

# The William LeFevre Family

## Missionaries in Bulgaria

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June 2024

“And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.” Revelation 21:23

To Family, Friends, and Fellow Saints,

The older we get and the longer we serve the Lord, the more Heaven means to us. Maybe it has to do with us having more people over there than here. I was with a preacher the other day who turned 87. He was on his way to preach in the prisons. When asked why, he said something to the effect that he was looking to see old friends. A fellow preacher responded, “You’re 87; if you’re looking for friends, they’re more likely in the graveyard than the prison.” My old dad would often peruse the county cemeteries looking at headstones. When I asked why, he replied, “I know more people here than I do anyplace else.” Heaven is sweeter because of the certainty of a reunion.

Maybe Heaven means more because of the vexation of our spirits living in this wicked world. I know there’s nothing new under the sun. I know that history repeats itself and that the days of Noe and Lot have once again come upon us. And yet, the days of Noe and Lot run concurrent in our day. In addition, according to my humble interpretation of scripture, the devil knows he has a short time left and has redoubled, or trebled, or multiplied his energies at wreaking havoc. His mask of subtlety has slipped, and his hatred is manifest everywhere. Every means of media has been infiltrated and blares out with reckless abandon and obnoxious repetition the odious and outright abominable message of the age. If you make the effort to shut it out, you still have to endure the effects on those who take it in. Only in Heaven will we be once and for all freed from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, having passed out of the devil’s domain into the Kingdom of the dear Son of God. Heaven is sweeter because of its absolute purity, its wholesomeness, its goodness.

Maybe Heaven means more because of the pains we bear. There are physical pains: pains that come with age, pains that come with disease and illness, that the passing years exacerbate. There are pains that come with experiences, misfortune and misunderstanding, trials and tribulations. Sometimes the physical hurts are easier borne than the emotional. Regardless of their source or sustain, these burdens grow heavier with the years; or perhaps we grow weaker, too frail to endure long what we once bore patiently. We long to lay off these weights, soar homeward, and be at rest. Heaven is sweeter because all of the things that trouble and have troubled us will be gone forever.

Maybe Heaven means more because we long to worship. There might be some reading this that view worship as an abstract idea. You’ve read the word and even looked up its definition, but you’re unsure of its application. Some folks’ understanding of worship is cultural, i.e. what they do down South, or in a particular church, or at a particular meeting. Some people’s understanding of worship is based on their negative views of the “contemporary” church: “Well, if that’s worship, I don’t want any part of it!” (It isn’t; and you probably won’t.) And there are even some who’ve searched the scriptures and can give a chapter and verse definition of the term, straight from the KJV, who are as much out of practice or unwilling to participate as the modernists they condemn. But the lover of the Lord Jesus longs to lay at His feet and bask in His glory. Have you ever tasted and seen that the Lord is good? Have you ever once experienced His presence?

*(Continued on the other side...)*

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Have you ever forgotten your cares and lost track of your requests as streams of gratitude poured forth from your heart? Heaven will be worship. Hearts unbounded, free at last, unhindered by any carnal or worldly consideration, will break forth in unceasing praise of Him who loves us and washed us from our sins in His own blood. Songs will swell the vaulted corridors of the celestial city. Jeweled crowns of unimaginable splendor and inestimable worth will sail across the throne room and clang at the feet of Jesus without a second thought given. Creatures hitherto unknown and unguessed and unfathomable will chant His praises in perfect harmony with the saints. Heaven is sweeter because we'll finally get to worship the way the soul intends, and the flesh can no longer hinder.

I guess the list could go on and on, couldn't it? In the end, Heaven is what it is because of Him. Sam Richards, the old, white-haired Sunday school teacher, would say, "He's the highlights of Heaven." In fact, everything there is a reflection of Him. Paul, while referencing Moses and the tabernacle, said, "He who hath builded the house hath more honour than the house." And just as everything in the tabernacle pointed to Christ, so everything in the New Jerusalem points to Him. The street, the foundations, the walls, the gates, the river and trees – He's in all, over all, above all – Lord of all! Not to sound masonic, but He's the architect, and everything reflects His genius. Everything reverberates with His praise. Everything echoes His goodness.

"And when I see Him face to face...", that's Heaven. "For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face." In the meantime, we endure as seeing Him who is invisible; and we walk by faith until we walk in sight.

Gracious that's not half bad, even if the worst missionary you know did write it. Until we see Him, we're carrying on doing what we can for all we can. We've only got a few more weeks left in the country, then we're headed back to Bulgaria. We fly out of Dulles on the 23rd of July. The good Lord has provided us another apartment in Shumen, only a few blocks away from the one we had to leave. We're excited about taking up residence in it.

The boys will be attending a couple of youth camps in July, before our return. Keep them in your prayers. There's lots to do and get done before our exodus. Pray we can get it all accomplished.

Bro. Zach wrote in his prayer letter about the Turkish Bible. The proofreading is finally done. They want to get it recorded, like Scourby, and put the recordings on the radio in Turkey and on YouTube. To get the whole Bible professionally recorded will cost a big chunk of money, \$25,000. A number's a number to God. What seems big to us is nothing to Him. Help us pray.

Because of a living Savior,



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