Windows of Opportunity

7 transitions that God can use.
Colossians 4:2–6; Psalm 61

Many people become receptive to the gospel when they face change in their lives. Here are a few windows of opportunity for God to work.

1. Following the birth of a child. New parents wake up quickly to the physical and spiritual needs that arise with raising children. Young parents go back to church propelled by a desire to give their children spiritual guidance.

2. Following a move. People who have recently moved into a new community are searching for friends, doctors, dentists, places to shop—and churches.

3. During a crisis event. Death, injury, a job layoff, and other kinds of crises cause people to consider the big questions of life. What is the purpose of my life? Why do bad things happen to me? What do I do when I can't fix things on my own? Is there a God who cares about me? Where can I find others who will support me during this crisis?

4. During a time of hurt. Divorce, drugs, and various forms of abuse take an emotional toll. The growth of the support-group movement is a direct response to this open window of opportunity.

5. During a period of physical renewal. Many people are renewing their commitments to walking, jogging, or participating regularly in sports programs such as softball, volleyball, or basketball. Churches can reach these folks through sports-oriented programs.

6. During the transition to single parenting. A wide-open window is new parents who are single. Such ministry may offer spiritual-growth opportunities along with practical support.

7. During the childcare years. The continuing need for two-income families produces the corresponding need for childcare.
—Gary L. McIntosh

To Discuss
1. What are some other windows into people lives that you've observed?
2. What is the Good News for someone going through change?
3. Which of our church programs target people in transition?
4. What is one program for people in transition that we might develop, given our strengths as a church?