

OUR ALL-INCLUSIVE HEAVEN

By Bill Pugh

In the corner of our backyard against the fence which bordered the local state school we had a chook house.

Every morning my brother and I fed the chooks and searched for eggs.

One day a lovely chicken was missing.

We searched high and low. Maybe it had somehow got into the schoolyard and was stolen by the kids or eaten by a fox which lurked there at night searching for lunch leftovers.

We were sad to lose one of that special family.

Sundays were important to our family.

We went to church and came home to a roast dinner waiting in the oven: roast potatoes, homegrown veggies, and gravy.

This particular Sunday roast chicken appeared on the menu.

I looked at it, so inviting, but my appetite failed.

I could not face eating that.

No one said anything but we knew where it came from.

The Bible tells us God made all creatures great and small to live in the garden, and food was to be the gift and sacrifice for man's nourishment.

But I asked myself what about creatures which are so special to us as friends and companions on the way?

I like to believe in another heaven where all live in peace after their work on earth is done.

The most telling example of God's priceless value for his creatures is in the image of a tiny lamb applied to the life and work of Jesus on earth.

Did he not say: Behold the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world?

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