

## Generational Stewardship

Christians of different generations have different ways of showing their values and expressing good stewardship and generosity. As we seek to communicate with all ages in our congregations and communities, we need to use a variety of metaphors to relate to one another. Here are responses from hundreds of church members when they attended fourteen “Spirited Stewardship” workshops throughout the California-Nevada Conference:

<u>Generation:</u>	<u>Shaping Experiences:</u>	<u>Some Values:</u>	<u>Related to Stewardship:</u>
<b>Builders / G.I. Generation</b> (b.1901-1924)	WWI, WWII, Depression	“Civic generation” (Strauss&Howe) family, rooted in one community, self-sacrifice, teamwork <i>Ozzie &amp; Harriett</i> family stability Loyalty, patriotism	Why need “stuff” (materialism)? Give because it’s the church Sacrifice for others Duty, saving, Hang on (for survival) Dream for their children Do without Self-reliant No older generation has been so relied upon to foot the bill for its grown children to buy a house or grandchildren to go to college (No generation has lived so long before)
<b>Pioneer / Silent Generation</b> (b. 1925-1945)	WWII, Depression, Korean War	Beginning of mobility Focus on others; adaptation Open-minded Authority of experts Importance of work ethic May feel betrayed by B.B. kids Highly educated (G.I. Bill) <i>Father Knows Best</i> family image	“The American Dream” Sandwich generation, caring for parents and children Work for one company for a lifetime Financial planning Service oriented Interest in “leaving a legacy” Huge wealth transfer (\$40-120 trillion)

<b>Baby Boomers</b> (b. 1946-1964)	Vietnam, civil rights, 60s, Peace Corps, TV, Have seen “the demise of neighborhoods”	Visionary, moral issues Question authority Self-fulfillment Work as career Hands-on mission Instant gratification	Abundant life Social conscience Two-income households What helps me grow as a Christian? Hands-on ministry (e.g., UM VIM, Habitat) Giving as an investment, partnership w/ God Choice. What is most time-efficient? Intentional community Life/ministry as journey
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-----**Postmoderns:** Tex Sample calls these younger generations “**the electronic culture**” -----  
Note: Shift in Focus (Bill Easum, *Through the Wormhole*)

<b>Gen X / Advent Generation</b> (b. 1965-1976)	PC Computers	Skeptics about group identity See selves as proud survivors Latch-key kids, more divorce, more poverty Immediate information	Don't expect to be as wealthy as parents Church as family High tech, high touch: hands-on ministry About 20% of them now live below poverty rate, but 2/3 of them believe that if they're ever unemployed, it will be their own fault Some overnight millionaires (DotComs), but also overnight busts This country's fiscal burden has shifted from the G.I. Generation to this generation; but they keep worries hidden
<b>Gen Net</b> (b. 1977-1994)	Internet	Note early gap (between haves and have-nots) Look for core Christian experiences and relationships	Savvy consumers Leapfrog legacies Save for future Stewardship of the earth Hands-on ministry

**Millennial  
Generation**  
(b. 1995 & later)

Technology  
explosion!

Strauss & Howe study sees  
them as “the new civic  
generation”  
Look for the “ancient-future  
church (the Church in Acts)  
No interest in institutional survival

Hands-on ministry!  
Church as family  
Giving as spiritual discipline  
Living the simpler life  
Image of *jai alai*, not croquet (Tom Bandy)  
re. church involvement