

Borders

February, 2016

Seniors Without Borders has had an exciting start to the year. We met for brunch in January, followed by our first Seniors Without Borders lunch for 2016 at Arnold and Sheryl's new home in February, and our first ever Seniors' Bible Study at Coffee on the Deck. An exciting year is ahead! We hope you enjoy this snapshot of a few Senior Moments and the Word of God that has already encouraged us. Happy reading!



Seniors Brunch



The Seniors' Brunch was our opportunity as Seniors to gather together and pray for the year ahead. The main thought the Lord brought forth was that He wants to set us free. We have capped our capacity like old wells by putting limitations on ourselves and our Creator. But He wants to see us flourish in our senior years. He called us to forgive others and to come free of self-condemnation. Robyn quietly declared it really is a new and living way He's asking us to live by. Lorraine shared an exhortation that we can continue to be active in serving as we age.

Serving in our Older Ages by Lorraine

In Psalm 71:17-18 the author says *"Oh God, You have taught me from my youth; now also when I am old and grey headed, O God do not forsake me, until I declare Your strength to this generation, Your power to everyone who is to come."*

The psalmist said, *"You have taught me from my youth"*. Many of us have been taught from our youth. We have seen God's mercy in our days of trouble, we have known God's comfort in our days of grief, and we have learned to trust God's faithfulness. But this mercy, this comfort and this faithfulness are gifts God have given us to pass on to the next generation. God's work for you and me in our grey-headed years is to lead by our example.

The psalmist said *"do not forsake me, until I declare Your strength to this generation"*. Becoming older and frailer is a part of life but frailty does not mean our work is done. It merely means that our work is different. We are still sustained by God's strength and purpose. We reassure the younger generation that they too can stay faithful and relevant in their old age.

And finally, the psalmist said *"do not forsake me until I declare your power to everyone who is to come"*. There is a generation who sits at our feet, who plays around our tables and who are not yet born who will be blessed because of our faithful offering today. We won't know them but they will know us by our fruit. Our children's children will inherit, continue and increase the work God has started through us. Let us hold this great gift with all the awe and respect it deserves.

February Lunch

At this first lunch of the year there was a feeling of excitement because God has a definite plan for us seniors. We are friends of God and friends of friends, and we rejoice in this. Doreen gave thanks for the food which we all heartily enjoyed.

After singing "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" and "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me" there was a short time of prayer. Robyn shared a testimony, "A New and Living Way" reminding us we can be easily angered by things that have happened in the past, or worrying about the future instead of resting in God's love today. You can read more of Robyn's testimony below.

Arnold's theme this month was that we are hidden in Christ and we have a name and works written before time. As we learn to walk each day in Robyn's 'new and living way' we will fill out who God has created us to be.

After singing "Just a Closer Walk with Thee" and "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms" we discussed the changes to our meeting as Seniors for the new year and concluded with prayer. It is exciting, indeed, as we look ahead to what the Lord has for us!



A New and Living Way: A Way of Love and Peace – Robyn

Can we really surrender our will to the Lord? We often think we are in obedience and following the Lord by doing all the right things, but is it His will or our will that we do? This is a crucial lesson to learn.

During January, whilst on holiday in Victoria with relations, we faced many difficult circumstances. Even though we were doing our best to help the situation, we were accused by others of hiding behind our Christian facades. It was extremely unpleasant, until I suddenly realised the best way to deal with the situation was not to react at all, but in fact do nothing.

Suddenly there was a great peace within me, and although nothing could be done to fix the situation, the problem with our accusers died down, as they had no one to fight with. The thought occurred to me this is how Christ reacted when attacked by the Jews and Pontius Pilate. This was the way to go free.

Jesus said to consider how the lilies grow, how they grow and don't worry about tomorrow (Luke 12:27). Anger and anxiety are big problems today, but these problems could be tackled by not reacting against others. Instead we can rest in God's will and love. However, we first have to submit to God's will for our lives.

It is not so easy to get around this problem of doing things our own way. Our thinking or ego can control us as we live our lives, thinking of past hurts or future fears. Instead, let us live in the present where God is. Chaos and bondage is often a problem of our own making.

Seniors Lunch continued

Our Name and Works – Arnold

We know that we were named before time began and our name and works were written in the Book of Life. However, we can be erased from the Book. Revelation 20:15 says that anyone whose name is not found in the Book of Life will be thrown into the lake of fire. How important is it then to know how to remain in the Book!

