



# HAPPY NOTES *at home*

for the Vineyard Church family



**A Perfect Team**

by Happy Leman

## When I Was Young

As a young boy working on a farm, my dad told me countless stories of when he was young and worked on the farm. My dad, born in 1918 spent his early years farming with horses. Generally they would use 2 horses harnessed side by side to pull the farm implement. **Dad always said the best team was an old wise horse teamed with a young powerful horse.** The older horse provided wisdom, steadiness, and direction for the team while the young horse provided strength, stamina, and endurance. He encouraged me to always combine those 2 entities in every endeavor I faced.

## The Meaning Today

I often reflect back on the “team of horses story.” I’ve seen it happen many times throughout my career as a pastor. It is currently happening as we look at our young adults and the rest of our church membership. We are blessed to have a precious and powerful group of young adults who are on fire for Jesus Christ. Their strength and endurance are amazing as compared to those of us who are much older.

Of course this church has many over 30 members who have been faithful saints for years. We’ve matured, grown wiser, and have developed the ability to see the big picture. We bring valuable aspects to the mix that cannot be gained any other way than through long years of serving faithfully in the Kingdom.

**When these two generations are combined, we have a perfect team.** We get the strength, zeal, and risk taking aspects of the younger as well as the maturity and stability of the older. Together we can do amazing things in the power and presence of the Holy Spirit.

## The Next Step

Within our rapidly changing society, there’s a growing trend towards integrating young adults more fully into the life of the larger church body. Over the last few years, a number of churches have made this step and found it to be a positive move toward unifying the entire membership. As a result, we are ending the separate Sunday evening service for our young adults. **(God Search will continue as a ministry but will no longer meet separately for a weekend service.)**

We’re excited about the concept because we believe the younger group (like the younger horse) will bring great energy, strength, and stamina to the efforts in which we’re involved. This of course involves enthusiasm for church planting, ministry, worship, working with children, and touching the lives of many of the newcomers. Plus we realize that it is a great way to train the younger generations to take over the leadership role in the coming years.

## Older Adult Opportunities

As we make this transition, the older adults have a wonderful opportunity before them. Our younger members are often longing for the friendship and connection with older adults. Many of them grew up in broken homes and did not have the same loving, stable relationships that our

generation enjoyed. We are encouraging every older adult (above 30) to seek out the younger adults (15-30) to befriend them and act as mentors at this time. This would involve inviting them into your home, talking to them at church, encouraging them to join ministries in which you're involved, and just forming friendships.

### **Other Implications**

This move toward integrating all generations will have a huge impact on the church. First it will bring an influx of young life and enthusiasm into the older part of the church. Second it will bring an opportunity for both generations to influence each other. Overall we see only positive fruit coming from this move.

We're so excited about it that we're even considering some type of adjustments to our high school ministry. While we're not sure of what this would look like at this time, we see the potential of the same benefit of integrating them more into the life of the entire church body rather than segmenting them off.

**Please be aware that regardless of what we do with our young adults and/or high school students, we will still maintain active ministries for these ages.** We're talking primarily about integration on weekends and not necessarily for the entire ministry. Both God Search and high school ministry (Revolution) will continue full speed ahead but will look somewhat different than it does now.

If you have any thoughts or comments, I would love to hear them. Please contact me at [happy.leman@thevineyardchurch.us](mailto:happy.leman@thevineyardchurch.us). Thanks for being friends and partners.