

January 2025: Edition 5

'Priceless People' has been typeset, is being proofread and will be released on the 8th of July!

*Even when your hair turns grey, I'll support you.
I made you and will continue to care for you.*
Isaiah 46

Prayer Points

- Pray for the proofreading and production work for 'Priceless People'.
- Pray people will help with the Amazon launch of 'Priceless People'.
- Pray for the impact and production of the Priceless People videos.

PLEASE!

Finding a 'real' bookshop is becoming hard as most books sell via Amazon. Therefore, a books impact and sales are largely driven by amazon reviews, star ratings and search results placement (aka does it appear on the first page of a word search).

I would love to think you will purchase a copy 'Priceless People'. **IF** you plan to use Amazon, you can magnify your impact in two straightforward ways. To find out how, simply email me!



Priceless People

Loving Older People
And
People Living with
Dementia

Practical Tip: Common Prayers

I have a few prayers which I regularly use and may be of use to you in your ministry:

- 1) **Please take [Bill] home.** Many older people are ready to die or long for death. This desire echoes Paul's words in Philippians 1.
- 2) **Please draw [Jenny] to yourself.** The desire for death is not limited to people who know Jesus' love. If I am not sure of a person's relationship with Jesus, this is my default prayer.
- 3) **Pray 'Personalized' Scripture.** For example –
The Lord is [Jenny's] shepherd, [Ben] lacks nothing.
he makes [Jenny's] lie down in green pastures,
he leads [Ben] beside quiet waters,
he refreshes [Jenny's] soul.

How Priceless People was born

When I first started as an older person's chaplain I had so many questions and thought I simply had not read the right material. Studying at the Centre for Ageing and Pastoral Centre was wonderful, particularly in term of getting across the academic literature on spirituality in later life. Yet there were theological and practical questions which I continued to ponder. Experience, training events and conversations provided leads and challenged my thoughts. Talks, training and writing sharpened my thinking, but I still felt it was somewhat disorganized.

Then Christine Brain, editor of Mia Mia, called and asked for an article about ministry in later life. One article became a series, which received positive feedback and provided the opportunity to methodically build, develop and review my theology and practice of Gospel ministry with older people and people living with dementia.

I was then able to evaluate and expand the material which became what is now *Priceless People*. Then the arduous work began.

Firstly, I sent copies of individual chapters out to older people, chaplains, and scholars from across the world to review. Painfully but productively, they identified holes in my theology, area of poor expression and challenged my practices. Many people were kind enough to then re-read the updated version and further refine it.

The next phase was seeking reviewers, world experts who would not only read the manuscript but pen a few lines of praise.

Finally, *Priceless People* was ready to submit to a publisher. I pitched to publishers, after publisher after published. Publishers in Australia, England and America. Scoured the internet and Christian bookshops looking for a publisher who I might have missed. After months I had a bite from an organization who do great ministry with older people. Then they got busy with another project. I contacted other authors who gave me leads and investigated self-publishing – but nothing worked. Was ministry with older people a dead topic? I had written to every publisher I could find - most did not even reply to my correspondence.

Christmas eve 2023, Christian Focus Publications emailed to say they were interested. What a Christmas present!

Sharing is Caring

Please feel free to share this newsletter. If you want to get the newsletter, please just ask. jesusloveinagedcare@gmail.com

If you can think of any other blog, newsletters or media outlets which might be interested in material on loving older people and people living with dementia – **PLEASE TELL ME!**
