



September 2024

Dear CWR/PTM Friend and Partner,

For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. Meanwhile, we groan, longing to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling... and we would prefer to be away from the body and present with the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:1-2, 8).

When I turned 50, along with nearly everyone else my age in these United States, I started receiving literature from the AARP (American Association for Retired Persons). I was surprised—to be honest, I was offended. What? My 50th birthday meant I needed help crossing the street?

One of my rude awakenings to the reality I was getting old(er) happened some time ago when Karen and I walked up to buy tickets at a movie theatre. The teenager who was selling tickets looked at us and asked me if we needed one adult and one senior.

I immediately felt compelled to come to my wife's defense. How dare this young lady think my wife was a senior! But a second later, I realized that I was the senior to whom the teenager was offering a discount. I bit my tongue, swallowed my pride, and accepted her gracious offer! Old age has its benefits and bargains! Accept the discount—even if it hurts!!

Laughter is really the best medicine, is it not? Compared with so many, I have nothing to complain about, I am thankful and blessed in many ways, including my health. However, as my family urges me, I am trying to stay away from ladders and bicycles, be cautious while driving and more aware of traffic when my wife and I are walking around our neighborhood.

A friend of mine who is about my age told me he started to know he was getting older when he was reading a book to Emma, his five-year-old granddaughter. Sitting on his lap, she looked deeply into his eyes, touched his wrinkled face and asked him, "Did God make you Grandpa?"

"Yes, honey, God made me a long time ago." Emma said, "Well, I don't look like you! I'm not tired all the time like you! Did God make me too?"

"Yes honey, he made you but he only made you just a few years ago." Emma digested that information for a minute or so and then she replied, "Well, it looks like God's getting better at making people isn't he?"

There's an old story about a hiker who was in a remote area, not having seen another human or a single thing made by a human all day when suddenly, seemingly out of nowhere, he found himself in a clearing where an old cabin had been built.

An old(er) lady was sitting on the porch on a rocking chair. Stopping to say hello and trying to initiate a conversation he asked her, "Have you lived here all your life?" She said, "Not yet."

As senior citizens, we may still accomplish a great deal, because we are not dead yet!

Here are three thoughts and observations about Christ-centered aging:

1) God is not finished with us! We can STOP and LOOK and LISTEN!

We can stop, look and listen for ways we can serve others. While your circumstances may be difficult, and while you may be in either or both physical and emotional pain, *“in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of others”* (Philippians 2:4).

God is never finished with us—he is always teaching, forming and shaping us into new men and women, transforming us into his very own new creation in Christ. He is always, in Christ, working in us so that we may serve others!

We hear so many inspiring stories about how many of you serve others in the name of Christ. Thank you for doing so! We are not dead yet! We have, as Robert Frost said, **miles to go before we sleep!** There are many ways we can impact lives in service to Jesus.

Perhaps you can volunteer as a school-crossing guard, or as a tutor in an elementary school, or help at your local senior citizen’s center. Perhaps you have a neighbor for whom you can pick up groceries. You can offer a hand, a smile, a phone call. You can send a card of friendship and appreciation. You can offer your prayers for those in need.

2) Set Your Mind on Christ. Focus on God’s House... Not Your Earthly Surroundings.

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things (Colossians 3:1-2).

Hebrews 11 is the “faith chapter”—it speaks of the faith of Old Testament men and women who lived in “tents” and temporary dwellings here on earth all the while looking forward to *“a better country—a heavenly one”* (vs. 16). **Walking in Christ means looking forward in faith to a better place, a better country, a heavenly one.**

It’s so easy for all of us, as we age, to feel unwanted, unappreciated and even alienated from the younger generation(s). It is tempting, as we age, to become grumpy, hostile, embittered and even angry at the world at large. It is so easy to allow the world and all of its problems to envelop, surround and absorb our attention, taking away our focus from Jesus Christ.

As a senior it is so easy to look around and see the world has changed dramatically, and so easy to focus on the changes that seem to be taking our society in the wrong direction, neglecting to ponder the changes that have been positive and uplifting. As we age it is easy to become cynical, skeptical, suspicious and pessimistic.

Focus on the beautiful, the positive, the uplifting, the eternal—there is a better world coming! Your eternal house is God’s home in his kingdom! Though our bodies are aging and though they are fading away, we *“fix our eyes not on what is seen, but what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal”* (2 Corinthians 4:18).

3) Rest in Christ—Focus on the Road Ahead—LOOK FORWARD to Eternity!

In most cases, getting old(er) means being relieved from many of the pressures of life we once experienced. Some of the blessings of growing older center around the diminished pressure to work 40 or more hours a week, and in many cases, the emotional and physical energy needed in parenting children (and even, in some cases, parenting grandchildren, as some of you do) and preparing them for their transition into the adult world.

