
silver CONNECTIONS

Inside:



**“Your perspective
might be totally
changed...”**



A lasting connection



The masks come off



**Time to get
connected**



A new springtime

The silver generation is growing but the vast majority have not discovered the connection that matters most.

Connect4Life (C4L) has provided this resource for you to explore when it's time to get a life free from what can make later life miserable:

- Disappointment and resentment
- Loneliness, regret and sorrow
- Loss, revenge and guilt

Silver Connections from C4L point you to a way to deal with questions like:

- Have I lived a good life?
- Who do I need to forgive?
- Am I stuck in a lonely, hopeless groove?

Look at this magazine and you may just discover **THE CONNECTED LIFE**. A short free PowerPoint presentation with stories from others accompanies this (available online at www.connect4life.org.uk)



From the beginning, it is connection that makes all the difference. This is not just true for fruit trees but for every part of this wonderful world.

It all speaks of intentional design – connection applies at every point, even to babies, families, nations and the universe itself. Let's face it – no connection, no you!

This principle also underpins all electrical appliances and internet gadgets. Connection is vital to fulfil three things in all of them, which is also true for every human being:

For example, a TV

- **IDENTITY** – colour TV (of particular brand and model)
- **VALUE** – enjoyment as you watch your favourite programme
- **PURPOSE** – receives and converts signals to show your programme

You are far more complex in design but your Identity, Value and Purpose also come through connection to your Designer who calls himself God.

God wants a lasting connection with you in a relationship as His child and for you to have healthy connections with family, friends and people around you. Human beings do not thrive in lonely isolation. Connection with him brings life to the full – you should not settle for less.

