

Quote: John Quincy Adams



Glimpses of Heaven

Lonnie Honeycutt's been to eternity and back

Lonnie Honeycutt is glad he didn't read Don Piper's *90 Minutes in Heaven* until after his own near-death experience. What Piper wrote in his book about the things he saw in heaven closely paralleled what Honeycutt saw as well. "He and I come from totally different theological backgrounds, but his experience so mimicked mine I was weeping when I read his account," says Honeycutt, whose visit to heaven occurred when he died in the hospital two years ago.

A charismatic pastor, Honeycutt was diagnosed with throat cancer in 2007. He was rushed to the emergency room on Feb. 16, 2008, and although doctors later told Honeycutt's wife he was brain-dead, he insists he was very much alive—in heaven.

In the book he self-published last year, he tells of being escorted down a street of translucent gold by three angels. "While on this road I experienced something that I've rarely experienced here on Earth: peace," Honeycutt says. "Peace that is literally beyond human comprehension."

Among those he met was his mother-in-law, who had died more than 30 years before. She used a pet nickname for his wife, Dawn, and gave him a personal message for her. When he related it to Dawn, she burst into tears. He says he received other messages to deliver to people he had never met yet later

encountered in different places. All six proved to be meaningful. “If you think it’s strange to tell people you died and went to heaven, imagine telling them you have a message for them *from* heaven,” he says.

Today the 44-year-old pastor says thoughts of returning to heaven keep him on the straight and narrow. He thinks of heaven daily and lives with a deep trust that God’s will is going to prevail.

My Time in Heaven

Author Richard Sigmund recounts his experience

Richard Sigmund says the extensive details about the eternal realm in his book *My Time in Heaven* stem from his photographic memory and from taping his recollections. The latter he did upon being released from the hospital after an October 1974 car crash that he says sent him to heaven.

“It was so real,” says Sigmund, whose first book on eternity was titled *A Place Called Heaven*. “You don’t forget.”

Among the more moving encounters he relates is seeing his name written in the Lamb’s book of life (see Rev. 21:27) in 3-inch-high golden letters outlined in crimson. He also saw his name engraved on a chair for the marriage feast of the Lamb (see Rev. 19:9). Jesus told him that it wasn’t time yet to be seated.

The Iowa-based evangelist says far more could’ve been told in his book. “Did I get to see Jesus? The answer is yes. Will I tell about it? No. Some things are just private. Did I see angels? Yes—it still happens; but I don’t talk about it much.

People think you're off the deep end."

One thing he will say is that heaven will be a place of vibrant activity. He describes seeing thousands of houses, some still under construction; people painting; people creating flawless furniture. Sigmund also saw the new Jerusalem, the jeweled city described in Revelation 21-22, although he says he went only to the edge of it.

Today, thoughts of returning to heaven dominate the mind of the aging evangelist, who must stay close to his home to take kidney dialysis three times a week. "I get up every day thinking, *Is this the day I go back?*" Sigmund says. "I have a lot of aches and pains because of dialysis, but the things of life grow mighty dim next to heaven. It's very real to me."

Straight Up

What the Bible says about heaven

Is. 11:9-10: Jesus' "resting place" and where no one will be hurt or destroyed

Is. 65:17-19: Where crying will no longer be heard

Is. 66:22-23: Where God's people will worship before Him forever

John 14:1-3: Where Jesus has gone to prepare a place for His people

Acts 7:55-56: It was visible to Stephen as he was being martyred

Rom. 8:18-25: Where earthly suffering will turn to glory

Eph. 2:6-7: Where God's people will see "the exceeding riches of His grace"

1 Thess. 4:14-17: The place from which Jesus Himself will descend to Earth

Rev. 20:11-15: The site of the "great white throne" judgment to come

Rev. 21:1-22:6: Where the dazzling new Jerusalem is being prepared by God

Wright is Still Wrong!

✘ This past week Rev. Jeremiah Wright emerged again from the ashes of obscurity to the spotlight. Like the mythical phoenix rising again from the fires of death, Wright is still politically alive after becoming a symbol of racism and division for mainstream America. His actions mirror his friend, Louis Farrakhan, who has recently attempted to malign Jews worldwide. The question I would like to answer here is, "How can such vehement hate mongers like Wright and Farrakhan survive so long in a land that longs so much for racial and religious equality?" Let's explore the answer as we look at the current status of Rev. Wright. How did he arise again?

Wright recently taught a weeklong course at the Chicago Theological Seminary (CTS). The school is a 150-year old institution affiliated with the United Church of Christ (UCC). As many may not remember, Rev. Wright's former church (Trinity United Church of Christ) is the largest church in the UCC denomination. This denomination supports Rev. Wright's assessment of America's moral condition and motivations. CTS represents institutions that have continued to embrace the

famed Chicago minister long after he dropped off the national radar.

Let Freedom Ring

☒ “God bless America, my home
sweet home!”

“What in the world is that?” exclaimed my husband, Terry, making a quick path out to the front porch.

We had just moved into a summer rental house across the street from a sleepy park. But from the sounds of it, the park was not so sleepy! The gazebo was filled with band members and a rather buxom woman was at the microphone. She was belting out patriotic songs in a high soprano voice.

Embezzler Finds True Path to Riches

Before Kevin Cross turned 22 he'd received a bachelor's ☒ degree in accounting, embezzled \$300,000 from the government, been blackmailed by the mob and convicted of a felony. But Cross says the excitement of his cinematic life story doesn't compare to the exhilarating life he now leads in

Christ. He travels the country teaching that true riches can be found only through biblical financial stewardship.

Cross says he spent most of his early years chasing riches. "My god was pleasure, and it was so satisfying. The problem is, it wears off like a drug," says Cross, who is president of Cross Stewardship Ministries in Roswell, Ga.

Helping Soldiers Find Solace

On 300 acres of Colorado national forest, against the backdrop of the Sangre de Cristo (Blood of Christ) Mountains, sits a \$4.5 million lodge where Spirit-filled Vietnam veteran Dave Roeber helps "wounded warriors" find solace from the trauma of war.

Every month about 30 soldiers—many of whom have lost limbs, eyes and other body parts—converge at Eagles Summit Ranch (ESR) in Westcliffe, Colo., to spend a week getting a respite from the wounds of war. Roeber, whose face was disfigured in combat during the Vietnam War when a grenade exploded in his hand, says the main objective of the week is to teach service men and women how to cope with physical, mental and emotional challenges by publicly sharing their stories. At the end of each week, cadets stand before the Westcliffe community and other soldiers and discuss their war experiences.

Have You Encouraged Someone Today?

Everyone needs encouragement. Encouragement helps you reach goals that you thought were impossible. Discouragement will cause you to operate at a lower level than your optimum potential and it will limit your vision.

I read the story of a man who was told by a teacher that he was not very smart. He needed to quit school and learn a trade. He followed the advice of the teacher and became an itinerant worker for 17 years. When he was in his 30s he took an IQ test and discovered that he was a genius. He later became the chairman of the Mensa Society, which requires an IQ of 140 for membership. For so many years of his life, this man operated far beneath his potential. Why? Because someone discouraged him. How different could this man's life have been if he had received encouragement.

Things are tough for many people right now. Give someone a word of encouragement. Give that person a word of hope. Meet their need for encouragement and watch that person achieve a great goal in their life.

Godly Dads

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