

## **Al Siebert talks about his decision to move to a retirement community.**

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### **Al Siebert Interview Excerpts, May 2014**

**J:** Jill

**A:** Al

Interview starts at 3:23

**J:** Hello there.

**A:** Hello.

**J:** Hello, hi there, how are you? This is Jill.

**A:** Hi, this is Al, how you doing?

**J:** I'm good, I'm good and yourself? I'm calling as you know from here in Tucson, Arizona at Watermark Retirement Communities.

**A:** Yeah, I know, I was going to ask how's your weather there today?

**J:** Well, same as always blue sky, bright sun.

**A:** Hot.

**J:** Yep.

**A:** Pretty hot probably.

**J:** We actually already hit a hundred this year.

**A:** Hundred this year already, what are you aiming for about a hundred and ten?

**J:** About a hundred seventeen maybe.

**A:** Oh my goodness.

**J:** When it turns a hundred out here in Tucson they call it the day that the ice broke on the Santa Cruz River, isn't that funny? And yourself how is everything there?

**A:** Ok, fine thank you, blue sky today and it's nice. I'll be going out later to go to my choir rehearsal tonight.

**J:** Oh, nice.

**A:** I still sing in the choir.

**J:** Well, that's wonderful.

**A:** They let me sing in the choir at age 93, you know.

**J:** Oh my goodness, congratulations on hitting ninety-three, that's great.

**A:** Yeah, I'll be ninety-four in October.

**J:** No kidding, well thanks for fitting us in, it sounds like you have something else heading up your day here, I appreciate you taking the time to speak with us.

**A:** Oh, no problem I'm glad and happy to meet somebody new even if it's over the telephone.

**J:** Nice, good, well thank you, actually good, I'm looking forward to getting your perspective. We are enjoying speaking with different residents and the whole point is to kind of get your story, you know how you came to think you might make a move. You know there so many people out there who are on the fence or maybe their head is kind of in the sand and they just think life

can't get any better than rattling around that big old house that they've been in for so many years and you know maybe that is the case for them, maybe that is the best place but we want to learn about different experiences that our residents had and what advice they might have for folks out there who, you know, they might want to start their journey to a retirement community some time, too.

A: It's interesting you should say it that way because tomorrow there will be somebody coming here from the church that I attend and I'll be eating with him and hopefully he'll choose to come here.

J: I can tell you one thing that's a guarantee, he'll be better off just from learning a little bit more you know.

A: Of course.

J: No matter where he goes, that's great. Thanks for doing that. It's really helpful when people hear from a peer isn't it?

A: Yes, yes, I invite, every month or two, I always invite a couple from the church for my guests for a meal and show them around, show them my place and, you know. so forth. Some aren't that old enough yet and aren't quite ready but I want them to know there is a place.

J: That's right and the sooner they start to learn the more comfortable they'll be when they are ready, you know?

A: And I try to encourage people, "Don't wait until you're saying I have to do it."

J: That's good advice.

A: Well, you know then sometimes everything goes too soon, too fast. You may not make decisions that you would've made if you were thinking about it ahead of time.

J: Well, that makes a lot of sense and you don't want to make any kind of big important decision in a rush.

A: No, no, I personally believe that when you lose a loved one, like I did almost four years ago now, we had sixty-two and a half years of marriage but she went suddenly, had a stroke during the night and by noon the next day that was it but I believe you shouldn't do anything too soon but you don't want to wait too long. My timetable is usually you ought to do something within a year or before, or before. Don't wait until, I have a couple right now I'm working with from the church. Not Asia but Kat has met them at their house. I was with her they went over there and I think he would move here tomorrow but his wife is the culprit.

J: Oh, she wants to stay.

A: And she's made in her statement to somebody at the church just the other day and they came and told me was "we're going to wait until something happens to one of us, then we'll take care of it" and that definitely is not the right way to do it.

J: Right, well they're going to have a lot more on their mind than they want to deal with all at once probably.

