

## Appendix A

### 50<sup>th</sup> WEDDING ANNIVERSARY - March 10, 1998

(Comments shared by John Moerman during his 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary Celebration with his extended family and friends at Emmanuel Reformed Church, Edmonton Alberta, 6 days before his passing into Glory)

God's direction versus ours: The Holy Spirit's ways are often opposite our natural inclinations.

Our ancestor, Willem Moerman, when he was 14 years old, fled from his home in Blankenburg, Belgium because of war, flood and pestilence. He came to Holland and never saw his parents and siblings again. He believed that they would see each other again in "heavenly Jerusalem." And if Christ tarries to come each one of you is a "Willem Moerman."

The things in life Mom and I experienced have been vastly different from the way each one of you grew up. We do thank God for what He had us go through. I believe we would not have been and become who and what we are had it not been for some of these difficult experiences. We have seen amazing changes during our life-time; so great that I in the time now available could not even remotely begin to mention them. But now as to these exploding cultural, technical, moral, medical, scientific changes; they will be testing your faith as much and if not more, than ours.

Married couples have to learn that sharing is learning to communicate and not taking things merely for granted. And this still stands when married 50 years.

There was a couple celebrating what we are celebrating, but they did it quietly all by themselves with a cup of tea and their freshly homemade bread. The husband opened a new loaf of bread and gave his wife the heel. She immediately exploded saying: "This is the last straw. For the last 50 years you have dumped the heel of bread on me. You always think of yourself first; you take the best for yourself and leave the rest for me. You never think of what I like. Well, I have news for you, I won't take it anymore." Just as she was about to get up and leave, the husband said, "But honey, it's my favorite piece! I have always given it up for you."

“Grandpa, were you in Noah's ark?”

“No, my little boy,” Grandpa laughed.

“You weren't?! Well then, how come you didn't drown?”

The reporter asked the centenarian the classic question: "What made you live so long?"

He began to tick off on his fingers the usual reply:

1. I never smoked a cigar or a cigarette.
2. I never drank any alcohol.
3. I always eat good food.
4. I never was a night owl and rose at the crack of day.
5. I had a very good marriage.
6. And last but not least, I have always been a faithful church member.

The reporter, taken aback said, “Oh, but my uncle did all that too but he became only 86 years old. Than how come he did not reach 100 years?”

The centenarian replied, “Because he did not keep it up long enough.”

When Jamie went to bed, his mother called after him, “Make sure to pray that Grandma will get old.” Five minutes later he came down and said, “But Mom, Grandma is old already. I know something better; I am going to pray that God will make her young.”

This getting old is not for sissies.

“Age is a matter of the mind. And if you don't mind, age doesn't matter.”

In an interview during the end of Corrie Ten Boom's life, the reporter commented, “You must have a mighty great faith.” She answered by quoting her father: “I do not have a mighty great faith, but I have faith in a mighty great God.”

Words of Hope of Dec.3, 1997 on Matthew 1:1-18:

“I hope you were not put off by reading all those names. Everyone of those names was a real person who lived a lifetime, just as you are now. None of these people knew their name would end up on a list in the Bible. But it did. None knew they were passing along their genetic codes which would form the body of the Messiah in the womb of Mary. But they were. None had a clue during their lifetime that they were an important link in the generations God was guiding toward the birth of His Son. But they were. How familiar

these words sound: “This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: his mother Mary ... with child.” We see now how faithfully God had been at work through all those generations. We would all like to see the big picture of our lives and how our lives fit into God's plans. But until God's plan is complete, we will never know the part we played. God gives us joy in this life as we work to fulfill His will for our lives each day.

“But the larger meaning remains a mystery to us. I believe this is because, if we knew, we would try to control it, and also, we would be distracted by pride. It is enough for us to know that as we walk faithfully with the Lord, He is weaving our lives into His plan which will be fully revealed when Jesus comes.

“We offer our lives for You to use, Lord Jesus. Amen.”

Mom's brother, Kees, last year when he turned 75, said: “Yes, I am now living the last quarter of my life. I have to say as well, in fact, it is possible that many people, before their 75<sup>th</sup> year, are living the last quarter of their life as well.” When I mentioned to Mom what Kees said, she said, “Well, I am not 75 yet but it would be miraculous if I could not say “this could be the last quarter of my life” now too in my 73<sup>rd</sup> year” and that is true too.

There are a number of reasons why Mom and I are so very grateful that God has kept us so long, on this side of the vast eternity before us.

1. First, we think of what the psalmist wrote about the blessing of seeing one's children's children. God even went beyond that he allowed us to see and enjoy our children's children's children! That is very special, for which we thank God.
2. Secondly, after having had the responsibility of having children in our home for thirty nine years, God gave us the joy and privilege to go back where we began; just with the two of us again! And it has already lasted much longer than “just the two of us” that began in 1948. It now is already just two of us for over 10 years!
3. Thirdly, we are so grateful to God for keeping us because it has afforded us time to write our life story for you: our precious children, grand children and great grand children. We pray that this life-story testimony shall be a lasting legacy of the way God has been leading us from birth. Besides this, Mom and I want you all

to know that our lives have been far from perfect; Paul emphasized that and we do it too. We are sinners but saved by grace. We have made mistakes and wrong decisions. We thank God for His forgiveness and the new starts He gave us. Our life-story tells you of God's providential care, protection, direction, grace and mercy. In all, God's hand in our lives, and I must add, thereby also God's hand in each of your lives.

4. A fourth reason that stands out in our lives, is that the Lord gives us the unique opportunity to be of further help and witness to a wider circle of people besides our very own. We thank God tonight for the various ways whereby the Lord grants us the chance to let the light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ shine round about us and for the way He enables us to be the salt of the earth.