

## MY 50TH REUNION MESSAGE HIGHLIGHTS

(No, I'm NOT getting old!)

I told my high school classmates in Erlanger, KY how fun it was to speak to a group that actually knew what *Matchbox Cars* and *Banana Seats on Stingray Bikes* were. But, sadly, I'm pretty sure hardly any of you will remember *Creepie Peeple* or *Barbie* . . . unless maybe someday they make a movie!

We're so old, to get to school, we had to walk 20 miles uphill both ways. And we did not have cars in those days. In fact, we didn't even have legs in those days. We had to roll all the way to school and back!

We're so old we didn't have the advantage of fancy calculators. If we wanted to add, we had to use our fingers. If we wanted to subtract, . . . we had to amputate fingers!

Today's kids have no idea how tough it was for us back then. We had to walk 5, maybe 6 feet all the way across the living room floor every single time we wanted to change a channel on the TV. No fancy remotes. Of course, we only had 3 channels so it didn't matter anyway.

I closed the message with some very appropriate verses for us old-timers, written by Paul. I began the old people section with my favorite **John McEnroe quote: "The older I get, the better I used to be."** Then I shared how our eyes and bodies are slowly deteriorating. Some of us have health challenges, financial challenges, relationship challenges. But the important thing to remember in the midst of all these challenges is that at least there is one part of life that is stable, solid, and strong these days . . . that's our political situation! (That's my favorite new joke these days.)

Then I read verses from II Cor. 4 (NLT) with a few interjections along the way . . . *"We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair. We are never abandoned by God. We get knocked down (but we get up again . . . you're never gonna keep me down - I added that line for all the **Chumbawamba** fans :-)), but we are not destroyed. Through our suffering, our bodies continue to share in the suffering & death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be seen in our lives. That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. For our present troubles are small (Here I interjected to keep in mind who is writing this. Paul had been **beaten with rods, stoned** and left for dead, had been **in prison**, probably had eye issues as he requested 3 times to have that remedied only to have God reply that His grace was sufficient . . . and yet Paul says these troubles are small!) and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs our troubles and will last forever! So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever."*

So we need to keep the **SON** in our eyes!