A: That's right, that's right, that was my point, don't do it too fast but don't wait too long.

J: Honestly, going through one closet can be daunting if you really want to think about it, you know.

A: Yeah.

J: Taking it slow when you're not in a rush it's going to be a smoother process for sure. Ok, well that's good advice.

A: We were in a mobile home since 1987 when we moved down here. I don't know whether you know it or not, I'm a minister and I pastored churches for forty years.

J: Oh, no kidding and now were you always in Florida, were you always a resident of Florida?

A: No, no, no, we had churches as far west as Denver and as far north as Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. We moved from Winnipeg to Florida. You talk about a change of climate.

J: Yeah, that was a long journey south towards the sun, wasn't it?

A: We had told our children we are moving into a warm climate, you guys are all in cold climates, our pastorates have been in many much in cold climates and we're going south. You come and visit us, which they do, which they do.

J: Well I imagine so, yeah.

A: They've been so good now, after my wife went you know, to make sure and I figured it out. I said to my daughter, I said "I think you guys have decided I'm never going to be alone Christmas day." "Oh" she said, "you did get it, huh?" I said, "Yeah, I got it" and I said "I appreciate it but that means the one coming here is missing their family." She said, "Don't worry about that. We don't want you alone on a day like Christmas." So I appreciate that so much.

J: They've got all those other days and they're probably happy to hit the sunshine too.

A: Oh sure, yes, yeah, yeah and to get out of Minnesota and Illinois and Colorado and Texas. Texas can even get cold.

J: Yeah, Texas is surprisingly varied across it, across the state.

A: Yeah, yeah.

J: How many times do you suppose you moved in your life?

A: Oh, well, let me see. I had six churches that'd be six different places there. Probably about seven times.

J: So you're no stranger to it, you've got a lot more experience in that.

A: Well, actually I moved alone of course when I went to college and seminary but that was a move between my parents' house and going to school. I was one of those rare ones that didn't marry until after I graduated, you know today and even back then that was 1946.

J: Very uncommon.

A: Even then it was, you know, uncommon because everybody in my class, there were two of us in our graduating class that graduated single, all the rest of the guys were married.

J: I'll be darned.

A: Yeah, I'm not knocking that I'm just stating a fact you know.

J: Yeah, sure.

A: My wife actually had gone to Moody Bible Institute in Chicago and so she was in Illinois and I was in Pennsylvania at seminary so as far as after we got engaged it was letter writing pretty much, she was at one school and I was at another, you know, a thousand miles or more part and I'll be very honest and admit it, most of the letter writing was on her part.

J: Oh, that's nice of her.

A: Oh yeah, well I'm just not much of a big letter writer. I mean, I had to do things when I was pastoring you know, but even today I'm not much of a writer. Once in a while but I'm not a great one to sit down and write a lot of letters. So...

J: What do you like to do in fact, do you take part in any of the community activities or programs?

A: Yep, Wii bowling here twice a week and, in fact, tomorrow there's going to be a team coming in to bowl here. They have a regular team here and there are four or five of us that got into this, and he calls us the newbies, we call him the oldies then because they call us newbies but whenever we have a team come in, he usually asks us to come in and gives us a chance to bowl a game even though we're not on the team per se, you know.

J: Sure, that's nice.

A: I will be bowling one tomorrow before the gentleman comes that's going to meet me for lunch and hopefully wind up here at The Fountains. That and a must every Saturday. Once in a while I can't do it, but this Saturday I am going to go and hear some missionaries who are over at The Child of Evangelism and Fellowship headquarters in town because, for three years, I directed Child of Evangelism in the city of Chicago.

J: Oh what an interesting tie, yeah, small world.

A: In fact I had a radio broadcast at Moody Bible Institute station that gave me a half hour broadcast which was nice of them and I was able to promote the work and to interview people and my wife would do some solo work which she had a beautiful voice.

J: Oh really, how nice.

