

GREETINGS FROM VERNA  
November 24, 2016

Dear Friends,

In December 2014, while concluding Penny 37, Mom wondered how long she would be able to continue her Penny essays, due to the progression of her PLS. The answer was that she would be able to produce three more, in more flexible formats and expanded time frames. During the months since Penny 40, which extended through February 2016, Mom continued editing the monthly Sky View services which our friend Cliff Cullum would prepare using materials from her earlier services, until she was left unable to write by two bouts of pneumonia. We went ahead with the October and November services in her absence, and were delighted this past Sunday that she was able to join us for the Sky View Thanksgiving service, the first time she left her room since she fell ill on October 1. Mom remains unable to write, but she would like to share materials she contributed to the Sky View services since Penny 40, and a story she finished in September.

With best wishes from Verna and our family,  
George

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*For the April 2016 Sky View service, Mom prepared a meditation titled "Meditation on Time: In Memoriam," concluding with "The Maypole Dance" which she wrote in 2000.*

In this section, we are going to look at the phrase "a time to be born, and a time to die" from a different point of view. We have heard how it applied to Jesus; now let's see how it pertains to US. Intellectually we know that the saying is true: all of us were born at a specific time, and all of us will die at some point, except for the believers who still will be living on earth when Jesus comes back, a subject we'll address later in our program. How we feel about death largely comes from how we answer this question: Is death the story for believers, or is it an entrance into a marvelous life with Jesus and others in Heaven that will never end? I am firmly convinced that the latter is true, both because the Bible says so and because of experiences I have had with God. Death is NOT the end of us! But death DOES separate us for a while, causing a wide variety of emotions in the loved ones left on earth. The God of All Comfort is available to help us in our tender times. There is a Bible passage that I love to ponder on this subject. Here are Sharon and Leo to read from 2 Corinthians chapters 4 and 5.

1 – Paul says: We do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.

2 – For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.

1 – So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

2 – Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands.

1 – Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked.

2 – For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.

1 – Now it is God who has made us for this very purpose and has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

2 – Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord.

1 & 2 – We live by faith, not by sight.

1 – We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.

2 – So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it.

What a wonderful example the apostle Paul has been to me! What a mentor! Clearly he showed – in such poetic language – that he believed death for people with faith in Christ Jesus ushers us into a state that filled him with longing, thinking it far superior to life on earth. He also considered death to be almost nothing. Listen again to the last verse: “So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it.” Doesn’t that sound like nothing significant had happened? “In Christ we’re all living” – think of that and rejoice! *[This is a quote from her hymn “A Corporate Prayer” which had been sung earlier in the service.]* Many people who used to attend our services now are in Heaven, fully alive, serving and worshiping our Lord Jesus just as we are! Do you ever think of them as alive? I do! What’s more, I look forward to joining them someday, a welcome thought that overcomes grief. Fondly, I still remember Agnes, the first resident who attended our services from the beginning, and then died. And then on March 9, 2016, on the 2nd floor at Sky View, Inga Uski died. I know details about her because she is my son George’s dear Aunt Inga, through marriage to his wife Janet. Inga attended our services as long as she could, happily taking part in the singing of hymns and the unison readings. In the course of discussing our service topics in the

light of Inga's passing, George mentioned a story I wrote many years ago called "The Maypole Dance." Memories flooded my mind! I'll never forget writing that story. I was sitting at my computer, typing as usual when, toward the end, it no longer seemed like I was the one doing the writing. I was amazed at what was appearing on my screen! I had not known how the story would end, but this was better than I could have imagined! I knew immediately that this story would serve well as a memorial for Agnes and Inga and all the others who once were a part of us and now live in Heaven. Here is Marilyn to read for us – in memoriam – "The Maypole Dance."

## **THE MAYPOLE DANCE**

When I was a child, our school had a May Day program every spring, the highlight of which was the Maypole dance. I thought the dance was so beautiful! I loved watching the girls in their pastel gowns and the boys in their suits as they wove around each other to the music of the high school band, streamers held high, dipping and swaying, up and down, around and around. How magical to me was the pattern that began to appear at the top of the pole! The streamers were intertwining, making a multi-colored covering that crept downward, downward, as the dance went on. The streamers got shorter and shorter, and the participants got closer and closer to each other until finally the music stopped and the dance was over. What an experience for me to treasure!

