



September 17, 2014

Greetings from the CLN!

What happened to August? Did your church family launch the new church year in the past few weeks? We would love to hear about what your library team did this year to participate in the launch. How are you supporting the Bible Study ministry of your church this year? The Fall always brings great opportunities for ministry through our libraries. Click [here](#) to share your ideas and experiences.

Last Friday I heard a Baby Boomer explain to a large group why his company's library was closing. He gave the familiar rationale—"I haven't been to our public library in years. I get everything I need from the Internet." Must admit, I was stunned because many of us have loved that library for years. Some of you even worked in that library so this closing is a huge loss to us.

But the very next day I heard about a recent Pew Research study on Millennials that revived my hope for the future. Take a few minutes to enjoy this brief interview: [Millennial Generation Likes Old Fashioned Technology: Books](#). Did you catch it? "We also saw that there was more library use, particularly if you counted visits to the library as well as visits to the library website." Don't you find it ironic that churches and denominations are wringing their hands over the loss of Millennials at the same time they are ending ministries including church libraries. I doubt any of our church leaders would connect the loss of Millennials with the loss of church libraries. Okay, that may seem out of touch but maybe not. Millennials seem to still go to their nearby libraries. And yes, a high percentage of that is related to their education needs, but don't miss their interest in taking their children to libraries.

Let's ponder how our church libraries might be a way to attract young adults to our church families. These young adults include both those who grew up in our churches and those who have never been. Click [here](#) to participate in this dialogue. Share with us what you are doing as well as ideas you are coming up with to reach young adults. Could a church library become an avenue to reach young adults who have never been in a church family?

May God bless our September ministry actions. Let's stay in touch here at the CLN!! Let's literally see ourselves standing in a circle praying for each other and our ministries as we begin a new year!

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