A: She had a voice that was ok enough to sing with the Milwaukee Symphony Chorus for five years and one summer they sang at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

J: No kidding, what a life experience.

A: I used to tease people and say that if I ever had to apply for a job I might put down "I am married to a wife who sang at Carnegie Hall."

J: Yep, raise your credibility level right?

A: Right, right yeah, go ahead.

J: I was going to ask you, where were you a minister there locally? Where was your last place where you worked?

A: We moved here from Winnipeg.

J: Were you also a minister in Florida?

A: Actually yes and no, yes really. What happened was after I quote "retired" whatever that is, I'm not sure I found out what that word is yet but I had six interim pastorates, in other words they didn't have pastor on the field so while they were looking for one I would go and just preach there on Sundays.

J: Nice.

A: And I was in Sun City Center twice over here which is a beautiful spot and I was in Orlando twice and then I was in, one summer, Western Illinois and then six months in St. Croix in the Virgin Islands.

J: I'll be darned.

A: So those were six interim pastorates, four of them here in Florida and then for ten and a half years I was on the staff at Northside Baptist Church here in St. Pete where I'm a member and as I say sing in the choir where I'll be tonight for rehearsal. I was on the staff there for ten and a half years as one of the visitation pastors, so I visited this place many times in my calling you know. I had people who were living here, I came to a number of breakfasts because they invited the church to send somebody for certain breakfasts and most of the time the senior pastor said "Al why don't you go ahead" I said "fine, I'd be glad to" so I mean I knew the place. I looked at three other places and I didn't move here originally, I don't know whether you know that or

not. I moved over here a year ago January from another place here in town and as far as scenery goes I would tell people the scenery from that place was when you looked out the window all you saw was concrete.

J: Oh really.

A: Yeah, it was one of those places where you'd look out one side and you'd see one main road and you looked at the other side and see the other main road and all the concrete around the two buildings you had that were not connected but I knew somebody there and actually it was interesting, the lady I knew she and I were in youth work together in a little Baptist Church in Long Island when we were growing up as teenagers and I took her to my senior prom.

J: No kidding.

A: And of course we lost track of each other, you know, and I went my way and she got married and my folks heard that she was here, how they did I don't remember so they looked her up when I came down here to St. Pete and then when my wife and I took a few vacation trips down here that's when we finally said we're going to come down here because we liked it, we take vacation trips, people who have been in our churches who had retired and moved down here and they'd say we have an empty room whenever you come down you can stay with us which we did and so we liked the area and that's why we decided we'd make a, we were in Pinellas Park really but that's so close to St. Pete you know. We were in a mobile home park and then after my wife died, getting back and not making decisions immediately, I stayed alone and I said, "This is not the life for me." My kids were paying to have a woman come in and clean the place every week. They had made arrangements with a lady if I wanted to go take her out go shopping, buy the food I wanted and she would take it and make meals for me and bring them in. You know my kids were all so concerned about me and wanted to make every arrangement they could but again I didn't think it was a wise thing to make the decision the next day.

J: Right.

A: So that was in August of 2010 that my wife went and I moved over to this other place April 1st, 2011, see? So was about an eight month and then I put up my mobile home for sale I paid rent two places for about a month and a half until it sold. When I say rent one was here and one was there. Finally it sold so that was good. I wanted to get out from under that. It was hard to make two payments but anyway that's when I was in the other place and I enjoyed it there. I started a Bible study there. It's very small, it's new but the thing was when they pulled a fast one on a number of us, there were twelve of us moved from that place to here within a few days of each other.

J: No kidding.

A: Because they told us the building we were in, the third floor we were on, it was a three story building that that would be independent living and the first two would be assisted and after a number of months they made the announcement the whole building is going to be assisted.

J: Oh boy.

A: So, they didn't tell us we had to leave but in a way they did tell us, if it had to do with finances you know. They were going to want \$3450 a month, I was paying \$1795 under independent living and I didn't have to be Einstein to figure out that I couldn't possibly do it because I only take in \$2200 month. When you take in \$2200 and they want \$3400 you're not going to make it.

