

Coming Home

Owning a home is an important part of the Canadian dream. Your home is your sanctuary, a deeply private and personal space that is protected by law. Usually it is the major asset of a marital estate. A family home is where shelter is found and children are raised. When the family is grown and gone, couples often acquire a new castle in which to spend their golden years.

Canada is filled with homes for sale; but how do you find the right home? For many years, award-winning realtor, Eva Gay Jennings, invited customers to trust her; to believe that she could find them a home. Eva was known for her honesty and integrity. She counseled her clients carefully. She worked hard to ensure that her clients would not buy a home they could not afford. Eva went the extra mile for her clients because she understood what it meant to buy a home. She knew that her clients would have to qualify for, and then sacrifice for their home.

Eva understood that her clients would have to prove to the seller, and the bank providing financing, that they were qualified to purchase the home. They had to prove they had the cash down payment, that they had an excellent credit history. They had to prove a good employment history and prospects for continued employment. She also understood that her clients had to make great sacrifices in order to keep that home: monthly mortgage payments had to be made on time; property taxes, utilities and insurance had to be paid every year; the building and surrounding grounds had to be maintained and eventually refurbished; household appliances, furnaces, air conditioners had to be maintained and eventually replaced.

Many took pride in their homes. Fixing, repairing, refurbishing and renovating their castle was a labor of love for them. Most filled their home with furniture and other precious treasures of every description. They made this great effort knowing that one day they would have to sell and leave their sanctuary. Someone else may have moved in, but one day it would be knocked down to make room for something new and exciting. The furniture and treasures they worked so hard for will end up in a thrift store and eventually the dump.

This brief reflection on the fate of our family homes leads inevitably to reflection on our own fate. Like our homes, one day life in our bodily temple will come to an end and our body will return to the dust from which it came. Eva Jennings' life in her bodily temple came to an end in May of this year. Family and friends gathered for a service to celebrate her life. In the midst of this celebration this question gripped the minds of many: "Is my grave my final home?" Let me tell you what Eva believed:

Jesus said: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the

way to the place where I am going.” Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (John 14:1-4, 6).

Jesus told Eva not to worry about the end of her life. He called her to believe that there was a new body for her and new home for her. Jesus made these promises on the night before the first Good Friday. He first communicated these promises to a group of eleven men, one of whom would deny knowing Jesus that very night, and all of whom would run and hide in order to save their lives. Three days later these same men would refuse to believe eyewitness testimony that Jesus had risen from the dead. Yet, Jesus promised eternal life in a heavenly home to these men.

Jesus declared to his disciples, and to Eva, that gaining possession of their heavenly home was not at all like their earthly home. They were not dealing with a seller who was motivated by gain; rather, *God so loved them that he gave His one and only Son so that they should not perish but have everlasting life (John 3:16).* They would not have to prove their worthiness for a room in their heavenly home, nor would they be required to make personal sacrifices as a condition of their occupancy permit. Jesus had paid the price for their occupancy permit. Falsely accused of the crime of Blasphemy (confessing he was the Son of God and had the power to forgive sin), he suffered on the cross and died for their sins and paved the way to their new home by his resurrection and ascension into heaven. This is what is required: *Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”*

Come to God’s house at 1162 Hudson Road, and experience God’s love in Jesus at 9:00AM and 10:30 AM on Sunday mornings. You may find that you are coming home.

In Christ

Pastor Ed