



CHAPTER SEVEN

GRAND FINALE

(FIELD TRIP TO CHURCH)

(VIDEO AT END OF CHAPTER)

WHEN WE ALL GET TO HEAVEN



Revelation 21:23

"The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp."

When we all get to heaven, what a day of rejoicing it will be. When we all see Jesus, we will sing and shout the victory! Let us all raise our voices in song as we praise the Lamb of Light; who is an emblem of pure joy! Just as the Scripture states above, there will be no sun or moon to shine on the celestial city, because the brilliance of the Lamb will be the everlasting Light for all eternity.

Thus, all one has to do to imagine how the presence of Christ will impact each Believer's heavenly home, requires only to contemplate the attributes of light. It kindles, blazes, shines, sets afire, illumines, glows, warms, is lustrous, resplendent, scintillating; a bright constellation allowing nothing to obscure your vision of the pinnacles of the eternal city where God sits on His throne with Jesus at His right.

Ladies and gentlemen, as a volunteer in a nursing home, I have often been asked to describe how our future heavenly home will appear. The answer to this question is impossible for this writer's mere human brain to contemplate. Scripture makes this clear by stating, "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, nor mind can conceive what God has in store for those who love him." (1 Corinthians 2: 9)

Certainly, we can read John's description where he uses vivid colors to give an account of the throne room with God having the appearance of jasper and carnelian; characteristics similar to a diamond. Around the throne is a rainbow that has the shine or glimmer of deep green; resembling an emerald. He even depicts 24 thrones where 24 elders sit attired in white robes wearing gold crowns on their heads. Whether one interrupts this as literal or symbolic, it demonstrates beauty beyond imagination.

Folks, after sitting beside many residents during their last seconds on earth, the Scripture quoted above from 1 Corinthians 2: 9 is accurate beyond description. Certainly, the reactions through expressions and limited words lets one, whose time has not yet come, fully realize how much God loves His children. The departing one's eyes will absolutely twinkle with delight as they call out names of saints recognized. However, one of the most dramatic moments was when a dying resident exclaimed, "Oh, Jesus! Oh, Jesus! Oh, Jesus! It was obvious she recognized our Lord and was being warmly welcomed.

Another sweet lady was given the pleasure of observing the angels playfully flying outside her window for three days and then moving to the end of her bed just prior to her departure. This wonderful person named Mary giggled as she enjoyed them dancing and fluttering all around this writer's head and shoulders. What love from her Creator that she was transported to her heavenly home on the wings of glory! After this encounter, the writer had to compose herself outside the room because of realizing she had been given the honor of standing on holy ground; all occurring at the foot

of a bed in a simple nursing home room; an ordinary location transformed into a wonderful, extraordinary place.

Dear readers, when the celestial shores of heaven appear in the view of the sweet old people I am so pleased to serve, there is no doubt that the trials and tribulations of the earthly journey have been worth it all; so much that some onlookers have shouted out, "Oh, I wish I could go with her!"

Not only is the Lamb's Light the source of beauty, but also a sign of knowledge. It has been stated by many scholars that man spends the duration of his journey on earth trying to understand and accept the death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus as it relates to His followers' future but will continue to be a mystery that they all live with, rather than understand, on this side of heaven. However, rest assured, dear one, that Christ is the fountain of knowledge that will provide all answers to those puzzling questions that have stumped our human minds when we reach our final destination. Until then, let us live by faith, with assurance that God is the Great Promise Keeper; a Father that always can be counted on to fulfill His covenant out of love for His creation.

Still another definition of light is manifestation; meaning shown or revealed. Folks, as we trod down the paths of life, it is impossible to conjure in our minds the transformation that will take place to our sin stained souls. However, with just the touch of the Master's finger, we will be cleansed and made as beautiful as crystal; residing in a place where Jesus will be the center of it all.

Then, in God's perfect timing, each Believer will be presented the crown that was entailed for him; one that will fit only his head. So, if you personally think, or hear an individual say, "I fear I shall never enter heaven", loudly proclaim, "Fear not! All the people of God shall enter there!"

