
A CALL TO HONOR ELDERS AND RESPECT THEM

NOVEMBER 28, 2021

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WHAT WE WILL DISCUSS

- The Landscape
- Common Responses
- Individual Opportunities & Mandates
- Story Time!
- The Challenge

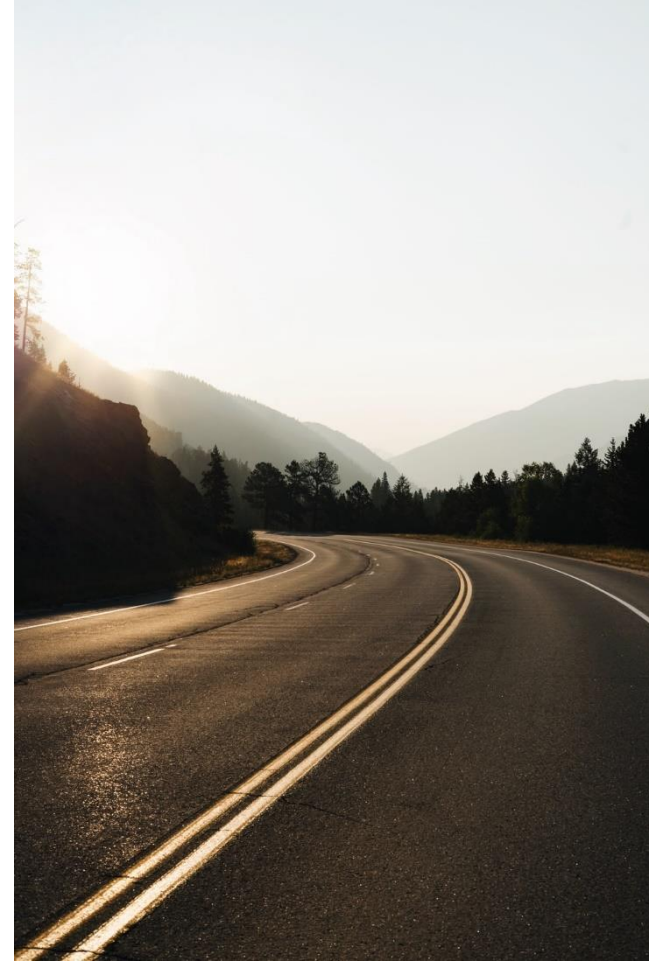


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THE LANDSCAPE

Truth is, we are living longer!

- Actuarial Study Example
 - We believe people will start living to age 120.
- Sarah Knauss – 1880-1999
 - She's currently 119! And we got to meet.
 - [Watch her transformation here.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:SarahKnauss1979.jpg)



<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:SarahKnauss1979.jpg>

THE LANDSCAPE

Technical advances are key factors!

- Way back when...
 - At age 67, George Washington got a cold. He died from our medical practices at the time.
- Fast forward to my mother-in-law...
 - At age 87, my mother-in-law got a triple by-pass. She's 92 today, living in Florida, and doing fine!
- Star Trek is here! Dr. McCoy's Body Scanner
- Organ Transplants – 3D Implants



<https://i.pinimg.com/564x/f2/ca/0e/f2ca0e4e83096fabbd1308e251e7d68e.jpg>

Impact of COVID-19

On The Elders In Our Communities

As of November 2021, 94% of total COVID-19 deaths in the US are among adults aged 50 and older.

Age	Total Deaths	Total Cases
50-64	139,761	7,388,052
65-74	173,365	2,758,806
75-84	198,318	1,396,908
85+	203,385	749,807