Let's use the imagery of a Maypole dance as a parable. The pole itself will represent the will of God. It has many streamers attached to the top. Anyone who can truly say, "I desire to do your will, O my God," is invited to take hold of a streamer. How beautiful are the men and women, the boys and girls who are taking part in the dance! They are all wearing garments of salvation; they are clothed with Christ. Some are going in one direction and some in another, but they are all in step, for they are following heavenly music that only they can hear.

Look at the pattern forming at the top! Who but God could make so beautiful something that looks so ordinary, that looks like people just walking around a pole. But they are not just walking; they are dancing! See how they smile at each other as they meet, dipping and swaying! They are aware that something special is going on, that they are following God's music. Though they may not know how the pattern is working out, they know there is a pattern, and that all things are working out for good. How could it be otherwise for those who so dearly love the Lord and one another?

Oh, don't you want to take part in that dance? Are you properly dressed? Are you robed in the righteousness of Christ? Have you allowed Jesus to cleanse those garments of any stains you may have put on them? Then let's draw closer and ask if we may join in the fun. We may? Just take a streamer? Oh, yes! We will!! Thank you!

What heavenly music! Our feet cannot keep still! We must dip and sway, in and out, around and around. Look who we are meeting as we dance! How we love each other! We are drawing closer and closer as time goes on. Time? Who is aware of time? We could dance forever, right into eternity! I delight to do your will, O my God ... my God ...

What is that you are saying? “Well done, good and faithful servant! Welcome home! For you, the dance is over. Now you can watch the pattern with me from the top, for others are still dancing on the earth below. Isn’t it beautiful?”

Oh, yes! It is!!

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*For the July 2016 Sky View service, Mom went to her book Words of Encouragement to see if she had any meditations on grace, specifically on Ephesians 2:8-10. Surprised to find that there were none, she wrote this new meditation.*

### **WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT** from Ephesians 2

*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and that not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*  
– Ephesians 2:8-10.

The encouraging word in these verses is that salvation is NOT a reward for our good works! If it were, and somehow we achieved it, wouldn't we have reason to boast? But there will be no bragging in Heaven! Instead, each of us will have the same story: "I am here because of God's grace. I did not deserve or earn my salvation. God offered it to me as a gift, and I gratefully received it." The offer of salvation as a free gift constitutes grace, and our receiving of it constitutes faith. Once we have it, how can we say thank you to God for such a wonderful gift? By doing good works, according to God's plan for us. What a difference there is between working FROM salvation – a delight! – and FOR it – impossible! God's plan is truly amazing. Enter into it and be encouraged!

*While Mom's "Words of Encouragement" format is a scripture passage and one paragraph, she added this postscript for the July 2016 service:*

After we are saved by grace through faith, God's grace continues to operate in our lives in many ways. All of God's blessings, that is, his favor, are GIVEN, not deserved or earned. Thinking this way will keep us in awe of God, a desirable state indeed! The Bible says God LAVISHES his grace on us. There's PLENTY to go around! And how are we to respond to the grace we receive? Besides being thankful, we are to pass it on by being gracious to others!

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*The August 2016 service included a set of Psalms Mom wrote years ago, recently rediscovered, with new commentary.*

This next section, called Verna's Psalms, comes as a BIG, WELCOME SURPRISE to Verna. She says: "In the 1990's, while we still lived in our Yorktown house, I began writing a series of stories and articles I called Family History. When we lived at Drum Hill I put that project aside and began writing essays and poetry, which became the basis for the services we gave, first at Drum Hill and then at Sky View. Recently my daughter Marty, who maintains my website, searched my older materials and found a collection of five Psalms stored with my Family History! Except for one of them, which had been renamed, I had forgotten all about these psalms. But God had not forgotten them! In preparing for this service I needed more material and there were the psalms, ready to be included!" Now here are Psalms 1 and 2.

### **Verna's Psalm 1 – written in March, 1994**

I will boast about You, O Lord,  
certain that I will never wish I could take back my words.

