

FAR VIEW

by Muriel Larson

2 Corinthians 4:17-18

My husband was considering a pastorate of a country church. The couple with whom we were staying overnight took us to see the parsonage. We couldn't believe our eyes! It was an old pieced-together shack with a tin roof--the most disreputable-looking place I had ever seen!

"It doesn't look like much on the outside," the lady said, "but it's not so bad on the inside. And it does have hot and cold running water and an indoor bathroom." We later learned that this was more than some parishioners had!

Then the woman tapped me on the shoulder. "Turn around," she said, "and look!" She waved her arm in a sweeping motion. "Isn't that the most gorgeous view you have ever seen?"

We looked out from that high ridge upon miles and miles of fields, trees, and valleys. "You can even see the next state from here," declared the lady. "And look this other way!"

We did as she suggested. That view almost took our breath away, it was so majestic.

My husband accepted the church. His salary was very low, farm products given by the people. A wood-burning stove heated the parsonage.

But oh, the far view! How it thrilled and rested my soul to look out at it any and all seasons!

For the person who lives for Jesus Christ, so also is the far view beautiful. "For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal" (2 Corinthians 4:17-18).

And wouldn't we have more peace and joy in our lives if we would get our eyes off present distressing circumstances and on the Lord and the far view?