

NHCC



Senior Connection

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"Heaven is a Wonderful Place "

By Ross Robinson

Recently I had the opportunity to practice what I preached. About two and a half years ago, my friend Hovig called me from Sweden and said, "My wife and I are here in the hospital with her dad." (I knew this godly man had been fighting cancer for a couple of years.) "The doctors have said he will not leave the hospital. He may live another week or two. The news is heavy. The family is all here, and we will be spending time together in this hospital room. I'm just not sure where to go from here. What do we do?"



I told him how sorry I was to hear the news. I took time to take in the weight of what they were bearing. I prayed for him and his wife Anna and her family. And then I said, "You know, my observation is that many times when a believer is coming to the end of his or her life, the other believers who are close to the person (family and friends) miss the opportunity to talk about heaven. Somehow we feel that if we talk about heaven, we are giving up. We are saying God isn't going to heal. So we talk about everything else . . . strength, faith, love . . . but not heaven. My encouragement to you and your wife would be to take full advantage of this opportunity to read scriptures about heaven. Encourage your father-in-law in the truth of his eternal home and the promises of God he is about to enjoy. Offer prayers of thanksgiving and encourage each other in hope. Words about heaven are not words of resignation or defeat. For the believer, heaven is victory."

Hovig called six days later to say Anna's dad was with Jesus, and he testified to what a wonderful week they had shared, reading scriptures and praying as they rejoiced in the gospel and the promises of heaven around the bedside of their dying loved one. I was so happy for them.

Then around the beginning of March this year, I found myself in the exact same situation. My wife's dad, who had been battling cancer, was placed in hospice and we were told he had less than three weeks to live. The news hit hard, but I said to Janiece, "Two and a half years ago, this is what I told Hovig and Anna . . ." and I repeated the speech from above. We decided to take the opportunity to focus on heaven and encourage Dad (and ourselves) with the reality of God's goodness that comes after death.

One night when I was staying with Dad, I decided to sing some songs to him. (I only did that when I was the only one in the room.) As I sang some of the hymns he loved, my mind went to an old medley of songs about heaven. I'm not sure where I learned it or how it came to me at that moment, but I found myself singing . . .

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Heaven is a wonderful place, filled with glory and grace.

I want to see my Savior's face; heaven is a wonderful place!

From there we read Revelation 21 . . .

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be His people, and God Himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning or crying or pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

"That's where you're headed, Dad," I said with tears. "To dwell in the very presence of God. No more tubes and drugs. No more pain. No more crying or grief. Everything will make perfect sense and there will be no sense of loss at all. Heaven *is* a wonderful place."

And then the next song in the medley seemed to be just for me . . .

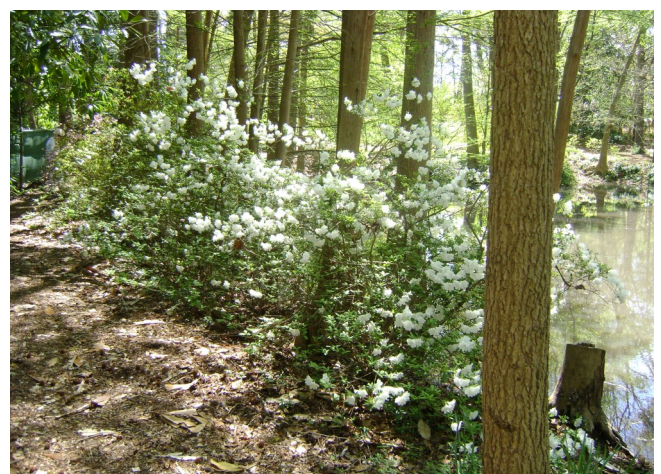
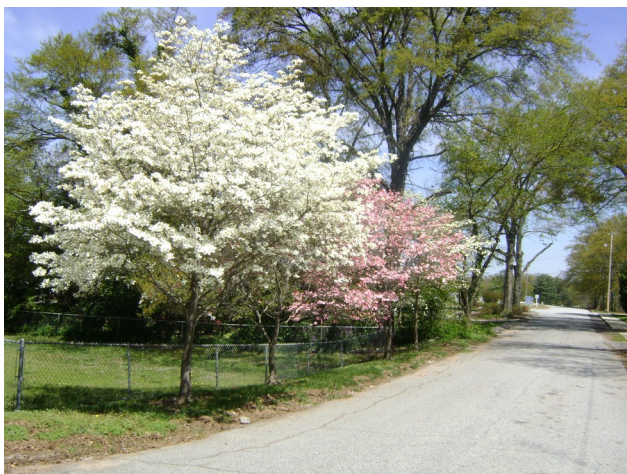
But until then my heart will go on singing. Until then, with joy I'll carry on.