No superlatives that I could find would be too great  
to describe You, my Lord.  
In fact, human language is deficient – so limited! – when it comes  
to describing You, the One who transcends language.

I'm so glad You can hear and appreciate heart language,  
all the yearnings and groanings that reach You  
in "words" that cannot be spoken.  
You understand the language of love!

It seems so inadequate – so simple – to say to You the following,  
but You know and hear the emotions that accompany these words:

O, my Lord, Faithful and True,  
always faithful and true,  
I love You!

### **Verna's Psalm 2 – also written in March, 1994**

More than forty years have passed, Lord, since you suddenly  
revealed Yourself to me and made me Your child!  
I was open-mouthed with wonder and joy at that moment,  
and I still am today.

I look back over four decades and testify  
that You have never failed. You are the same –  
yesterday, today, and forever –  
my Solid Rock Foundation.

Why would people choose to build on sand  
when they could build their lives on You?

Thank You, Lord, for being my Stability. Amen.

Psalm 3 is the only Psalm I remembered. You may remember it too, for I had changed its name to Trees and used it a number of times in services, mainly around Easter, due to its reference to the crucifixion. Because the death and resurrection of Jesus play such a huge role in God's story, worthy of constant remembrance, we will read it now.

**Verna's Psalm 3** – written in 1997

What season was it when you created trees, Lord?  
Was it winter time, when everything is exposed –  
Trunks, branches, limbs  
thick and thin,  
Every twig visible  
and beautiful?

Or was it spring time, when trees are full of promise –  
Buds swelling, sap flowing,  
changing daily,  
Blooming, fragrant  
and beautiful?

Maybe it was summer time, when trees are full of leaves –  
Green – so many shades of green!  
Some with fruit, some with nuts,  
All with shade  
and beautiful.

Perhaps it was autumn, when leaves change their color –  
First a tinge, then breathtaking beauty.  
Such variety!  
Leaves preparing to die  
and beautiful.

Lord, you designed the trees  
so we could use them  
creatively.  
We could cut them down, trim the wood  
And make 'most anything, bad or good.  
Houses, furniture,  
paper to write upon –

Why, we could even make some beams  
and form a cross  
to hang you on.

Thank you, Lord, for dying on a tree –  
for hanging there – willingly –  
for me.

Creator, Lover,  
God and King –  
Redeemer, Friend,  
my Everything –

Lord, YOU are beautiful!

Psalm 4 came with a notation that says I wrote it on March 31, 1985 and edited it as Psalm 4 in November, 1998. I tried to remember what was going on in my life in 1985 that made me write as I did, and then suddenly I knew! Karen will read the psalm and then we will explain the puzzle.

#### **Verna's Psalm 4 – written in 1985**

The well is deep, Lord – so very, very deep!  
And the water tastes so good!  
It is clear and cool;  
how it quenches my thirst!  
The well will never, never run dry.  
Its source is you, Lord;  
how could it possibly die?

In 1985 Verna was deeply and happily involved in teaching Bible seminars and speaking at various women's groups around the county. She says: "One day after a class had ended and everyone had gone home, I had a sudden realization that no matter how many people wanted me to speak, I would never run out of things to say. I was elated! And 31 years after I wrote the words that became Psalm 4, I can testify that it is true – the well has never run dry and never will! AMEN!" Now here are Cliff and Sharon with Psalm 5.

Psalm 5 also has a notation, telling us that it is based on two Bible stories from the time of Moses and Joshua. We are going to read these stories now.

From Exodus chapter 3. Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the desert and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight -- why the bush does not burn up." When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within

the bush, "Moses! Moses!" And Moses said, "Here I am." "Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." Then he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

From Joshua chapter 5. Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, "Are you for us or for our enemies?" "Neither," he replied, "but as commander of the army of the LORD I have now come." Then Joshua fell face down to the ground in reverence, and asked him, "What message does my Lord have for his servant?" The commander of the LORD's army replied, "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so.

Verna says: In thinking about these stories, I wondered how people who could not physically get down on their knees or take off their shoes could show reverence to God, never DREAMING that in the future I would be one of them! I concluded that reverence was an attitude of the heart rather than a position or a condition, and that's what I expressed in this last psalm.

