LONGING FOR HOME

Thou sore longedst after thy father's house. Gen 31:30 (KJV)

Most of us long to go home at some time in our lives. I am talking about home where we were raised and spent our formative years. The house where I was raised is no longer standing. I am not sure that it would fully satisfy my longing to go back there and not have all the

surrounding characters. My dad is in heaven with the Lord. My neighbors have all passed away. The old dairy is not there. All the people that worked the dairy are gone. My brother and sisters all have families of their own and are living elsewhere. Mother now lives at a different address.

Brother Danny Alldredge sings a song in the choir entitled “I Have Returned.” In that song it says “I have returned to the God of my fathers.” In our longing for home, I think that must be the greatest desire. We do not need the old house. If that was all we needed, we did not need very much. For me, it was during the time I lived on that property that I realized I needed a savior. While living there I found Jesus precious to my sold; I was saved. During that time I realized God was calling me to special service for him. So, you see, to go home again would not be to return to the old home place but more so to return to God in whom my grandparents as well as my parents placed their trust. He is the same God who I and my wife have trusted. My children have put their trust in Him as well as one of my grandchildren.

Today we celebrate home-coming here at Pleasant View Missionary Baptist Church. There may be some who attend today who have not attended in years. The building holds nothing. God Almighty who has seen the church through building projects, problems and successes is still on his throne. Without him Pleasant View would never have been a church. Pleasant View is special because people have found the Lord in this place. The church has been a sanctuary to hurting souls. Many parents have raised their families here over the past eighty six years. Several ministers have answered the call to preach while attending church at Pleasant View. To return is to return to the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. To return is to return to the God of our fathers, creator of heaven and earth and God of the universe.

No wonder we can speak of dying and going home to heaven. You see heaven is truly home not because we have been there but because our God is there. When we see him we can truly say we are home. I have a residence at 161 Gunter Circle Horton, Alabama but in reality I am a pilgrim and stranger down here with a deep longing in my soul for my real home. That home is heaven.

Yours in Christ,

Brother Randy Burtram