



SO, WHAT IS THE TRUTH?

In a recent survey conducted by SAGA, respondents put the age at which someone in the UK is deemed to be old at 59, whereas in most other European Countries it is the mid-60's. This seems to contradict what we hear so often that the new 40 is 60 and the new 50 is 70 and what we see generally in Society. It would seem that in the underlying psyche of most people, the **age-old lie** is still being perpetuated—that by the time you reach 60 you are 'past it.'

SO, WHAT IS THE TRUTH?

Our ageing society is spoken of in terms of the problems & costs of supporting the increasing number of older people. However, recent research carried out for the charity WRVS reveals people of 65 & older are **net contributors** to the economy. Taking into account older people's tax payments, spending power, caring responsibilities & volunteering, people aged 65 & over contribute £40bn more to the economy than they receive in state pensions, welfare & health services. By 2030 older people's net contribution is projected to increase to some £75bn. Economic analysts SQW made the calculations which estimate older people benefit the economy by £178.9bn (G.R.W Day, Wembley, Middlesex.)

Ann Wills, one of our Members recently wrote to me asking if I had seen the article "Take the Gospel to the Streets" in April's edition of Woman Alive Magazine. Ann told me that the article featured Greyfriars Church, in Reading and how they open up their church once a month as a café and pray for people. They also have a gazebo on the church lawn where people can be prayed for. Some of their members go out on the streets & invite people in. They also have a "Prayer Stop" outside the church and have prayed for people outside the post office and at a village fair. They have seen healings. The last paragraph of the article includes "**All our Team are WELL OVER 60**" Ann finishes by writing; **'IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO SERVE OUR AWESOME GOD.'**

SO, WHAT IS THE TRUTH? The TRUTH is that God values older people and never looks upon them as past their 'use-by date.' It is God's desire that the whole of Society should also value and care for older people, not view them as a drain on our country's finances. Mr. Day's contribution above shows the 'drain' theory to be very wrong, as too Ann Wills contribution, shows us one of the reasons the wider Church needs to increasingly recognize and value older Christian's contribution to the mission and ministry of the Church, as Outlook Trust certainly does. This is a major issue and one which we will continue to

challenge and encourage the Church locally and nationally about, to widen their vision and integrate older Christians more and more into the life and ministry of the Church.

In our experience a large number of older Christians feel themselves marginalized and undervalued by the Churches they love and that their 'giftedness' is often overlooked, even though they have a tremendous willingness to use these gifts in the 'Lord's service.' The lists below were taken from different 'audience-response' sheets around the UK.

What are older people expected to do in the church? Pray, be tolerant, accept changes, stand down from the PCC, keep up with the young, make tea, not rock the boat, do flowers, don't talk about the past, help with the crèche, 'sit up shut up and pay up', knit squares, dust, hand out books, run the Mother's Union, organize the bazaar or jumble sale, mend the church furnishings, polish the brass, do maintenance, help in the church office—not with computers, but in sticking stamps on envelopes.

Older People would like to: Help others, share experiences, use talents, listen to older hymns, be loved, be recognized as part of the church family, be listened to, pray, be involved in decision-making, share more activities in the general church, be part of the visiting programme. Help the handicapped, be a granny/grandpa figure in the crèche, take part in hospital visiting, Gideons, prison work, be in a home group, take services in old peoples' homes, counsel, teach, evangelize, help children in school, help with publicity, keep identity, have a clear ministry, share wisdom, have links with younger people, not clean brass, have a voice in things, lead worship sometimes, be part of a pastoral care team, be part of all events, have a prayer partner with a younger person, learn how to pray for each other.

SO, WHAT IS GOD'S TRUTH? Those that are planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God. They will still bear fruit in old age; they will stay fresh and green, proclaiming, "The LORD is upright; He is my Rock, and there is no wickedness in Him." (Psalm 92 vv13-15)

"We do hope that the following articles and content will reinforce THIS TRUTH"
Norman Critchell-Director

It was suggested to me by one of our Members that I should look on the website created for Dr Jennifer Bute, by her son, as it is full of gems in helping us understand and care for people suffering Alzheimer's and Dementia generally. I am so glad I did as it certainly contains many gems and underpins Jennifer's own experience and story. There is also plenty to help those who have a caring or supporting role to the sufferer.



