

# GOODNEWS LETTER

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## AIRPORT ALLEGORY

On July 12, 2008, the Mount Vernon Missionary Baptist Church of Rialto, California and Her fine Pastor, Brother Steve Waters, invited sister churches to sit in council while they considered ordaining one of their members, Brother Nick Winkleman, to the Gospel Ministry.

Brother Nick and his wife, Stephanie, gave a wonderful testimony of God's grace and Nick was well versed in Bible truth. Nick Winkleman was ordained by the Mount Vernon Church on that day and will be the new pastor of Liberty Missionary Baptist Church of San Fernando, California. Hallelujah!

When the service concluded, the church served Mexican food; after which, David Barnum and I left for the Ontario Airport and waited for our departing flight home. We had lots of time, however. The incoming-connecting flight from Phoenix was 45 minutes late. We sat down and, half asleep, I began watching people.

My wife is right; people are very interesting to look at, even entertaining. It wasn't long before my eye caught sight of a man being directed by two pilots to an area where he could get help.

It was obvious that the man was mentally challenged. His walk was unsteady and, as he shuffled along, there was a serious, disturbed look on his face. Looking closer, I saw signs of a lost, confused man. Panic was on his face.

But, at the coaxing of the pilots, the man settled on a seat and nervously waited. My drifting eyes took in other people. There were two girls with IPods in their ears who never stopped groovin' and boppin'. Arms and feet moved constantly, waving up and down, here and yonder. They jumped and danced all over the terminal, moving rhythmically, laughing a lot.

**Suddenly**, a shout that sounded like someone just found a million bucks, caught everyone's attention. My head snapped back to where the disturbed man was sitting. "Oooooohhhh!!!," he shouted. His high-pitched voice uttered only indistinguishable words. But, even through his crying, we all knew - whatever he was saying, were expressions of joy.

**Yes! The man was elated.** Obviously, what he thought he had missed finally arrived; a familiar face and his ride home. He threw his arms around his friend, hugging and kissing him on the cheek, patting him on the back. As they were walking

away, I noticed his shuffled steps had become a bit more steady. His walk was definite, forward and direct, almost bouncy.

Along with everyone else, a sense of comfort came over me, too. We all had just witnessed a handicap man's emotional doubt burst into joy, once he recognized his friend. We saw body language of stressful fear pass and emotional joy overcome him, the moment his 'ride home' came into view.

I looked over at Dave and said, **"That's how it's going to be when we see Jesus."** He nodded in agreement.

I've seen friends and family and happy people meet before but, other than when one is saved, I have never seen such anxiety so quickly relieved as in the experience of this man at the airport terminal.

Immediately, there is joy that fills the heart when we imagine how the **"meeting in the sky"** will be on that day. Until then, honest people know that we are so physically unsettled, so mentally challenged and so spiritually weak that, when we see Jesus, the emotional transformation will equal the change that takes place in the body; a change that has already occurred in our spirits.

On that day, all doubts and fears shall be left behind, once we fly upward. Today, we may shout but, on that day, everyone will shout, scream, and hug and kiss our familiar Friend the moment He picks us up. We're going home and there's a new bounce to our step.

I'm sure everyone witnessing this incident shared in the joy of the man. It's always good to see a person get what he's seeking. Yet, wouldn't it be a wonderful thing if people saw themselves, spiritually speaking, as this man in the airport terminal experienced mentally - unsure, nervous and lost; then, look up and see Jesus coming their way? People who do walk away with their **familiar Friend** in a cadence that is comfortably eternal.