

“What is SAGES?”

Dale Beebe

I have put this article together for one purpose—to clearly explain what SAGES is. Several of my pastoral friends have asked, “What is SAGES?” and my hope is that everyone who reads this will walk away with a clear understanding of its purpose and potential.

SAGES is an acronym that stands for Senior Adults Giving Evangelistic Support. It is a ministry designed for senior adults—those who are still actively serving, as well as those who may be re-acclimating themselves to ministry involvement within the local church. As Terry Shock once wisely said, “It’s not retirement—it’s repositioning.”

SAGES is a ministry that must function from the ground level up. While we do have a national department, the true effectiveness of SAGES depends on its presence in the local church, supported by sectional leadership and district directors. For SAGES to reach its full potential, it is vital that district superintendents and district boards also catch the vision.

At times, when a ministry does not personally apply to someone, it may not initially generate much interest. However, when we consider the structure of the local church, we readily recognize the need for children’s ministry, youth and young adults, young married couples, and singles. With that in mind, why would we not recognize the need for a focused ministry for our senior adults?

One of the best ways to understand SAGES is to imagine the youth department in your local church—but replace the age group with those 55 and older.

What does a youth department do? It connects young people through fellowship and activities. It creates opportunities for involvement—music, singing, speaking, and ministry roles they might not otherwise have in the main service.

The same principle applies to SAGES.

Why not host a monthly SAGES service on an off night? Senior adults might sing an old chorus or a hymn or two. They could share announcements, testimonies, and conclude with a meaningful 20-minute devotional. Establishing a local SAGES director has the potential to revolutionize your congregation. You may be surprised by how many people are added to your church through this often untapped ministry.

Every soul counts.

Thank you for your interest in SAGES. Let us become intentional about making a difference in our senior community.

In His Service,

Dale Beebe

National SAGES Secretary

