



WEEKLY CHRISTIAN FOCUS

Thoughts comments and Scriptures about our earthly homes and housing, and our attitude to them! Verses about God's houses and dwelling place.

In this issue:

- **A story about two different houses!**
- **Why do we need a home or house? (Foxes have holes)**
- **Are our houses permanent or temporary accommodations?**
- **How should we view our homes and houses? What should our attitude be about our earthly house(s)?**
- **OUR HOUSES VS THE LORD'S (HOUSE) WORK?**
- **Other beautiful Scriptures about God's tabernacles and His place of residence.**
- **Closing Testimony from the mission field about housing supply.**



**** This beautiful print, hangs in a gold frame in our living room in our present house! Prasie the**

Lord.

Psalm 84:3

Yea, **the sparrow hath found an house**, and **the swallow** a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, even thine altars, O LORD of hosts, my King, and my God.

Greetings.

This is, believe it or not, an enormous topic and very interesting, as well as faith building if we look at it from God's point of view. Let me start for some unknown-to-me-reason with a true story.

Often as I begin these articles I truly have no idea what I am going to say, only that I know God has given me a title for an article and perhaps He has also given me the very first thought, although often not!

As soon as I begin to write, the ideas and thoughts in my mind become very often like a rushing torrent that I cannot keep up with! I often have to stop and just write down with a pen what the main points God is saying are! How strange and yet I must ascribe this miracle to the Spirit of God wishing to get some message out through my measly frame.

A story about two different houses!

When I lived in India, we lived with other missionaries in a 'compound' which was essentially a very large house of modern structure, often made with a lot of marble and having secure gates and all mod cons at the time. We lived around many other houses of the same type in a semi-affluent area. Sometimes our combined missionary families grew to be up to 20 people in this location. (1997-1999)

Anyone who knows India, knows there is a vast difference in wealth. So in this particular location at this particular time, we lived quite luxuriously in one sense in comparison to many local people.

I did a lot of witnessing in the city of Bangalore, and also 'Visitation' of many types of Christians we had led to the Lord or who had known previous colleagues in years past. Our goal was to help establish all these people in the faith, whether rich or poor.

One couple I began to visit was a young man who was a clerk in the local civil service and his lovely wife. They had two small boys, as in, 3 years and 5 years old. They lived in a house or rather a simple abode, there was a kitchen, a dirt floor living room with stools, a simple wooden bench, and a table, and another small room in which they all slept, and a toilet off the bedroom. This man was an Anglo-Indian and had come from a background of some Christianity, but he was

very eager to know more about Jesus Christ, and his wife too. Some missionaries had led him to Christ and then he had lost touch somehow, well before we arrived there. **But someone had been faithful to retain his address and it eventually came into my hands. So I began to visit him.**

The family were delighted to host us and I visited them with an Indian (national) sister in the Lord a couple of times a month.



We enjoyed a wonderful meal together which the wife had diligently and lovingly prepared for us. After which she tried to keep the boys occupied or put to bed while we shared the Bible study with this man and later his wife often joined, after the boys had settled down.

We had so much happiness and them too, gathering around the Word of the Lord, usually for a couple of hours. They were very spiritually hungry. After a few visits, the husband, at our leaving, gave me a sealed envelope with their 'tithe'. I was shocked, as we had never asked them for any money and had only been interested in building them up in the faith. It had also not been lost on me, during this time, the vast difference between our current living standards. They, although very happy in Christ, and us also happy yet materially much more well off! I was very reluctant to take this money from the husband, as they needed it far more than we did at the time. But he explained that he had read the Bible and that he understood the importance of giving 10% to God

and God's elders and Kingdom, and that he wanted to tithe to our ministry. I could not fault him with his obedience to the Word of God and according to all the promises connected with tithing and giving, so for that reason, I accepted it.