Folks, the bottom line is this: If you believe in the Lord Jesus with all your heart, repent of your sin, and invite Him into your life, your name will be written in the Lamb's book of life. Just as Jesus promised, your mansion will be waiting on you. Believe me, as Christians, we are a shined-on people! What a day of rejoicing when we get to be present with Jesus and wear His precious reflection on our forgiven, restored faces! Halleluiah to the Lord of Lords and King of Kings!

If you have not accepted the Lord as your Savior, I ask you to sincerely pray right now with all your heart the following words:

Dear Jesus,

Thank you so much for dying on the cross as a sacrifice for my sin. I repent of my sin and ask you right now for forgiveness. Please come into my heart and be the Light of my life. I believe in you with all my heart. I realize there is nothing I can ever do to earn your love or forgiveness, but simply freely accept the gift of eternal life you are offering me. I love you and thank you for loving me in a way that I can never understand or repay. Amen!



Grand Finale

Dear readers, as this collection on music engagement with the elderly concludes, I would like to share a wonderful happening that will bless you in an enormous way. As the Silver Seniors Choir of seven Glendale Garden Nursing Home residents practiced and performed with the Schweitzer Senior Saints & Joy Pickers, they had the goal of a special field trip in their mind at all times.

As a volunteer with the elderly, it is very clear how desirous the residents are of participating in the events they once enjoyed as members of the outside community. So much, that they actually go through a grieving process regarding this issue when having to accept the reality they can no longer take care of their daily needs without assistance.

Therefore, several wonderful people worked together toward the goal of extending to them a special invitation to sing at the Schweitzer United Methodist Church along with several members of the choirs. Not only would this provide a very special treat for them, but also show the community at large what treasures they still are to society. The sanctuary setting would allow them to sing praises for the glory of God, while at the same time be accompanied by a superb organist who offered to play their favorite hymn, "Amazing Grace", as a treat at the conclusion of the event.

Thus, after the last service had ended on that particular Sunday, two vans could be seen pulling into the parking lot transporting the seven Silver Senior Choir members on this their special day. Finally, the privilege they had been promised had become a reality.

Therefore, as volunteers stood at the ready, the atmosphere was electric beyond description. Each person was waiting to push an assigned resident in his wheelchair to the lift that would assure them entrance onto the choir loft. Just watching them ride on the lift was a treat within itself.

Upon entering the sanctuary, the Schweitzer choir members were patiently sitting in the pews anticipating the arrival of their seven guests wearing enormous smiles of welcome. Due to all the love filling the beautiful sanctuary, the writer would like to express that it felt like we were all being given the opportunity to taste a sample of how heaven will be.

Although it took great effort to transport these seven-deserving people in wheelchair accessible vans, Activity Directors, Tim Trafford and Melody Childers, two individuals that always color outside the lines with their thinking, pulled it off with ease. They sacrificed a precious day off in order that the residents they love so much might enjoy a special day. There is no doubt in anyone's mind but that these two people always have a spring in their step and a song in their heart!

Ladies and gentlemen, it gives the writer great pleasure to share with you this special worship service by inviting you to study the following photographs provided by Catholic High School Student, Haylee Ball. After choir member Gail Randolph sent first fruits up to God in prayer, notes of praise filled the sanctuary, bouncing from rafter to rafter in route to the ears of the Father.

As you view these sweet faces, please feel free to sing "When We All Get to Heaven" right along with them. The lyrics have been included at the end of this chapter for your convenience.

****The Silver Seniors chose to not wear their silver hats on this day because they wanted to blend in and be just one of the choir members. Oh, what joy to experience life as it was for them in the outside world where they used to reside. Even though they need assistance with care, they are just like you!**




SCHWEITZER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
MUSIC DIRECTOR: CHERYLL MOLL



GLENDALE GARDENS NURSING HOME CHOIR
DIRECTOR: CARLA SMYER



Gail Sends First Fruits Up To God!