Until the day my eyes behold that city. Until the day God calls me home.

Dad is in heaven now, the place that is our real home. And one of the ways that Janiece and I and our family can go on singing, one of the keys that allows us to carry on with joy, is to never stray far from the truths of our eternal promises in Christ. The rewards of heaven are real and close because of what Jesus Christ our Savior has done. Someday we will be home too.

May we all encourage one another with these precious promises over and over again, most especially in the valley of the shadow of death, because as the scriptures proclaim . . .

Death is swallowed up in victory!



South Carolina's Only Covered Bridge

If you haven't visited this unique spot in the upstate you are in for a treat. Located off County Rd 114 (Pleasant Hill Rd). From Hwy 414 turn on Pleasant Hill Rd. and then to Campbell's Covered Bridge Rd. It is well marked and a bit of history reclaimed for our enjoyment and education. It makes a great stop on an afternoon drive in the country. When we were there we met a young man panning for gold who showed us how to do this. And we saw his gold, too.



A Garden to Visit

We wrote last month about a garden to visit in Spartanburg. It's called the Hatcher Garden & Woodland Preserve. It was begun years ago by a couple now passed who owned several acres of land. Both Hatchers loved to garden, and dedicated themselves to transforming and enlarging their land into a natural woodland preserve. Now it is tended and developed by a host of volunteers, and is supported by donation only, open every day from dusk to dark. There are paved walking paths under tall trees with seasonal flowers displayed everywhere. Benches and rest areas abound which makes for a pleasant visit. Any time of the year one will find something blooming.

Hatcher Garden is located at 800 John B. White, Sr. Blvd. (Reidville Road) on the Westside of Spartanburg.



Seniors in the Spotlight

Hoke and Dot Rosensteel

Hoke and Dot were both born in Maryland. They met in high school. Both loved sports and were active on all the teams. They dated through senior year and married in 1953 shortly after graduation. In 1956 Hoke received a letter from Uncle Sam to serve in the South Pacific (Hawaii) for two years. Dot continued working in Bethesda at Encyclopedia Americana then moved back home with her parents on the farm.

Returning home Hoke served 3 years in the National Guard, and was able to buy 5 and a half acres to build their first home. Son, Michael was born in 1960 and two years later daughter Jill came along.

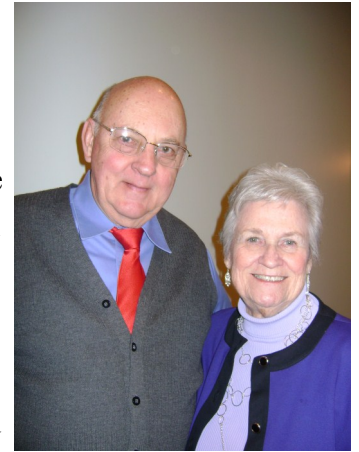
Dot had become a Christian in her senior year and carried a good testimony then and through their married years. Hoke was raised in a strict catholic home and catholic school through 8th grade. However, they did attend Dot's Methodist church for years. It was there through some visiting lay people that Hoke finally surrendered his heart to Christ. He was so touched that he cried for 3 days. Hoke was unaware that a niece and four other women had been faithfully praying for him. Within weeks Dot & Hoke with a team of lay people traveled up and down the east coast sharing how Christ had filled hearts with a new love for Him. By December he was in Haiti on a mission trip. In January Hoke enrolled at Washington Bible College traveling 40 miles each way, while working nights and Saturdays to support the family. During his senior year he taught college credit classes at their local school.

The Lord put on Hoke's heart that they needed a Bible Church in the area. They opened their home for prayer and Bible study. In a short time the group became too large and decided to buy a grange hall to start the church. A young pastor was called and after he left Hoke was selected to be pastor.

Many faithful men from W.B.C. gave of their time to help the church increase in numbers until they could start a Christian school K-12. Then came an opportunity to buy a large parcel of land to build a larger church. At this time Hoke received a call to go to Nittney Bible Church just outside of State College. Then God moved them to help start a church at Greencastle, PA.

