

My husband, Don, loves gadgets. He was over the moon on Christmas when he received an Apple Watch, a “smartwatch”. And yes, you do need to be rather smart to use it. Gadgets today aren’t quite as user-friendly as a Swiss Army knife!

I think we would all agree that lots of patience is needed for seniors to learn how to use any new electronic device. That is where Don is so very gifted! His gift of patience came in a huge box!

While we were walking down the street on Boxing Day, Don laughed and said, “My watch thinks I’m swimming laps and I don’t know how to stop it!”

The next day he finally stopped swimming laps, and started reading emails. Each day thereafter he learned a little more...and a little more...slow and steady...until he felt fairly competent in using his watch for other things besides telling time. Who would have ever thought a “watch” could take an ECG and send a hardcopy to your computer? Or tell you your blood oxygen level? Each day brought a new discovery!

By the end of the week, he turned into Dick Tracy! While we were walking, his watch “rang”, and allowed him to have a “phone” conversation with a friend! I was laughing so hard watching him talk to his wrist.

However, my mind soon started wondering about what other inventions would materialize over the next few years. I actually had to control my “wondering” and consciously stop it from becoming “worrying”. What good would worrying do?

That’s where Don is such a good influence on me. He reminds me to take challenges one step at a time; to avoid getting frustrated since that doesn’t help at all; to live for the day and not worry about tomorrow; to have faith that things will work out. And...yes, sometimes you do have to read the manual!

We have had to adapt to many drastic changes over the past 12 months, new ways of “doing” church and new ways of meeting with our friends and family.

But we should find it very comforting to know that God’s love and the *good news* of the gospels aren’t going to change or be re-invented, no matter how our world is shaken.

God’s *manual* tells us that:

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Hebrews 18:8

The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever. Isaiah 40:8

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