

The Number on the Board

A high school teacher in Los Angeles found a unique way of stimulating her students to think.

From time to time, she would write on the chalkboard brief messages that were unrelated to their current studies.

One morning, the students found the number 25,550 written on the board. One pupil finally raised his hand and asked the instructor why that particular number was there. She explained that 25,550 represented the number of days in the life of a person who lives to be 70. The teacher was trying to emphasize life's brevity and the value of each day.

It is important that we make the most of our opportunities to honor God and serve others. In Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home, we have visual reminders every day of the toll that time and circumstances take on human bodies. Most of our residents will quickly say that they cannot imagine how the years have flown by.

Hermann Doernemann, speaking in 2003 at the age of 110 and the oldest man in Germany, said: "If I had known that I would live this long, I would have taken better care of myself."

As Psalm 90:12 proclaims: Let us ask God to "teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom."

--Beecher Hunter