After a while I was able to help them with a great deal of fruits and vegetables that we had and some meats, and so we continued in this manner for many months, but begun by the faithfulness of a young family in a quite poor house and home. Eventually, we were able to invite them to our monthly fellowships in our much larger house. I really don't think it phased them either way, only that they had the blessing of attending a fellowship with lots of other dear believers, 'both foreign and domestic' as they love to say in the States!

Nobody, that is no true believer in God, should ever feel ashamed or small or belittled if they live in a 'poor' home, a small home, a rented home, or any home that may not compare favourably with any other home on this planet.

So, what did I learn from this? I learned that God loves us equally. He looks at the heart and our ability to serve Him and our obedience to His Word. In many ways, this dear brother taught me a lot of lessons, and as you can see, after all these years, I retain the lessons of this precious family's obedience to the Lord. I am humbled by their attitude and love for their children and us, His unworthy representatives!

You would be very surprised how much the Bible talks about houses, homes, the home attitude and its advice on how we should look at our housing, whether rented, owned, or in our stewardship.

I'd like to share some verses on the topic and see what we can

gather at the end from all that the Bible has to say, or at least some of it! Praise the Lord. I am using both the King James version and also the Amplified Translation. (AMPC).

Why do we need a home or house? (Foxes have holes)

Here are some basic reasons why we need a home, I have put in point form:

- To do God's work, to be at ease in the Spirit, so we can focus on more important things.
- A home is a reflection of our spirits and spiritual condition to some extent.
- To offer refuge and fellowship to others in need.
- To offer stability to our offspring and so they have a place that they can remember and call home. (Roots).
- To have a place where we ourselves can be at peace with God and build our relationship with Him. A place to retreat to from the 'world' and the pressures of others or life in general.
- You will notice that Jesus said this about his own living conditions: Matthew 8:19-21
- (You may be able to think of many more!)

(Foxes have holes)

Matthew 19 And a certain scribe came, and said unto him, Master, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest. **20 And Jesus saith unto him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head.** (see also Luke 9:58)

So if we reverse engineer that 'foxes have holes' verse, we can see that the norm was for people to have somewhere to 'lay your head'! There is nothing wrong with that, it all depends on our attitude towards both our own home and what we are using it for, which we will hopefully get to shortly. Jesus was emphasising

the land of Canaan.

Exodus 12:48

When a stranger sojourning with you wishes to keep the Passover to the Lord, let all his males be circumcised, and then let him come near and keep it; and he shall be as one that is born in the land. But no uncircumcised

You, and sojourners, as all our fathers were; our days on the earth are like a shadow, and there is no hope or expectation of remaining.

16 O Lord our God, all this store that we have prepared to build You a house for Your holy Name and the token of Your presence comes from Your hand, and is all Your own.

1 Peter 1: 17 And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear:

18 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;

19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

[sojourn meaning - Google Search](#)

His own calling as a wayfaring stranger for 3 and a half years to complete His vital mission.

Are our houses permanent or temporary accommodations?

Before the advent and onslaught of modern capitalistic, and an increasingly materialistic western Christianity, it was understood by believers for millennia, that we were just passing through this world. **We 'sojourn' for the Lord, is the Biblical word! The word 'Sojourn' or 'Sojourning' means to stay at one place or various places on a temporary basis!** Here are just a dozen verses out of more than 60 that appear in Scripture.

Genesis 21:34 And Abraham sojourned in Philistia many days.

37 :1 So Jacob dwelt in the land in which his father had been a stranger and sojourner, in

person shall eat of it.

Deuteronomy 10:19

Therefore love the stranger and sojourner, for you were strangers and sojourners in the land of Egypt.

