

Excerpts from Reflections at Homecoming Prayer Service

Although my escape to paradise is a back country road, I envisioned heaven much like an airport. As soon as you came off the “plane,” all your relatives would be there to greet you with a wave, hug, and a smile. You would catch up with them for a little while. As soon as you greeted all of them, then you would be able to see God and talk to him one on one. Billy Fleischli ‘12

Every single day we have a chance to experience God’s love, too, in our lives. We just have to be willing to accept His love and share it with everyone around us. Every day, we can see God in our friends and our family, even when the sun is shining, we know God is there. In the reading from Genesis, God sent a rainbow to serve as a sign of the covenant that He made with the earth. The rainbow shows that God will never leave us even in our darkest hour. Literally, even in the worst thunderstorm, God is always there. When the rain stops and a rainbow appears, that is the sign that God’s love is never ending through the good times and the bad. Even when we feel like no one could possibly understand what we’re going through, we know that God is a constant presence in our lives. Brigid Cavanagh ‘12

This past summer, I went to Fiji with a group called Global Works. Fiji was unlike anything I could have ever expected ... The most important thing in their lives, is their religion, so the first thing they (the Fifians) wanted us to do, was help around their church...At the church, we built cement pathways so they wouldn’t fall in the mud during the rainy season. We also built a fence to keep the livestock out of the holy area. We planted flowers and helped clean up around the church. It was a lot of hard work in extremely hot weather, but seeing the smiles on their faces when we were done, that is my paradise. Hannah Perrin ‘12

The truth is, we may never know what heaven is like until we experience it for ourselves. All we can do is put our faith in Jesus Christ, knowing that we will be eternally rewarded when our time on earth is up. For we know that earth is not our spiritual home. But our souls belong in heaven with God. That to me, will be the greatest eternal reward of all, being in the presence of the Father. Because of this, I believe that many of your images of heaven have a great deal of truth in them. God is present in all of the beautiful moments in our lives in which we feel we are truly in paradise. In these moments we are experiencing a small piece of heaven. Lucas Ackerman ‘12

When you think about what paradise is to you many different images might come to mind. Maybe it is a rainbow, or a beach, or someplace where you're close with God or your loved ones. Everyone has a different view about what they believe to be paradise. However, the road getting you to your happy place is not always easy. We experience difficulties in life so that we can enjoy the good times even more. The hard times are what make it worth it in the end. Meredith Favero ‘12

For me... knowing that somewhere over the rainbow there is this home filled with my loved ones and Jesus waiting for me is the best feeling in the world. Truly believing in eternal happiness, I cannot describe this joy, but I can only pray that you may find it. And once you do, you can start to be at peace with yourself. Pat Smith ‘12