



# SHARING SCRIPTURE

## Discover • