



# Senior Heartbeat



TEMPLE  
BAPTIST CHURCH  
COME GATHER AROUND THE WORD

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## 80 years for Dale ... and still going strong!

**By Dale Oden**

Well it finally happened! I went to bed on May 27 and woke up on May 28 and I am 80 years old! Wow.... where did all those years come from?

I was only 35 when we arrived in Ruston in February of 1976 (turned 36 in May of that year). God has been good to me and my family.

Also, the family of Temple Baptist Church have been so gracious and accepting to us. In particular, the senior adults have been supportive

and encouraging toward us.

Sadel and I have been reading through the New Testament passages suggested as one of Temple's goals for 2020. We also decided to read through the Old Testament again. It has been interesting to read how God used so many folks in their 80s.

Moses was given the task of guiding the nation of Israel to the Promise Land. Caleb was 85 when he received his inheritance.

We just read this

week in II Samuel 19 about Barzillai, who was one of King David's trusted men and was 80 years old. I am thankful that now that I am in the decade of the 80s that God will be leading, guiding and speaking to me.

My sweet wife and family did a wonderful job in making my 80th birthday a big day.

Angela, our daughter, contacted many of my nieces and nephews from all of the country for a "zoom" birthday party on the comput-

er. My 87-year-old brother joined in on the event from his home in Tennessee.

Sadel had contacted our Senior Adult Sunday School and asked them to contact their members to drive by our home for a "drive-by" birthday celebration.

It was fantastic! Thank you to all who were able to participate. Cards, greetings, and gifts kept coming. Thank you for all your kind expressions of love. It was quite a day!

I know some of you are not able to

make our services on Sundays or Wednesdays and that is fine. We pray for God to continue to guide the medical professionals, researchers, our government leaders as they strive to get our society back up and going.

Let me share with you that we hope to be able to have our Senior Adult Summer Bible Study, Aug. 16-19. Dr. Argile Smith is planning to be here to lead us in a study of the book of Jeremiah. Keep watching for all the details.

## Some random thoughts for today

•Aging: eventually you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it.

•The easiest way to find something that's lost around the house is to buy a replacement.

•If at first you don't succeed, shouldn't you try doing it like your wife told you?

•A penny saved is a government oversight.

•The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing at the right time, but also to leave unsaid the wrong thing.

•He who hesitates is almost certainly right.

•Did you ever notice? The Roman Numerals for forty (40)

are "XL."

•If you can smile when things go wrong, you have someone in mind to blame.

•The sole purpose of a child's middle name is so he can tell when he's really in trouble.

•There's always a lot to be thankful for if you take time to look for it. For example I am sitting here thinking how nice it is that wrinkles don't hurt.

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

•Long ago when men cursed and beat the ground with sticks, it was called witchcraft. Today, it's called golf.

—From Fred Benefield



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# Thoughts about marriage

"You think you got it bad? In the 16th century, most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May, and were still smelling pretty good by June — although they were starting to smell, so brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the odor."

—Author unknown

"Advice to young people: Don't go for looks; they can deceive. Don't go for wealth; even that fades away. Go for someone who makes you smile because it takes only a smile to make a dark day

seem bright. Find the one that makes your heart smile."

—Author unknown

"There is no government program nearly as effective as marriage in helping a family escape or avoid poverty."

—Joseph Perkins

"Everybody goes through tough times. I don't know anybody who doesn't. Faith is how you combat them and handle them ... I have a great wife. If I could have seen God one week before I got married and had written down on a piece of paper what I

wanted for a wife, He could not have given me a better one than the one I have."

—Tommy La-sorda, former manager, Los Angeles Dodgers

"One of the greatest mysteries of life is how the boy who wasn't good enough to marry the daughter can be the father of the smartest grandchild in the world."

—Author unknown

At a church's dinner for senior adults, a widow and a widower who had known each other for several years sat across from one another at a table and had a cordial conversation.

Later, the man asked the woman, "Will you marry me?" Without hesitating, she answered, "Yes!" Then they returned to their respective homes.

The next day, he awoke and couldn't remember whether she had said "yes" or "no," so he called her to ask what she had said.

"I said 'yes,'" she replied, "and I meant it with all my heart. I'm so glad you called, because I couldn't remember who it was who asked me."

—From The Joyful Noiseletter

## Ode

*The spacious firmament on high  
With all the blue ethereal sky,  
And spangled heavens, a shining  
frame,  
Their great original proclaim:  
The unwearied sun, from day to  
day,  
Does his creator's power display,  
And publishes to every land  
The work of an almighty hand.*

*Soon as the evening shades pre-  
vail,  
The moon takes up the wondrous  
tale,  
And nightly to the listening earth  
Repeats the story of her birth:  
Whilst all the stars that round  
her burn,  
And all the planets in their turn,  
Confirm the tidings as they roll,  
And spread the truth from pole to  
pole.*

*What though, in solemn silence,  
all  
Move round the dark, terrestrial  
ball?  
What though nor real voice nor  
sound  
Amid their radiant orbs be found?  
In reason's ear they all rejoice,  
And utter forth a glorious voice,  
For ever singing, as they shine,  
"The hand that made us is  
divine."*

—Joseph Addison (1672-1719)



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# Our Abba Father is alive, well and loving

By Ann Clark

When the Korean War broke out in the '50s our family was impacted dramatically. Sam was called out of the Marine Reserves and had to leave immediately. We had just bought our first home and some new furniture and it would now have to be rented out because his Marine pay would not cover the payments. Our daughter, Vicki, was especially traumatized. She was losing her daddy and her home.

Vicki and I would have to move back to my parents' home in another town where I would work for my father at his newspaper and mother and Sam's mother would help with Vicki. In a time of crisis what a blessing families can be.

Emotionally, Vicki had a really hard time. Her father's absence was creating a big void. To fill that void, she developed an imaginary playmate whom she called Mary Jo. Now Mary Jo became a new member of our family — I suddenly had two daughters, and one of them was an imp who did everything the other was not supposed to do. "I didn't do

that mommy, Mary Jo did!" became a constant phrase. It bothered me that Mary Jo was so real to Vicki and although others found it delightful, it was a trial for me.

On top of all this drama going on in our lives Vicki began to doubt she even had a daddy. Sam wrote as often as he could and I would read the letters to her over and over, but she still wasn't comforted. What she wanted was her daddy in person. Finally, I hit upon a solution.

I understood Vicki's need to be reminded that she indeed had a father and one that loved her. The letters just were not enough. To soothe her I'd pull out all the pictures I had of him — and especially those of the two of them together. I'd ask, "Do you remember this?" Memory after memory encouraged her and often she would say, "I have a good daddy, don't I."

I truly understood her need to be reminded of a father she couldn't see personally. I even understood her need for Mary Jo, but it was also nice to see her forget her as she would focus on the photos of her daddy and

relax and fall asleep happy in the knowledge that indeed she did have a daddy and that he loved her.

Remembering those days and nights of long ago when I, myself, am going through tough or lonely times, I, too, long to know that I have an Abba Father and that he loves me. During our dark times, when we feel as if God's not there, we too need to remember just as Vicki did.

Reflecting on our personal experiences and his letters to us can affirm for us the countless ways our Abba Father is alive and well just as the pictures and letters did for Vicki.

David said in Psalm 63 — "On my bed I remember You; I think of You through the watches of the night..."

**Prayer:** "Holy Father, thank you for demonstrating Your endless love for us Your children by previous actions in our lives; through Your words You preserved for us in Scriptures; and through the beauty of the world that You created. Help us, like Vicki, see, hear, read and be comforted and remember — we have a good daddy." In Jesus' name. Amen

## 7 factors help to produce a fruitful life

1. **Health**, as the strong root and the sap of the tree.

2. **Truth**, without which man must walk in the dark.

3. **Love**, without which a man must live for himself and not as a social animal; or say rather, love, which alone supplies the steam by which the machine of society is set in motion.

4. **Volition** or will, which directs that steam into a particular line, making the will a deed.

5. **Courage**, to stand to your point

and withstand the gain-sayer.

6. **Patience**, to wait the end.

