The Wisdom of Advancing Age

Age has a way of advancing on us – sometimes, it seems, too rapidly. No matter your age, as birthday after birthday passes, we look back on our lives and think how quickly the years have been spent.

Reunions of high-school or college classes, in particular, always prompt such reflection.

It's important to remember, however, that the wisdom gleaned from our life experiences is valuable – and still useful to mankind. Consider these examples:

- Famed author of the *Little House on the Prairie* series, Laura Ingalls Wilder, didn't publish her first book until she was 64.
- Ben Franklin didn't put his signature on the *Declaration of Independence* until he was 70, making him the oldest signer.
- Nelson Mandela wasn't elected president of South Africa until he was 76 years old.
- The first edition of *Roget's Thesaurus* was published when Peter Mark Roget, British physician and scholar, was 73, and he oversaw every update until he died at age 90.
- Ray Kroc was 59 when he took full ownership of the McDonalds franchise and stayed actively involved in the business until his death in his 80s.
- Famed painter Anna Mary Robertson Moses was better known to the world as Grandma Moses, a woman who didn't begin to paint until the age of 76, when her hands became too crippled by arthritis to hold an embroidery needle.
- And let's not forget Moses, who was 80 when he led his people out of Egypt, or the Apostle John who was still writing Scripture into his ninth decade of life.

Old age is not an excuse for disengaging from life. Our Creator and Sustainer intends that we should continue to bear fruit as long as life endures.

God has a plan, and a number of years, for each of us. Let's seek His will until He calls us home.

The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon; planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courts of our God. They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green (Psalm 92:12-14 NIV).

– Beecher Hunter