Revelation 3:5 tells us that he who overcomes will not be erased from the Book of Life and Colossians 3:1-4 tells us that if we are hidden in Christ, we will be revealed with Him in glory. So we have to be overcomers and be hidden in Christ.

My life is to be hidden in Christ. This means nothing of me, but only His life in me. None of my own ideas and aspirations, but only His works to be fulfilled in me. Not me naming myself, but only the name He has predestined for me.

In this place, I am an overcomer. In this place, there is rest from my works, because I am hidden in Him. He is my safe haven, where I can rest, safe and secure in His everlasting arms, knowing and fulfilling His will for me.





Senior Bible Study

How well do we know God?

Our first meeting with the Lord is a very real meeting and shapes our relationship with Him. But how well do we know Him? In our first ever Bible Study together Josh asks us this vital question.

The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob - Josh

God is continually calling us on. We can be exactly where we should be, according to God, right now. But if we don't keep obeying then in the next season we won't be exactly where God has us to be. God has a work for us, no matter what age and stage we are at in life. Likewise, God does not give up on us and He does not say we are too old.

God meets each of us in a particular way. What aspect of God's life has been established in you? What do you reveal of God as you go about your life? Do you know the God of Abraham? Do you know the God of Isaac? And do you know the God of Jacob? God met each of these men, the three we call the Patriarchs, in a different way and as a result something different was established in each. If we are to know God then we must meet and know the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. When we meet Him the way the Patriarchs did, something of God becomes substantial in us.

Beginning with Abraham, Paul called him the father of all who believe. Believing is of our heart, our inner man, not of our brain or mind. The evidence that I am a believer is that I am a doer of the word. To know the God of Abraham is to know the fatherhood of God in our lives. We know that we are receiving and are obedient to the word of God, believers because we are doers.

Isaac is the son of promise and demonstrates the call of sonship. Isaac was trained in offering and was able to carry the load his earthly father placed upon him, all the time knowing and believing that God would provide Himself a Lamb for offering. Often, when people feel they have been called by God to a service or a sacrifice, it leads them to set their own path. But Isaac shows us that God's call leads to fellowship. Isaac joined the fellowship of Abraham in trusting God. We join the fellowship of Christ's sufferings, as Isaac did, through our sonship.

Jacob, Isaac's younger son illustrates the election of God which is our work that He has foreordained for us to do. Esau was Jacob's twin, yet he did not obtain his election or his work because He did not value his birthright. Jacob, on the other hand desired God's birthright above all other things. Although he made many mistakes along the way he never ceased from striving to attain all that God had planned for him. By our faithful obedience and seeking after God's plan for our lives we also will make our election sure.

Each of us has met God in a different way and at different stages of our lives but from that first meeting He has been continually calling us on. Like Abraham, Isaac and Jacob we can be exactly where we should be, as sons, doing our works in faith according to God plan for us right now. Age is not a hindrance to our work in God, it is the next part of our journey of faith, fulfilling our call and election to the end.

THE MEDITATIONS OF MY HEART

By Sheryl

Before time began, You were.
You had a name, a plan, a work for me,
And You breathed life in me
And sent me forth
To fulfil all that You had for me,
To be who You named me to be -
To complete the works You predestined in me.

But I was born into sin
And sin became my master.
I lived to please myself,
I was ensnared by the world and its delights,
And You were far from me.
You, O Lord did not enter into my thoughts -
I had forgotten You.

But tribulation came into my life
And I was sorely tried
And I cried out to You
And You answered - tho' not as I expected;
But I found You again
In the midst of the storm.
You were my deliverer.

And You remembered my name in
The Lamb's Book of Life -
You remembered a son with a name
A predestination, a work -
You remembered the word that You
had spoken to me back before time.
You called to me and I answered;
And began a journey of faith.

You chose me as I was -
Full of sin and every evil thing;
But You were not content to leave me in that state
And daily You send a word of
change that challenges my faith
And puts me back on the right path
To be everything that You planned....
If I will hear it and obey.

Then I will be clothed anew
In the fine white linen of righteousness;
No longer will I be naked.
I will stand before You and not be ashamed
For I have fulfilled all that You called me to -
By hearing and obeying.

