

A presentation to the Selwyn Foundation
Ageing and Spirituality Conference 2017



Spiritual Leadership

The 2 Dimensions of Spiritual Leadership from and with Older People



- 1) The Leadership and Spirituality that older people generate and share in themselves.
- 2) The Leadership and Spirituality that people who care for older people can offer.
- 3) Two dimensions of the Third Age: Relative independence and relative dependence. Two different types of interdependence.

“Someone to love, something meaningful to do, something to hope for.”

(Alexander Chalmers, 1834)

The 8 Basic Needs that Spiritual Leadership Addresses.



- ❧ *Relatedness*: Care, Respect, Knowledge
- ❧ *Transcendence*: To Create, to Care about the world around and beyond you.
- ❧ *Rootedness*: To feel at Home again in the world.
- ❧ *Sense of Identity*: Roots, Culture and Individual Self Concept.

The 8 Basic Needs that Spiritual Leadership Addresses.



- ❧ *Frame of Orientation*: Understanding the world and our place in it.
- ❧ *Excitation and Stimulation*
- ❧ *Unity*: Oneness between one person and the natural human world outside.
- ❧ *Effectiveness*: To feel Accomplished.

(Adapted from Eric Fromm)

3 Dimensions of Active Spirituality (Fromm)

- ∞ Love for Humanity and Nature
- ∞ Independence
- ∞ Freedom

With the limits that gradually or suddenly come with ageing, what does this mean for Spiritual Leadership from and with Older People?

Dr. Eric Fromm



∞65+

∞Maturity

Ego Integrity

Versus

Despair



Dr. Erik Erikson



Qualities of Older Years

∞ Care

∞ Responsibility

∞ Respect

∞ Knowledge



Prof. Lawrence Kohlberg



Final Stages of Moral Reasoning

- ✧ Post
Conventional
- ✧ Social Contract
- ✧ Universal Ethical
Principles



Dr. Coral Orsbon



Spirituality of Ageing

- ☞ Ageing brings its own spirituality within it.
- ☞ The challenge to “successful ageing”.
- ☞ The opportunity to be more, rather than to be gain more.

Dr. Tania Luhrmann



∞ The influence of
State of Mind on
State of Health.

∞ As you are what
you eat, so you
are what you
believe.



Dr. Leonie Koban



The findings of Neuroscience, the power of the cerebral cortex for transformation and renewal in a group context.

Dr. Harriet Mowat



Ageing, Spirituality and Health

The correlation between strongly held beliefs, ageing, quality of life and healing.

Dr. Louise Nelstrop



The Spiritual Care of Older People

The search for
good practice.



Revd Elizabeth Mackinley



Spirituality and Ageing

- ✧ Disability in Later Life.
- ✧ Ageing, Disability and Spirituality.

“Connectedness is crucial”.



Dr. Robert Atchley



*“Among elders,
service is very
often a spiritual
experience”.*

Dr. Neal Krause



Ageing in the Church

How social
relationships affect
health.

Towards a Christian Spirituality that offers Leadership from and with Older People.