1 Kings 17:20

And Elijah cried to the Lord and said, O Lord my God, have You brought further calamity upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by slaying her son

2 Kings 8:1

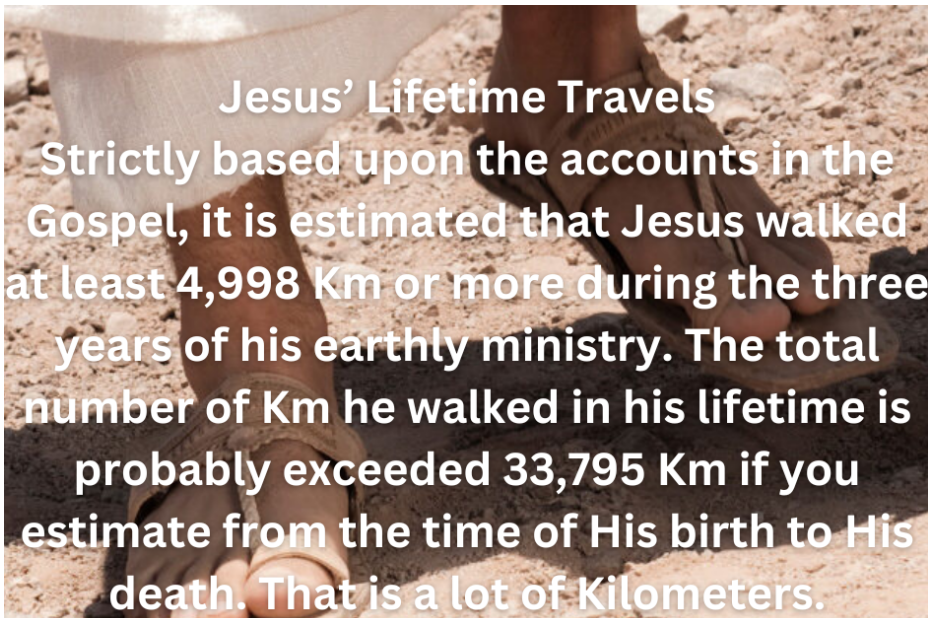
Now Elisha had said to the woman whose son he had restored to life, Arise and go with your household and sojourn wherever you can, for the Lord has called for a famine, and moreover, it will come upon the land for seven years.

1 Chronicles 29:15 For we are strangers before

I grew up until I was 17 years old, in two different homes with my parents and my older brother. The second house I lived in for 12 years, taking me right through school from 5 years to 17 years old.

Since that time as a missionary, I have lived in probably close to 100 houses or homes, or apartments without too much exaggeration. Some of this time I stayed for a few weeks, and some for a few years or even longer. I have never been anywhere longer than about 4 years in one specific location. And it seems The Lord is continuing to keep me in that way of life even without my choosing! Sometimes I wish it was different sometimes, but that is the way it has been for me and my larger family as we see in the song further below called 'Wayfaring Stranger!'

My calling may not have been the



Jesus' Lifetime Travels

Strictly based upon the accounts in the Gospel, it is estimated that Jesus walked at least 4,998 Km or more during the three years of his earthly ministry. The total number of Km he walked in his lifetime is probably exceeded 33,795 Km if you estimate from the time of His birth to His death. That is a lot of Kilometers.

same as many others. I have a good friend in this city who had bought a house decades ago, never went abroad and hardly ever did much renovation to his large semi detached house. But he has still been a good steward of his house and it's always clean and it always hosts fellowships or 'Christian time' even with a few people or more. We have been there several times and enjoyed his generous hospitality and meals.



But there is an opposite (and negative) attitude or mentality to sojourning and the Bible also deals with that in these verses:

Psalm 49:11

Their inward thought (of the foolish) is, that their houses shall continue for ever, and their dwelling places to all generations; they call their lands after their own names.

Psalm 49:14

Like sheep they are laid in the grave; death shall feed on them; and the upright shall have dominion over them in the morning; and their beauty shall consume in the grave from their dwelling.

Psalm 52:5

God shall likewise destroy thee for ever, he shall take thee away, and pluck thee out of thy dwelling place, and root thee out of the land of the living. Selah.

