

THE PEOPLE AND THE PROCESS

HAVE YOU EVER WATCHED old people and wondered about them, their struggles, their heartaches, their triumphs? Have you imagined them as young people and wondered what they were like, handsome or beautiful, embracing life? What did they do for work, how many children did they have, and were they happily married? Did they have a happy life, or was their life full of heartache and regret? And have you ever wondered how people who have endured so many years see the world now and their place in it? I wrote this book to satisfy my curiosity and pass on what they said.

I have spent much of my adult life attending college, university, and seminary. During those years I learned a lot, but because I am very practical minded I always evaluate whatever I learn by how it enhances my understanding of the world and my place in it.

Professors make a career of having students read many things that they will forget once the test is over. Since I never considered myself an academic, in the true sense, I looked for simpler insights that resonated with me and then made them part of my personal understanding. It has been my experience that the best lessons in life are the simplest ones. In university I read the books and wrote the tests but I was really looking to gather gems of wisdom. So instead of becoming a scholar I became a gem hunter gathering practical pearls of wisdom wherever I could find them. And there were many.

When my days of formal education ended it occurred to me that because every person has to make some sense of the world, whatever their circumstance, there must be many people who will never teach a university course but also have gems of wisdom to share based on their life experience. So in order to find some of these gems I designed an interview with questions