



The Senior Scene



Love people. Know Jesus. Live Transformed.

Volume 17

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Uniquely Created

*Do not neglect the gift that is in you. (1 Timothy 4:14)
For we are God's masterpiece, created in Christ
Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in
advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:10*

Do we see ourselves as a unique masterpiece of God's creative activity?

When we look at ourselves, it is so easy to define ourselves by our flaws and shortcomings. Perhaps we think we would be more content if we had more musical or artistic talent or if we were thinner or better looking or if we had witty personality.... any number of things can cause us to discount the fact that God has created me to be me.

I once read that if we truly understood who God created us to be and saw ourselves as God sees us, we would appreciate even the traits we feel insecure about. We would still have shortcomings as a fallen human, but perhaps we could view our "quirks" as part of the unique blueprint God used when He created each of us.

We don't always appreciate it, but no one else has our blend of "me-ness." God knew what He was doing when He created each of us. No one else in God's entire created world, past, present, or future has exactly your divine design. We each embody a combination of characteristics that is all our own. You are God's first and only prototype of you and we will never see another.



And He has given each of us a one-of-a-kind life. He has created each of us to do a part of His work; He has planned something for each of us to do that is our own unique way of glorifying Him. (1 Cor 12:7 CEV) It is our "divine spark" and no one else's.

Do we ever allow fear or uncertainty to keep us from doing what God created us to do? We too often tell ourselves, "I can't." I'm not good enough; I'm not smart enough; I'm too old; I'm not strong.

At this point in our lives, we may feel like we have accomplished our life's work and now we are on the downside of our activity. Let me assure you, it is never too late to accomplish something for His kingdom. Biblical history is filled with examples of people who stepped into their passion later in life. Abraham was 75 years old when God called him to go to the land of Canaan. Moses was 80 when God called him to lead His people out of Egypt.

God has adventure for you in every season of life. Perhaps not as dramatic as our biblical examples, and perhaps not the same tasks as you had when you were younger, but He still has something for you to do. He has formed you and blessed you with skills and passions that are built into your DNA. And He created you to know Him, to love Him, and to find your fulfillment in following the path He has set out for you. He is the One who prepared good works for us to do.

In the book of Exodus, we read (35:31) "*He has filled [us] with the Spirit of God, with wisdom, with understanding, with knowledge, and with all kinds of skills.*" We don't all have the same skills, and perhaps we wish we had different ones, but God has given us what He wants each of us to have. He wants us to exercise our unique gifts and to use them in building His kingdom until He calls us home – to keep running the race marked out for us with perseverance (Hebrews 12:1).

Allow yourself to joyfully live out the unique role for which God created you. Allow yourself the freedom of basking in the reality that God loves you completely just as you are... just as He has created you to be. Rejoice in who you are and confidently say to Him "*I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Your works are wonderful; I know that full well*" (Psalm 139:14).



The Living God

"No horsing around!" I was watching *Dr Pol* and started laughing. I mean no disrespect, but that saying could certainly apply to God and my relationship with Him. Are you shocked and thinking, "what's wrong with this writer?" Let me explain. Often in my life when in dire straits or just difficult times, God has intervened. "No horsing around!"

For example, in our youth when I was teaching and Tom was in Grad School, our baby daughter had outgrown her clothes, but we were short on cash and pondered what to do. Within a couple of days an acquaintance of ours asked if we could use some baby clothes her daughter had outgrown. What a gift! The clothes were the right size and fulfilled our need.

A few months later, I suddenly became ill with a raging headache, slurred speech, shaking hands, and the inability to walk properly. Tom and I were both petrified. On the way to the hospital, I worried. I didn't feel ready to leave this earth. But what was wrong with me? Dear God, help me!

We met the neurologist at the hospital. He asked if I'd had flu lately. And I had had flu recently. After a careful examination, the doctor said he knew exactly what was wrong with me. He'd had four patients in the last few days who'd had the flu and then exhibited the same symptoms I had.

"You're lucky," he said. "I don't have to do a spinal tap. You have encephalitis, and you will recover in time with medication and rest." What a blessing to hear those words. I was able to return to work within a month and had fully recovered over the next several months.

These are just two instances of God's grace and intervention in my life and that of my family. I could write a book about all He has done for me – always in the nick of time, never "horsing around."

This is the living God, the Giver, the Intervener, the Motivator, and most of all a great and loving blessing!!!

--Toni Brunger

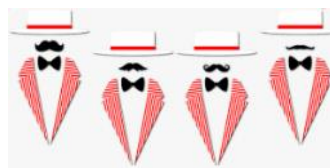


2nd Thursday

We hope you can join us on Thursday, April 13 for our next 2nd Thursday luncheon. On the menu: ham, cheesy potatoes, green bean casserole, and dessert. Then we are pleased to welcome well-known pianist Craig Zinger and vocalist Sharon Wolf. You will not want to miss this fabulous musical program. Prepaid registration of \$10 for this luncheon is due by Friday, April 7.



Then on Thursday, May 11 we will host our final 2nd Thursday lunch of the season. On the menu – grilled chicken salads and make-your-own-sundae bar.



Entertainment will be provided by 3Rivers4 quartet. Prepaid registration of \$10 is due by Friday, May 5.

As with all the luncheons this season, our service project is North Hills Community Outreach. If you are able, please bring a non-perishable food item to donate to NHCO.

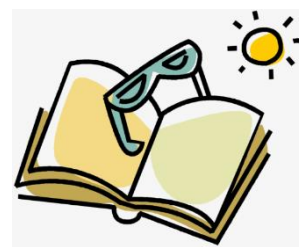
Looking Ahead - Summer Bible Study

Mark your calendar for our summer Bible study:

Thursdays
June 8 thru July 27 at 10AM
in the Edinburgh Room.