Psalm 55:15

Let death seize upon them, and let them go down quick into hell: for wickedness is in their dwellings, and among them.

If wickedness is in your dwelling, you don't have much future! You may think all is well, but in fact, your time on earth is a shadow, and the end of the road for the 'wicked'.

And always remember, the devil and the wicked would love nothing more than to seize your home. As long as you are a good steward for God and love Him, The Lord will keep you safe and blessed where you are. But for those who are disobedient or don't even know God, they have no such provision or promise. God even sends them enemies against them at times: look at these amazing verses;

I am raising up the Babylonians, that ruthless and impetuous people, who sweep across the whole earth to seize dwellings not their own. Habakkuk 1:6

One of the sins I would imagine of the rich man in Luke 16 was probably that he felt secure.

He had a rich house, fared sumptuously' every day, and of course that kind of corpulent lifestyle is seductive and deceiving to say the least. It just seems like it is never going to end, nothing is going to go wrong. This is the 'mindset of millions' or the 'brainwashing of the billions'!

How should we view our homes and houses? What should our attitude be about our earthly house(s)?

Houses are physical places where we live on this earth. **We** make them into 'homes'. We establish routines and schedules and nice areas and useful areas inside and around them for a variety of purposes.

Everything should be done in decency and in order.

First of all, I think we should have the attitude of a steward, and asking God what He wants to do with our house. Does God have a purpose for your house? If so, what is it? Have you asked Him what it is?

And here, as an example, is a wonderful passage of writing from the famous Preacher C.H. Spurgeon, taken from the book **'The Cheque Book of the Bank of faith'. (March 5th)**

Born: 19 June 1834, Kelvedon, Essex, England **Died:** 31 January 1892, Menton, France

'He blesseth the habitation of the just' Proverbs 3:33

He fears the Lord, and therefore he comes under the divine protection even as to the roof which covers himself and his family. His home is an abode of love, a school of holy training, and a place of heavenly light. In it there is a family altar where the name of the Lord is daily had in reverence.

Therefore the Lord blesses his habitation. It may be a humble cottage or a lordly mansion; **but the Lord's blessing comes because of the character of the inhabitant, and not because of the size of the dwelling.**

That house is most blest in which the master and mistress are God-fearing people; but a son or daughter or even a servant may bring a blessing on a whole household. The Lord often preserves, prospers, and provides for a family for the sake of one or two in it, who are 'just' persons in his esteem, because his grace has made them so. Beloved, let us have Jesus for our constant guest, even as the sisters of Bethany had, and then we shall be blessed indeed.

Let us look to it that in all things we are just— in our trade, in our judgement of others, in our treatment of neighbours, and in

our personal character. A just God cannot bless unjust transactions.'

All that you have has been given to you by God. And I have heard quite a few miraculous testimonies from people who were given or obtained or 'found' their home by a miracle of God. I expect you yourselves know about this or know someone who has experienced this.

God expects us to have dwelling places as they are called in the Bible, houses, homes, habitations, places of refuge. He expects us to keep His Words and pass them on to our children and others.

He expects us as believers to prosper inside those dwelling places and homes and houses! Praise the Lord.

Let's look at these confirming scriptures:

Psalm 90:1

Lord, **thou** hast been our **dwelling** place in all generations

Psalm 91:10

There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy **dwelling**.

Proverbs 21:20

There is treasure to be desired and oil in the **dwelling** of the wise; but a foolish man spendeth it up.

Exodus 10:23

They saw not one another, neither rose any from his place for three days: but all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings. **The Egyptians were in darkness, while the Hebrews had Light from God.**

Leviticus 3:17

It shall be a perpetual statute for your generations throughout all your dwellings, that ye eat neither

fat nor blood.

Numbers 35:29

So these things shall be for a statute of judgment unto you throughout your generations in all your **dwellings**.

Psalm 91: 10 There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. The famous promises of Psalm 91! includes your dwelling place!

