

Never too old to pray!

Harold and Jessie Thompson from the Wirral have a real burden for older people to know

Jesus. Harold, now an active Outlook supporter, is part of our ministry of prayer.

Here's his amazing testimony:



“ In 1948 when I was laid low with agoraphobia and unable to follow my occupation (which involved travelling), I was brought into contact with people who had something which I didn't have. Through their prayers and the singing of the hymn, 'When I survey the wondrous Cross', I was brought under a deep conviction of sin. As I repented and wept my way into Christ's Kingdom, Jesus became my indwelling Saviour.

The person who was with me at the time said, "The Lord will heal you and you will be used for the healing of others."

How true that has been spiritually and physically. I was able to dispense with the barbiturates I had needed previously and, holding on to God's promises, 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me', I started to travel again. Time after time the Lord has brought across my path people suffering with nervous conditions and they have been saved and healed - many of them have been elderly.

Coming up to 95 years of age myself now and living among mainly older people, I'm glad to be able to walk along the corridors of our flats each day blessing the residents in prayer and asking our Heavenly Father that those who do not have faith will receive the gift of faith to believe and the grace to be saved through our Lord Jesus.

I recommend this type of evangelism – especially to the less mobile. When I thought I was too old to be going anywhere, then our Lord said, "You can go around the whole world in prayer". So keep praying!"

I've been tremendously encouraged reading this testimony from Harold, as well as the personal stories sent in by other members and supporters. Please keep them coming, so we can continue to bless and encourage one another. If you have a story of God's goodness in your life or ministry, please share it with us and, with your permission, we will have more to publish in the future. –Norman

Holiday at Home continues to be a great success!

I believe that the Lord is revitalising ministry and mission among many people over 55 years of age!

We've certainly seen more interest from individuals and churches who wish to link up with Outlook, and there are requests for help from groups who are sensing a new burden from the Lord to reach out to older people. Feedback from churches who've run a 'Holiday at Home' during the summer - some for the first time - all testify to God being powerfully at work among their guests. One church had 14 people who indicated that they wanted to know more about the Christian faith.

And how are you doing? We've been asking some of you about the events which are regularly included in the Outlook Prayer Diary. We wanted to ascertain your original vision, and to see how each particular ministry has grown and developed. I am sure this will help us discover further ways in which we can help resource these ministries. As a result of our questions we've seen that God is powerfully at work among us, and we give thanks for the good number of groups who have seen real growth and development. Through our survey we've been reminded that we're "in this together with Jesus"— and I thank God for the faithfulness of our members and supporters as they continue to serve the Lord in this vital and fruitful ministry. I am grateful to those who have spent time completing the survey, and I hope we'll be able to publish the results sometime in the future. The Lord bless you abundantly as you serve him where you are. My love in Jesus,

Norman Critchell— Director

Outlook's 18th Birthday Appeal is still open!

By the time you read this we'll have passed Outlook's 18th Birthday (14 Nov.) but you can still contribute to our 18th Birthday Appeal. So far £2,000 has been contributed by our Members, Supporters, Churches and Friends, for which we are very grateful. This will help us in continuing to serve and resource God's people in their ministry and mission to older people.



I hope you will have seen throughout this Newsletter how God is creatively and powerfully at work in this part of his vineyard, and how everyone involved with Outlook has a deep desire to continue and grow this ministry. But we can't sustain or develop our ministry and mission without the help of God's people. We do need your on-going financial support, so if you haven't done so already, would you please send us a donation made payable to **Outlook Trust**, marked '**For Outlook Trust's 18th Birthday Appeal**'. We will keep this open until the end of the year - so you still have time to send in your donation. Thank you in anticipation.

Have you ever considered...

...leaving a legacy to Outlook Trust in your will?

Over the years, the Trust has only received one or two such donations. Any legacy would certainly help continue our vital work on into the future, so please think about this prayerfully. You can contact us in the office for more details of how you can do this.

... increasing your standing order?

