

Real Life Stories
Senior's Coffee Please

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When I was 19 years old I never so much as even dreamt that I would actually grow old. Of course I knew that I would grow older but in my consciousness that thought was not present or very real.

The years passed. I got married and raised six children. I was very busy through all those years - making a living - jobs - business, etc. I still didn't think that much about old age. In the 1990's our household grocery bill was well over \$1200 per month and the kids were in school and about to enter college. I had no time to think about getting old. I was too busy making a living.

Then, from age 50 I began to realize that I was actually getting older, but it still seemed a light matter to me because I was able to work and my health was OK though I did have diabetes. When I reached 55 I was happy that in some restaurants I could actually get a "senior's discount". Wow!!

But now I am older even older than 65 and then some. And now I hear myself saying like many my age at McDonald's, "Senior's coffee please, double cream - no sugar - one splenda".

Now when I periodically visit McD's or Tim's for a senior's coffee, I often can't help but overhear many seniors' light hearted and pleasant conversations as they chat and read the local papers. Many of the gents talk about sports, politics, cars, vacations, cruises, and the grand kids that they love. Sometimes, however, I hear them talk about sickness, cancer, and dying. "Oh, we heard the ambulance early this morning . . . it was my neighbour . . . a man of only 60. He suddenly died of a heart attack". Then I sometimes I hear others joking about death as if death is not real. Deep within, however, all seniors do realize that death is very real and is fast approaching. There is the thought within, "when will it be my turn?"

It seems that many seniors just don't think about death that much. In a way that is good. It seems better just to live life to the fullest and be thankful for each day. But on the other hand, shouldn't we consider our eternal security as the day approaches? Deep inside all of us there is the question, "when will that day come for me?"

There is quite a lot of talk about death as many of our generation are leaving us, but one thing is striking to me, I rarely hear anyone talking about life after death. This is sad because although we don't like to admit it or think about it, there definitely is life after death and where we will be then is extremely important.

When I was 19 I turned away from my mother's religion and many of my friends turned away from theirs as well. Many baby boomers got turned off from their parents' religion and stopped having any interest or serious belief in God.

But when I was 27 and living in a faraway place, something life changing happened to me. I was suddenly under a kind of shining within, some kind of feeling of emptiness and guilt, a feeling of hopelessness and meaninglessness. I felt a thirst and hunger deep within for something real. I felt that there has to be something more real than the vanity of human existence that I felt.

Having a wife and family and going through the struggles of human life is in a sense very meaningful but on the other hand, if that is all there is, then how vain and empty it actually is. We are born, we grow, and we grow old and we die. Is that all??

We may have been born into a small box (incubator) then we graduated into a crib, then a bed. Eventually we grow up and rent an apartment, a larger box. Then we buy a home with three bedrooms, an even larger box. Our box gets larger and larger. Then as we get older and older we sell the large box and purchase a smaller box - a condo or smaller apartment. Then we may move into a single room in a "home", an old age home. Then we die and finally move into a small box once again, a coffin. Is this the meaning of human life?

When that shining came at the age of 27, I had a definite realization that God is REAL. Under that shining I knew within, there is a judgment by this righteous One and I realized that I was under that judgment.

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It was God's mercy to reveal that I was a sinner and under His righteous judgment. But then He also revealed to me that He died for me that I might escape that judgment. I then opened my heart and received Him. Oh how wonderful, I was forgiven and I received His divine life into me. I felt so light I thought I could almost fly. My sins were removed. I was saved from God's condemnation and made alive in my spirit. I was born again.

I left religion at age 19. I received Christ Jesus the Lord at age 27 and now over 70 years old I am so happy in Jesus. I no longer fear where I will be after death.

My dear older friends, I wish you to know that God is real, life after death is real and judgment is real. But SALVATION is also real. Please read the verse from the Bible that follows:

“But God so loved the world (you and me) that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever would believe into Him would not perish but have eternal life”.
(John 3:16)

You can receive His forgiveness and His divine life right now by simply opening your heart and mouth to pray:

Lord Jesus, I am a sinner.
I need You. Thank You for dying for me.
Lord Jesus, forgive me.
Cleans me from my sins.
I believe You rose from the dead for my justification.
I receive You right now as my Saviour and life!
Lord Jesus I love You. Thank You Lord Jesus.

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