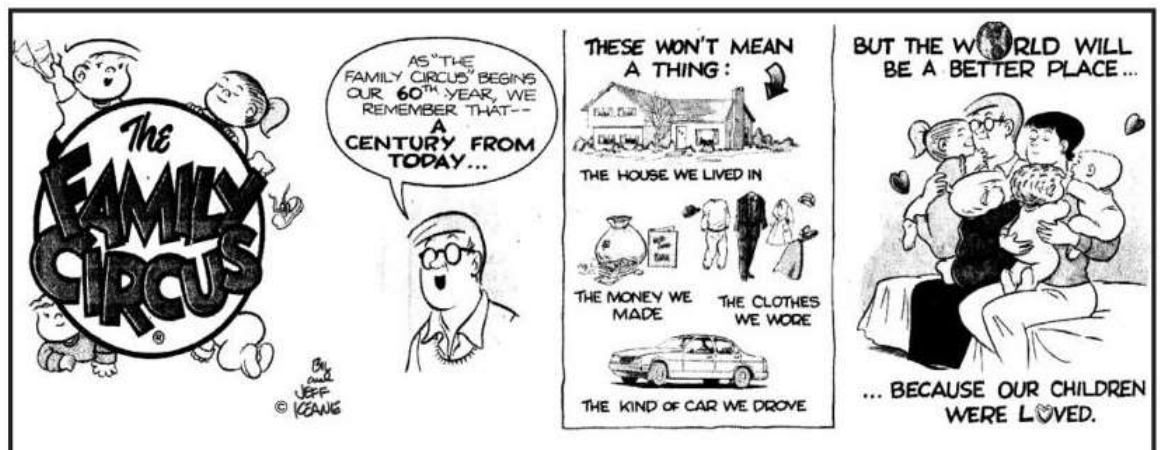
7. **Sense or judgment**, with which to

know the moment, and to use the opportunity, and to balance the forces, and to control the operations.

That is a faculty without which the greatest gifts are apt to waste themselves in exhibitions more fruitful of momen-

tary wonder than of abiding results.

—From *Friendly Words and Golden Thoughts*



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## Congratulations!!!

### June Birthdays

1	Norlyn Hyde	4	Loy Seal	17	John Moseley	22	Eddie Moss
1	Flo Miskelley	10	Mary Lanning	17	Richard Storms	23	Norma Atkins
1	Pam Moore	11	Pat Barlow	18	Teri Fulton	23	Marion Powell
1	Lou McWhorter	11	Dan Reneau	18	Marilyn Hyams	24	Tracy Barnes
2	Antionette Anderson	12	Charles Mills	18	Nancy Smith	26	Clint Scott
2	Don Small	15	Mary Bass	19	Carla Colvin	27	Frances Burford
3	Jim Mitchell	16	Bobby Andrews	21	Bernadine Skains	27	Jan Beck
4	Betty Smith	16	Michael Fulton	22	Debbie Willis	30	Sue Tompkins

### June Anniversaries

1	Martha and Ronnie Vail (1975)	13	Linda and Zack Spivey (1969)
2	Patsy and Ben Westerburg (1967)	14	Janie and Ronnie Ainsworth (1968)
2	Shirley and Kenny Crump (1961)	14	Barbara and Philip Washington (1957)
2	Maribel and Ted McKinney (1963)	15	Jaquatta and Curtis Tubbs (1961)
5	Betty and Buddy Smith (1954)	18	Gay and Bruce Carter (1977)
6	Billie and Robert Dawkins (1959)	20	Brenda and Pete Theodos (1970)
8	Rita and Billy Belding (1968)	25	Vicki and Fred Benefield (1960)
8	Gloria and Bill Gullatt (1952)	25	Kay and Tom Church (1960)
8	Sue and Allen Lee (1956)	27	Sadel and Dale Oden (1970)
9	Linda and Charles Mills (1956)	27	Lee and Bennie Loflin (1953)
11	Beth and Ron Riley (1966)	27	Betty and Ed Harris (1956)
12	Paula and Richard Hamilton (2004)	30	Ginger and Tim Babcock

*If you would like your birthday and/or anniversary added to the lists published each month in Senior Heartbeat, please call the Church Office (255-3745).*