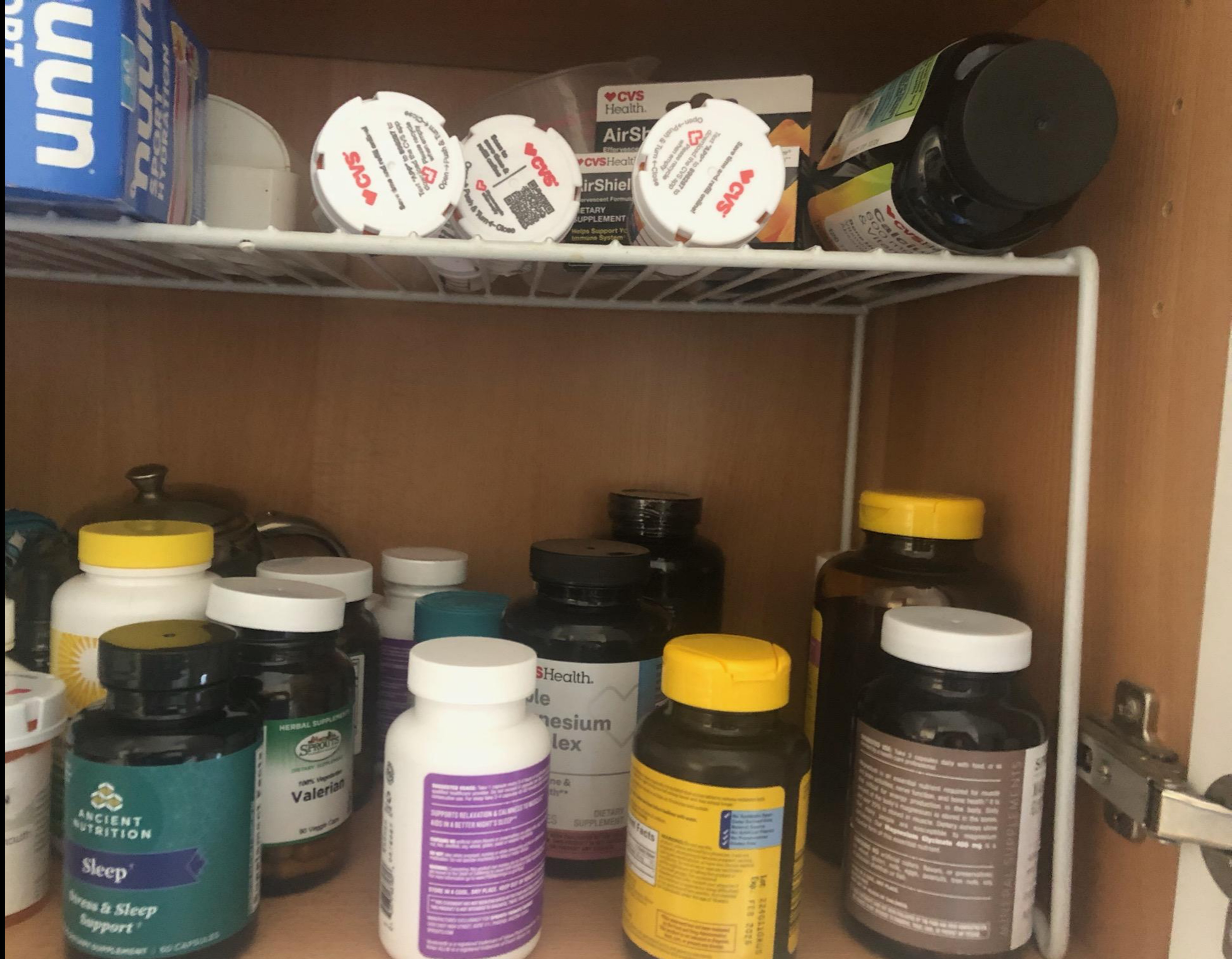


Finishing the Race Well: Aging to the Glory of Christ

Ellen Mary Dykas
Harvest USA







John Piper

Speaking to 40,000 college students in 2000

Three weeks ago, we got word at our church that **two women near 80 years old had both been killed in Cameroon.** Ruby was over eighty. Single all her life, she poured it out for one great thing: to make Jesus Christ known among the unreached, the poor, and the sick. Laura was a widow, a medical doctor, pushing eighty years old, and serving at Ruby's side in Cameroon. The brakes give way, over the cliff they go, and they're gone — killed instantly. **And I asked my people: was that a tragedy?**

"Boasting Only In The Cross"
desiringgod.org



Jacob Lee
Husband, father, pastor,
cancer patient
1982–2020
38 years old

Right before he received his stage 4 lung cancer diagnosis, Jacob told a close friend, as he was still in the early days of his pastoral ministry:

“When I die, I want to be remembered because of the love and presence of Christ in my life, not a list of ministry accomplishments.”



Ken and Joni Tada
75 years old (Joni)

"It's the noble cause of Christ to which I've dedicated myself for decades, and I can't think of anything that gives me more joy. Yet as I reach the milestone of 55 years of quadriplegia—not to mention two bouts of cancer, severe breathing issues, COVID-19, and chronic pain—I hold tightly to Acts 20:24 (NIV): "I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace."



- Sacrificial, hidden life
- 8 kids over 17 years
- Faithful wife and mom
- Gentle, strong love
- Didn't coast . . . kept learning, serving, exploring
- Began to study the bible in her 60s
- I'm fruit of her life . . . which Google won't say any of that!

My mom and lil El 😊
1936–2006



That's a
TRAGEDY!!!

Paul near the end of his life, early 60s

⁶ For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. ⁷ **I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.** ⁸ Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

2 Timothy 4:6–8

Paul as a 30-something man

¹ And Saul approved of [Stephen's] execution. And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. ² Devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him. ³ **But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison.**

Acts 8:1–3

Five Essentials

1. Remember where you are located and where this life is headed
2. Aim to live all of your days as a disciple
3. Cultivate Christ-centered relationships
4. Wisely steward your health, finances, and “discretionary” resources
5. Engage practical, compassionate, Christ-centered care for the elderly

Finishing the Race Well

Aging to the Glory of Christ

Recommended Resources

- *Heaven*, Randy Alcorn
- *Aging with Grace*, Sharon Betters and Susan Hunt
- *Finishing Your Course with Joy*, J. I. Packer
- *Preparing For Glory*, Elizabeth Reynolds Turnage
- *Finishing Well Ministries*, finishingwellministries.org

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Stop by our table in the exhibit hall!

