

Nostalgia Now

“Share not only the gospel but your very own lives ...”
Thessalonians



What is Nostalgia Now?

Is it a resource for seniors to share their faith. Based on reminiscing, people share their lives and their spiritual heritage so they can draw strength from the past to live faith today. It celebrates who we are in Jesus.

- Equips seniors to share their faith and life in Jesus
- Encourages seniors to finish strongly in their faith in Jesus
- Helps others see that seniors have a resource of richness in their faith and life experience

What does a Parish hope to get out of Nostalgia Now?

This varies from parish to parish, and there are a number of different outcomes. There are those who want to establish a seniors ministry, others have seniors ministry or the senior people in their congregations who are already more evangelistically orientated. The main aim is that seniors will understand more about each other and their backgrounds. Another aim is that people are reminded about their heritage and identity and who they are in Christ. Nostalgia Now is a great way to have fun remembering memorable times in their lives.

Who is it aimed at?

The program is aimed at anyone who is over 50.

Who is the target age group and why?

The target age group is those who are 50 and over. Recently in churches there has been a lot of material written about people who are retiring in their early 50s eg Bishop Dudley Foord, see his article on Age Wave to the Standing Committee of Anglican Sydney Diocese, where people over 50s now are living up to 30 years of retirement. The church is waking up to seeing this as a valuable group who need to be equipped for ministry to people their own age or older.

How long does it take?

How much time do I have to give to Nostalgia Now? The Program has a duration of three days, but the actual time of parishioner engagement is two hours on the Saturday plus a bring and share lunch which will be an hour (roughly). Often people think that they are required to be available for the whole three days, this is not the case.

What does it cost?

\$200 (\$50 deposit at time of booking and balance of payment at completion of Program)

How did it start?

It started by Bruce Geeves taking music and videos around to Nursing Homes and seeing that there were elderly people who shared common experiences with each other through these resources – videos, music etc. The value was that they began to share their lives as they reminisced together.

Why do we need Nostalgia Now?

Nostalgia Now is a way in which senior people can use their life experiences and backgrounds to share their faith. Rather than attract these people with specific gospel points people can share what the Christian gospel means as they have a lifetime of experience which is an incredible resource to have.

When people are aging they forget their heritage and background. By reminiscing they are reminded of who they are and the significance of their own identity.

Nostalgia Now by its very nature, shows that everybody has a unique story (as we know). Nostalgia Now provides an opportunity for that story to be told and valued.

What have been the results in other parishes?

Some people are surprised of things that they had forgotten that are of great significance.

An example is of a lady who was given a camera (Box Brownie) during the Depression. She hadn't realized what a sacrifice her parents must have made to give her that camera but she had taken the camera on all her overseas travel. When she looked at all the pictures and travelogue of her life it was almost that her parents had given her all those experiences. As she was sharing about her camera, she said she didn't realise what a significant present that her parents had given her.

Nostalgia Now explores turning points in people's lives, where they went to school, the teachers that influenced them, what their first jobs were, celebrating the end of the war, riding on the back of a lorry down Macquarie Street from Cascade Brewery with flags waving and people jubilant.... Sorting through people's own history of events eg the fires of '67 that circled Hobart even reaching out to Sorrell where school children were asked to go into the water, there was a circus at Sorrell at the time and there was a picture of elephants and circus animals all lined up along the Causeway.

These personal stories illustrate the fact that people have vast wells to draw on. These memories have significant impact on our lives. People respond and react to them. For the Christian, one's faith will be put to the test as the events come into play.

Is Nostalgia Now evangelistic?

Yes. The verse that says it all is "share not only the gospel but your very own lives". At some point in the Christian's life they have had a significant turning which has impacted their direction in life. The person has acknowledged their need for dependence and a relationship with Jesus. Also, to have a realisation of hope and purpose in their lives rather than just floating through life unanchored.

What I think about evangelism

“Our evangelical habit with such is to rush in with the gospel, to climb on to our soap box, and to claim our message with little regard for cultural situation or felt needs of the people concerned. In consequence, more often than we care to admit, we put people off, and even increase their alienation, because the way we present Christ is insensitive, clumsy and even irrelevant. Truly he who answers before listening – that is his folly and his shame.

The better way is to listen before we speak, to enter into the person’s world of thought and feeling, to struggle to grasp what their objections to the gospel may be and to share with them the good news of Jesus Christ in a way which speaks to their need”. *The Contemporary Christian by John Stott*