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MARGINALIZATION OF ELDERS

RESOURCE ALLOCATION & AGEISM

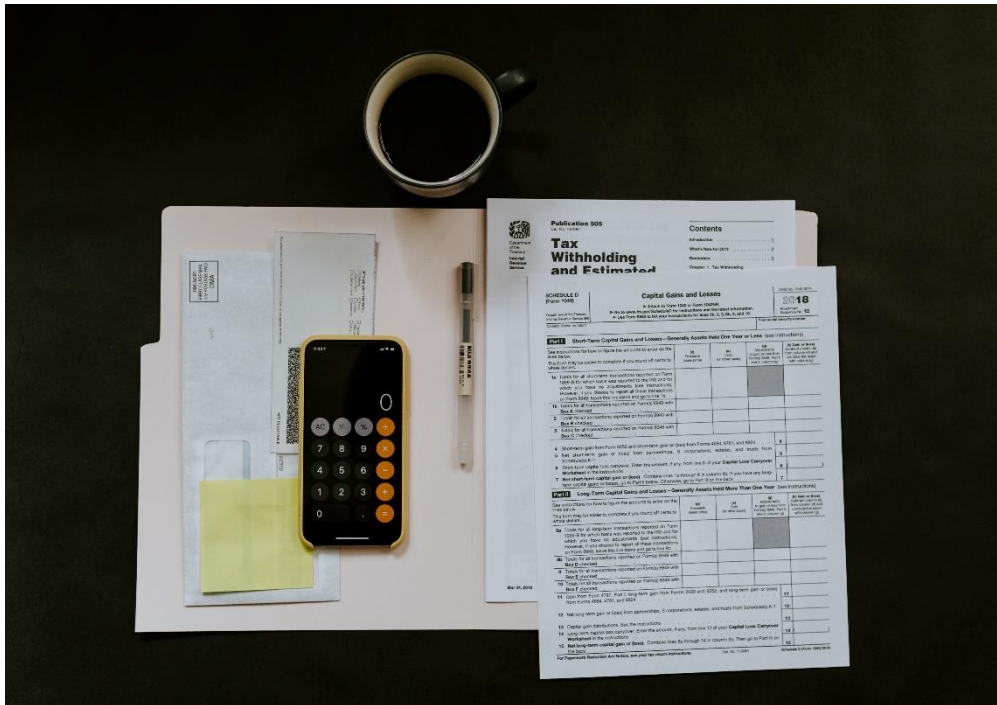


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COMMON RESPONSES

FROM THE *INDIVIDUAL*

Sometimes, **the cure is worse than the disease.**

What can we do, individually, to make a difference?

Plague		Antidote
Loneliness		Companionship
Helplessness		Purpose; Opportunity to Give and Receive
Boredom		Variety; Spontaneity; Unexpected Blessings

STORY TIME!

Let's talk about
Harry.

And how
companionship
heals **loneliness.**

- Harry was a senior adult orphan.
- My son and his friends visited Harry's senior living community to perform concerts and talk with the residents.
- Overhearing it was Harry's birthday, my son sang him "Happy Birthday!"
- All of a sudden, Harry became my son's adopted grandparent.
- Turns out, Harry was an aid to General Eisenhower in WWII. I learned much from him.

... And **we became family.**

STORY TIME!

Let's talk about PEP

And how giving
purpose heals
helplessness.

- PEP stood for People Energized by Purpose.
- We had 400-500 elders in this community and dozens of PEP divisions (painting, choir, stamp collecting, etc.) designed by the resident elders.
- A resident proposed a new PEP division, which would enthusiastically chariot people in wheelchairs to therapy as “charioteers.”

... And *therapy attendance skyrocketed.*

STORY TIME!

Let's talk about
senior care
activities.

And how
spontaneity heals
boredom.

- Senior care activity calendars are often stagnant.
- What if there's a piano? Could I play it for the residents without a planned activity?
- My mom was dying while in skilled senior care, and I asked the activity director if my father and I could put on a concert for her.
- The director let us do whatever we wanted.

... And *our performance sparked joy in everyone.*

COMMON RESPONSES

FROM THE *INDIVIDUAL*



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Nihilism

- Nihilism = Meaningless
- Many believing elders have lost hope.
- They pray “Lord, take me home! My life is meaningless!”

If you can pray, your life isn't meaningless.

COMMON RESPONSES

*FROM THE **INDIVIDUAL***



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Opportunities to Engage & Learn New Things

- There are many things you can do each day.
- You can encourage the people around you to make a difference.

STORY TIME!

Let's talk about **my 93-year-old friend and mentor**, and how he handled the **COVID lockdowns**.

- He is a triple PHD (a minster, a doctor, and a psychologist) and one of the humblest guys I know.
- He was in complete isolation for 15 months in his senior community during COVID lockdowns.
- What did he do?
 - He wrote two books. He painted, got really good at using Zoom, and played trumpet concerts from his balcony.

... And *took advantage of everything at his disposal*.

COMMON RESPONSES

FROM THE PROVIDER (LONG-TERM CARE & SERVICES)

No Margin – No Mission

■ Pain Points

- Financial margins are dropping.
- Mandates are increasing, while the level of care is dropping.
- So many good people in the field are facing burnout and quitting.



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OPPORTUNITIES & MANDATES FOR THE *INDIVIDUAL*

Elders are one of America's greatest untapped resources!

- Wisdom of the Aged
 - Remember my friend Harry? We can learn so much from our elders! Ask the Lord how we can give back.
- How do we transition to “breathing new air”?
 - In His Time! God has brought us this far, and He will take us to the finish line.

