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I try to vary the contents of the Doodles so as to suit different groups of people and today I want to particularly encourage those of you who are Senior Citizens. Apparently it is no longer politically correct to call us Senior Citizens, oldies, retired people, Methusalah's, geriatrics or old age pensioners; we are supposed to use terms such as 'older people' or 'older individuals'. I don't know about you, but speaking personally, I would much rather be called a 'Senior Citizen' than any term that includes the word 'old', which automatically makes you feel older! How old is 'old' anyway? According to Google it is anyone who is over 60 years or more, which surprised me as I thought that it was those over pensionable age.

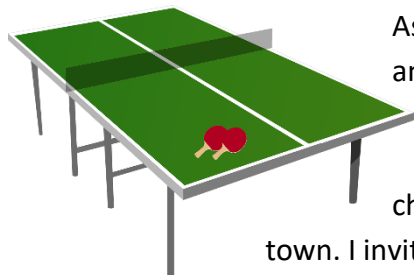


Regardless of what we are called and at what age, I would like to give you two instances from my own life when God showed me that we are never too old to be used for His purposes.



I was in my 50's when I went to Bible College and was the oldest person in that year's intake. Over the Easter period we were all sent out on placements to various churches. At the church to which I was sent it was planned to do something special for teenagers and one evening the team was going to go into the town centre, talk to the teenagers hanging around there and bring them back to the church. It was decided that I was too old to go and talk to the teenagers and instead was asked to visit an elderly lady who lived on her own.

I had mixed feelings about what I had been asked to do. The aim of our placements was to give us extra experience and with regard to this, the town visiting was something that I had not done previously so would have been good training for me. I also felt that I had been excluded from the planned event. In another way I was quite relieved at not being included. Give me 300 – 400 primary children to speak to in a school assembly and I am fine, but ask me to speak to 2 or 3 teenagers and I am immediately out of my comfort zone. Over and above all of these thoughts, I have to admit that I was quite miffed at being considered **too old** for task. I did not air my opinions (which I might normally do!) but decided to put my thoughts aside and do my best on the assigned visit. The lady was thrilled to bits at having the visit and it overcame any disappointment that I might have been feeling.



As I walked back to the church I saw three teenage lads. I was on my own and there was no-one else around so I was rather dubious as to whether I should say anything to them, but as I had to walk past them anyway, thought I might as well have a chat with them. I told them what the church was doing that night and how the team had gone into the centre of town. I invited them to come back to the church and join the other teenagers who

would be there. To my great surprise all three agreed to go to the church and tagged along with me! We were the first ones to arrive back. There was food laid out for them and the table tennis table was set up.

After about five minutes the team arrived back at the church and I had the shock of my life – Not one teenager has come back with them! I have never forgotten it and I would think that I was not the only person that night for God to show that no-one is ever too old to be used by Him. God is very innovative and does not always do what we think He will do or in the way that we expect.



The second illustration is something that happened locally. I was asked to set up a fellowship in a nearby village. We delivered leaflets to every house but at the first meeting there were only four of us. Another two came a long a couple of weeks later and we decided to have a Harvest service and then take the gifts to the Senior Citizens who lived in the nearby bungalows. As we took the gifts we had a chat with them and invited them to the fellowship. One of the ladies, whom I think was in her 80's, said that she would like to come along but that one of us would have to fetch her each week. After two weeks she informed me that her younger sister would bring her over – which meant another one added to the group! What happened then over the following weeks and months was that the younger sister brought in seven or eight others so the fellowship became established and continued for about another twenty years.

God had used an 80+ Senior Citizen – plus a tin of beans and an apple! – to grow the fellowship and be the cause of a number of people from the village giving their lives to Jesus. We are never too old to be used by God.



In every church group there are elderly people who maybe are no longer able to attend services at the church, but their prayers and support are invaluable and they are often able to use their time to 'phone and encourage members in the church.

From a different point of view, some of these people are extremely lonely and would welcome a 'phone call or letter to help them feel that they are still part of the church.

Finally I would like to tell you about a new venture that is about to take place. You will shortly be able to see a new website which will contain all of the Doodles.

<https://www.dorisamazingdoodles.com>

Just shows how an octogenarian can be used by God because

WE ARE NEVER TOO OLD !