

The Lowedown

An update on the life and ministry of Dave & Jennifer Lowe



A "Golden" Opportunity

Lately, we've been thinking a lot about marriage. In November, Jen and I attended a Weekend to Remember Marriage Conference hosted by FamilyLife. It was excellent. If you haven't been to one, we highly recommend it.

In February, Jen and I helped out at a Weekend to Remember Conference in Anaheim. There were a number of military couples attending and our Military ministry had a special booth and specific resources to help military families navigate the unique marital struggles they encounter.

In February, our church embarked on a 3 year plan that will lay the foundation for the next 45 years. One of the initiatives that is laid out as part of the "Dream Now" vision is strengthening families. A statistic that was shared is that 70% of all marriages in Orange County end in divorce.

We know all too well how the breakdown of the family has impacted the Young Adults of today. The landscape of families has encountered a seismic shift in the last 40-50 years.

When I was a kid, I didn't know anyone whose parents were divorced. Today, divorce is so common that it's almost strange to meet a Young Adult whose parents are still together.

All of this has created some unique challenges and opportunities when it comes to ministry.

Young Adults are less likely to have a strong extended family to rely on for support, whether it's emotional or financial.

Because the nuclear family has been so fractured over the past 50 years, many Young Adults are longing for older adults who can provide mentoring and sage life advice that older family members have traditionally provided. I can't tell you how often a Young Adult has mentioned to me or to Jen that they have nobody in their life who is older that they can discuss life issues with.

For the last few years, I've been very involved in men's ministry at my church (Jen is also very involved in the women's ministry). I do some occasional teaching and I give leadership to a group of men who meet early on a weekly basis.

I've enjoyed applying all of the ministry training and experience I've accrued over the years to help older guys grow in their spiritual lives.

As I've connected with men over the years, I've realized that spiritually speaking, old guys have the same needs as young guys. Men want to make a difference and they want

their lives to count. Men often want to take steps to grow spiritually but often, they don't know what to do beyond attending church, giving money and being involved in a small group.

Lately, we've been wondering if we can somehow "marry" our day job (Young Adults) with our ministry to older adults.

Young adults overwhelmingly indicate they want older people in their lives to function as mentors and even spiritual guides.

Older adults often communicate a strong desire to make an impact in others, particularly the younger generation.

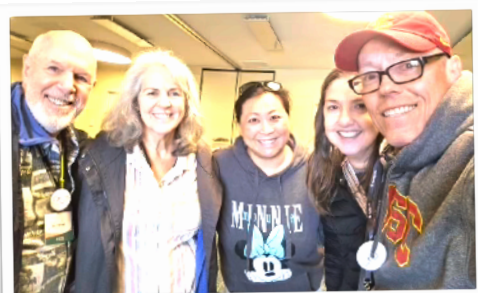
What if we could help older Christians take steps to mentor and influence young adults around them?

We've actually had this idea for a while but it's been brought to the forefront more recently as God has provided numerous situations and personal examples that have made this need obvious and undeniable.

Our vision is not just to mentor Young Adults directly, though we are doing that. What we really want to do is to multiply our impact by equipping others, particularly older, wiser and more mature believers to take steps to pour into and impact Young adults. We believe that there is a golden opportunity for those who are entering their golden years!

Perhaps that sounds interesting. If so, let us know. We'd love to hear your thoughts and provide support and help for you to take meaningful steps that would enable you to make an impact in the lives of others!

Thank you for your continued prayers and partnership that enables us to minister to Young adults...and Old adults as well!



Jen and I had the opportunity to help our Cru Military ministry at a FamilyLife Conference. Multiple ministries intersecting!

Love,
Dave & Jen