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My Dear Friends and Family,

As I approach my 80th birthday, I find myself reflecting on how time flies. I remember with crystal clarity the rainy night my dad brought home his brand-new 1950 Ford and we took it for a ride. I remember with equal clarity my first evening with OAC as a Biola Student, 55 years ago. I was very nervous, not knowing what to expect, as we drove down to Hollywood Blvd. I remember days of almost endless energy and stamina that made the ministry seem easy. Now, as I face the reality of failing stamina and eyesight, I can't drive at night anymore, and I find even using the computer difficult. My artistic abilities, so helpful in the ministry, are fading due to poor eyesight. My brain also needs a definite upgrade, as it no longer works well. This is not a "woe is me" reflection, but just an observation. I am asking God for direction on what is next, if anything. While I am waiting, some ministry continues, just at a slower pace.

After 43 years, our Townsend Street Kids' Bible Club continues. This is a gang neighborhood. Some of our kids' fathers are gangsters. There is a push-and-shove between rival gangs and police raids. People die. It is hard for kids and families to live in such an environment. On the plus side, we have the community's goodwill, which often moves their cars, allowing us a place to park and conduct our meeting.

Once a month, Frank Baldus, the current area director, schedules a daytime meeting at Seal Beach Pier so that I can take part. Recently, I led a 14-year-old boy and a 20-something-year-old girl to the Lord. I can still tell people about Jesus!

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray for my future, and for my sister Ellen, who is recovering from a stroke.
- Pray for the welfare of our kids and their families on Townsend Street.
- Pray for new workers, as the old ones pass off the scene.
- Pray that the ministry in the LA area will continue to expand!

May God grant each of you a **Merry Christmas** and a great New Year!

Russ Hodder

www.oacusa.org



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