

As the Years Float By

By: Pamela Kipper

It seems to me that since I got “up there in age” or “along in my years” I have developed a philosophy that connects with my desire to fit in, get by, and make the most of the time I have left. After years of being productive with getting an education, raising a family and succeeding in a career I often feel that I have come to a period in my life when all I have is time. So I plan to stay busy and use it wisely. In addition to wanting to be helped, as a sign of appreciation for all I have done for others over the years, I have a deeper desire to get out into the world to be useful and to feel important, valued and needed.

I have looked around and seen many ways in which this world has changed and I wonder how to use what I have learned through the years to assist the upcoming generation. I even use long sentences to demonstrate my accumulated wisdom to prove that I can still “get it together.” Sometimes I notice a need in the schools doing such activities as helping children to learn how to read and write and do arithmetic basically the same as was done in the “olden days” when I was a kid. I especially enjoy helping my six-year old granddaughter read about Dora.

Sometimes I find that the kids I spent years raising as a single parent are having problems trying to raise their own in this new world full of chaos and confusion. My way of doing things often seems old-fashioned or out of date, thereby creating what the youth call “the Generation Gap.” But when I was going through my 2nd, or maybe it was my 3rd, childhood I found I could relate better with my grandchildren than their own stressed-out, over-worked, and ultra-busy parents do.

I have been able to find fulfillment within my Church and community. I am able to teach or show youth some of the values I have worked hard to develop throughout the years. I have also been useful by merely making little cards and writing poems and letters to help others celebrate the special events in their lives.

I have physical and mental weaknesses and illnesses brought on by the aging process which have prevented me from being active in a work-a-thy world. At times I have found myself sitting in my empty home watching the busy world go by. For me, an answer to how to be helpful and happily productive was also found at the Sunday Anderson Senior Citizen Center. There I have met others of my generation and capabilities. I have found happiness in forming new friendships and taking part in various activities. I have also been able to find ways to volunteer my services; though sometimes all I can do to give aid to others is by simply smiling and gracefully dancing during lunch; thereby bringing a bit of sunshine into another’s dreary day in spite of my own aches and pains.

There are myriads of ways in which I can become involved and stay helpful and busy. And I appreciate and welcome most of the opportunities that come my way. My philosophy is that the best way to live until I leave this world is to stay actively involved in and with it in any way I can. Even when it simply means that I am the only one around who has enough time to listen to what others need to say.