



STAYING CONNECTED

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR OUR MCIVOR CHURCH FAMILY

August 9, 2026

REFLECTIONS ON *HOME* FROM PSALM 84 – PASTOR JON

I have noticed that at a very basic level, I long to be at home. I enjoy going out and doing things—in fact if I don't I get restless—but I long to have the sense of safety that comes from knowing that somewhere, there is a place that I can go that is my home. There is a place I can go that is just mine. Where my loved ones and I can be together in security. Where we have what we need.

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I haven't moved very often in my life so far, but when I have, I've noticed the disruptive effects. It takes a while for a new place to feel like home. Everything seems just a little bit harder; routine tasks seem to tire me out just a little bit easier, because the new place isn't my home. Home is the place where I can just be.

Saint Augustine famously wrote that God has made us for Himself, and our hearts are restless until we find rest in Him. Wherever we go, wherever we make our homes for now, Augustine suspects that we will not find total rest, until we are finally united to Christ and make our home in God.

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Psalm 84 is among my favorite psalms, because it gets at this aspect of our humanity quite well. *"How lovely is Your dwelling place, Lord Almighty! My soul yearns, even faints for the courts of the Lord."* (v. 1-2). These words of longing for God's presence have

given voice to something I have felt deeply at various points in my life. When I have gone through difficult seasons in life, including moving to a new place and waiting for it to feel more like home, I have felt this longing tangibly. This is not my home; I will never be fully at home until I rest in God.

"Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may have her young—a place near Your altar, Lord Almighty, my King and my God." (v. 3)



The psalmist suggests that even the birds will dwell as near as they can to God's presence.

It becomes clearer as the psalm goes on that the psalmist is thinking of the temple in Jerusalem as the object of his longing for God's presence. The temple at that time was the central location of God's presence on earth, the one place where God was most tangibly present. And so the temple stood in as the object of the people's longing for God's presence. Worshipping in God's temple, with all the other worshippers, was the closest thing to being truly at home as this earth could offer.

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Now and then I have felt at home in a worship service at church. There's something about singing familiar songs, elements of a service proceeding in a

familiar order, seeing the same people week to week, and hearing the words of Scripture that become familiar over time, that carries that sense of being at home. This is a gift we enjoy as a church, when we are able to attend.

But when we are unable to attend worship services, our longing is sharpened for our true home with God. We know what we're missing when we're separated from it. *"Better is one day in your courts, than a thousand elsewhere."* (v. 10)

It is our great hope, that one day, we will be gathered to our true home with God in Christ, and our hearts will finally find the rest we were created for.

PRAY FOR YOUTH AT CAMP



Next week (August 10-15) Mclvor is sending 14 young people (ages 8-17) to Camp Arnes, including one older teen to Crew, the two-week work program. You have been so supportive!

Please continue to pray for the campers this week:

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| • Kyla (girl, 8) | • Juma (boy, 12) |
| • Daria (girl, 10) | • Oleksandr (boy, 12) |
| • Moise (boy, 9) | • Gilene (girl, 14) |
| • Chase (boy, 11) | • Wilo (boy, 14) |
| • Ella (girl, 9) | • Opodi (boy, 15) |
| • Sheldon (boy, 11) | • Salome (girl, 13) |
| • Jade (girl, 10) | • Sandra (girl, 17) |

Pray that they would make good friends, have good relationships with their counselors, that they would stay healthy and safe and above all that they would experience the life-transforming love of God!

Leah Kosolofski will be driving the bus that we have rented to bring the kids from their homes to and from NKMB. Thank you for your generous support!

PSALM 84 – A PSALM OF ASAPH

For the choir director: A psalm of the descendants of Korah, to be accompanied by a stringed instrument.

1 How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of Heaven's Armies.

2 I long, yes, I faint with longing to enter the courts of the Lord. With my whole being, body and soul, I will shout joyfully to the living God.

3 Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow builds her nest and raises her young at a place near your altar, O Lord of Heaven's Armies, my King and my God!

4 What joy for those who can live in your house, always singing your praises. *Interlude*

5 What joy for those whose strength comes from the Lord, who have set their minds on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem.

6 When they walk through the Valley of Weeping, it will become a place of refreshing springs. The autumn rains will clothe it with blessings.

7 They will continue to grow stronger, and each of them will appear before God in Jerusalem.

8 O Lord God of Heaven's Armies, hear my prayer. Listen, O God of Jacob. *Interlude*

9 O God, look with favor upon the king, our shield! Show favor to the one you have anointed.

10 A single day in your courts is better than a thousand anywhere else! I would rather be a gatekeeper in the house of my God than live the good life in the homes of the wicked.

11 For the Lord God is our sun and our shield. He gives us grace and glory. The Lord will withhold no good thing from those who do what is right.

12 O Lord of Heaven's Armies, what joy for those who trust in you.

GIVING

We accept donations by cash, cheque, e-transfers to mcivor@mcivorchurch.com, or via credit card (scan the QR code). For Direct Deposit, contact the office.

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