

Life-Changing Occurrence

Although Anthony Burgess made his living as an educator, he had a passion for creative writing. At age 39, he was diagnosed with a brain tumor.

The diagnosis, of course, was shattering, and doctors told him he had a year to live. Thinking of the wife he'd leave behind, Burgess vowed to write 10 novels in the hope that the royalties would provide a comfortable life for her.

By year's end, he had completed almost six novels, the tumor was gone, and Burgess decided to leave teaching behind to make a full-time career of writing.

When he died in 1993 at age 76, he had written close to 50 novels and 15 works of nonfiction.

His most famous novel was *A Clockwork Orange*, adapted into a highly controversial 1971 film by Stanley Kubrick. Burgess, however, thought it was one of his lesser works. *The Times* of London in 2008 acclaimed Burgess as number 17 on its list of the 50 greatest British writers since 1945.

His other occupations – get this! – were critic, composer, poet, playwright, screenwriter, essayist, travel writer, broadcaster, translator, and linguist.

Sometimes, the most unfortunate circumstances offer us the gift of perspective, thereby empowering us to direct the course of our lives in ways we've only dreamed about.

Perhaps that has happened to you. Maybe you are where you are in Life Care, Century Park or Life Care at Home because of some event that was not pleasant at the time, but later turned out to be part of God's plan for your career.

Or maybe your personal life was turned upside down by some situation that eventually led to joy and fulfillment.

We must be alert to what God's Holy Spirit may be speaking to us or leading us to – in good times or bad.

– Beecher Hunter