

Heaven is for Real (especially for those who have visited and returned).

We are in the planning stages of our annual conference which will take place in Virginia Beach VA. at the Wyndham Oceanfront Hotel on the subjects of **Spirituality, Consciousness and Science** from Friday, May 17 to Sunday May 19, 2013. As of this time, Dr. Raymond Moody and P.M.H. Atwater have agreed to be speakers. NDEs will definitely be of interest to our attendees.

NDEs are important not only because they usually broaden one's life by giving it renewal of purpose but because the experiencers typically tell of heaven having this wonderful light and love that shapes the atmosphere of it so differently from that of earth where we have the duality of good and bad.

Heaven is for Real is a book by Todd Burpo (2010) that was on the best seller list for weeks when it was first published and continues to remain on now. It is a story of a father recounting his almost four-year-old son's encounter with Jesus and angels during an emergency appendectomy.

Heaven is for Real for kids (2011) is a book to be shared with other children written by Colton Burpo, who is now about twelve years old. He tells in his words what he saw. "Heaven is more amazing than you can imagine. I could hear beautiful music and see lots of colors. Big, bright rainbows are everywhere you look. The streets are gold, the gates are made of pearl, and shiny jewels are on the walls" (p.8).

In Revelation 21:19 & 21, it states: "The foundations of the city walls were decorated with every kind of precious stone...The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each gate was made from a single pearl. The great street of the city was made of pure gold like transparent glass."

On page 9, Colton continues: "Heaven is not scary –ever! There is no sun, but it never gets dark in heaven because the light of God is so bright. No one ever cries or is afraid in heaven. No one ever gets sad or mad. Everyone is happy there!"

In Revelation 21, 23 & 24, we read: "The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it."

I have recently been told that Todd Burpo's book became a best seller because it appeals to fundamentalists Christians who are sometimes opposed to NDEs and know very little about them. How wonderful that a small child could lead them to this new knowledge!

Jesus and angels are important images for Christians. Because NDEs are now universal experiences pertaining to no one religion, different cultures will see images that are important to them during their NDEs. The meaning of the term NDE no longer carries with it just the early characteristics presented in the publication of Dr. Raymond Moody's ground breaking book *Life After Life* (1975), which coined the term NDE.

Albert Einstein has been known to have said that the truth is shown in glimpses. Because of Colton's glimpses of heaven and especially if you like how some of his descriptions coincide with the **Bible**, I would suggest that Colton's NDE could help allay children's fears about dying. Young children need help in this scary world. Perhaps some of you might want to read it to your "inner" child or another child before our May conference? –Dr. Karen E. Herrick