J: Not for too long that's for sure.

A: No, no, no.

J: So the twelve of you came over in a pack?

A: No, we came within probably two or three weeks of each other, a lot depended when our place was ready too, you know. I made a decision to come here then they said will have to be on the 10th, January 10th until your place is ready. Somebody had been in my place and moved out and of course they would do what they usually do, repainting it and in carpeting all that, you know. So with the date set, there was no problem but it was waiting about a ten day period, ten days or two weeks until I could come over and a couple of them were here maybe a couple days before me and a few of them came a few days after me so but there were about a dozen of us and about four others moved down to a former hotel in the downtown St. Pete which is now home except all they have is independent living.

J: Oh ok.

A: To me, as you get older, that's not the best way to go. If you can find a place where it's going to be available if you need to move from independent to assisted, it's right there you don't have to go and do all that moving again, packing up and finding another place. I personally don't ever intend to have to get into assisted here, not because I'm criticizing assisted by the way, it's that I, you know I told the senior pastor, in fact, the first Sunday of this year I preached at Northside Baptist church where I attend, both services on a Sunday morning about five hundred and twenty-five people in the two services combined and I went to him a couple weeks later and I said I want you to put this on the record that I want a preach here again October 5th, 2020.

J: Nice.

A: And I'm sure he must've looked at me and thought "this guy's got it, he's gone" what was I thinking of 2020, I said yeah, on my hundredth birthday.

J: I was going to say that'll be your birthday won't it?

A: That's right.

J: That is wonderful, do you ever do any ministry or any Bible type studies at The Fountains?

A: Well there is a Bible study and prayer group here and I go in to it. Yeah and I take part in it, I'm not in charge of it because it was going you know and that's fine but I'm there.

J: In the interim.

A: And I make comments. Oh yeah. I was needed to fill in you know, and so forth, but as of now the gentleman who got it going I guess, I'm not sure, I never even got the history of it how long it's been, and it's not a Bible study in what I would call a Bible study but we just go around and each of us reads a chapter or so in the scriptures and then there's a lady who has a Bible with a lot of notes and she reads those and he says "any more comments?" And usually my hand is up, and I'll make a few comments about it too, you know. There are about ten or eleven in it on a Friday, I wouldn't think of doing anything different at the present time because something is going and I wouldn't want to be in the position of anybody feeling that I stepped in because I thought that wasn't the need.

J: Well especially if you enjoy it the way it is you know and everybody's contributing that's what counts, that's great.

A: Yeah, yeah and I wouldn't want to say ok read this Bible study this day this time so forth and it may appear that I was dissatisfied and there was competition and that's the last thing we need.

J: Well, that's thoughtful of you.

A: And I'm still busy enough and I keep myself available at Northside if somebody is rushed into the hospital, I might be out of here if I hear about it and I get to the hospital to see them, you know, because I have my car, I'm still driving and so I keep myself available for that too.

J: That's terrific that's great.

A: Those are the two definite ones I do. I'm still looking for a number of people that want to go out and play some shuffleboard. I played it for about twenty years in the mobile home park and went into tournaments and I won some and I lost some and my wife and I went into a few as doubles and so forth but I just haven't played now for about five years in shuffleboard. I went through a period where I was having some dizziness and I think it passed over but I wanted to wait and I did have to have emergency surgery on my neck in. I guess, way back in 2009 now so I had to back off things but that went well it's just that you recuperate it takes time too.

J: Yeah does, it does.

A: They had to take a disk out of my neck.

J: Ouch.

A: And fuse two together.

J: Well, they can do wonders now, it's amazing.

A: Yeah because the one they took out when I saw the picture, the x-ray, I thought "oh my" that disk was just a hair's breadth away from being on the spinal column.

J: Well, good riddance to it then, huh?

A: If it had been on there I would've been paralyzed.

J: Yeah, we might not be having this conversation.

