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## AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE


## Home: What Does It Mean for You?

### home

[hom] Oxford English Dictionary

2. a. A dwelling-place, house, abode; the fixed residence of a family or household; . . . In N. America and Australasia (and increasingly elsewhere), freq. used to designate a private house or residence merely as a building.

Now I have a dictionary definition, but what does the word mean to me and my family? Home can mean different things to each person but rarely just a building. I strive for a home that is as this magazine title begins, "As for Me and My House . . . we will serve the Lord." I also enjoy making a good home for my family and having time to work from home on projects that are close to my heart and faith in my business, beholdurbold.com.



“Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.”

Revelation 21:3

I will begin by telling you that I am very blessed to live in a safe town and in a warm, comfortable home. As I think about what makes a house a home, it is hard not to have compassion for those who may be homeless or may not have had a good home life. Home life can be good or bad. When it comes to family, love is a must to survive. Families see each other at their best and worst times and love each other through it all.

In preparation for writing this article, I asked my family what the word “home” meant to them; I also reflected on the question myself. I thought about how I have had ups and downs in life, but the Triune God has always seen me through.

Most recently, I had a close call with my health. Two months ago, I was airlifted because of a brain hemorrhage and was in ICU for most of the week. As my husband was driving over an hour to the hospital by himself, he thought I might be going to my eternal home. When I think about home in that light, it brings up new meanings.

People are usually afraid of death and start making a bucket list of places away from home they want to go to before they die. But I see it as more like I’m on a journey, and Heaven is my final house. Now, I have Napa Valley, Italy, and Heaven on my bucket list. Why not put Heaven on the list as your last and best? They always say save the best for last.

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**“MY FATHER’S HOUSE HAS MANY ROOMS; IF THAT WERE NOT SO, WOULD I HAVE TOLD YOU I AM GOING THERE TO PREPARE A PLACE FOR YOU?”**

**JOHN 14:2 (NIV)**

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I thought about how I am getting ready to send my daughter, Olivia, on a college adventure where she will study abroad oceans away from home. Olivia will be studying for a semester in South Korea. God brought her to us from South Korea when she was 5 months old, and this is a great opportunity for her to visit and study there.



As a mother, I have a certain amount of fear. But the joy of faith over fear can be seen in the journey of life, trusting God to bring us home. The bible tells us in Jeremiah 29:11 and Ephesians 1:5 that we are all His children, and He has plans for us.

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**“FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU,” DECLARES THE LORD, “PLANS TO PROSPER YOU AND NOT TO HARM YOU, PLANS TO GIVE YOU HOPE AND A FUTURE.”**

**JEREMIAH 29:11 (NIV)**

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“HE PREDESTINED US FOR ADOPTION TO SONSHIP  
THROUGH JESUS CHRIST, IN ACCORDANCE WITH HIS  
PLEASURE AND WILL — ”

EPHESIANS 1:5 (NIV)

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I looked at my family’s responses when considering my answer.

Cooper: “Where you can be yourself without worrying about what others think.”

Olivia: “Home is where you can show your worst and best without fear of rejection. Home is where you go to rest and recharge from everything and everyone else in the world.”

Doug: “Home is where my best friend in the world is my wife. It is where the people I love most can always come to spend time even though they don’t live here all the time. Home is great food because mom can cook like none other.”

Ha, isn’t that funny, ladies? As we get older, we are both wife and mom.

I think of “Home” as faith, unconditional love, and a sense of family in your heart. Even when you are far away from loved ones, a note, picture, or voice on the phone can bring that connection and feeling, no matter the distance.

I am very old-fashioned at heart. When everyone else wanted to have a career, I wanted to be a wife and mother. Due to many circumstances, I had the career first and didn’t get married and have children until I was in my 30s because God had a plan for my Home and my

exact family and how it would be made up. He knew I had to go through things and wait for that to happen. His timing is always right, and I wouldn’t have it any other way.

The answers from my family I’ve quoted above are the testimony to what He wanted for me because it is everything I dreamed of; I am blessed with my family.

To me, “Home” is family, faith, and love that we all continue to share in Jesus’ name now and forever. Amen.



*Blessings to your home in this New Year of our Lord 2023.*

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A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding a small, blue, metallic-looking house-shaped figurine. The hands are positioned at the bottom of the frame, with the fingers gently supporting the base of the house. The house has a gabled roof and a chimney on the right side. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light blue and white. The entire image is framed by a thick blue border.

“

But as for  
me and my  
house, we  
will serve  
the LORD.

”

JOSHUA 1:9 ESV