

The Home Going of Ken Blue

In Ecclesiastes 12 there is a poetic picture of a man growing old and how he eventually *“goeth to **his long home** and the mourners go about the streets... Or ever the silver cord be loosed, or the golden bowl be broken, or the pitcher be broken at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern. Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.”*

The word “HOME” is one of the most precious words spoken on earth. Nothing is as sweet than the thought of home when you have been away for a long time. People often say, “Home, Sweet, Home”!

“Home” speaks of love... family... rest... peace... security.

Thank God, for a Christian, this world is not our home! What a comfort to know Ken Blue has gone to *“**his long home**”* in heaven, compared to his “short home on earth” of 80+ years (Ps. 90:10).

Several years ago I wrote this poem titled, *“**Home, At Last.**”* I think it fits the life of Ken Blue...

The road home may be hard and long,
Storms may beat across my path;
Trusting Christ I can't go wrong,
He'll take me home, at last.

My journey's end is coming near,
The years have come and passed;
There's nothing now I have to fear,
I'll soon be home, at last.

There's no place as sweet as home,
Secure from all Satan's blast;
I'll enter heaven's gate, no more to roam,
And I'll shout, “I'm home, at last!”

—Al Hughes (4/18/09)

Squire Parsons wrote in a song:

Somewhere beyond the grave, there is a land
Where Jesus went to prepare, by His own hand.
And for the saved by grace—There is a resting place,
And in a few more days, it will be mine.

Some call it heaven, but I call it home,
Some say I'm dreaming, then let me dream on.
Some call it paradise, somewhere beyond the skies.
Some call it heaven, but I call it home.

Most of you are here because you are the family, or a friend to Pastor Blue, or you served under his ministry here at Open Door. You are here to honor his ministry and remember how he influenced your life for Jesus Christ.

Ken Blue was a favorite preacher to many local churches beyond his own ministry at Open Door. During my 30+ years of pastoring at Bible Baptist in Port Orchard, no other guest preacher graced our pulpit more often than Ken Blue. BBC loved Pastor Blue dearly.

I met Pastor Ken Blue for the first time face to face when we moved here from Michigan on July 13, 1974—45 years ago TODAY.

Outside of my own earthly family, I had **no greater friend** than Ken Blue. I think I speak for all us when I say, he is greatly missed!

To me, Ken Blue was **more than a friend**—He was closer than a brother. As Proverbs says, he was “***a friend that sticketh closer than a brother***” (Prov. 18:24).

➡ I will miss ...

- The times we served together... prayed together (Sutera Revival)... and wept together. So many memories...
 - Memory: Leading song: *Farther Along* (He had a way of stretching your ability).
 - Memory: Building projects at Open Door. He was a builder—a builder of church and a builder of men.
- Preaching together. We often shared platforms together in various meetings.
- Bouncing things off each other. Although we sometimes disagreed, we were always made each other sharper by our discussions. Proverbs 27:17—***Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend. No one sharpened my ministry more than Ken Blue.***
- Sharing rooms together on preaching engagements. Talking into the wee hours of the morning.
- His encouragement (called me in Vermont every week).
- His wisdom.
 - ✓ In counsel... Proverbs 27:9-- ***Ointment and perfume rejoice the heart: so doth the sweetness of a man's friend by hearty counsel.***
 - ✓ In outreach. His burden for souls could be seen in establishing local churches. He was the first person I spoke to in

Washington. He called me on phone and encouraged me to come to Redmond to start a church.

- ✓ While I was on staff at Open Door, Pastor Blue had these words embossed on the face of the balcony—***“He that winneth souls is wise.”*** These words were the heartbeat of Ken Blue.

While Pastor Blue has departed this earthly plain to his eternal home, his ministry is not over. It still goes on through the lives of countless preachers, missionaries, and laymen around the world who have been impacted by his selfless service for Christ. Only eternity will reveal the lasting legacy of Pastor Ken Blue’s ministry!

Jesus spoke a parable whereby faithful servants were commended with these words—*“Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou has been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter into the joy of thy lord”* (Mt. 25:21). I believe these words are fitting for the faithful ministry of Pastor Ken Blue. “Well done! You have been a faithful servant. Therefore you will be a ruler with Me in My kingdom!

In the last email I received from Ken Blue he wrote: ***“I AM READY FOR MY NEW HOME IN HEAVEN WITH JESUS. REMEMBER, I PRAY FOR YOU EACH DAY. I MISS YOU, DEAR FRIEND. KEN”*** That is what I will remember most about my best friend—Pastor Ken Blue

Safely Home

I am home in Heaven, dear ones;
Oh, so happy and so bright!
There is perfect joy and beauty
In this everlasting light.

All pain and grief is over,
Every restless night is past;
I am now at peace forever,
Safely home in Heaven at last.

Please do not grieve so sorely,
For I love you dearly still:
Look beyond earth’s shadows,
Pray and trust our Father’s will.

There is a work awaiting you,
So you must not idly stand;
Do it now, while life remaineth
You’ll soon rest in Jesus’ land.

When your work is all completed
He will call you up on high.
Oh, the joy of that homecoming
When we meet each other in the sky!