



# STOPPED WORK? START LIVING!

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*encouraging stories of  
new directions in retirement*

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For  
Alastair and Lilian





## INTRODUCTION

The shape of Western society is changing, to the point of concern for those who manage our economies. They foresee the day when an ever-increasing number of retired people will be dependent on an ever-decreasing number of working people, and the tax implications worry them. We now live longer, and more of us can look forward to reaching our eighties and nineties than ever before. Not only that, but after retirement we have a reasonable expectation of years of good health. For some that means a round of golf a day and plenty of time to work in the garden. Others renew their passports and spend six months a year in the sun





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while their families at home brave the winter storms. Many retirees now work in the voluntary sector, having taken the places of the non-employed wives and mothers who used to deliver meals on wheels, run hospital transport and work in charity shops. The truth is that the words 'retired' and 'elderly' are no longer synonymous.

What an opportunity this presents for Christian service as churches realise what a valuable resource they have in their retired membership. Not only that, but many are sufficiently financially secure that they are able and willing to work without payment, or just in return for expenses. And to crown it all, some are still in their mid fifties! With a wealth of experience and wisdom behind them, they are open to serving the Lord in new and different ways. *Stopped Work? Start Living!* tells the story of retirees who, having left the work place behind them, took up the challenge of further Christian service. Hence the subtitle – this book might seriously endanger your golf. Those who contributed their stories did so in the hope of inspiring others to approach retirement as a new opportunity to serve the Lord Jesus, who gave his all on the cross for us.

Contrary to what some say, life does not begin at retirement. Consequently, the men and women whose stories are told in *Stopped Work? Start Living!* do not start their accounts in their fifties or sixties. They begin at the beginning by telling readers about their backgrounds in Scotland, England, America and Australia, how they came to know the Lord, and how they spent their working lives. And what a varied set of stories they present. Then they go on to show how the Lord surprised them by opening unexpected doors at a time in their lives when most of their friends were thinking of long lazy days of retirement.

**Irene Howat**