God expected dwelling places for His people to endure throughout generations if they obeyed Him.

OUR HOUSES VS THE LORD'S (HOUSE) WORK?

Haggai 1

We have done a detailed study of Haggai chapter 1 in our issue #62, so I will not repeat it here. However for the purpose of this edition it is always wise to compare how we are building and decorating our homes with how much effort and time and money we also/should spend on building God's House or His work. Please request a free copy of issue #62 and read the Chapter 1 of Haggai and see what the Lord may show you.

Other beautiful Scriptures about God's tabernacles and His place of residence.

Before we close, let's consider some of the amazing scriptures the Lord has given us about His own place of residence and what others think about it! I do pray these will be a huge encouragement.

Psalm 84 How amiable are thy tabernacles, O LORD of hosts!

2 My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for **the courts of the LORD**: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God.

3 Yea, the sparrow hath found an house, and the swallow a nest for

herself, where she may lay her young, even thine altars, O LORD of hosts, my King, and my God.

4 Blessed are they that dwell in thy house: they will be still praising thee. Selah.

1 Kings 8:30

And hearken thou to the supplication of thy servant, and of thy people Israel, when they shall pray toward this place: and hear thou in heaven thy **dwelling** place: and when thou hearest, forgive.

1 Kings 8:39

Then hear thou in heaven thy **dwelling** place, and forgive, and do, and give to every man according to his ways, whose heart thou knowest; (for thou, even thou only, knowest the hearts of all the children of men;)

Links and more.

C H Spurgeon - Google Search

(52) Johnny Cash - Wayfaring Stranger – YouTube

**** print painting by Basil Ede 1978**

I'm just a poor wayfaring stranger
Traveling through this world below
There is no sickness, no toil, no danger
In that bright land to which I go
I'm going there to see my father
And all my loved ones who've gone on

I'm just going over Jordan
I'm just going over home

I know dark clouds will gather 'round me

I know my way is hard and steep
But beauteous fields arise before me

Where God's redeemed, their vigils keep (no more shall weep)
I'm going there to see my mother

She said she'd meet me when I come

So I'm just going over Jordan

I'm just going over home
I'm just going over Jordan
I'm just going over home

Source: [Musixmatch](#)

Songwriters: Sam Cooke /
Traditional

Wayfaring Stranger lyrics © Song
Of Cash Music, Auriga Ra Music,
That Light Publishing LLC, New
Fox Pico Songs LLC, T C F Music
Publishing Inc.

Closing Testimony from the mission field about housing supply.

My wife and I lived in Chile for several years. We had a couple of small children when we arrived as well as a 10 month old daughter, appropriately called Maria in the then predominately Catholic South America.

At one point, shortly after arriving there, we were living on a farm in the countryside not far from Valparaiso. I think this farm existence was really God's testing ground to the greater victories and some mission success we had there later.

We woke up for the first few days with flea bites on all of us, which was very irritating and highly uncomfortable. Small children's capacity for patience, pain and endurance is on a slightly lower level than adults. So we had to move. Our hosts were very kind, but we were quite desperate to move for the children's sake especially.

Through a mighty miracle of

supply the Lord led an elderly German missionary to us that same week and he asked us, after knowing us a few days, if we would consider taking him as a member into our small team.

Although we didn't know him well, after some prayer the Lord seemed to indicate to us and our other missionary colleagues that we could accommodate him, but not at this farm. We let him know that we wanted to move and open a base in either Valparaiso or Viña del Mar on the coast, which was the burden the Lord had put on our hearts.

Unknown to us at the time the Lord told us to accept him as a co-worker, was that this man had just come into a huge inheritance in his home country and was able to access a seemingly limitless amount of money for missions. He was from some type of German aristocratic family also, if that exists. I suppose even Germans had aristocracy of some type at one time, and somehow this brother was a descendent at least of this line. We noticed he also seemed very comfortable around rich people, and believe it or not there were plenty of rich in the area of Viña del Mar, as well as even more plenty of poor too!