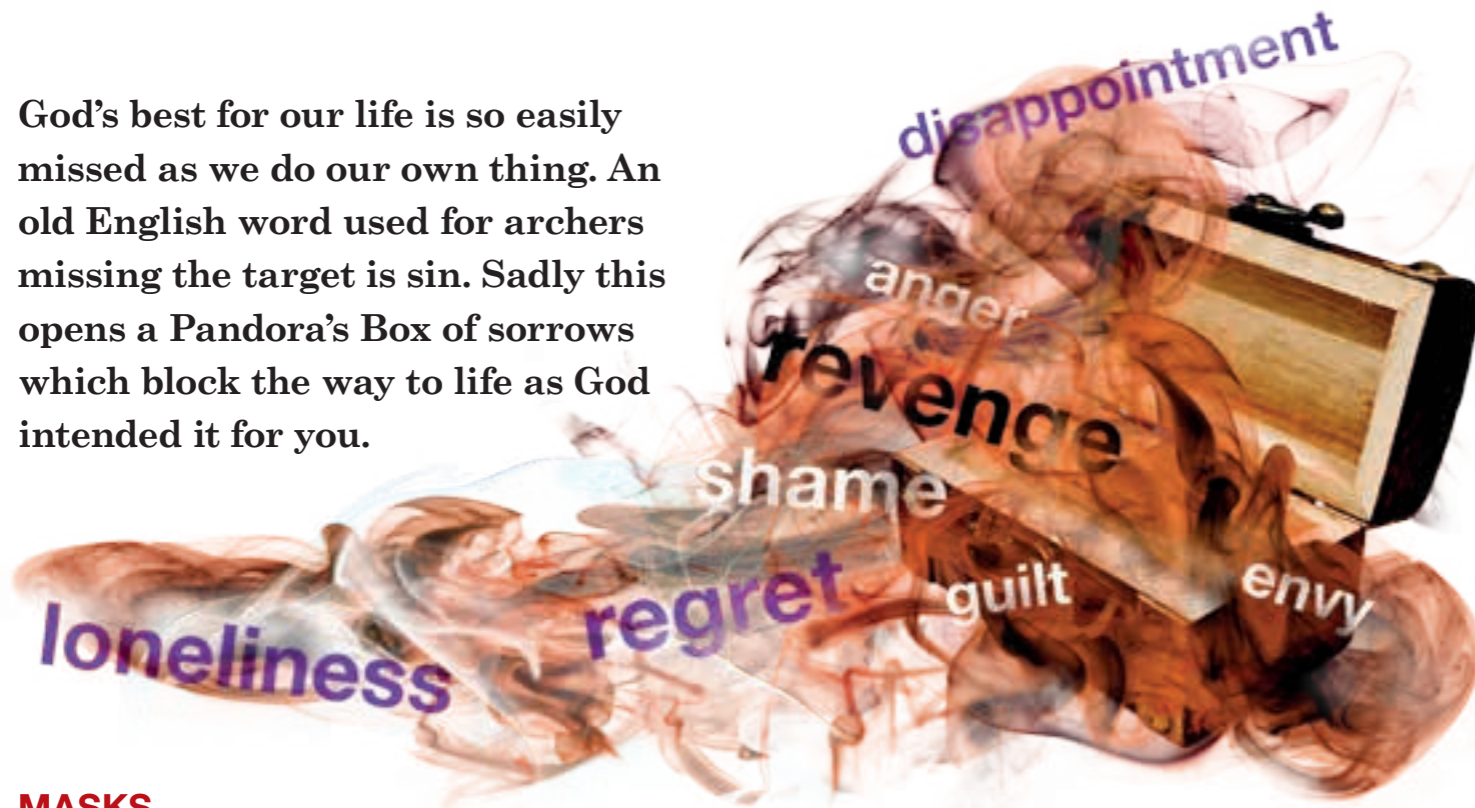


Debbie

From my own experience of life, and as an Anna Chaplain to Older People, I know that memories can hold or release people. This late season is one to embrace rather than resent – and your perspective might be totally changed by discovering the connected life.

Blockages to *The Connected Life*

God's best for our life is so easily missed as we do our own thing. An old English word used for archers missing the target is sin. Sadly this opens a Pandora's Box of sorrows which block the way to life as God intended it for you.



MASKS

During life, we use different masks in various roles as we try to please others and ourselves. This is part of seeking to fulfil our need for identity. The identities change in seasons of life – child, student, parent, employee, lover, retired, bereaved.

There is no need for pretence in the silver years – as the masks come off and we face ourselves, our questions, our own Pandora's Box. Often there



is confusion of identity, little sense of value and uncertainty about the purpose of life lived. Are the silver years really all about diminishing loss that fades to nothing?



Yes it's true, God wants to be connected with you despite the masks and the blockages. His Son Jesus Christ, came to connect you to God – this is the whole purpose of Christmas and Easter. The heart of the Christian message is God's heart for you.



HOW TO CONNECT

Life is as fragile as a silver thread, but God wants you to receive new life in Christ.

Take this moment to hand over your life to him and make the connection – he promises to make all things new. Think about this well-known Bible verse:

“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3 v 16)

CONSIDER the diagram below if you want to be able to call God ‘Father’ and receive a new start as His child.



Transformation of your life is a prayer away – if you truly want this, you could use the following words as a prayer of connection:

“God, I’m reaching out to you. Come and take my disappointments, failures, painful memories and all the wrong things I’ve done. I am truly sorry for all I’ve done that has been selfish and hurtful to you and to others you brought into my life. I was supposed to love you and to love them, but instead I loved myself much more. You know all the ways I have missed the mark in terms of the best you wanted for me – forgive me, for your son Jesus’ sake. I don’t yet fully understand the cross but I do know that Jesus didn’t die for his sins, but that somehow it was for mine. I need your help more than words can say and I choose to trust you for each day of the journey that’s left until you bring me home to be with you. So Father, take this, my prayer of connection, as I hand over my life to you. I am your child (say your name)’ PS – I know you offer to be with me by your Holy Spirit, and I would like this too!