What to me adds so much to what Jennifer teaches and shares, is her amazing faith in and trust of our Lord Jesus Christ, as she walks this pathway with Him and as she shares her journey with us. I will keep quiet now and let Jennifer share with you;

No matter what ones age or state of health one is immensely valuable to and loved by God. I was diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer's Dementia in 2009, although I was fully aware there was something wrong with me several years earlier than this. I believe passionately that there is so much more that can be done for people with Dementia to encourage and inspire them and that the church could also be playing a larger part as the spiritual life does not die even if the body and mind deteriorate. So often older people can be left behind or marginalized rather than being seen as God sees them.

Previously I was a GP in Southampton, also having worked abroad in Africa in a Mission Hospital. My father had dementia, so I know about such from the 3 perspectives of Doctor, Carer and Patient.

I have been encouraged to write leaflets to help explain to people how to deal with situations in a simple way, when they perhaps aren't able to read a book or do not know where to turn. I was asked to give a talk to the pastoral team of a large church and afterwards was asked to record it, so my son set up a website for me with these resources available to anyone www.gloriousopportunity.org

It is indeed a glorious opportunity to walk with others who have dementia to reflect God's glory and to share his love. I have the privilege now to live in a place with on site dementia care and I continue to learn from many others here. My husband died unexpectedly last month and I have been so aware of God's hand of mercy and care for He does not change and HE REMAINS GOOD.

Pastor Paul Flynn of Coppice Community Church with whom we are affiliated, shares a little of their developing ministry amongst older people with us; 'The Church has been serving the Lord for over 60 years, during which we have had a close connection with local residential care homes,

mainly through our founding member, Dr Kathleen Berger, who worked with Bermondsey and Brook Lane Medical Missions and at 91 years of age is still active in the life of the church. Some years ago the then Director of Personnel at Mission Care joined the church and brought 4 wheel chair bound residents of a local care home to Sunday Services. They became a close part of the church family, which in turn forged deeper relationship with the local care home. This relationship grew to include residents and their families as well as staff. The relationship with the home has continued to blossom and the Church provides Friday services alternating with a Communion Service, Bible study or listening and prayer.

A monthly prayer meeting has recently started where both staff and residents are invited to attend. Prayer request slips are made available on all floors and collected regularly. These prayer requests are also taken back to Coppice prayer meetings and followed up as appropriate.



Coppice also shares Sunday evening services with other local churches at the home. It was through this collaboration that Paul was introduced to CHUM (Care Home Ministries with U (you) in it). Their vision is to connect churches to their nearest care home and vice versa, if asked, and one day to

see all care homes in some way connected to a local church.

This practical support is further inspired by Outlook Trust. The recent Outlook Conference provided useful information and materials such as Pilgrims Progress, an interactive guide for seniors by Elizabeth Stacey. Coppice is currently using this at the care home, a local sheltered housing scheme and (adapted) with our children's' group. An Outlook prayer group which meets at Diana Knight's house in Bromley is an opportunity for Coppice Church members along with local members of Outlook have an opportunity to meet, share and pray for current issues.

I believe that the Lord, having given us a compassionate heart for the elderly, is moving to break down barriers and integrate his people to help and support each other in His mission, which is to bring all people, including the elderly, to their Lord and King.

The preacher's 5 year old-daughter noticed that her father always paused and bowed his head for a moment before starting his sermon. One day, she asked him why? "Well honey", he began, proud that his daughter was so observant of his messages. "I am asking the Lord to help me preach a good sermon".

"Well, how come He doesn't do it?" she asked.



Catriona Foster recently had her job-title changed to PASTOR—OLDER PEOPLE and this truly reflects her ministry in and through St. John's Church, Harbourne. They have recently affiliated with Outlook, so because I

have known of this Church for many years, I popped up to Birmingham to have a look at how their older people's ministry works itself out. Older people's ministry is very central to the life of the Church, especially as when Rev John Hughes in 2006 asked what members felt were the important areas in which they should be involved; the isolated elderly came out as top of the list. A new post was created and in 2007 Catriona began her ministry there as 'support worker for the elderly.' The change in her 'title' I mentioned reflects how this ministry has changed and developed over the past 4½ years. Catriona has added structure to the ministry and she has excited people to join with her and envisioned them. Altogether she has around 50 volunteers and she supplies teaching and training, including dementia care which is her background. 'Prime Time' (*Holiday at Home*) runs each August for a few days and this draws both Christian and non-Christian older people. They have run a number of senior Alpha courses, each time making it better by what they learn as they run them. There is a once a month midweek Communion Service which is 'user-friendly' for those who find Church on Sunday difficult, with lifts provided for those who need them. They also run a monthly Service in sheltered accommodation and Services at Christmas and Easter in others, plus a drop-in on Monday mornings for a cup of tea and a chat. On top of this, all of the lonely people in their area that they know about receive visits

