

# The Anglican Herald

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The Anglican Catholic Church in Western Australia

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## Welcome to Heaven

### An Imaginary Vision of my Entry to Heaven

*In my article for this issue of the 'Anglican Herald' I thought I would steer away from the more serious subjects of a number of previous articles I have written. I thought it would be pleasant to allow my mind to try and picture what might happen from the time we stand at the pearly gates. Please understand that what I am writing is pure imagination and should be regarded as light-hearted reading for fun and relaxation.*

#### At the Pearly Gates

My life on earth has come to an end and I find myself at the Gates of Heaven. I am met by my Guardian Angel.

Matthew 18.10

"See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven.

*We should note here that "little ones" refers to believers who are new to faith in Christ, not only to children. While there are various opinions as to whether we each have a guardian angel I like to think and indeed I believe we do.*

My guardian angel greets me, clothes me in a white robe and leads me into the entrance foyer. We are joined by another angel and I am taken into what appears to be a court room.

I am led to the dock and it seems I am about to face judgement. There is someone dressed in a glowing white robe sitting on a throne with an angel on either side. Standing before him is a person whose bare back shows the bloody stripes of flogging and on his head a crown of thorns. I expect to be questioned but in fact we remain in silence watching as the man before the throne appears to be pleading my cause. It is God the Father on the throne and Jesus His Son pleading on my behalf by showing the price He has paid so I might be forgiven and received into the courts of heaven.

1John 2.1

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

Romans 8.34

Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

After some time I am taken back to the foyer. The second angel leaves us and we move to a reception desk. On the desk is a lamp which emits a light which I cannot describe. This light shines on my forehead and reveals a seal which I have never seen during my earthly life.

Revelation 7.3

“Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.”

My guardian angel tells me that because there is a seal on my forehead I may see if my name is in the book of life. We move to another part of the reception desk and see a large book. The angel instructs me to open the book and look for my name.

Revelation 3.5

The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels.

I rejoice to discover that my name appears in the book of life and I am now taken outside and into a garden.

The garden is small with a beautiful and varied display of flowers and shrubs. There is only one tree which stands in the middle of the garden and it seems to have one only fruit on it. This is the tree of life says the angel. You can take and eat the fruit for this will grant you entry to the building beyond the garden.

Revelation 2.7

To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.'

I eat the fruit, cross the garden and approach a great mansion. The angel knocks on the great door which when opened reveals a long passageway. My guardian angel tells me that I am now on my own and that I should proceed along the passageway where I will find a door with my name written on it.

John 14.2

In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?

After walking some distance I find a door with my name on it. I enter a spacious room that has a calming influence and a feeling of serenity. There is light shining through a large window with a small table close by on which there is an envelope. I open the envelope and find an invitation to the Heavenly Banquet.

Luke 13.29

And people will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God.

There is a wardrobe in my room and I find and put on a shimmering silver robe to be worn at the banquet. I hear a knock on the door and see an angel who takes me to my place at the banquet table. Having taken my place I hear the sound of a trumpet and the man who was pleading for me in court now enters the banquet hall. The Man Jesus is now robed in a dazzling silken cloak of gold with a crown of gold and jewels on His head. All those present bow before Him as He takes His place at the table. There are countless people at the banquet and yet everyone including me seems to know all who are present. I was sitting at table with the holy Lamb of God. The banquet was the most wonderful event I have ever experienced.

Luke 14.15

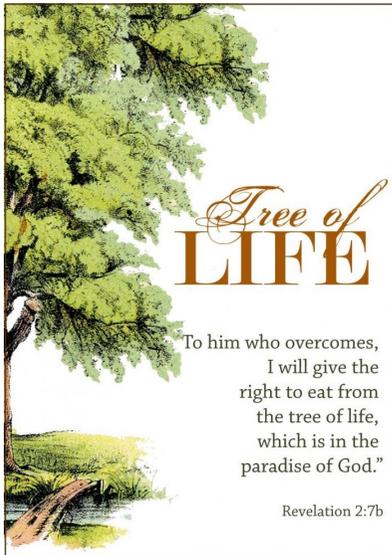
When one of those who reclined at table with him heard these things, he said to him, "Blessed is everyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!"

Following the heavenly banquet I had one more place to go. At the conclusion of the banquet two large doors at the far end of the banquet hall were opened and all those present moved into a vast auditorium. The size of this area is beyond measure and it is a place of sacred reverence praise and worship. The only possible way to express what I witnessed is to declare the following.

Revelation 5.11-14

Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, <sup>12</sup>saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honour and glory and blessing!" <sup>13</sup>And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honour and glory and might for ever and ever!" <sup>14</sup>And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" and the elders fell down and worshipped.

I was in the courts of heaven; in the presence of Almighty God and my salvation was now complete. I am now waiting to be advised as to the role I have in the service of God which will be my proper place for eternity.



*This then is my mind's picture of the start of my resurrected life beyond the pearly gates. It is a picture from my imagination and is presented to you as a light hearted story simply for your enjoyment. I do hope you enjoyed the read. Whatever may be your vision of heaven, I pray it may come to fruition through the merciful grace of God.*