If you have said this prayer in your heart and truly meant it, you have found the need of your soul – your life now connected to God as the Father who loves you.

So, you are for ever:

- A child of God (your true and lasting identity, finally discovered through Christ)
- Loved by God (yes, your value is measured by the gift that God gave, the life of His Son for you)
- Enjoying God (He wants to see you enjoy this new life He's given you – a purpose that brings Him joy)



David



Looking at the wonderful world around me, there are signs of life in everything I see. Particularly in the Spring, the new growth of crocuses and snowdrops speaks to me of the mighty Creator God and the new start that He gives. My Winter ended and came to a new Springtime many years ago when I put my trust in Jesus. I realised his death on the cross was for me – God is now my Father and He has given me a new heart and an assurance that one day I will be with Him in heaven. This surely is good news in a mixed up world.

Peter



One author has said, 'the only thing more difficult than having a relationship with an invisible God is having no such relationship.' And, as tough as it sometimes is, my relationship with God and his son, Jesus Christ, is the only thing that makes everything make sense – whether it's the physical world – or why I, as an individual, can live with hope rather than despair – or even why I have any value or worth. Despite being a very imperfect being, God has accepted me. He is full of mercy & compassion that I don't deserve.



What next?

Speak to a Christian friend, chaplain or other minister. Ask about courses like Alpha, getting a Bible and notes to help you understand more of God's love for you and His best for your life. These are early days, like the days of first love, to be cherished and to walk into the unknown with unshakeable hope – it is called faith! Much of life is spent waiting – good things can happen in times such as this, as Jesus waited for you so, in a way, you can wait with him, until all things are completed for you in HIM. In Him, you no longer need to fear. By the way, did I mention the resurrection!! It's for you too, as you say this prayer and mean it.



Pam

I've been a Christian for 35 years and it's like going on life's journey with a wonderful, amazing friend. One I've got to know and trust more and more as time has passed. A friend who enjoys the good times with me, who is by my side through the sad and difficult times, a friend who waits patiently for me when I make the wrong decisions but guides me back when I ask for help. A friend who is contactable 24/7. One who doesn't judge me but just loves me. The best friend ever.

If you have a computer, do go to www.connect4life.org.uk (C4L Silver Connections section) for a PowerPoint/pdf download that will help you along your path with Christ – you are not alone, He knows the way and has been there before! You will find details of other resources for your spiritual journey in the discipleship section at www.connect4life.org.uk/church-growth-resources If you don't have a computer, ask someone who has! If you are able to get out to church but not sure which one to go to, ask a Christian friend, or check either www.findachurch.co.uk or www.eauk.org/connect/find-a-church.cfm

Send an email to us, if you'd like to, so we can pray for you:

contactus@connect4life.org.uk

Tel: C4L Silverline – 07767 804333



John

As I reflect back over my life I think the most satisfying thing has been about building relationships with people and with God.

The Bible enables me to learn and understand about who God is, what Jesus has done for me, how to relate to other people and having the person called the Holy Spirit live inside me. This gives me total peace and confidence each and every day.



Myrtle

I was launched on life's seas in the 1920s and through many storms, I have found that Jesus has been my pilot. He has kept me safe in my little boat. My connection to Him remained strong as a nurse during the war, losing my sister and mother at an early age, and throughout 60 years of marriage and family life. I have discovered that there is no challenge that cannot be met in the grace God gives me. This can be yours too!



Geoff

The Good News of God has dealt with my biggest question, 'Why do I exist?' and my biggest need 'Why do I sin?' I am able to have complete confidence for these two questions because I've found the answers in Christ Jesus. Through His grace, He has brought me into relationship with God whom I can now call Father and from whom I have received total forgiveness. This connection is for ever and meets the need of every human heart. Don't miss it!



Silver Connections is a resource from Connect4Life helping people of all ages make a vital connection.

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www.connect4life.org.uk for many other resources and for free electronic presentation to accompany the magazine

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