

Future Reunions

Commentary of September 28, 2008 — Yours and Mine

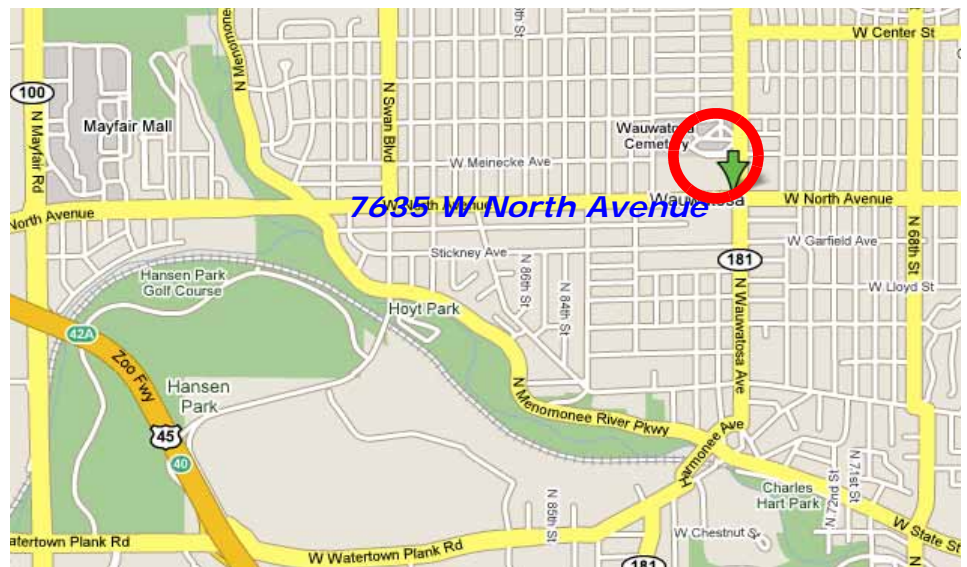
I enjoy reunions. Not everyone does, and that is fine, but I like getting together with friends and family when possible. God willing, I look forward to attending my 40th high school reunion in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. While I am in the Milwaukee area I will present a Temple/Tomb lecture like as I did in May 2008.

Temple/Tomb Presentation — October 4, 2008 — Wauwatosa, WI

Arrangements have been finalized for me to speak at the Wauwatosa Public Library on Saturday morning October 4, 2008 at 11:30 a.m. Again I will give a combined Temple/Tomb presentation lasting 1-1/2 to 2 hours. The address is 7635 W. North Avenue (on the corner of Wauwatosa Avenue [76th Street] and North Avenue).

If you can attend this lecture, be sure to introduce yourself. I look forward to seeing old friends and meeting new acquaintances.¹ I expect several of my high school classmates will attend.

Because the time of the lecture will be early in the day, there will be time afterward to relax over coffee somewhere and talk about the Temple, David's Tomb, or anything you would like to discuss.



Wauwatosa is a western suburb of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and home territory for me. So is that library. I grew up within 6 blocks of that library and spent many happy hours there as a teenager. There is plenty of parking and the location is central to Milwaukee and the surrounding area.

Your Reunions

You (and I) will be involved in many important reunions in the future. One important reunion will take place at our resurrection from the dead when we are reunited with our brothers and sisters in Christ. I am sure several of my relatives shall rise with me at Christ's return. I hope also that many or at least some of your relatives will be in that group.

At that time we will be reunited with believing family and friends and acquaintances who were (as the apostle Paul expressed it) **"them which are asleep,"** meaning those who are dead. We

1. Just yesterday I spoke with a father who came to one of the Portland presentations with his young son, 11 years old, who loved it. He asked when he and his young son can view it again.

will recognize them, just as Christ in His resurrected body was recognized by His apostles.² We shall be reunited with them while we are still **“in the air”**:

“But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that you sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent [precede] them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort [exhort] one another with these words.”

• 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18

When Paul wrote that passage the *ekklesia* and the apostles expected Jesus Christ to return soon, certainly in their lifetimes.³ The Thessalonians were obviously unsure about and saddened about those who had died. Perhaps they thought those who had died would miss out on the resurrection from the dead. As *Wuest's Word Studies* tells us:

“To these Christian Greeks, Paul holds out the assured hope of reunion with loved ones who were believers, a reunion in the air, when Jesus comes for His Church. He says that since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, God will bring with Jesus from heaven, our loved ones who have fallen asleep (euphemism for death) in Jesus.”⁴

Reunions Far Later

You will have even more reunions during the time when the dead are resurrected as Lazarus was (John 11:28–44), when the great masses of humankind will arise to physical life in the judgment before the great white throne (Revelation 20:11–15). This will indeed be a time of rejoicing and reunion when all those of your acquaintance shall be made alive to learn what you are learning about Christ's redemption and the plan of God.

We may even be allowed to be present when particular people of our acquaintance are raised. We would be able to explain their disorientation and confusion, to comfort them, to educate them. This will involve friends, enemies, employers, employees, school teachers, acquaintances. For some people you may be the only Christian that they ever encountered in their lives. Billions and billions of people will be raised at that time.

The joy that your relatives, friends, and acquaintances will experience by them will be similar to the joy when Christ appeared to his apostles in Matthew 4:18–22 and Mark 1:16–20 after His resurrection. It will be a big job. It will be joyous for everyone involved.

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2. The body of Jesus was ripped to shreds by the whipping and stoning he endured. See Chapter 21, “The Manner of Jesus' Crucifixion” in Dr. Ernest Martin's book *Secrets of Golgotha: the Lost History of Jesus' Crucifixion* (Portland, OR: ASK Publications, 1996).
 3. Only later did the apostles come to understand that Christ would not return for a long, long time. See Chapter 15, “[The Book of Acts and New Testament History](#)” from Dr. Martin's book *Restoring the Original Bible*.
 4. Kenneth S. Wuest, *Wuest's Word Studies from the Greek New Testament* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997, c1984), pp. 137–138.