**Beautiful strains from the organ
fill the sanctuary as an introduction
by Brad!**



WHEN WE ALL GET TO HEAVEN!



**Praises went up to God with great joy and jubilation!
Look at Silver Senior Driscoll play his harmonica!**



**Joy unspeakable and full of glory! God truly is the
wind beneath their wings!**

*"But ye are a chosen
generation, a royal
priesthood, a holy
nation, a
peculiar people;
that ye should
shew forth the
praises of him who
hath called you out of
darkness into his marvelous
light,"
1 Peter 2:9 (KJV)*





But let all who take refuge in You be glad, let them ever sing for joy; And may You shelter them, that those who love Your name may exult in You. (Psalm 5:11)



*My lips will shout for joy, when I sing praises
to you; my soul also, which you have
redeemed. (Psalm 71:23)*





"For you will go out with joy and be led forth with peace; The mountains and the hills will break forth into shouts of joy before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.

Isaiah 55:12



And...now the promised treat of “Amazing Grace.”



Jeremy eagerly wheeled himself right over by the organ and let the song wash over him like a fresh spring rain shower.

WHEN WE ALL GET TO HEAVEN

- 1) Sing the wondrous love of Jesus
Sing his mercy and his grace
In the mansions bright and blessed
He'll prepare for us a place

(CHORUS)

- 2) While we walk the pilgrim pathway
Clouds will overspread the sky
But when travlin' days are over
Not a shadow, not a sigh

(CHORUS)

- 3) Onward to the prize before us
Soon his beauty we'll behold
Soon the pearly gates will open
We shall tread the streets of gold

(CHORUS)

CHORUS

**When we all get to heaven
What a day of rejoicing that will be
When we all see Jesus
We'll sing and shout the victory**

Enjoy the follow-up thank you letter to

Hello Cheryll,

the choir

Today was such a joyful experience for so many people; especially for the residents from Glendale Gardens. As I watched from the back of the sanctuary, their facial expressions resembled a kaleidoscope of emotions that fascinated Tim, Melody, and I beyond measure. These sweet people had been looking forward to joining you in song for weeks; thus, asking at every choir practice about the details. Some would write it on their calendars; while others asked about it every time they saw Carla's face. You see, they were singing their hearts out for a follow choir member that entered her eternal home before meeting all of you today. No worries! She will welcome each one of us into the heavenly choir where she now belongs.

As I took it all in from afar, it was hard to keep my composure because of knowing each one of the residents intimately. Viola, who used to sing in her church choir, was enjoying the experience to the maximum as notes from her beautiful soprano voice floated happily

through the air. Don, a charming man with a beautiful voice and spirit to match, was so thrilled that his family members arrived to support him by shedding tears of joy throughout the taping. They even walked him to the van and offered kisses just before he boarded. Did you hear Discroll on his harmonica? He was playing with gusto and stated on the way out, "I could get used to this!" Ann, Tim's mother, that had a chance to be a professional musician in her early life, requested the black folders that held the lyrics just so they could project the correct image. Lela had practiced in her room repeatedly so she could make all of you proud of her involvement. Jeremy, Melody's son, was Carla's assistant and would start the practice session for each song when she was dealing with allergies. He also served as caretaker; making sure his friends were all happy and comfortable. Then, when Bradley began "Amazing Grace", he rolled himself right over to the organ and took it all in. In spite of the physical challenges in his life, it would be almost impossible to locate a heart that is as

full of love as the one God has bestowed on him.

On behalf of the elderly worldwide, words cannot express the appreciation they feel regarding the generosity you displayed on their behalf today. After serving as choir members for Schweitzer, you kindly stayed longer; a charitable behavior that is unforgettable. As my eyes beheld the cross behind you, there was no doubt but what God was smiling.

Do you want to know why the sweet old folks voted to leave their silver hats in the van? Their words were: "JUST WANTED TO BE ONE OF THEM!" Thanks for allowing folks that used to travel the roads you now enjoy to join your ranks; even though it was for a short bit of time.

Blessings,
Colene Hank

Enjoy the video now.