They report, "During the years we have met some beautiful people, God's people. We were once more asked to come back to our first church, Mt. Airy Bible Church. Both Michael and Jill attended W.B.C. and Michael later enrolled at Gordon-Cromwell."

Both children have made their home in Greenville, and Hoke and Dot have six grandchildren from 23 to 10 years old. Hoke decided they were being spoiled so they moved down to Greenville in 1991. They attended Fellowship Bible Church for 20 years and North Hills for four years. They say they have been blessed with many good, faithful friends and most of all good solid teaching.



About Getting Old

Eventually you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it.

The older we get, the fewer things seem worth waiting in line for.

Some people try to turn back their odometers. Not me; I want people to know 'why' I look this way. I've traveled a long way, and some of the roads weren't paved.

When you are dissatisfied and would like to go back to youth, think of Algebra.

Hummmmm?

Contributed by Kathy Hartwig

Recently, when I went to McDonald's I saw on the menu that you could have an order of 6, 9 or 12 Chicken McNuggets. I asked for a half dozen nuggets. "We don't have half dozen nuggets," said the teenager at the counter. "You don't?" I replied. "We only have six, nine, or twelve," was the answer.

"So I can't order a half dozen nuggets, but I can order six?" "That's right."
So I shook my head and ordered six McNuggets.

A Lesson From Geese

Submitted by Dixie LaMarca

As each goose flaps its wings, it creates an "uplift" for the birds that follow. By flying in formation, the whole flock adds 71% greater flying range than if each flew alone.

People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going quicker and easier because they are traveling on the thrust of one another.

Bob's Bulletin

Bob Harding, Sr.

Trusting God for Today

“Every day I will bless you, and I will praise your name forever and ever.” Psalm 145:2

My wife Sally and I have learned some valuable lessons from our Lord as he has walked with us through each new trial in relation to her health these past few years. He has taught us to trust Him for today and not to worry about tomorrow, because when you are in a trusting relationship with God, every day is today. God has truly blessed us as we are fulfilling the sickness and health part of our vows we made to each other almost 54 years ago.

Please pray for::

Jean Wingo

Sally Harding

Lilly Jackson

Ben Smith



The WOW's

Six ladies met at the Hampton Buffet for lunch on Friday, March 18th and enjoyed a time together. Nellie shared a poem she'd written, and Mary brought several scriptures that had inspired her. Those present were Pat Breisch and her friend, Ruth, Jackie Ward, Luellan Owen, Nellie Randolph and Mary Cupka.

The WISE Women

We met for fellowship and a vegetarian supper. Everone brought a favorite vegetable, so we had some good choices and of course finished off the evening with cake and ice cream. Attendees were: Barbara Shicks, Dixie LaMarca & guest Mary, Dee Sorrentino & guest Catherine, June Nicholas & Sandy Monts.

A Thought for Life

Prayer is not a “spare wheel” that you pull out when in trouble; it is a “steering wheel” that directs us in the right path throughout life.

Happy Birthday!

Happy Anniversary!



Jackie Ward 4/4

Isal Franceen 4/7

Luellan Owen 4/25



Dave & Nancy Wojack 4/6

Dave & Dorothy Dorn 4/10

Springtime

by Nellie Randolph

When it's springtime in the Rockies,
 In the Rockies far away, it will be springtime in our hearts,
 Because Jesus lives there evermore to reign for all time.
 Spring is such a beautiful time as flowers spring up in the ground.

It is then that we will sing a song of His love divine'
 A love that is always in this heart of mine.
 For those who love the Savior He is always already to remind them
 That He will never leave or forsake His own.

So let it be springtime in our hearts forever and forever,
 Especially since winter is over, and we will have warmer weather.
 So we know this will be a blessing to many people as they gather
 In their place of worship to listen to the Holy Bible.

So let us keep springtime in our hearts forever and forever,
 Because Jesus lives, we will live, too.
 He loves us so much that He died to take away our sins,
 So, sinner, do not wait until it's too late.

From the Editors

We are still looking for a reporter who can spend time to call different seniors for news. Thanks to all those who have submitted things for the Senior Connection. Any places of interest for day trips is welcome as well as other suggestions. Call either Luellan, 848-9342 or Pat, 877-9902 or 905-6623

A Word From our King

*"One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple. For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his tabernacle and set me high upon a rock."
 Psalm 27:4,5*