

What Would You Change if You Could Live Your Life Over?

Perhaps this is a question that you have asked yourself before. It seems the older one becomes, the more relevant the question is. A number of years ago this question was asked by a well-known sociologist as he interviewed one hundred, 100 year-old people.

When asked what they would change if they could live their life over again, those interviewed drew upon their century of accumulated wisdom to respond with answers that fell into three general categories. They were:

Take things less serious

Worry less

Involve myself in things that outlive me

Although all three responses make for interesting discussion, it is the third response I would like to expound upon.

Over the years we have probably participated in many causes and purposes that began as fulfilling experiences. But after investing significant time, energy, and dollars in something we believed in, we became disappointed when we learned that our interest no longer exists due to a lack of participation by others, inadequate funding, or any other number of reasons.

The point is we sometimes involve ourselves in things that do not outlive us. Thus comes the wisdom in becoming involved in things that will outlive us.

Then where should we involve ourselves? A good place to consider is our District congregations and ministries. Of course there are numerous charitable causes outside the church that will outlive us also, but as people of faith, a first consideration of our time, talent, and treasure should be in service to the church and for the sake of the Kingdom.

If it is time we have to give, give of it abundantly. If it is talent, give of it freely. And if we have been blessed with the ability to give of our treasure, then give generously and faithfully. In Psalm 112:5 we read, "God will come to him who is generous." In whatever form we are able to be generous, God will bless the giver. Your local congregation's pastor and leaders can guide you to a variety of ways to use your time, talents, and treasures.

The Michigan District can also help guide you towards serving within a Recognized Service Organization or to participate in the Michigan District's 125th Anniversary Thank Offering which is raising funds for church planting and professional church worker scholarships. For information on how you can contact an RSO or support the Thank Offering, please contact the Development Office of the Michigan District at 888.225.2111 or visit www.michigandistrict.org.

Your service and generosity will not only be important to the work of the church today, but for generations to come.

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