#### **Verna's Psalm 5 – written in 1998**

In my heart, Lord, I'm down on my knees,  
    bowing in reverence before you.  
Your love amazes me!  
    O, Lord, my God, I adore you.

In my heart, Lord, I'm wearing no shoes,  
    for I'm standing on holy ground  
    willing to do your will!  
May your glory be known all around. Amen.

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*The September 2016 service included another Psalm, again with new commentary.*

As you may recall, in last month's service we featured a set of 5 psalms that I wrote in the 1980's and 90's while we still lived in our Yorktown house. I had forgotten about those psalms when the computer I used at that time was replaced by another. My daughter Marty, who maintains my website, found the psalms while looking through my older papers which had indeed been preserved! What joy! After our August service, on a subsequent visit, our joy was extended when Marty showed another old writing and said, "I think this could be psalm 6!" Eagerly I read it, remembered it, and renamed it according to Marty's suggestion. Obviously God is behind this story, seeing to it that I have the materials I need for these services at just the right time. To God be the glory! Amen.



**Verna's Psalm 6** – written in 1992

IN AWE OF GOD

God is always faithful and true –  
dependable, but not predictable.  
“How will he handle things THIS time?”  
we may wonder as we ponder in our minds  
what God has done in the past.

God is SO creative –  
never runs out of ideas.  
Solomon said, “Under the sun there is nothing new” –  
same old things, endlessly repeated.  
The routine CAN be dull.

But with GOD –  
each day is new, unpredictable, and exciting!  
Fun, too! Surprise!  
Living in tune with God is living expectantly.  
Keeps us fresh and vital, no matter what our age!

God is SO amazing!  
Powerful enough to create the universe –  
and to keep it running!  
Loving enough to die for us.  
Kind enough to hold our hands.  
Caring enough to set standards for us –  
and to give us the power to obey.  
Gracious enough to forgive.  
His mercy is a marvel!  
His compassion never fails.

BUT – let's not try to PREDICT him,  
for HE IS GOD, and we are people.  
His thoughts are not our thoughts;  
His ways are MUCH higher than ours.  
Let's take our proper place before God our Maker –  
Let's be THANKFUL, and so worship him acceptably

with REVERENCE –

and AWE!

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*The September 2016 service continued with a new Scripture meditation.*

## **SWALLOWED UP**

1 - Verna says: There are many Bible words and phrases that I enjoy thinking about, and “swallowed up” is one of them. I have already written extensively on this subject, but I want to pass on to you some new thoughts, especially since some of them are connected with Sky View.

2 - When I said “swallowed up” did you think of Jonah, as I frequently do? I have a great affection for Jonah, God’s prophet who had so much to learn about his position, and such unusual classrooms in which to ponder his situation! Lord willing, more on him later. For now we are going to present three Scripture passages that give me comfort every day. Listen:

1 - From 1 Corinthians 15 – When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.”

2 - From Isaiah 25 – On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; he will swallow up death for ever. The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove the disgrace of his people from all the earth. The Lord has spoken.

1 - From 2 Corinthians 5 – For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, so that which is mortal may be swallowed up by life.

2 - Notice that in every passage DEATH is what is being swallowed up. Isn’t it great to know that death and everything associated with it – disease, pain, funerals, tears, declining abilities – will be gone forever? I love the thought!

1 - Here at Sky View a lift is used to transfer me from my wheelchair or shower chair to the next place I am supposed to be. This battery-powered wonderful piece of equipment is pushed into position face-to-face with me, and a lever is used to open the lift to its maximum capacity so it can move over my chair. Then the heavy canvas pad that had been wrapped around me is attached to the lift by its straps, and I am ready to be lifted up and put down elsewhere.

2 - At the very time the lever opens the lift so it can swallow up my chair and me, this Scripture comes to mind: “Death has been swallowed up in victory!” What a great truth to be confronted with 3 times a day! Then I remember to be thankful, first to God for his many blessings, and then to Sky View for supplying the equipment and products we need and the personnel we need to help use them. THANK YOU, EVERYONE!

