Home

John 14:2-3

I’ve been thinking a lot about home lately. I live at 1312 County Road 771, Cullman, Alabama. Remarkably, I have lived here for over 35 years. You see, growing up I was a bit of a nomad. My parents were in the Air Force, so we did our share of changing addresses. Even after they got out, we still kept moving. My journey through school included 6 different schools for my 11 years of learning (oh, I skipped 11th grade due to a technicality). After I got out of school and started working, I still lived with my parents until I got married. When I got married, my wife and I kept the nomad muscle working by moving no less than 7 times before we landed at 1312 County Road 771, Cullman, Alabama.

Our home is nothing extravagant, but it’s ours. We love our home because it’s a real home. If you were to stop by, you would probably find a few things out of place; a few dirty dishes in the sink (put them in the dishwasher, Jacob!), but you will also find a home full of love. It’s home for our children, grandchildren, cats, dogs, chickens, ducks and several other wild animals that wander up to eat the cat food we put out each day. Staying in one place, let alone one house for over 30 years is something I could not have imagined when I was a kid. I never really understood or appreciated how important it was to have a place to put down roots. As a kid, we would stay in one place or one house for a couple of years, then move on. New school, new friends, new neighbors, new everything. I never really created those precious relationships we now have since moving to 1312 County Road 771, Cullman, Alabama. I believe my kids are better for it, having gone to one school for their entire education. They made lifelong friends; some that began in kindergarten, that are still going today. We have become part of a community that has always embraced us as part of their bigger family.

At the center of it all is our church family….Our church home. We will be celebrating our 40th anniversary of membership at our church later this year. Again, pretty amazing for someone who did not regularly attend church for the first 30 years of my life. Now, I wouldn’t know how to function without the love and support of my church family. We are truly a family. We get along most of the time, but every now and then, we get a little sideways with each, but we always seem to find common ground in Jesus, and resolve our differences. There is always love for all at our church. I’m glad Jesus set it up like this. We call it God’s house and I’m thankful he lets us come to meet him there. That’s one thing I can confidently say about our church; we can always find the Lord there. We don’t have to look very hard either. I think it’s because we can find Him in the hearts of our members. We certainly are far from perfect, but you can always find our members acting like our Lord asks us to act. All through the gospels, the writers talk about being Christ like, or being just like Him, only thing is, you have to have Him in your heart to be able to be just like him. It’s too tough to fake or pretend.

Lastly, I have a heavenly home that I will get to see one day. Jesus calls it a mansion. That’s all well and good, it doesn’t have to be all that fancy. All I need is to know that I’m with the one who saved my soul. You see, I live at 1312 County Road 771, Cullman, Alabama. That house is full of love. I’m sure my heavenly home will outshine what we have here. Yep, I love my home at 1312 County Road 771, Cullman, Alabama. You will find lots of love and a few furry animals. I also love my church home where you will always find Jesus. And I ‘m so looking forward to that day when I get to go to that mansion that Jesus has prepared just for me.