A: That's right, that's right.

J: That's life, huh?

A: I'm sorry, I'm taking all your time.

J: No, no, no actually I was going to ask you, I know about your plans to preach on October 5<sup>th</sup> in 2020, what are you doing to stay so healthy? How are you staying so young and how are you going to make it there? Are you doing exercises or eating right?

A: I'm not doing much exercising but I watch my diet and actually I've gotten close in the high hundred and eighties and I didn't like that because that's not good for me so I put myself, you know, I personally don't believe people have to spend money on diets, frankly, but that's my own opinion. The people who can make money by all these diet plans wouldn't like it but I just went ahead and put myself and I ask for small portions, I cut out a lot of starches and all that stuff and put myself on a goal of a hundred and seventy to a hundred and seventy-five and about a year later, this is while I was over at the other place, and about a year later I was down to my goal.

J: Wow, that's terrific.

A: And actually this morning I was a hundred and sixty-eight.

J: Oh, no kidding?

A: Yep, I weigh myself every morning on my way to breakfast, especially here because I have to go right past the exercise room. I have gone and ridden a bike in there a few times but not regularly.

J: Now did you say that you had kids? Did you have children?

A: Five children, we actually had six because the first one only lived seventeen days.

J: Oh, I'm so sorry.

A: Yeah, 2 lbs. 9 oz., nine and a half weeks premature. But that was 1947, they save pound babies now, you know that.

J: Right, right.

A: 2 lbs. 9 oz. today would still be living unless it was something you know.

J: Something more wrong. And they're all spread out in the cold weather, they all live in Minnesota and....

A: So they're five now, there was a boy then there were three girls and then there were twin boys. Now, I'm a twin.

J: Oh are you?

A: I'm a twin, my twin died in 2006.

J: Oh ok, well let me ask you this, what did the kids have to say about you moving to The Fountains, did they have an opinion?

A: They love, they love it they said you know, they thought the place I was in was nice and so forth and maybe because it was new and smaller, I don't want to sit back and say why didn't I choose this first, what's the point of doing that it's like crying over spilled milk, you don't get anywhere. It might be because that lady was there. I knew two ladies here though, but you know, I had known her, I had taken her to my senior prom, you know, and that goes all the way back into the 1930s, see? So, maybe that's part of the reason and they liked that place, everyone sought and everyone that came in here close enough to each other to see here. I said, "Hey I am going to go but I wanted them to see it too" as long as they could make their way in which they did but they also encouraged me. I was looking, I'm in one of the studios, I was looking at the one bedroom. I had a little larger place at the other place but I was in a one bedroom. I was looking at the one bedroom here but the thing is it only has one closet, a big big walk-in but it's only one, I had three over at the other place so I said uh-oh, now the interesting thing is that the studio which is a little smaller foot wise you know to the one bedroom has two closets. It amazed me, to me my thinking is that should be the other way around the larger place, you know, but the two closets, being separate the way they are, made a nice size and so as the kids said, I guess it was Edward here at that time, and I said "is that, would show me around, show the place to the kids." They said "sure" and he said "take the studio, take the studio." They just, you know, and let me say this, too, when I first came and looked, by the way I had looked here before I moved into the other place. You know, I looked around four places. As I say, I moved in retrospect. I started here but now it's a year and four months. I plan for this to be the place until the Lord takes me. And so they said, "take the studio, take the studio" and I did get the one on the side of the hall where we look right out over Boca Ciega Bay.

J: Oh really, that's great.

A: Beautiful view, I sit in my chair at the window at night and the sun sets in the west out there. I can look out and see a beautiful sunset if I want to and I do, sometimes, you know, just turn my head and look out the window. So I took that and interesting enough I didn't know so when I did that Sue said that's \$300 a month less too. I said oh, well good. I did it on the basis of what I liked and what the kids also liked but as soon as they saw and looked out the window they said, "Oh my goodness, you take this one."