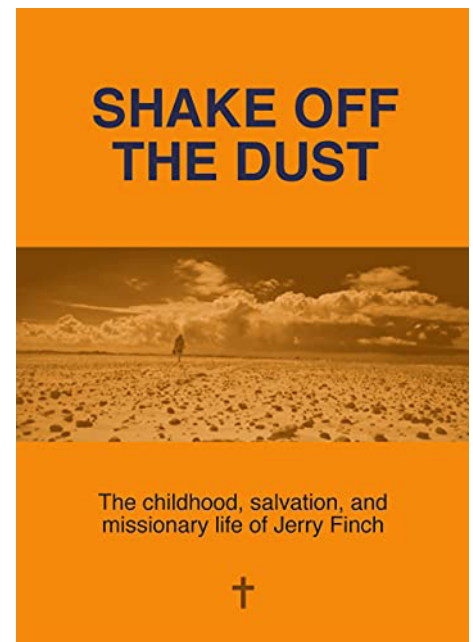
We let him know that we wanted to open a large apartment so we could focus on reaching a lot of the youth of these two cities but we were praying for a deposit and monthly rent to come through.

A few days later he let us know his positive financial situation and paid the deposit and a one year lease on a large beautiful

apartment. The Lord had opened the door for all of us!! He told us that for obvious reasons he had wanted to keep his new financial 'security' a secret while he asked us if he could temporarily join our mission endeavours.

(Excerpted from the Book 'Shake of the Dust' by Jerry Finch.

Available on Amazon Kindle)





ISAIAH 65:17

FOR BEHOLD, I CREATE NEW HEAVENS AND A NEW EARTH,
AND THE FORMER THINGS SHALL NOT BE REMEMBERED OR
COME INTO MIND.

ENJOY SUBSCRIBING TO THE
WEEKLY CHRISTIAN FOCUS!
SIMPLY EMAIL US AT [WCF@NYM.](mailto:WCF@NYM.HUSH.COM)

[HUSH.COM](mailto:WCF@NYM.HUSH.COM) and say

'Please subscribe me!'

You will get a quick
acknowledgment and will begin to
receive the next 8 week's editions
free!

After that time, we will write you
and see if you would like to continue
as a premium subscriber.

Current price for a premium
subscription is: £70 per annum or
approx £6 per month (US\$8)

WHAT IS THE WEEKLY CHRISTIAN FOCUS? (WCF)

The WCF are weekly articles written on a wide variety of topics, primarily with a Biblical foundation and viewpoint. They also deal with many of the spiritual and physical things that are happening in the world today.

The majority are serious or fascinating and also have some element of humour in some of them! They are written by Jerry Finch for the most part and graphic designed by

Andreas Ortiz in his own unique and inspiring way!

These articles are not your usual half a page Christian devotional, but rather are usually 4 to 8 pages long and also often contain supporting links to other articles or videos on the internet for deeper research.

These articles are getting such a good reception globally, that they are also being translated into other languages! We thank God! Our goal as a ministry is to glorify God and point people to the Word of God which can be applied to every aspect of our lives in our relationship with Him and others and with the world in general.

These are both exciting and challenging times we live in, and the WCF tends to keep up with what is going on in every sense, spiritually and mentally and Biblically. If you are new to the Weekly Christian Focus we can tell you that anyone can also subscribe and receive their first free 8 weekly articles by email, simply email us (see below.)

After those first 8 weeks, everyone has the option of becoming a 'Premium Subscriber', which at present is £70 per year or about £5.80 per month. God bless you with a wonderful rest of the year and new year in spite of the atrocities and wars around us all.

If you want to get your 8 weeks free editions, just email us here now and you will get them each Sunday.

If you have any questions or thoughts please email us at this dedicated email.

wcf@nym.hush.com

Our love in Jesus, Jerry and Andreas and the WCF TEAM

