistic Fellowship
Restricted – due to sensitive ministry
RHI -- Reformation Hope, Inc.
R2G - Reformation 2 Germany
RUF - Reformed University Fellowship
SIM - Serving in Mission
WBT -- Wycliffe Bible Translators

Just wanted to give you the good report from our high school mission trip to Dalton, GA. We worked with the same Dalton church as last year and helped various families with much needed repairs and yard work on their homes. We had 20 youth and 5 adults. I have been working with kids in various capacities since my days as a junior scout master...that was a long time ago...and this was as good a group as I have ever been associated with. They were willing and eager to work hard and get the jobs done and they are to be commended. Also, Joel Smit did a great job of leading them in each and every way. They each represented the Lord, Midway church and their parents well.

Thanks,
Wes Richardson

MISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS

HAITI MISSIONS TRIP, July 23 - 30, 2011 - Those who are interested in the Haiti trip, please call or e-mail Scott Keesee (770) 444-9837, slelek@bellsouth.net. The deadline for signing up is May 8. Church members 16 and older may participate. Those who have completed forms, please give those to Scott as soon as possible.

ALBANIA SUMMER MISSIONS TRIP- A team from Midway has been invited to return to work with the church in Durres, Albania to host daily English lessons. The dates for this trip are July 29- August 8. More information about the trip may be found on the missions table, and an informational meeting will be held after the morning service on May 15.

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