

# *Salem Family Ministries*

*November 21, 2008*

## Coming Up

*Are you . . . in the Los Angeles area?*

**11/22/08 - In His Presence  
Woodland Hills, CA**

**5:00 pm**

**(818) 313-9393 [ihpchurch.org](http://ihpchurch.org)**

**11/23/08 - In His Presence  
Woodland Hills, CA**

**9:00, 11:00 am & 1:00 pm**

**(818) 313-9393 [ihpchurch.org](http://ihpchurch.org)**

**11/30/08 - Echoes of Faith  
Ontario, CA**

**8:30 & 11:00 am**

**(909) 627-0927 [echosoffaith.org](http://echosoffaith.org)**

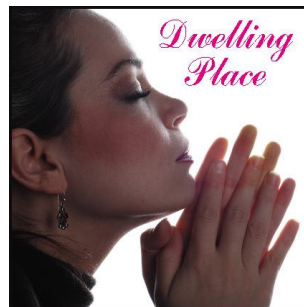
**Also, on December 5th, come see us at the Rock  
Church!**

**12/5/08 - Rock Church & World Outreach Center  
San Bernardino, CA**

**(866) ROCKCHURCH [rockchurch.com](http://rockchurch.com)**

**Doors open at 5:30**

**We would love to see you at any and all of these services!**  
**If you can't make it though, would you please pray for us and for souls to be saved and lives to be changed, in Jesus' Name!**



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&*

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## Our Citizenship in Heaven

Philippians 3:20-21

*For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.*

My question for you today is where do you belong? Where do you fit? If you are uncertain or even if you are fairly certain you know the answer read on!

It's hard to imagine that the holidays are fast approaching! Of course, this also tells you how old I am getting! My Papa Tennyson use to say when Christmas came, "How can it be time for Christmas? We just got everything put away from last year!"

At the time it would frustrate me as I always looked forward to holiday time, and it seemed to just drag around day by day until finally Christmas would arrive! But now I truly understand. As we approach the end of our lives, it seems the circle we call 12 months, one year, arrives (at least mentally) much quicker than it did when we were younger. Maybe we truly are on the circle, or the "rings" of the Life Tree, and as we grow older, we circle inward toward the center of the Tree of Life, and the circles become smaller and smaller until we finally arrive at our destination.

This place we call Earth, is not our home. We are not a citizen here, but merely a stranger, the Bible tells us. We are citizens of Heaven, where we belong! Lately, many things seem to remind me that I do not belong here, and if I allow it, I can become extremely frustrated with the world around me. But I try to remember each time I feel that frustration arise with me, to say out loud, "I don't belong here. This world is not my home. I am a citizen of Heaven. There I belong and there I long to be."

So we are ever circling inward toward our destination. After Gabrielle went to Heaven, nine years ago this weekend, the Lord gave me a wonderful vision and reminder of our journey through this world towards

real life, Life Eternal. The Lord reminded me that our stay here on Earth is like the 'Womb of Heaven.' This Earth's time frame is for our development, to become who we truly are, and will continue to be throughout eternity.

After Gabrielle went to be with the Lord, I had to reconcile many scriptures that just mentally 'rubbed me the wrong way.' One of which was Psalm 116:15, *Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.* I could not get my mind to figure out how something so tragic, horrible, and heartbreaking as the death of a child, could be called precious by the Lord. I know the Lord loves me. I know He could see, and even feel the hurt of our breaking hearts with the separation of our daughter from us here on Earth. So how in Heaven's Name could the Lord call that deepest broken place 'precious'?

One day as I was meditating, pondering, and even wondering how this could be, the Lord began to show me something that I can truly call precious now. The Lord took me in my mind's eye to a place where our babies were born here on the Earth. He showed me the time when Harry III was born, then Roman, and finally Gabrielle. As each child was born to us here on the Earth, all our families would stand around and we would each one pass the baby around exclaiming over and over and without hesitation, "Oh, how precious!"

As I saw this unfold in my mind's vision, the Lord said this to me. Even as a child is born into this world from the womb of a mother, and the families all exclaim 'how precious,' all of Heaven stands around the portal of Life, that which you on Earth call 'death,' but we from our eternal view call LIFE, the birthing canal of LIFE. As each saint comes through the portal into Heaven, Life Eternal, all of Heaven stands around and exclaims, "Oh, how precious!"

I finally got it. I understood from Heaven's perspective, which is the only true view. This Earth is nothing more than the womb of Heaven. We are put here to develop, to mature into who we will be for all of eternity.

When we are allowed to pass through the portal from this side we call 'death' but from the true viewing point is really the birthing canal into REAL LIFE, eternal life, the Lord calls us, precious. The Lord calls me precious. The Lord calls you precious. He is waiting for each one of us to come into His arms while He holds us, strokes our hair, smiles lovingly into our eyes, and calls us 'precious, precious, precious.'

I picked up my computer today as the Lord led me and I thought I was to write about something totally different but as my fingers began to type, this

is what the Lord has said today, so don't miss it. It is from the Lord's heart to your heart. Accept it, receive it, and believe it. We are not citizens of Earth, but eternal citizens of Heaven. Where do you belong? To Whom do you belong?

*Ephesians 2:14-22*

*For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.*

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