

A CELEBRATION OF TRANSITION
and
ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GRIEF
HONORING THE HUMAN LIFE
OF
STEVE ANDERSON

Music

Prayer:

Father, we thank you for life and life everlasting. We thank you for the eternal future, for your ascension plan, and for the "mansions" you have prepared for us. We thank you, Father, for the life of Steve Anderson. For his gift of love and inner strength, for the friendship he so freely bestowed, for the goodness and kindness he shared with, and saw in those around him.

Father in Paradise, we know that despite the glorious, eternal future, death is a great sadness for those who are left behind. We know you understand our grief. Jesus wept at Lazarus' death and then raised him from the dead. We know, Father, that we can all look forward to our own resurrection mornings, when we will once more be joined with our loved ones in your mansions on high. But for now, Father, there is the reality of the life we live on earth and the human grief of separation. Steve's young wife, Shelley, will need your comfort. His parents, his son, and many, many friends need your help.

We thank you Father for your ever present being. For knowing that you are with us, in us and always there to listen, to encourage, to guide and to console. Amen

We are gathered here to honor the transition to the next life of Steve Anderson, husband, father, son, and friend. A man of insight, progressive thinking and private spiritual way. We have not gathered together to voice despair over the death of a physical body, but to express our whole hearted faith, and rejoice that Steve's soul has embarked on the career of eternal life.

We must, however, acknowledge the vacancy created in the lives of Shelley, and Steve's family. (UB59) "The consciousness of a victorious human life on earth is born of that creature faith which dares to challenge each recurring episode of existence when confronted with the awful spectacle of human limitations, by the unflinching declaration: Even if I cannot do this, there lives in me the spirit of one who can and will do it, a part of God - the Father of universes. And that is the victory which overcomes the world, even your faith."

The one thing I heard the most about Steve's character was his unflinching kindness, helpful, and friendly spirit. There is a passage in the Urantia Book that reads:

"All true love is from God, and man receives the divine affection as he himself bestows this love upon his fellows. Love is dynamic. It can never be captured; it is alive, free, thrilling, and always moving. Man can never take the love of the Father and imprison it within his heart. The Father's love can become real to mortal man only by passing through the man's personality as he in turn bestows this love upon his fellows. (1289)

Steve Anderson allowed love to flow through him to all those he knew.

In the Bible, in John chapter 14 there is a retelling of a conversation between Jesus and his apostles, as he prepared to leave them for the worlds on high. He told them that "in my Father's house are many mansions. If it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto myself that where I am, there ye may be also."

The Urantia Book has filled us in about the Mansion worlds. We are told about the beautiful golden resurrection hall that is the center of activity on Mansonia One. The Temple of New Life. We are told that "Throughout all eternity you will recall the profound memory impressions of your first witnessing of these resurrection mornings."

Let me read just a little bit of what is happening next in Steve's eternal life:

(0533.4) From the resurrection halls you proceed to the Melchizedek sector, where you are assigned permanent residence. Then you enter upon ten days of personal liberty. You are free to explore the immediate vicinity of your new home and to familiarize yourself with the program which lies immediately ahead. You also have time to gratify your desire to consult the registry and call upon your loved ones and other earth friends who may have preceded you to these worlds. At the end of your ten-day period of leisure you begin the second step in the Paradise journey, for the mansion worlds are actual training spheres. . .

I am sure you know of friends or family that Steve will enjoy seeing again on the Mansion worlds.

The Urantia Book tells us that (1235) "personality and the relationships between personalities are never scaffolding; mortal memory of personality relationships has cosmic value and will persist. On the mansion worlds you will know and be known, and more, you will remember and be remembered by, your onetime associates in the short but intriguing life on Urantia.

(498) "Never in your long ascendancy will you lose the power to recognize your associates of former existences. Always, as you ascend inward in the scale of life, will you retain the ability to recognize and fraternize with the fellow beings of your previous and lower levels of experience."

For all we know, Steve has now arrived on the mansion worlds. He has probably registered, checked into housing quarters, and is on his way to check the fishing, we are told that the heavenly worlds (485). . . abound in fascinating highlands, extensive elevations of physical matter crowned with morontia life and overspread with spiritual glory. . . There are tens of thousands of sparkling lakes and thousands upon thousands of interconnecting streams. . .

We should ever remember: (365.3) There is in the mind of God a plan which embraces every creature of all his vast domains, and this plan is an eternal purpose of boundless opportunity, unlimited progress, and endless life. And the infinite treasures of such a matchless career are yours for the striving!

(365.4) The goal of eternity is ahead! The adventure of divinity attainment lies before you! The race for perfection is on! Whosoever will may enter, and certain victory will crown the efforts of every human

being who will run the race of faith and trust, depending every step of the way on the leading of God's spirit and on the guidance of that good spirit of Jesus, which so freely has been poured out upon all flesh.

(364.3) There is a great and glorious purpose in the march of the universes through space. All of your mortal struggling is not in vain. We are all part of an immense plan, a gigantic enterprise, and it is the vastness of the undertaking that renders it impossible to see very much of it at any one time and during any one life. We are all a part of an eternal project which the Gods are supervising and outworking. The whole marvelous and universal mechanism moves on majestically through space to the music of the meter of the infinite thought and the eternal purpose of the First Great Source and Center.

Meditation

Prayer

Close