



CAPITOL COMMISSION[®]
John Hansel, Jr. • Ohio State Minister
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The Heart for Home



A devotional related to a favorite Bible verse or passage.*

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A^{bout} – God is Near

B^{est Verse} – Psalm 34:18, “The Lord is near the brokenhearted...”

Faith is not a feeling. “Faith is assurance of things hoped for and conviction of things unseen.”^{Heb11:1} Usually we trust God void of feeling. Though I wish otherwise, during open heart surgery and recovery, I didn’t feel, see, hear, or smell or taste God. I didn’t experience Him *supernaturally* as I hoped. Instead, I was surprised to experience God in a special way, *rich with feeling*. Friends traveled from Texas, my brother from Florida to encourage me. A senator went to the trouble of sending a special note, the first of a deluge of cards. Men I mentor wrote letters so dear, I kept them near through surgery. Church members filled the wall with cut out hearts and uplifting notes. Someone lined up weeks of dinners provided by a different brother and sister each night. My pastor and other friends stopped by to walk with me. And my wife has been by my side, selflessly serving me through it all. So, here's what I've learned: As promised, *God is near!* His nearness is felt in each loving gesture of His Body of believers. I felt His love in every hug. I saw it in every note, text, and email. I heard His voice in all the encouragement. I even smelled and tasted God’s love with each meal. No wonder the apostle Paul said, “For this reason I too, having heard of... your love for all the saints, do not cease giving thanks for you...”^{Eph1:15-16}

C^{ommitment} – Our heavenly Father, I am so very grateful for your love expressed through your children, my brothers and sisters in Christ. Spirit of God, make me a praying man who remembers each one to you for your blessing. Don’t let me tire of returning your love to each of them. Thanks for your Body!

* Thank you all for your loving encouragement throughout this difficult time.
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