J: What was on their list? What was on their list of, you said you kind of considered what they liked. What was on the kids' list for location and choice of community?



A: Well, they actually hadn't seen those places, any other places, they saw these after I came in and I had boiled it down in my own mind to one. One of my twins was here. We went to look at another place that I looked at. I did a lot of visiting there when I was doing my visiting but one of the things that immediately said "no," to me, was when I said, "May I see a menu of your food?" And they handed me something and said "Oh, is this it?" "Yeah, this is today's menu." I said, "There's no choices." "Oh no, what's on the menu that's it." I don't want that, I want to be able to have a choice.

J: Right, how is it there, how is it at The Fountains?

A: Oh my goodness, we have those three different ones every day and then there are seven regular ones besides.

J: Oh my.

A: I point it out to people. I say, "Look at this. You really have ten choices and I have heard people sitting at other tables ask for something that's not in that menu and they just bring it to them. If they have it there, they'll bring it to them, you know.

J: Wow, that's great.

A: Yeah because, like, you can, oh salmon is available every day.

J: That's healthy.

A: Yes and I take salmon at least once a week. You can have eggs any way you want them and I get an omelette at least once a week because there's a lot of my eggs and today I had a quiche. Well, you ladies know there's eggs in there too. And they have a hamburger, a Gardenburger and just what they call a regular sandwich. I guess maybe you can ask what they have on hand you can get it. They have four or eight ounce chicken breast, four or eight ounce and that's an everyday thing. That's what I say, there are three new ones each day plus those seven which are regular so if anybody says there's not enough of choices I'd say "what's the matter with you?"

J: Yeah, definitely.

A: And then when I came here I went to the chef, Josh, the head chef, who just left by the way. Well, he's always wanted to start his own restaurant and I guess he found somebody to go in with him but not here in town. They're going to be going to a different place in Florida and open up their own restaurant but I went to Josh and I said "how about some sautéed chicken liver sometime? I don't see them on the menu" he said "sure, fine" so anybody that doesn't like sautéed chicken livers can blame me for having them. I did the same thing over at the other place too because you know it's so great that most of these places they say "if you like something just tell us we'll make sure we put it on the menu." So he put it on the menu and he told me, he said, "I've taught somebody else how to do them." I said, "Good, because I'll be watching for them". Now liver and onions were on, and of course I like that too, but the sautéed chicken livers...I just love chicken livers and that's how my wife used to make them just sautéed them. Don't fry them, just sauté them and put them over rice and gravy, gravy over that and that's it and that's how it was served like in a soup bowl.

J: Well, they made it just like you wanted it that, just like your wife.

A: Yes, yeah.

J: That's great.

A: You can't beat that.

J: No, you really can't and you know probably there's a lot of people sitting out there in their houses and they're living on TV dinners and cupcakes you know.

A: I just heard, I mean I heard it the other day from another table. "Oh yeah, I have a number of TV dinners up in my freezer"... and actually I come down for breakfast here. Now, you make your own breakfast if you want any, and so that's the four different cold cereals and about four different juices available and of course both coffees and a hot cereal. I guess it's oatmeal. I haven't done any hot cereal at all, and loads of pastries available. Of course I shy off those because I get a lot of sugar free stuff purposely because the one time my doctor said I was on the borderline and so, as he put it, for diabetic. My wife finally went diabetic even though the doctors were so upset because she did everything, she said "I did everything you asked me to do, everything." And she did. She did everything he asked her to do and he put her on, you know, pills and medicines and her body wouldn't cooperate. She finally wound up and she was shooting herself with the insulin and now my last three or four blood works were fine and nowhere near suspect either because I'm watching it.

J: Yeah and you've got a lot of good healthy food to eat.