The Book of Proverbs

FOR WISDOM IS
BETTER THAN
jewels
ALL THAT YOU DESIRE
CANNOT COMPARE WITH HER
Proverbs 8:11



The Book of Ecclesiastes



HE HAS MADE
EVERYTHING
BEAUTIFUL
IN ITS TIME

Ecclesiastes 3:11

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The Book of Job



∞ Faith

∞ Resilience

∞ Humility

∞ Hope

∞ Redemption

Psalm 71



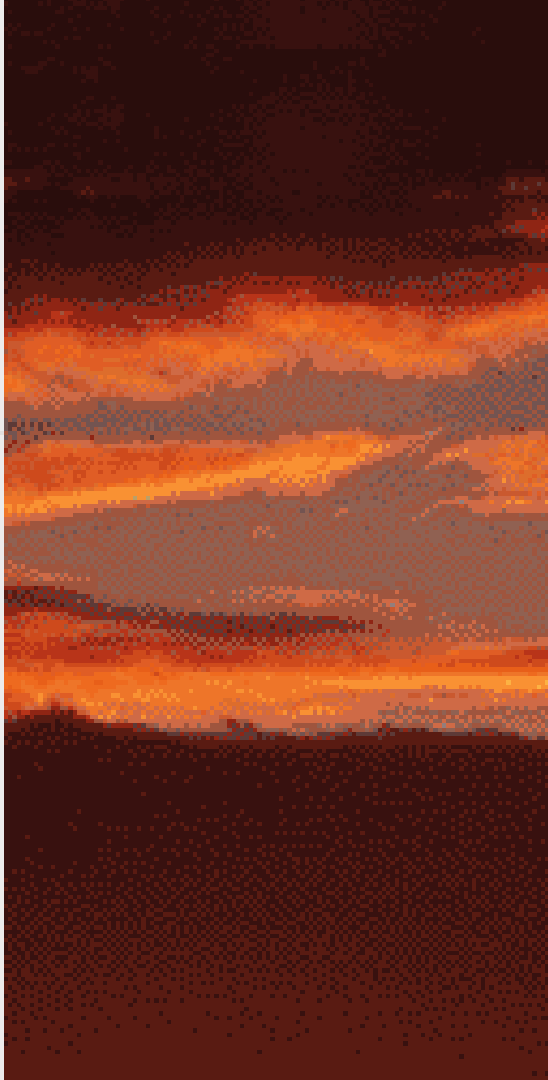
And even when I am
OLD AND GRAY,
O God, do not forsake me,
Until I declare Your strength
TO THIS GENERATION,
Your power
to all who are to come.

PSALM 71:18

**DO NOT CAST ME
OFF IN THE TIME
OF OLD AGE;
FORSAKE ME NOT WHEN
MY STRENGTH IS SPENT.**

PSALM 71:3

The Beatitudes from the Sermon on the Mount




Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn,
for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,
for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and
thirst for righteousness,
for they shall be filled.



Blessed are the merciful,
for they shall obtain mercy.
Blessed are the pure of heart,
for they shall see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called
the children of God.
Blessed are those who are
persecuted for righteousness' sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

THE BEATITUDES MATTHEW 5:3-10

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The
parable
of the
forgiving
elder
father in
the
Gospel of
Luke



Faith, Hope and Love in Spiritual Leadership



All human wisdom is summed up in two words;
wait and hope.

(Alexandre Dumas)

Faith, Hope and Love in Spiritual Leadership



“Giving up on hope is always wrong.

Even in the place of what we can calculate to be certain destruction. Because it cuts us off from ourselves and our own humanity, privileging the head over the heart, the mind over the body”.

(Nadia Colburn)



Spiritual Leadership in Older People: Two Role Models



❧ Te Arikinui Te Atairangikahu - the late Maori Queen

❧ Pope Francis – the present Bishop of Rome

Te Arikinui



“On my flag Te Pahi o Matariki, Uenuku is there for everyone to shelter under in unity and aroha.



Therefore my prayer to you, is that we join in spiritual unity, let nothing divide us, work out our future together led by the fantail.

If there is respect for the earth and each other, peace and love in our lives, tolerance, trust and the will to understand, if there is forgiveness for past wrongs, diligence and integrity apparent in all our efforts; then unity of purpose will forever be present within Maoridom.”

Pope Francis



**“THINGS HAVE A PRICE
AND CAN BE FOR SALE,
BUT PEOPLE HAVE A
DIGNITY THAT IS PRICELESS
- AND -
WORTH FAR MORE
THAN THINGS.”**

- Pope Francis



No elderly
person should
be like an
“exile” in
our families.
The elderly are
a treasure for
our society.

