

Priceless People August Newsletter

Dear Friends,

I had been planning to not continue this newsletter post the publication of 'Priceless People', as I was unsure of it's value and very aware of the time required to compile it. So, if you see value in it please tell me! I am currently thinking of going to bimonthly...

Thanks Ben

Mini Revival

I received this feedback on some training I gave based 'Priceless People'.

"We have had a mini revival! Inspired by your challenge to simply state the gospel in a minute, the pastoral care team at our care home have put it in practice and using it to bring the gospel to some of their residents. With that, and the fire of the Holy Spirit burning in people's hearts, in the last three weeks, **SEVEN residents and TWO staff have come to Christ!** The impact of your presentation to our teams has had eternal consequences. Praise God! Thank you for playing your part in God's plan to inspire our teams to be bold in their sharing of the gospel, and the open hearts of these folks to receive and respond to it."

Residential Aged Care Pastoral Care Team Manager

Nine conversions in three weeks is nothing compared to 3000 in a day (Acts 2), but I am certainly rejoicing in God's saving work.

Practical Tip

As I reflect on the 'Mini revival' I have been trying to distil how God used me and have reached the following conclusion. There were three interlinked points I made from 'Priceless People' which God chose to use to bring those nine people into relationship with Him:

- 1) Pray – Life and ministry are driven by God's power, which it typically dispensed through prayer.
- 2) Evangelism – Older people and people living with dementia need the Gospel and respond to it.
- 3) Learn to share the Gospel in under a minute without any jargon.

Here are some quick examples in my words. I recommend working out your own words, and being able to adapt them to the person and context.

Question: What is a Christian?

Response: A Christian is a person who is in relationship with Jesus. Relationship not based on being good, because trust me, while I try to love God and my neighbors, I fail not simply each day but each hour, if not every minute! Personally, I trust in Jesus perfection. So, to answer your question: A Christian is a person who say to God, my good is not good enough, please rescue me.

Feedback about 'Priceless People'

I could not put 'Priceless People' down when I first began reading it! I cannot wait to share this wonderfully practical, sensitively written and beautifully insightful book with those I work alongside. Ben's heart is full of compassion and love, and this is reflected on every page. I cannot recommend 'Priceless People' enough for anyone involved in pastoral care or church leadership, in fact, I would recommend 'Priceless People' to everyone!

Pippa Cramer, MBE, Pastoral Care and Seniors Minister, Holy Trinity Claygate

Pippa is the author of the best evangelistic resource for older people I know of – Hymns We Love

<https://www.thegoodbook.com.au/series/hymns-we-love/?srsltid=AfmBOooqtWY9t32B3ybsVqUdGSxapyMIsSzmZom5w5At4q3JP6KDsro>

Question: I'll go to heaven because I am a good person, wont I?

Option 1: So, you have obeyed the 10 commandments? Can You remind me of them?

Option 2: God says the pass mark for heaven is not 50%, 75% or 85% - its perfect love. Perfect love of God and our neighbor. That's, why Jesus did not simply teach, but He had to die because the cost of not loving is death.

Question: I go to church, so I'm good with God, yes?

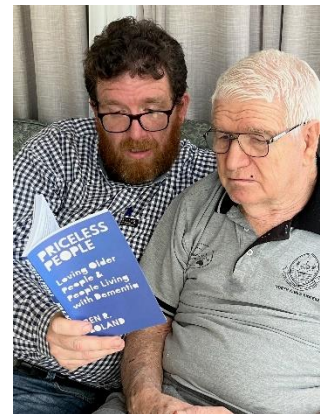
Option 1: Does sleeping in a garage make you a car?

Option 2: Going to church is great. But do you think Jesus, died so you could go to church or because He want to be in relationship with Him?

Dad Update

Some of you may know that 'Priceless People' opens with: *This book is dedicated to my beloved father Robert Alfred Boland, who taught and showed me Jesus love both before and after he grew older and lived with more than one dementia.*

A week before 'Priceless People' was released I was able to give dad a prerelease copy, his dementia meant it did not mean much to him but it was significant for me, this is a photograph of me sharing it with him.



Sadly, the week after the release dad fell, breaking eleven ribs and developed pneumonia. Without pain or distress he died a few days later, thanks to God's grace and great care from the care home.

While we are all grieving we are also remembering not only the good times but that:

1. Mum was able to get back from Africa (mission trip) early to be with him for the last few days.
2. Dad predeceased Mum, who has stage 4 cancer.
3. Dad was finding life with advanced dementia very hard as was mum and family so there was lots of blessed release.
4. The funeral glorified God and remembered a good and faithful servant, who was saved by grace. Indeed, one of the attendees has reached out to my sister to find out more about Jesus!

Prayer Points

- Praise God for the 'mini revival', and pray for more people coming into relationship with Jesus.
- Pray for my sister and her friend as they talk about Jesus.
- Praise God for the amazing reviews people have been giving 'Priceless People'.

Media

Review of 'Priceless People' in *The other Cheek*, <https://theothercheek.com.au/turning-up-and-loving-people/>

'It takes a village to care for an older person', in *Mia Mia*, <https://www.miaustralia.org.au/resources/mia-mia-pdf-and-audio-mia-mia-downloads/winter-2025>

'Dementia. Why Care', in *The Link*, <https://www.armidaleanglicandiocese.com/news/the-link/>