A: Oh yeah, oh yeah there's no, I come down for breakfast. Here, on your contract, I use the word "contract" even though I don't think there is such, you get the one meal, you get one meal and breakfast if you want to come down and make your own. And a lot of people come down, a lot of people come down and 8:00 to 9:30 it's available. You go in. pick up your coffee, pick up your cereal and so forth. I was down this morning and then I'll choose to eat between 12:00 and 1:30 or between 3:30 and 6:00. The dining room is closed in between the 1:30 and 3:30. I used to go for the later but lately I go earlier, I always have little stuff up in my refrigerator if I want it. Sometimes I'll take a piece of cheese, sometimes I won't> I forget myself now that I really feel very comfortable with just the breakfast I make for myself which is not huge, you know, but it's a good-sized bowl of cereal and if I wanted a second bowl I could go over and get another one. That's no problem.

J: That's great.

A: The regular meals, I mean when you get the soup and salad and dessert and hot dish, it's plenty to eat and so, in fact, I ate today at the early hour because I want to leave early I have to pick up, do something, before I get to the choir rehearsal.

J: Oh right, your rehearsal.

A: As far as my kids go they're all around and all doing well. I'm very proud of them and I told them that, I've told them that and I think that's necessary and should be, should be done you know. They came to me when they were visiting all of them at the same time at the other place and they came and they said, "Dad, we've been talking together and we want you to take us out of your will."

J: They did?

A: Yeah, and I said, "Why, what's?" "We're all ok financially, we're ok, we're doing well" and they are, in fact my single daughter who's sixty was in the Army for twenty years and worked for the state of Texas and a woman's prison for a number of years. She retired at sixty.

J: That so important, it's great peace of mind to know that.

A: Yeah, that's what they said to me. Then they said, "Just give it all to Northside Baptist Church."

J: Wow, what a lovely gift.

A: That's right, you said wow and that's what I said, I said "let me think about it first."

J: Yeah, take the time to think.

A: But I know that that's what they wanted and so I went in and I told the senior pastor, "Now," I said, "look, depending upon how many years I live, there may not be anything," you know, things being as they are with this country. Financially, too, when you get a ten dollar a month increase in social security, that's almost a laugh which wasn't happening until fairly recently. I don't want to get off on that. But I said, "There may not be anything." I went to the senior pastor and I said I want you to know what my kids did.

J: That's amazing.

A: He said, "You have great kids but let me tell you this. Many, many, most of the times they have great parents." I thought what a nice thing to say, too, you know.

J: Well, the apple falls under the tree, right?

A: Yeah, yeah.

J: It doesn't roll too far.

A: They've been arranging with all different jobs and the schoolteacher one is the hardest one to get off you know, they've been arranging to all get this weekend off at my birthday and all be here at the same time.

J: Oh that's spectacular.

A: Now, last year they called me and said you're going to have to push your birthday back for two weeks. I said ok I won't be ninety-three until you guys come and so they got there two weeks later and they were all here for just a weekend but hey just a weekend it almost seems like eternity when you don't see your kids otherwise you know.

J: Wow, well that's wonderful, you're happy they're happy, you're happy with them, they're happy where you are.

A: Oh yes, they are extremely happy here. They took the first look into the room and said, "Wow!" But you know, in fact I said it before when I was being shown around here and shown both places empty, you know both places empty and I left and I said I guess it was whoever was showing me I said, "You know the studio looks bigger than the one bedroom." I think it's only about sixty or some other square feet less or something but it is less, it's smaller, the studio, but you know what she said most of the people say that because when you see a place empty like that it's the emptiness and without a wall in an extra wall in because of having the one bedroom so the bedroom becomes by itself, you know what I mean? See my original thing was., do I want to go to a place where I can sit in my chair at one end of the room and look over at the other end and see my bed that I sleep in, do I really want that? And I thought "hey, I make the bed, it looks neat, it looks nice, what difference does it make?"

J: And you can see that view from every part of your home, you know you don't have a wall blocking it.

A: Basically I wanted the two bedrooms which really helped, not two bedrooms excuse me two closets which was really nice, not knowing at that time about the \$300 less, that was the ice cream on the pie.

