

THE WARMTH OF HOME

It is the warmth of home that draws us back year after year. We are willing to risk being stranded in airports at the holidays just to get "home." But to look at it more closely, the warmth we feel is actually "love." If we, who are human, are capable of loving our family and friends so much, how much more can the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit love us?

JESUS' INVITATION

The words/songs in this brochure share the intimacy of a heartfelt relationship with Jesus Christ.

So, if you have a "home-shaped" place in your heart that has never been filled, just take the time now to *ask Jesus* to come into your heart and fill that empty place. Acknowledge that He came and died on the Cross and paid the penalty for your sins. He forgives you and will come in and never leave you. You can now experience the BEST feeling of home you will ever experience.

The Bible says: "If you confess Jesus Christ with your mouth and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved" (Romans 10:10). Amen.

Jesus' loving arms and heart are open to welcome you home today and forever.

*"I must needs go home by the way of the cross,
There's no other way but this;
I shall ne'er get sight of the gates of light,
If the way of the cross I miss.*

*I must needs go on in the blood-sprinkled way,
The path that the Savior trod,
If I ever climb to the heights sublime,
Where the soul is at home with God.*

*The way of the cross leads home,
The way of the cross leads home,
It is sweet to know as I onward go,
The way of the cross leads home.****

* *Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling.* Words and music by Will L. Thompson and Company, 1880

** *The Way of the Cross Leads Home.* Words by Jessie Brown Pounds and music by Charles H. Gabriel (1906).

**High Country Mission
Hacker's Hill Project
Quaker Ridge Road
Casco, Maine 04015**

www.silentpreacher.org

Come Home

Where Love Abounds



WITH ARMS AND HEARTS WIDE OPEN

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

During the holiday season, news reports are filled with statistics on the number of people who are flying home and what the busiest days for travelers to fly are. A well known travel company projects the number of cars and people expected to drive on the roads as they travel “home for the holidays.” There are TV interviews with military members stationed overseas that allow the members to send their greetings to the people “at home” and their desire to be “home” with them.

Almost everyone has a place they call “home” or they long to have a place they can call “home.” In fact, one of the well known Christmas carols says “I’ll be home for Christmas.” It *does not* say “I’ll be at the house for Christmas.

WHAT IS HOME?

Webster’s dictionary defines home as “one’s residence; the social unit formed by a family living together; a congenial environment; a place of origin.” If you ask people, they each have their own meaning to the word “home.” For some, it means a place where they are loved and accepted. For others, it is where their mother, father, or other family or really good friends are living. It could be where they grew up as a child. The list of descriptions can go on and on. Some people are sad because they don’t feel they have a “home” to go to for the holidays. They may have lost their “home” or never had a “home.” Even Jesus had “no place to lay His head (Matt 8:20).

THE HOME SHAPED PLACE IN OUR HEARTS

The need to have a place called “home” in our lives starts at a very young age. Children fuss and cry “I want to go home!” Elderly people in nursing homes cry about losing their “home.” Nothing seems to be able to substitute for the longing and fill that home-shaped place in their hearts or our hearts.

FILLING THAT HOME-SHAPED PLACE IN OUR HEARTS

As hard as we try, we can’t seem to fill that place in our hearts. That leaves us with a restlessness that can’t be settled down. We may try to fill this place in our hearts with alcohol, drugs or hanging around with anyone (even people who are not our best choice to be with) just so that we are not alone with an empty heart.

So, what does God think about us in our pain? Doesn’t He know how big the hole is in our hearts and how sad, lonely and depressed we get? Isn’t there something that He can do about it?

The answer is yes. He knows about it and feels our pain. He actually has a way to help us while we are here on earth and He even has a place in heaven ready for us—our heavenly home.

HOW DOES HE DO IT?

How does He provide a home for us here on earth? Well, Jesus died on the cross, redeemed us through that sacrifice, rose from the dead three days later, and is alive in Heaven sitting at the right hand of God the Father. When Jesus was alive on earth before His crucifixion, He said that if people would invite Him into their hearts and lives, He would make His home with us. In fact, He was talking to one of the Apostles who had asked Him a question. Jesus answered, “If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him and we will come to him and make our home with him” (John 14:23). That is a **promise** He made to us, not a hope or a possibility.

OUR HEAVENLY HOME

When Jesus was on earth, He made us another promise about our Heavenly home. He said in another place in the book of John, “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God and trust also in Me. In My Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you; I will come back and take you to be with Me that you also may be where I am” (John 14:2). So, not only do we have a chance to live here on earth with Jesus in our lives, but we get the chance to live forever with Him (Jesus the Son), God (the Father) and God (the Holy Spirit). There is another song that sings about Jesus’ invitation to join Him. “Come home, come home, you who are weary come home. Earnestly, tenderly Jesus is calling...”*