Relieved of such pressures and responsibilities **we have more time to see and observe the beauty of God's creation**, watching sunsets and even, for those who rise early enough, sunrises. These are timeless moments of physical and spiritual rest—perhaps we could also call them “time-free” moments as we are not as enslaved as we once were to the taskmaster that time can be.

We have more time to think about eternity, and realize that eternity is better than what we are experiencing right now! Eternity lies on the *other side* of the door we will pass through when we pass from this side of eternity to the other. Eternity on the *other side* is a “time” when time no longer exists—no more clocks, no more mortality limiting us to a period of “time” during which we are alive.

In this lifetime the clock is always ticking. There's always an appointment to keep, traffic to battle, tests and scans to be taken and then the long wait for results. Cars must be washed and serviced, clothing must be washed and ironed, beds must be made and changed, meals must be prepared and dishes must be cleaned.

When we are with God, in his house, forever—when we inhabit eternity—we will no longer be harried or hurried by the constraints of time. *During this lifetime, there is never enough time.* We are always amazed by how fast time goes, or how slowly, or how much of it is gone. We always want and desire more time—in God's eternal kingdom **time will be no more, we will inherit and inhabit eternity**, without the pressures of time and mortality. We will be home in our heavenly dwelling, in our immortal, resurrected body, a new creation of God!

Until next month, my dear friends, I thank you for all you do as you support this ongoing ministry—you are, no matter your age or your circumstances, as a CWR/PTM Friend and Partner, **MAKING A REAL AND LASTING DIFFERENCE FOR NOW, IN THIS TIME, AND FOR ETERNITY!**

Our heavenly Father,

No matter the circumstances we encounter as we age—and no matter the obstacles, regardless of the health challenges we endure—we remain your precious children. More than that, we continue, by your grace, to mature in Christ, and thus the life of our risen Lord in us enables us to age grace-fully. As time and the aging process has its way with us, we are comforted knowing that you are having your way with us, too. The new creation you are forming and fashioning in us will last for all eternity. Thank you for your love, your care and your assurance. Amen.

Your brother in Christ,



Greg Albrecht
President, Plain Truth Ministries

CWR/PTM Prayer List—September 2024

These requests for prayer represent just a few of the thousands we receive and pray for. We invite you to join us in praying for these and the others that space does not permit us to include here. Thanks for joining with us as a CWR/PTM Prayer Partner.

Please pray for our elderly neighbors who had flooding in their home. They're now living in our home while theirs is restored.—Oregon

Please pray for my adult son to stay sober and remain committed to his marriage and family.—Arizona

Please pray for our daughter and her family as she suffers through some mental issues.—Kansas

Please pray for God's healing and relief from my struggles with anxiety.—South Carolina

Thanks for all your prayers about the virus I was struggling with. I am doing much better now!—Georgia

Please pray for our family to be healthy and our children to be blessed with good employment.—Utah

Please pray for my wife's surgery on her carotid artery to be successful and free of complications.—California

Please pray for my 93-year-old mother... her health is in decline and she is depressed.—Washington

Thank you for your prayers for me and my grandson. Please continue to pray for our safety and well-being. I thank God for Pastor Greg and everyone at CWR/PTM.—Delaware

Please pray for my son-in-law (who is only in his forties). He recently suffered a heart attack.—California

I have early stages of prostate cancer. Please pray for healing and successful treatments.—Minnesota

Pray for my continued healing after I suffered a stroke from a blood clot in my kidneys.—Texas

Please pray for my sister who has extreme back pain. Her feet and legs swell severely.—Virginia

Please pray for my son (age 46). He has a serious heart condition and doesn't understand how serious it is.—North Carolina

My husband underwent chemotherapy recently—please pray for his complete healing from cancer.—Kentucky

Please continue to pray that my niece's upcoming treatments will be successful.—Tennessee

Please pray for me, as I'm suffering with A-Fib and my blood pressure is too high.—Georgia

Please pray for my daughter who is busy with college and work. Pray for God to give her the strength and energy so she can accomplish her goals.—Arizona

I have really bad knee pain (bone on bone), and sometimes it is hard to walk. Please pray for me.—Minnesota

Pray for our country's leaders and pray for an end to the wars in Ukraine and the Middle East.—Colorado

Please pray for our children's and grandchildren's relationships with us and with God.—Oregon

Please pray for my brother, he has lung cancer and is in an assisted living home.—Washington

Please pray for my friend who is recovering from surgery to insert stents in two arteries after a recent heart attack. Thank you in advance for all the prayers.—California

Our Father in Heaven: We thank you for your grace, mercy and love. You love each of these individuals, and we thank you in advance for the answers you will provide for each request. With thanksgiving for our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, our suffering servant who heals us, in whose name we pray—Amen.