

Focus on Jesus

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WOW! How time flies.

It seems only yesterday that I was living near Chittagong in Bangladesh. I was about 21 years old and serving in the U S Army Air Force during WW II. That was more than seventy years ago. I have entered my 94th year and seem to be doing fairly well. Age slips up on us seemingly without notice.

At ninety-three what do I know?

I know at least one thing. Getting old isn't for sissies! I'm not whining or complaining. I'm just telling it as it is.

So many things become difficult chores when just a few years ago they were not problems at all. We need to become "informed seniors" and make plans on the basis of fact as opposed to hope.

It seems to me that getting people prepared for old age would be a great outreach for our church. I am not advocating financial help for seniors but I do think it would be beneficial if our older people were better informed than I when "old" hit me.

With this in mind I am going to attempt to organize an "Information on Aging Group" to help us plan for our futures.

This is not going to be easy. But I do know that Jesus did not wait for people to come to Him. His ministry was one of going out to others. Hopefully our church has some folks who will be willing to become involved in this project.

If you have any ideas or questions about aging please let me know about them. Your information and questions could be a great guide for this project.

I'm so happy!

*I'm so happy and here's the reason why.
Jesus took my burdens all away.
Once my heart was heavy
with a load of sin,
Jesus took the load and
gave me peace within.
Now I'm singing as the days go by
Jesus took my burdens all away.*

What a wonderful little chorus! It was one of many we sang at Westminster Junior Camp at Fayetteville, West Virginia. I think this chorus pictures Jesus' ministry of love and forgiveness.

The Glass Insulator vs. the 22 Rifle!

(This comes from my friend Dr. H. E. Kiser, Jr. now of Martinsville, Virginia. This story can be found in his book *Only In Tazewell*. I present a summation.

A young man in Tazewell received a 22 rifle on his 12th birthday. He was quite excited and lost no time in gathering a few friends to go hunting with him.

After several hours of tramping through the woods he gave up the hunt and sat down. One of the boys looked at the gun owner and challenged him to shoot a glass insulator on the top of a telephone pole. The youngster hit it dead center and as it shattered a game warden stepped out of the bushes.

The youngster was arrested and taken to court. He could do nothing but plead guilty. The judge fined him and this crime (destroying federal property while on federal land) was made part of his record.

The young criminal went on to college and graduated. He applied for a job with the government but was turned down for the specific job he wanted because his resume indicated he was a security risk.

This thing followed this young man for many years. Time after time he was denied promotion because of this "record".

I suppose we should take this man's experience as a warning not to mess with the government's property. I have no quarrel with that. A man made rule was violated so a price had to be paid.

For a minute let's turn away from man and his rules and look to God.

We have all broken God's laws. We are all sinners and we know it. Just remember that sin is something we do or think that displeases God. We also need to remember the only sinless person who walked among us was Jesus Christ.

We have sinned but Jesus paid the price for our sins and our slates have been wiped clean!

Just think of it! Compare God's love and forgiveness to man's love and forgiveness. God forgives but man seldom forgets or forgives mistakes.

What a wonderful savior we have and what a loving God is our father! Always be thankful God forgives us of the glass insulators in our lives along with all of our other missteps.

FORGIVENESS

Jesus was asked about forgiveness. The questioner asked if seven times was a satisfactory number. Jesus said NO! He said we should forgive seven times seventy.

Forgive me please.

You may find a number of mistakes in this issue. I've done the best I could. Perhaps I will do better next time.