



# Words of Wisdom

From the Older Adult Ministries of  
the Kentucky Conference

## HOPE

By Will Randolph – Discipleship Ministries, Older Adult Ministries

**HOPE** Hope has always been a magical word for me; an important word for me; a meaningful word. Hope is said to be belief in things unseen. I hope something will happen which means there is an outcome that I desire to see and I believe more than not it will come to pass. As a kid, I hoped I would make the Basketball team. I worked hard to make the team expecting that the hard work would be rewarded. And it was. What if I had had no hope? I would have given up and never made the team.

Dr. Tim Bias has given us an acronym to remind us to be full of hope and to practice it with others. The acronym goes like this: **H**ospitality, **O**pportunity, **P**urpose, and **E**ngagement.

**Hospitality** means that a person welcomes others. The word is the same word from where Hospital comes and it is a place of healing. Hope is healing. It brings a repair and return of people to where they were supposed to be in the first place.

**Opportunity** means being open to what God sends our way. It is a matter of being open to what God is doing with us. Opportunity is looking for places to serve God. Looking for the defining moments in which we have the ability to do something extra-ordinary. It means to be always ready to do something for God and to see the possibilities that exist to do those things.

**Purpose** is answering a higher calling or meaning in life. This is best done by being part of something greater than ourselves. It is the action based upon our identity and desires and where the two come together. Purpose is our reason for living. As Christians our reason for living even has to do with serving God, not ourselves.

**Engagement** is a joining together in a magical moment to help make something happen. It is taking on a relationship with others.

Will Randolph

These 4 elements of hope are important for everyone, even older adults. God still has work for each of us to do to be disciples and make disciples. God is not finished with us no matter our age. The church is not a warehouse with rocking chairs for those who have reached a certain age; it is a place of sending forth to serve as Christ's hands and feet in our communities, our country, and our world. Go forth, be a person of hope taking the message of the Good News to the least, the last, and the lost. You will be blessed.

Sue Eaton