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*The September 2016 service concluded with another new meditation.*

## **!! EXCLAMATION POINTS !!**

Verna says: Our final Scripture meditation is called Exclamation Points, and yes, it is about the punctuation marks we use to emphasize a sentence, word, or thought that excites us. I consider myself to be an exclamation point kind of person, that is, I use a lot of them in my writing, even using two of them at times for special emphasis. My cousin Louise, who writes long letters to me every week, frequently uses 7 or 8 of them to express what is in her heart! I get the point!

How well I remember the role that exclamation points played in my spiritual life! Early in the process I was reading the version of the Bible commonly called the King James Version (or KJV). Though its language was lofty and outdated, I preferred it to the other versions I occasionally read. All that changed in 1972 when a friend gave me a copy of the freshly published New International Version of the New Testament, wanting to know what I thought of it. Briefly stated, I loved it! The NIV committee, who had made their translation from the original languages, had been careful to preserve the dignity of the Bible while modernizing the text. When I noticed that the NIV also used exclamation points, my cup of joy overflowed! How I related to it, making it my new main Bible!

Here is one example. Recently my daughter-in-law Brandi sent me a Bible verse that she enjoyed, not knowing it was also a favorite of mine. The verse consists of two sentences, each with an exclamation point at the end. I can't imagine them any other way! Listen:

1 John 3:1 - How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God - exclamation point! And that is what we are - exclamation point!

Do you agree with me that the appropriate punctuation was used for these thoughts?

Listen to the verse again. "How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God - exclamation point! And that is what we are – exclamation point!" The love of God is a vast, unending subject that had John in awe. He was writing to those who had believed that God SO loved the world that he gave his one and only Son Jesus, to those who - like John - were part of God's faith family, hoping they would share his awe. We could paraphrase 1 John 3:1 like this: God our heavenly Father really, REALLY loves us, generously drenching us with love, even calling us his children – exclamation point!

While I was thinking about these things, a new idea came to my mind. I wondered what would happen if we saw each other as exclamation points, dearly loved by God and important to us. When I discussed this idea with my son George, he said: "That's how God sees us." I readily agreed, for I had also been meditating on this truth from Romans 8 – *Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,*

*because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.*

If God does not condemn his children, why are we so quick to condemn each other? Would that change if we saw ourselves and each other as exclamation points? Let's try this as an experiment and see what happens! Residents, staff members, family members, and visitors – each of us is important to and loved by God, a good thought with which to begin our challenge. Enjoy! Amen.

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*In September 2016 Mom finished a new essay she composed over the previous several months.*

### **THE DESIRES OF YOUR HEART**

Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart. Psalm 37:4

Les Von Losberg, Sky View's ombudsman who is also my friend, came to visit me early in May, 2016. I had been eager to see him, for at the end of April, here at Sky View, I had attended a concert given by a percussion ensemble of which Les is a member. I was eager to give him my report, and he was just as eager to receive it. Before I could begin, though, Les told me a remarkable story:

Les had always wanted to drum. As a school boy, he tried to sign up for drum lessons, only to be told the school had enough drummers. "Would you like to play the tuba?" the teacher asked. "That's what our band really needs." So Les put aside his desire to drum and became his school's tuba player. Then at age 60 he and his wife went to a concert where a style of Japanese drumming was being performed. Suddenly Les said to his wife, "I can do that!" And he did! After 10 years or so of lessons and practice, a drumming ensemble, consisting of three Japanese women and Les, gave the concert I attended, playing drums unlike any I had ever seen.

As Les's story unfolded, my similar story resurfaced and begged to be told. Eagerly I told Les that I, too, had always loved drumming. To me, the best part of a parade was the time between band numbers when only drums could be heard. They filled my heart with longing and joy! Then one day I remember going home with the exciting news that a snare drum class was being formed at school and all I needed to become a member was my parents' signatures! But alas, Mother wouldn't sign the form. "You might become sick from having to march in the rain," she explained. I couldn't argue with her, as I HAD been sickly as a child. So I put aside my thoughts of becoming a drummer, and pursued music in other ways, as did Les.

