Eighty-Eight Years Young

Dora Johnson wrote: “You tell me I am getting old.
I tell you that’s not so!
The “house” I live in is all worn out,
And that, of course, I know.
It’s been in use a long, long time
And weathered many a gale.
And I’m really not surprised to find
It’s getting somewhat frail.
The color is changing on the roof
And the windows are getting dim,
The steps are quite well worn
And its appearance isn’t very trim.
The foundation is not as steady
As once it used to be.
Yes, my “house” is getting shaky,
But, my “house” isn’t ME.
A few short years can’t make me old.
I feel I’m in my youth.
Eternity lies just ahead
A life of joy and truth.
I’m going to live forever there
And I think it will be grand.
You tell me I am getting old.
You just don’t understand.
The dweller in my little “house”
Is bright and young and gay
Just starting out on a life
That lasts a great eternal day
You only see the outside
Which is all that most folks see,
You tell me I am getting old
You’ve mixed my “house” with ME!”

Life is like arithmetic: Happiness added; sorrow subtracted; joys multiplied; trouble divided.

Wayne Koene

The Value of One Member

Ten church members all in a line, one dropped out, and then there were nine.
Nine church members working very late, one got tired, then there were eight.
Eight church members on the way to heaven, one took a detour, then there were seven.
Seven church members got into a fix, one lost the argument, and then there were six.
Six church members united in a drive, one moved away, and then there were five.
Five church members wished there were more, one became indifferent, then there were four.
Four church members, cheerful as can be, one got discouraged, then there were three.
Three church members, what could they do? One quit meeting, then there were two.
Two church members, not having any fun, one joined a club, then there was one.
One church member, feeling rather blue, invited his friend, then there were two.
Two church members each enrolled one more, doubling their number, then there were four.
Four church members, just couldn’t wait, each brought another, then there were eight.
Eight church members soon found eight more, In six more verses they had 1,024.

*Americans are a religious people. You can tell they trust in God by the way they drive.
Letting Go...

Letting go is perhaps one of the most difficult challenges we face in life. Our egos easily and all too eagerly attach to things, people and outcome. Letting go of these attachments can be painful, particularly when we can’t see what’s ahead. The fear of the unknown for some creates feeling that are intolerable.

The metaphor of a closed fist and open hand may be helpful. A closed fist represents our resistance to letting go, while an open hand symbolizes our willingness to embrace the present and future. Moving from a closed fist to an open hand is a process. It requires patience and the willingness to release what no longer serves us. The choice to let go allows us to follow the pathway to our soul.

Life is a series of things to let go of—our friends and loved ones, our youth, our perceptions of ourselves. When one retires we find ourselves having to let go of more than ever before. One is faced with letting go of our Ministry, the friends we knew ... When a dear friend passes away, we are confronted with letting go on an even deeper level. Is any of this easy? NO! But then one discovers that as long as one keeps an open hand and heart, the experience of letting go is much less stressful. In fact, one remains inspired to let go, knowing that one is clearing the pathway for the soul to continue its journey and fulfill its destiny.

What do you need to let go of? The important thing to remember is that no matter how daunting it may feel, you possess an inner strength and courage that is greater than any situation. Courage is about letting go and moving forward, not in the absence of fear but in the presence of it. When you realize the inner power you possess, you can let go of your attachments. This doesn’t mean that you don’t work your hardest for the highest outcome but rather that you do your best and leave the rest to God.

When is it time to release? You have two choices: you can either try to hold onto the past with a closed fist or you can choose to embrace today with an open hand. As you know, the former will cause you unnecessary pain and suffering, while the latter might trigger some fear of the unknown yet provide rich, new experiences for your heart and soul. Which will you choose?

All endings are inexorably tied to new beginnings!

Wit and Wisdom

*If you truly desire greatness, you must first know what makes you weak!  
Erza Scarlet

*What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us. Emerson

*Fear has two meanings: forget everything and Run or face everything and Rise. The choice is yours!

*Don’t count the days, make the days count.

*The world does not need a definition of religion as much as it needs a demonstration.

*Religion is like a wheelbarrow—you have to push it.

*Church is where you go to find out what your neighbors should do to lead better lives.

*Opportunities are often missed because we are broadcasting when we should be listening.

*Beware of the high cost of low living!

*When you place your offering in the collection basket each week, you are not technically giving to the Lord; you are just taking your hands off what belongs to Him. As Benjamin Franklin once said: “If your riches are yours, why don’t you take them with you to the other world?”

*We don’t change the message, the message changes us.

*An unexamined life is not worth living. Socrates