

WHAT IS A SECOND WIND FORUM?

It is a mission event specifically designed for people in the "second half" of their lives. The Forum's goal is to help people in the second half of their productive adult life catch their second wind for mission or cross-cultural ministry – globally or locally, through their local church or with an established mission agency.

It is a forum supported by the combined efforts of Second Wind Network, The Navigators Australia Second Half Ministries, churches, and para-church mission sending organizations. It is designed to present options and opportunities to believers who have a heart for taking the gospel to the lost, who are at a crossroads in their lives or careers and who want to make an impact for the Kingdom through participation in a missions opportunity (at home or overseas). It will also help to raise mission awareness and promote greater involvement in home-based support roles. The goal is not to just have forums but to actually connect people in the second half of their lives with missions assignments (as a second career, or for short or medium term assignments).

Although the focus of the forum program is for those in the second half of their adult life, younger individuals who have an interest in missions are also welcome.

WHO IS SECOND WIND NETWORK?

Second Wind Network was established to challenge the baby boomer generation (people born between 1946 and 1964) to process the switch from marketplace to careers in missions. It is designed to stand in the gap between mission agencies and churches. We network with local churches, mission agencies and individuals. SWN works with representatives from more than twenty sending agencies to jointly inspire, challenge and mobilise this age group. (See attachment for more details about Second Wind Network.)

WHY DO WE HOLD SECOND WIND FORUMS?

1. We desire to see the gospel taken to the unreached people of the world and so hasten the fulfilment of the Great Commission. We believe that Second Wind People have a tremendous contribution to make and yet desire some help and encouragement to become involved. Our goal is to help them catch their second wind, by informing, inspiring and challenging in an environment where they can explore opportunities without fear of pressure, with other people who have similar interests and questions.
2. Second Wind Network seeks to serve the church by providing a context in which its members – especially those in the second half of their adult lives – can explore mission involvement. We seek to complement the mission work and agenda already established by the local church and have developed a model and tools to do that.

FORUM STYLES

1. Regional Forum

A region may be a group of adjacent suburbs in a city (such as the Bayside suburbs of Brisbane, or on the Sunshine Coast). It may be a smaller provincial town. It would comprise enough churches to ensure a high enough attendance to make the forum worthwhile and cover expenses. A regional forum can be hosted by one church or a group of churches.

- *Joint Regional Forum:* You can co-operate with a number of churches in your local region to jointly sponsor a SW Forum. This is the recommended style for a city forum.
- *Regional Forum Host Church:* Your church can individually host a regional forum and invite members of other churches to attend.

2. Congregational Forum

You can choose to have a forum specifically for your congregation.

Depending on which one of these models you choose, the content and timetable will vary. The smaller the forum the smaller the range of electives and options, but the more specialised it can be.

It can be a full day or a half day in length.

WHY SHOULD MY CHURCH BE INVOLVED?

For those churches who are dedicated to the Great Commission, this forum can be a useful tool in helping identify those believers in your church who are being prepared by the Lord to serve in missions. The forum can help both you and members of your congregation assess where they are in the process so that you can work with them to help them progress to the next level of involvement. We aim to assist local churches with their missions programs wherever possible. We will work in consultation with you in planning the structure and content of the forum.

HOW WILL THE MEMBERS OF MY CONGREGATION BENEFIT?

Your members will benefit by gaining a broader vision of how the Lord is working all around the globe to build His Kingdom. We aim to draw together a number of speakers who are lay people who have been "in the field" and who can share their joys and challenges first hand, as well as mission agency reps and others with particular expertise. (This will depend to some degree on your geographic location.) Depending on the electives included, attendees will have the opportunity to explore specific interests (eg business as mission, the use of TESOL, short term teams, etc) and discover principles for preparing spiritually, mentally and financially.

FEATURES OF THE FORUM:

- 1. Program Elements:**
 - Teaching on the "Second Half" concept and characteristics of this life stage presented by SWN and Navigators staff.
 - Videos
 - A mini-missions expo with displays mounted by SWN partner agencies
 - Electives, presented by Mission Agency staff or other qualified specialists (eg TESOL)
 - Focus on a religious bloc or people group if appropriate
- 2. Organisation**
 - A Second Wind Forum is coordinated logistically by SWN staff and draws on other mission agencies and organisations for input as appropriate eg for electives.
 - A forum can be hosted by one local church or a group of churches.
 - A local Forum Coordinator is the primary volunteer to give leadership to the effort. This person oversees a Forum Team to implement the promotion, coordination and preparations for the Forum. He/she is also the contact person with the SWN office.
 - The program is determined by the local Forum Team in consultation with SWN staff.
- 3. Finance**
 - The costs are kept to a minimum by the local churches utilising their own facilities (where possible), local knowledge and relationships eg billet accommodation (where necessary), own photocopying of flyers, use of church technical personnel, etc
 - A suitable registration fee is determined to cover costs
 - A minimal per person administration fee is payable to SWN
 - We advise that participating churches contribute to a working fund to cover promotional and other pre-forum expenses.
 - SWN will work with you to develop a budget.

Further Administrative Details are available in our Forum Administration Guidelines

WHAT NEXT?

If you would like to explore the possibility of running a forum please would you contact Second Wind Network and we will give you all the assistance we can.

Email: forums@secondwind.net.au

Phone: (07) 3843 6610 or 0409 498 449

Web: www.secondwind.net.au

WHO IS SECOND WIND NETWORK?

Our Vision: To see God glorified by a movement of Australian Christians in the second half of their lives actively engaged in cross-cultural mission.

Our Mission: To mobilise Australian Christians in the second half of their lives into active involvement in local and global mission by educating, inspiring and challenging them and by developing strategic pathways which facilitate their participation.

Our purpose is to:

- Encourage “second half” Christians to maximise their involvement in the completion of the Great Commission.
- Assist churches to mobilise their second half members into mission involvement.
- Support the sending agencies, and is not a sending agency itself.
- Provide an interface between local churches and mission agencies where people can ask questions and explore opportunities without fear of pressure.
- Address issues confronting “second half” Christians related to their involvement in missions.
- Highlight the opportunities available to them.

Our Core Values: We believe in

- Passionate commitment to the fulfilment of the Great Commission (Matt 28:19)
- Complete dependence on God, through prayer (Jn 15:5)
- The Significance of “second half” Christians in God’s global plan: We believe they have a valuable contribution to make towards the fulfilment of the Great Commission (Matt 20:1-15)
- Strategic partnerships: We network and develop partnerships with local churches and mission agencies which share our values, to create synergy and hasten the fulfilment of our vision. (Ps 133)
- Excellence in all we do, for the glory of God (Col 3:23)
- Servant heart attitude towards churches, mission agencies and individuals (Phil 2:4-6)

Our Statement of Faith

We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative Word of God.

We believe that there is one God, creator of all things, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and glory.

We believe that for the salvation of lost and sinful people, redemption through the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ and regeneration by the Holy Spirit are absolutely essential.

We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is empowered and gifted for godly living and service.

We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved to eternal life and they that are lost to eternal punishment.

We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ and that all believers belong to the universal church.

We believe that Christ commanded the Church to love our neighbours resulting in service to the church and society.

We believe that Christ commanded the Church to go into all the world and make disciples of all peoples, baptising them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and teaching those who believe to obey all that Christ commanded.