IN ALL THAT CATRIONA AND HER VOLUNTEERS DO, THEIR DESIRE IS FOR OLDER PEOPLE TO EITHER FIND FAITH IN

CHRIST OR FOR THEIR FAITH TO DEEPEN AND GROW AND THEY SEE THEMSELVES AS WALKING ALONGSIDE THE PEOPLE GOD HAS GIVEN THEM TO CARE FOR.

The *Holiday at Home* with an Olympic theme is well on in the planning stage and will be available in good time for use in 2012. It will be one of the 'More Than Gold' Christian Resources available for Churches to use in sharing the Love of Christ during the Olympics especially, but I am sure throughout the whole year. A workbook is planned plus a DVD of the testimonies of athletes and sports men and women who have found a personal faith in Jesus Christ which has been life-transforming. If you feel this version of *Holiday at Home* could be something you and your Church would use, then please let me have your name and contact details and when this is available, I will let you know

EVALUATION FROM THE OUTLOOK NATIONAL CONFERENCE KINGS PARK 2011

How did you find the conference in general?

<u>Very helpful</u>	<u>Helpful</u>	<u>OK</u>	<u>Disappointing</u>
39	23	1	0

Which part of the conference did you find the most useful/interesting? (A selection of comments)

- Worship:** A real blessing - Marilyn and Tracey were very special.
- Testimonies:** Inspiring.
- Bible Readings:** Michael Mitton's talks were brave, risky and helpful. His creative ability and presentation skills are outstanding.
- Keynote Talks:** Denise and Rosemary both excellent and helpful.

(CONTINUED OVER PAGE)



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

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

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Website: www.outlook-trust.org.uk

- Networking:** Very valuable, sharing meals together and meeting people from the same area we are from.
- Communion Service:** This was lovely and Refreshing - enjoyed the Kenyan 'rite.'
- Bishop's Commissioning:** 'Best wine till last?'
- Meeting Trustees & Staff:** Well presented and clear that the Holy Spirit is guiding and growing Outlook.

I believe I would be right in saying that the Conference was a wonderful three days in which God was powerfully present by His Holy Spirit. I have lifted out some of the comments made on the evaluation sheets to give an idea of what the delegates have written on their forms. There are lots of photographs and some fuller feedback on our website and my September Director's letter was focussed on the Conference. We also have available from the Office, recordings of the main meetings and addresses.

So, if you weren't there this time, we would love you to join us next time. Do make a note of the dates of the 2013 Outlook National Conference, also at King's Park in Northampton and do your best to be with us.

THE DATES ARE **TUESDAY 25th TO FRIDAY THE 28th JUNE 2013**. (We will send out booking forms in about 12 months time).

The 'Baby-Boomer Conference' featured on the front of the Summer Newsletter will have happened before you receive this Newsletter but after the production deadline. So I will give a report in the next edition.

Following our Awayday in May and National Conference in June, we drafted and the Trustees have accepted a '3-year strategy' to grow Outlook into all that God desires us to be. This is an exciting time in the life of the Trust, so if you are not already an individual Member or your Church isn't affiliated, why not join us?—the application form is at the bottom of the page, which you can complete and send to us in the office. However, if this step isn't for you, why not help us grow this ministry by sending a financial contribution, which of course will be greatly appreciated.



I CAN'T
RESPOND TO
ANY EMAILS
TODAY,
SOMETHING HAS CRASHED ON
MY COMPUTER AND THE
MOUSE IS MISSING

If this Newsletter has raised any issues for you, or you would like our help to further and prosper your own ministry amongst the over 55's, then please don't hesitate to be in touch with us by letter, phone, or e-mail.

The Lord continue to bless you and keep you as you fulfil your calling where He has placed you and fulfil Ephesians Chapter 3 verses 20 and 21 in and through your lives

**Norman Critchell
Director**

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

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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.....