J: Well, it sounds like you've really thought it through, you really looked at things, thought about what you wanted and made your good decision and, you know, really probably the most important question I have for you is, what advice do you have for other people who would be in your shoes where you were before you made the move?

A: Well, number one is don't make a decision too fast, let's say you have a service and don't make a decision at the end of the service. You're going to have to put yourself together a little bit you know. You're alone now and don't make it too fast but the other side of it is, don't wait until you have to. I think people say, and there's a couple right now from the church that I'm working with. I think he would move in here tomorrow, she's the culprit and I went to see them, actually I went along with Kat who's here, I went along with Kat.

J: I know Kat, I do, she's great.

A: She's nice and we went to their house and she presented stuff and so forth, made arrangements for them to come the next week for lunch and I with them so on Sunday the lady came to me and said, "You tell them were not going to make it on Wednesday." I said "No, I don't tell them, you do, but don't bother she's going to call you tomorrow. You don't have to call her." When I was there, remember, she said she'd call you on Monday and so Kat did and evidently I'm embarrassed from the standpoint of she really told Kat off and then slammed the phone on her. Hung up on her.

J: Kat will take that in her stride.

A: Oh I know she will, I know she does but, and I say he's the one. I said I think he'd move tomorrow. Now last Sunday she told a lady at church that was asking her about coming here you know, and she said "oh yeah but we'll wait until something happens to one of us and then we'll do it." You see what I mean? Don't wait until you have to do it. I can't get that through to her. The best thing for me to do is to lay back you know I'm not going to hassle her.

J: You've done a wonderful thing, you've done a great thing just by kind of letting a little glimmer of knowledge come in and that's what they needed you know.

A: I'm not going to hassle her, there's no point in it.

J: Oh no.

A: Right now in the office where Kat is, I'm just looking out over the roof of the building.

J: That's awesome.

A: Because you've been here before anyway probably, haven't you?

J: I have, that's when I got to meet Kat.

A: Kat told me when I speak, I have to speak in September I guess it is, yeah, I'm supposed to speak here at the meeting.

J: Oh, that's exciting.

A: Did you know that at all?

J: No I didn't.

A: I'm supposed to speak at a breakfast, at lunch I mean, at lunch, breakfast or lunch, maybe it's a breakfast with a lot of people coming in to try to promote the place.

J: Well, I think that's a great idea.

A: Kat said you can tell a joke if you want.

J: Yeah, definitely.

A: How long have you been with The Fountains?

J: I have been here since October of 2006.

A: Oh, ok.

J: Yeah, hard to believe how much time has passed it feels like about three years but it's been longer than that.

A: Oh yeah, 2006, yeah.

J: It's just been a wonderful experience, amazing people doing great things and I feel really lucky to work here.

A: Now are you at the head office?

J: Yeah, we call it the resource center and it's where, you know, the most people are in one place and we're here, like you know, in Tucson, Arizona and we built this building in 1987, right when we built the building where our very first retirement community was also built at that same time it might have been 1989, late 80s, so we've been around a little bit.

A: Well, that's good, that's good, you sound happy too by the way.

J: Yeah, it's a lucky job. It feels great and it's nice to work for people you respect and who respect you, it's wonderful.

A: This place before it was called Majestic Towers, you knew that?

J: I knew it had a different name and that does sound familiar.

A: It was called Majestic Towers is what the name was.

J: Interesting, interesting, well, this has been a wonderful call.

A: Oh thank you.

J: I really appreciate your time, it's been great hearing your insights and it's different to hear from someone who is kind of accustomed to moving, you know that was new for me and I appreciate getting that and learning from your experience and thank you so much for taking the time.

A: Well, thank you for the invitation.

J: Of course, absolutely.

A: And I hope I pass the test.

J: And I hope I did too.

A: Of course you did, of course you did.

J: Likewise, likewise, thank you so much, have a great day, tell Kat we said "hi."

A: Yeah, you have a great day too, bye-bye.

J: Bye-bye.