

THE UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS MESSENGER

September 6, 2009

“He Has Prepared For Them A City”

There’s not much to do on a long drive when you’re the only one in the car but think. Last Thursday morning, after Rachel’s surgery, I began the drive home from Ann Arbor, Michigan. I drove through Ann Arbor, around Toledo, through Bowling Green, through Dayton, before reaching Cincinnati. As I drove through Cincinnati it occurred to me that I will probably always consider that city home. I know all the streets and buildings like the back of my hand. Some of my best memories are scattered in every corner of that city. There is an easy familiarity and comfort with Cincinnati that I have not developed with any other city. If I could take this congregation and relocate it to the Queen City I’d be as happy as a pig in mud!

Yet as I was driving something occurred to me that gave me pause. Even if I were back in Cincinnati, Rachel would still be going through all of this and the family would still be sick with worry. Jackie would still have gone through hyper meiosis and spent many nights in the hospital. Alexander would still have struggled with his allergies and we’d have made several trips to the emergency room. All the worries and concerns that we experience now will continue to be experienced regardless of the city in which we live.

We learn an incredibly important lesson from some of the greatest men or women of faith to have ever graced this earth, and it is found in Hebrews 11:13-16. **“These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.”**

It doesn’t matter in which city I live here on this earth. Whether I am here in Lexington, up in Cincinnati, or in some depressed city on the other side of the globe, I am merely spending up the days of my exile. It is up to me to make sure that I do not allow myself to become so attached to a *place*. It is up to me to make sure that I am a useful and active instrument for the Father regardless of my location in this world. Through the eyes of faith I see my homeland and everything that I do here on earth, and in whatever location I do it, is just preparation for that city to be revealed after my Lord returns.

Think of that place, my friends! I have heard so many Christians say things very similar to what I said at the beginning of this article. So many speak of their home, talking about some place in this country. They speak with longing in their hearts and a far away look in their eyes. Even if we have the opportunity to return to the earthly city we think of as home, how will that change our current condition? We will still have to struggle with sickness. We will still have to struggle with death. We will still have to struggle with temptation. We will still have to struggle with sorrows. In the end, one city is just as good as another when it comes to changing the things all humans must face because *none of them can do it*.

However, one city can. **“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming**

down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away’ (Revelation 21:1-4).

Whatever troubles us here will not trouble us there. There will be no sitting in cold, stark waiting rooms while a loved one is being operated on. There will be no gazing down upon the face of friends and family for the final time as the casket is closed. There will be no more praying that our children just hang on until the life squad gets to the house. There will be no more worry, pain, or sorrow. There *will* be the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, surrounded by the saints singing endless songs of praise. There *will* be our faithful loved ones who have gone before waiting to embrace and welcome us. There *will* be eternal paradise.

“I’ve a home prepared where the saints abide, just over in the glory-land. And I long to be by my Savior’s side, just over in the glory-land.” Perhaps I’ll find myself back in Cincinnati one day. Perhaps you’ll find yourself back in whatever city holds a special place in your heart. Though in the end, it really doesn’t matter, does it? I just want to go *home*! What about you?

In Need of Prayers	In Need of Prayers
<p>Sharon Tirey continues her cancer treatments.</p> <p>Remember Kristen Osterling’s unborn baby.</p> <p>Remember David Blakeman.</p> <p>Rachel Knollman’s surgery went well. Now we await the pathology.</p> <p>Wayne Galloway has gone home from the hospital.</p> <p>Robin Miller’s surgery went well and she is now recovering.</p> <p>Lilly Fitzwater (Bill Morelan’s mother) is recovering in a care facility in Ohio. The contact information is posted on the bulletin board in the hall.</p>	<p>Chuck McDavitt is suffering with diabetes and an infection in his foot.</p> <p>Ron Catchen had open heart surgery earlier in the year but recently had to have stints put in.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">University Height Church of Christ 445 Columbia Avenue Lexington, Ky 40508 859-255-6257 www.uheightschurch.com</p>