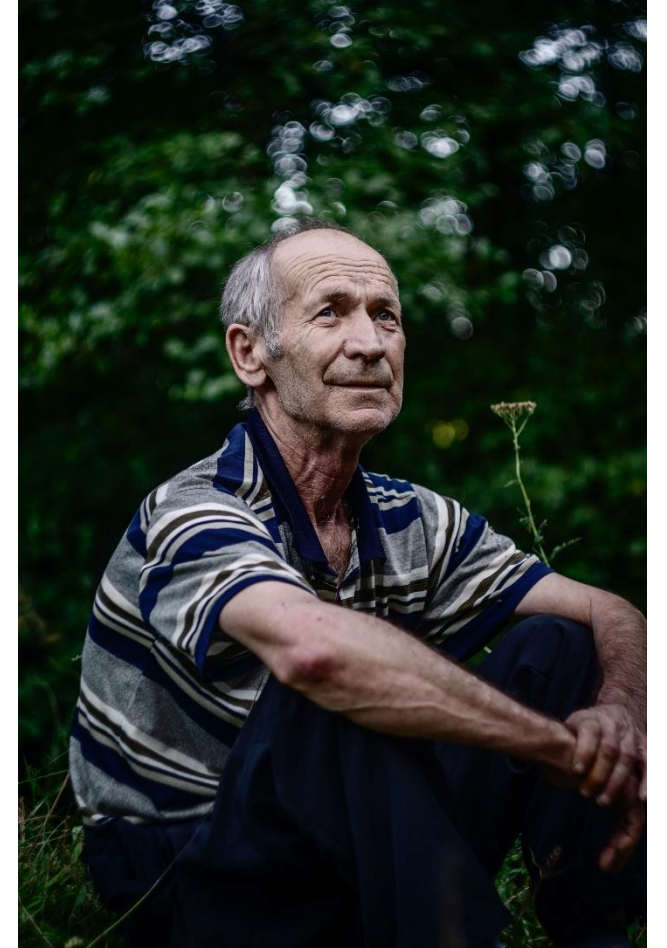


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STORY TIME!

Let's talk about **my dad** while he was very sick **in the hospital and on hospice**.

- I called my dad and asked what he needed and what would bless him during this time.
- He urgently wanted his sermon notes. Especially his notes on Philippians 1:21.
 - *“For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”*
- He kept the sermon notes near his bedside and asked everyone who came into his room to look at the notes.

... And *he spoke for God, up until his last breath.*

THE CHALLENGE

WE ARE HERE ...

- Imagine Moses saying to God's call on his life, "I can't lead your people. I'm retired!"
- Imagine John saying, "Revelation is a nice idea, but I'm 90 and have my pension! Why would I do something like that?"

The truth is, we each have a call from God.

And God can work through you, no matter your age.



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STORY TIME!

Let's talk about my
grandpa Axel Olson
who served on the
board at
Northwestern.

- During a summer, I worked for my grandpa.
- He joined the school board at age 65, served for seven terms, and retired at age 86.
- He drove me through Northwestern and excitedly described the campus he envisioned.
- When Northwestern hit a financial crisis, my grandpa didn't let the university close its campus doors.

... And *his vision for the campus became a reality.*

THE CHALLENGE

...*FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS!*

At age 62, you might have 33 years
yet to live on this earth.

Can you think of someone who lived for 33 years
... *and impacted the entire world for eternity?*

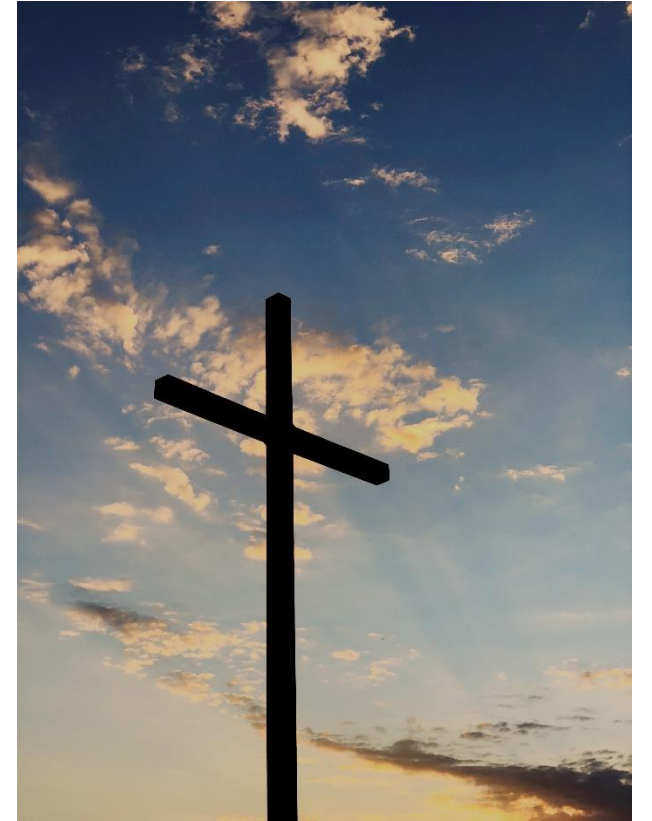


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THANK YOU!

With overwhelming gratitude, this presentation has been dedicated to leaders of senior living and long-term communities and services.

Thank you for the way you are making a difference 24/7 in the lives of so many people at risk all around us.

Blessings on you!

RESOURCES

- <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1254271/us-total-number-of-covid-cases-by-age-group/>
- <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1191568/reported-deaths-from-covid-by-age-us/>
- <https://www.edenalt.org/about-the-eden-alternative/mission-vision-values/>