Topic: I AM

The truths Jesus revealed about Himself.



Yarn Stash



Do you have a stash of excess yarn that has accumulated because you could not resist buying it on your last trip to the craft store thinking, "I can make 'something' with that someday!"

(You know who you are!) For those of you who have such a stash, one of our church friends is looking for yarn donations to use in her project of crocheting blankets for the homeless. If you have yarn that you would like to donate, please bring it to the church office, and Dee will get it to the right place. Thank you!

Great Hymns of the Church

What a Friend

Scriven / Converse

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

What a Friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer.

Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged;
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge,
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do your friends despise, forsake you?
Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In His arms He'll take and shield you;
thou wilt find a solace there.

Blessed Savior, Thou hast promised
Thou wilt all our burdens bear
May we ever, Lord, be bringing
all to Thee in earnest prayer.
Soon in glory bright unclouded
there will be no need for prayer
Rapture, praise and endless worship
will be our sweet portion there.

Written by Joseph Scriven, this beloved hymn was not even meant to be published.

Joseph grew up in Ireland and attended Trinity College in Dublin. He was a man of high ideals and aspirations. Sadly, his life was filled with tragedy. His beloved fiancée was accidentally drowned the night before their wedding while Joseph looked on helplessly from the other side of the river. In an effort to overcome his grief, he moved to Woodstock, Canada West (now Ontario) where he was a highly-regarded teacher and also a leader in the Plymouth Brethren fellowship.

He met another wonderful young lady and became engaged again. But again, it was not meant to be. His fiancée died of pneumonia before they were married.

Scriven moved further west where he read the Bible to railway construction workers. He was a selfless laborer who was known as the "man who saws wood for poor and sick people who are unable to pay." He had a sincere desire to help the less fortunate and would not hire himself to those who could afford to pay him!

Scriven published a collection of 71 hymns to be "sung to God on ... occasions when two or three are together in the Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ." *What a Friend*, the hymn for which he is known, was not in this publication. He had written it as a poem for his mother in Ireland hoping to bring her some comfort when she was ill and had not intended for anyone else to see it. It was discovered years later when Joseph became ill. A friend who was visiting him saw the poem near his bed and asked who had written it. Joseph said, "The Lord and I did between us."

Charles Converse, a composer and church musician, wrote a melody for the hymn, and it first appeared in a hymnal in 1865. It was originally published with the first 3 stanzas, which is typically how we sing it today. The 4th stanza was included in a later publication, and it is unclear whether it was part of Scriven's original or if it was added by an editor later.

The poem was considered by the literary world as "low quality with monotonous rhymes" but proved to be a popular hymn. Even the humblest saint could understand the words and can take to heart its repeated admonition to "take it to the Lord in prayer" and find his/her load more bearable and his/her spiritual life deepened. Its popularity increased when Dwight L Moody included it in his revivals. It's inclusion in the 1969 film *Driving Miss Daisy* (sung by the Friendship Missionary Baptist church choir of Decatur, Georgia) confirmed its iconic status.

Few hymns are universally popular around the world like this one. The simple wording of it allows it to be easily translated to many languages. In fact, a traveler who was returning from Europe in 1895 noted, "In the steerage of the steamer, I heard a mixed company, all speaking different languages but united in singing this hymn." This modest poem, written in a remote area of Canada as a private meditation for the author's mother has found its way into the hearts of many worldwide and has been a source of comfort for millions of Christians for more than 160 years.





Puzzle Page

Find the hidden words and then read the hidden Easter message.

T	H	R	E	E	D	A	Y	S	E	C	A	R	G
H	B	O	N	N	E	T	G	E	I	S	N	O	E
O	T	O	H	N	E	C	R	N	E	H	O	I	T
E	R	S	O	C	H	A	A	S	I	D	R	V	H
I	E	T	S	R	S	E	E	L	F	R	N	A	S
S	S	E	G	U	J	Y	V	R	V	D	P	S	E
U	U	R	G	C	L	U	I	I	S	A	T	S	M
S	R	A	E	I	S	D	L	S	H	F	R	E	A
E	R	S	L	F	A	A	A	E	I	F	R	Y	N
J	E	L	L	Y	B	E	A	N	S	O	E	D	E
S	C	C	S	O	M	E	T	E	E	D	P	E	A
N	T	N	Y	A	C	U	L	A	R	I	P	T	S
R	I	L	A	I	L	P	N	E	S	L	U	A	T
O	O	D	O	I	I	V	Y	S	U	E	S	L	E
H	N	J	P	C	L	A	A	E	N	T	T	O	R
T	E	S	S	H	R	S	E	T	R	P	S	C	L
R	A	I	C	P	E	O	O	W	I	H	A	O	E
R	D	E	H	E	L	M	S	A	S	O	L	H	Y
X	Y	N	N	U	B	X	X	S	E	X	N	C	X

ALIVE

BONNET

BUNNY

CALVARY

CHOCOLATE

CROSS

CRUCIFY

DAFFODIL

DISCIPLES

EASTER

EGGS

GETHSEMANE

GOOD FRIDAY

GRACE

HOLY

JELLY BEANS

JESUS

LAST SUPPER

LILY

NAILS

PRAYER

REJOICE

RESURRECTION

RISEN

ROOSTER

SALVATION

SAVIOR

SPRING

STONE

SUNRISE

THORNS

THREE DAYS

TOMB

TULIPS