Pope Francis in *Evangelii Gaudium*
13 June 2013



ARCHDIOCESE
KUALA LUMPUR



In Summation: Spiritual Leadership from and with the Third Age



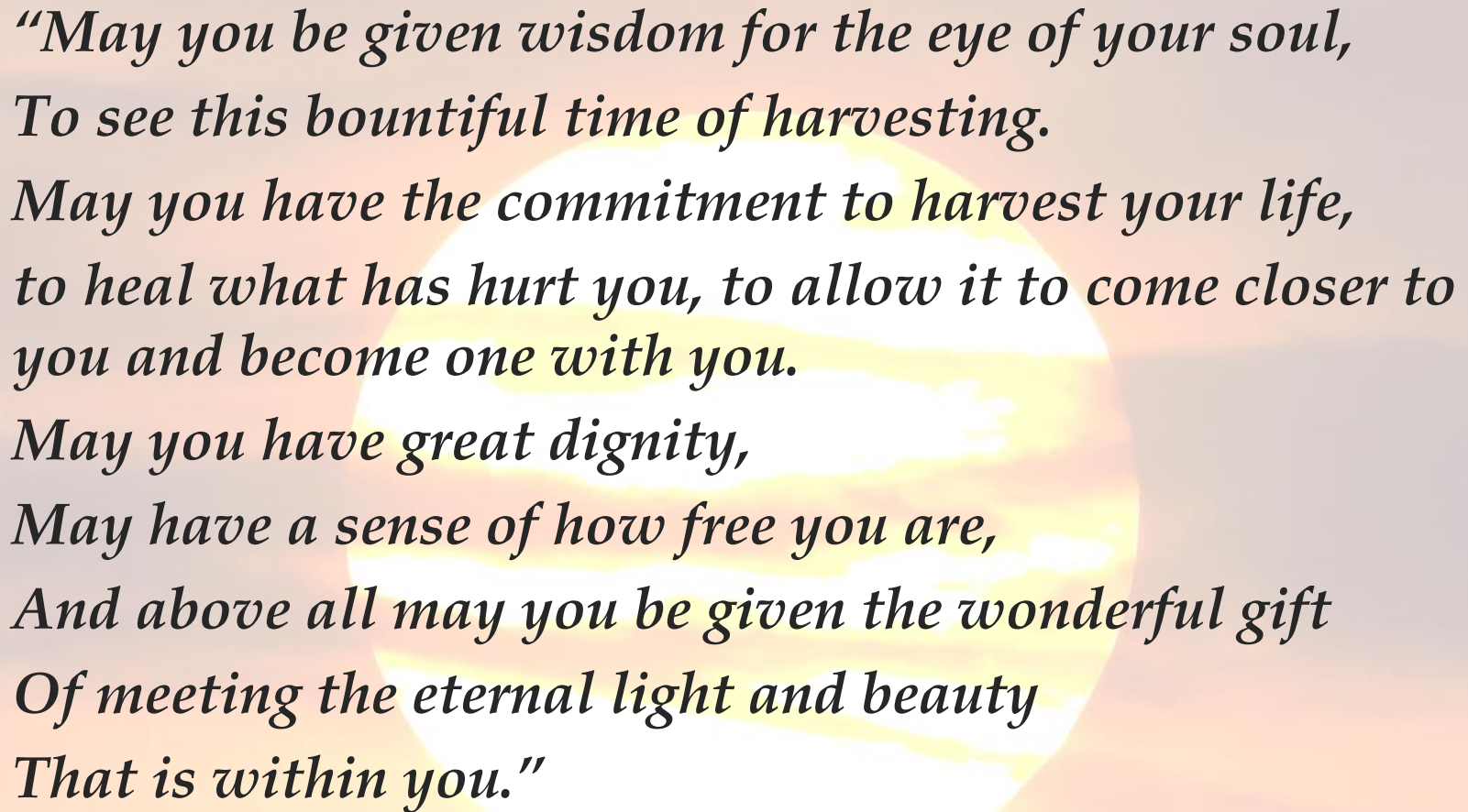
Growing in Living, Giving and Receiving

- ❧ Deep Inner Silence
- ❧ Insight
- ❧ Compassion
- ❧ Connection in the Ground of Being
- ❧ Transcendence of Personal Self
- ❧ Wonder
- ❧ Transformation

(Robert Atchley)



“In winter the light can sometimes be clearer and more illuminating, contrasted and surrounded sometimes by greater dark and shadow.” (Sue Burns adapted)



*“May you be given wisdom for the eye of your soul,
To see this bountiful time of harvesting.
May you have the commitment to harvest your life,
to heal what has hurt you, to allow it to come closer to
you and become one with you.
May you have great dignity,
May have a sense of how free you are,
And above all may you be given the wonderful gift
Of meeting the eternal light and beauty
That is within you.”*

(John ODonohue, Anam Cara)