



Sabbatical Update Report (#1) from Pastor Bruce Schipul, Summer 2014

This is the first of several updates of our sabbatical experience.

We drove to San Antonio, Texas and enjoyed a few days of relaxing walk along what they call the River Walk and also toured the Alamo history site.



We then drove to Georgetown, Texas and enjoyed learning about a church in a large Del Webb Planned Age-Restricted Community called Sun City.



We attended worship and then had lunch with the senior pastor Kelly Barnette and several

of the church leaders. They are learning how to reach adults in transition.

The average age of new residents in Sun City is 60!

They realize that this is having a major impact on



expectations, and how “active adult” is defined. The church has installed two screens and project the words to their hymns and songs. They are discovering and responding to the different needs of the younger residents.

We then drove to the Dallas megaplex to Cristy’s sister’s home in Richardson where we relaxed for several days.

This gave us an opportunity to visit two churches in central Texas highly recommended by Dr. Amy Hanson, a national authority on senior and boomer ministry. I received lots of resources to consider.

We spent a day at **First Baptist Church of Arlington, TX** and met with Larry Link, pastor of 2nd Half Ministries. He shared with great passion how the church understood the need and developed great opportunities for seniors and boomers. We attended the Fellowship Night meal and participated in the senior pastors Bible study. This church serves over 6,000 people.



We were not sure what to expect in Tyler, Texas to visit Green Acres Baptist Church serving over 20,000 in that community. We spent the day with Kevin Burdette, their pastor of Adult Impact.

We toured their amazing campus and learned their engaging, broad-based, and grassroots ministry to seniors and boomers. We were quite impressed with the way the church blesses new ministries.



While each of these churches are several times bigger than Palm West Community Church, the manner at which they respond to needs is definitely transferrable to our smaller setting.



Mark 6:31 *And he said to them, “Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while.”*