The other point where our stories were surprisingly similar concerned what happened at age 60. I told you Les's story; now hear mine. In the days leading up to my 60th birthday in 1993, I received a phone call from my friend Robert Rayow, who, with his wife

Yvonne, owned a nearby dance studio. Both of them had been students in the Bible seminars I was giving at the time, and now, at this special birthday, they wanted to say thank you with a special gift – free tap dancing lessons with Robert as my teacher! I was delighted, for tap dancing is another thing I had enjoyed since childhood. “Tap dancing is drumming with your feet,” Les interjected, suddenly clarifying the story for me. What a thrilling moment!

Let me explain. For about 25 years, beginning in 1977, God would sometimes start a tune in my head to match the words I was reading in the Bible. When this happened, I would go to the piano, complete the song, and write it down, knowing these were verses on which God wanted me to meditate. Eventually I had more than 500 Bible passages tucked into my memory by this method. Now, when God wants me to recall a specific verse, he often starts the tune of that verse in my mind. When I figure out the words, I have received the message!

That’s how I received the Bible verse that opened this essay. I repeat: “Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart.” My thrilling moment included a great sense of God’s presence and his smile of approval. Does God smile? Oh, yes he does! There are a number of verses that picture God as taking delight in his people. I think one source of this two-way delight occurs when God’s people “catch” him at work in their lives, as in the story I am telling.

In meditating on Psalm 37:4, I quickly discarded the interpretation that says: If you truly delight in the Lord, God will give you anything you want. Rather, I like the idea that God delights so much in his children who delight in him that he gives them special desires, which (of course!) he intends to fulfill in due time, either on this earth or in Heaven. My desire to drum was God-given, I now understand, and as such, was bound to be fulfilled. Partial fulfillment came vicariously when Paul, my youngest son, got a drum set when he was in the 7th grade and filled our house with his wonderfully rhythmic sounds as long as he lived at home.

The delightful thought that my tap dancing lessons, which went on for over a year, were part of God’s plan for me concerning drumming, brought a question to my mind: Is this the end of the story or is there more to come? Certainly my physical body will never again be able to keep a beat, but what about in Heaven? Before you discard this as mere speculation, consider the following Bible passage from 1 Corinthians 2:

“No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him – but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.”

To me this passage says: “No matter how vivid our imaginations, and how keen our senses, we human beings cannot figure out God or his doings. But God WANTS his loving children to think about where they are going at the end of their lives on this earth.” I am so glad that the Holy Spirit reveals to us what we cannot figure out on our

own. I call these revelations GLIMPSES OF ETERNITY, grateful that God STILL interacts with people, as he did in Bible times. Listen to this verse from Psalms:

“The Lord confides in those who fear him; he makes his covenant known to them.”

God’s friend Abraham, long before Jesus was born, was one of those who feared the Lord, that is, he worshiped God reverently and with awe that led to obedience. As such Abraham was the recipient of many glimpses of eternity, including the birth, death, and resurrection of God’s Son Jesus. The story is amazing!

Equally fascinating is the Bible record of a man named Saul, from Tarsus. In the years following the ascension of Jesus, Saul was on his way to Damascus one day when – about noon – he suddenly saw the resurrected Jesus in a light SO bright that it blinded him for a period of time! There was no doubt that the vision was meant for Saul, for Jesus called him by name, and forever changed the mission to which he would devote his life. Never again would Saul believe that Jesus, who had been crucified, was still dead! Later on, after his name was changed to Paul, the apostle wrote, “We believe that Jesus died AND ROSE AGAIN!” Death is not the end for us either! I am positively SURE of that!

Les sat there, smiling with me while my mind absorbed the impact of his tap dancing and drumming connection, which became the inspiration for this essay, and THEN I gave him my concert report. “I really liked your concert,” I said. “In fact, several times it made me cry!” “I’m glad you liked it,” he said, “but why was it sad?” “NOT sad,” I replied, “but it was SO beautiful, SO loud, SO unexpected that my human senses were not able to take it all in.” Les nodded at my explanation.

Yes indeed, I could add the drumming concert to my own list of glimpses of eternity. Do you have a list? I can well imagine drums in Heaven, different from the ones on earth, producing sounds and rhythms that will delight our transformed ears, but would have shocked our human senses. Will I PLAY a drum in Heaven? That’s up to God our Father, who does all things well! My speculation, for now, ends here! Amen.