The Chancellor will not be continuing the transitional relief on gift-aid, which means that as from April 2011, we will only be able to claim 25 pence in the pound from your giving. This is a drop of 3 pence on each pound you give, so we estimate we will lose about £600 per annum from our income. Would you please pray about this and, if you can, either increase the amount you give by standing order or send an extra gift each year. This would help us a great deal.

WAYS OF GIVING TO OUTLOOK

- Gift Aid:** For tax payers. Please ask for a Gift Aid Declaration Form.
- Direct Gift:** Cheques should be made payable to Outlook and sent to the address below.
- Banker's Order:** For regular giving. Please ask for a Banker's Order Form.
- Internet Payment at:** www.givenow.org and search for Outlook Trust.
- Legacy:** By remembering Outlook in your Will. Please ask for details.
- Charitable Accounts:** such as Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) or Stewardship Services

OUTLOOK, The Wycliffe Centre, Horsleys Green, High Wycombe, Bucks. HP14 3XL

I/we are pleased to apply for (tick as appropriate)

- Individual Membership
- Group Affiliation
- Please send me:**
- Further copies of this Newsletter to share with others (Please state how many)
- Some 'flyers' to introduce OUTLOOK to others (Please state how many)

I enclose a gift for the ministry of Outlook

Organisation or church (for Group Affiliation only):

Name (and title):

Address:

Postcode:

Telephone number:

Email:

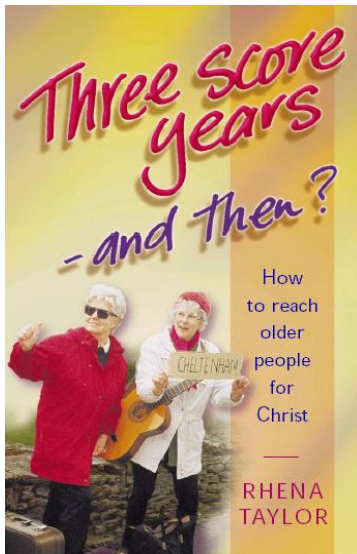
Date of sending this:

£

Please sign if you wish tax to be claimed on this gift:

Signed.....

Books and Resources



Rhena Taylor's book *Three Score Years – and then?* is still rated as a 'classic' in the realm of evangelism amongst older people.

If you haven't read this wonderful book then you are missing out! We have a good number in stock and we're happy to let you have a copy for £3 incl. postage.

Perhaps you might like to give one to a friend who works with older people as a gift? Just contact the Outlook office and we'll send one to you.

When I die...a means of helping those who are left behind, is a helpful resource put together by Rodney Searle of St. Chad's Church, Handforth.

The purpose of this resource is to enable you to let others know what you want to happen after you die. You may, for example, want to tell your family or friends some things you would like included in your funeral service: your testimony, or your choice of hymns and Bible readings (and your reasons for choosing them) so that they are able to join in celebrating your life. You may also want to tell those concerned where your various papers can be found.

Rodney is happy to let anyone have a copy who would like one. If that's you – do get in touch with the Outlook office.

Marion Kealy of Westgate-on-Sea writes: *As a member of Prayer Care, the mission into Residential & Nursing Homes in the area, I visit several homes and have had some interesting and significant encounters. I visit St. Michael's nearly every Friday with one or other of the team, and we work with the Activities Organiser so we get to know the residents and they recognise us when we arrive. There's one gentleman who rarely sits down for more than a minute or two. He's very pleasant, but always restless, and yet he sits all through the services we hold once a month joining in the hymns and the prayers. One lady was calling for her 'mummy' before a service. We gave her a bracelet made of bells to wear which kept her attention during the service, but she seemed to be uninterested in what was going on, never looking up at all. At the end of the service I went to speak to her and as I took her hands she said, "Don't let me be naughty, I've been with Jesus". I get quite emotional every time I think of it.*

Norman reports

Russell Lucier, who leads the organisation Zechariah Vision, has written a paper entitled ***Ageism in the 21st Century: Types of Discrimination against Older People*** in which he unfolds some amazing findings. We haven't space here to relate everything in the paper, but one section in particular showed me something I hadn't seen before and I quote from the paper:

'An interesting phenomenon concerning stigma and fulfilling stereotypes is called stereotype threat. This is defined as "a mechanism by which concerns about fulfilling a negative stereotype interfere with performance and, therefore, lead to stereotype fulfilment" (Kang and Chasteen, 2009). In preparing the reader for what they found regarding stereotype threat, Kang and Chasteen share that studies have shown this



effect to be true in negative aging stereotyping. For example, when someone is exposed to negative stereotyping it has an impact on walking speed and hand writing quality. It

seems to be a factor in memory performance as well. All of this is likened to a self-fulfilling prophecy. When an older person perceives a threat of being stereotyped as an "old person" their performance declines and confirms the stereotype to younger people who may be watching.'

If you would like to read Russell's paper, see the Zechariah Vision website www.zvn.org.uk and the link to 'ZVN on Aging' page.' If you aren't online, we will gladly arrange a copy for you.

Ada Smith has been an active member and supporter of Outlook for many years. She recently wrote telling of how she gave her life to Christ at the age of 17 and how God has led and guided her during the 69 years since. She's still very active in the Manchester area, especially within the Greater Manchester Outlook Group and she continues much encouraged in her witness and service for the Lord Jesus.

"Praise God for older Christians like Ada, who because of the love that they have received, seek to share the love of God with others."

Rich Inheritance - Jesus' Legacy of Love

This is the title of the York 2011 Lent Course. It's an ecumenical course. The Director has attended a Risborough Team Lent Course for the past two years and recommends their material - a workbook and CD are used. For further details go to www.yorkcourses.co.uk

An Apology – from William A.M. Cutting

If you requested the weekly "Encouragement for Seniors" e-mail devotional communication and haven't received it yet, please send a further email to william.cutting@talktalk.net "Unfortunately a number of e-mail addresses were lost or corrupted. I am sorry. William."

Growing older is a gift as well as a responsibility.

A sign of ageing, they say, is when you stoop down to tie a shoelace and find yourself thinking, 'Now what else can I do while I'm down here?' But there are serious concerns too. Life goes by, energy gives way to experience, and skills that we once deployed will start to slip away from us. Let us ask for grace to receive those times as coming from God and meet them honestly and humbly. With God's help, even a period of declining strength may be an occasion for wise decisions and fruitful service.

God of all ages, help us to respect old age and meet it without fear. Amen.

John Procter

...and don't miss out on Outlook's next National Conference!

"Expanding the Vision" 21-24 June 2011, Kings Park, Northampton.

(There are savings on early bird bookings ... if you book by 10th December 2010)

Fully residential. All rooms are en suite, and all meals are included: £200 per person.

*Come and enjoy a top quality time of worship – led by Marilyn Baker and Tracy Williamson, and great fellowship and teaching. Our provisional speakers include the Bishop of Oxford, Rt. Revd John Pritchard, Rev'd Denise Critchell and authors Revd. Michael Mitton and Mrs. Rosemary Green. Plenty of time for networking too. **I hope to see you there***

(Editorial Assistance given by Elizabeth Scott)



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HOW TO JOIN US

Group Affiliation

Provides:
Copies of the bi-annual Outlook Newsletter.
Access to available resources.
Links to other individuals and groups working with older people.
Assistance with projects to develop your ministry to older people.
Access to customised seminars and training workshops.
Share ideas, develop mission and outreach in the community.

Cost: £50 per annum

Individual Membership

For those who recognize the spiritual needs of older people and share our vision to help them understand the Christian Faith.

We offer encouragement, support and training.

To receive regular mailings, complete the slip overleaf.

Funding

We suggest members pledge a minimum monthly gift of £5 or more, to cover mailing and the development of our ministry.

Advantages of Membership

- Fellowship with others who share the same calling.
- Prayer backing and encouragement for your own projects in evangelism.
- Access to OUTLOOK'S resource material.
- Opportunity to join OUTLOOK teaching and witness teams.
- Preference for places at OUTLOOK conferences, training events and other activities.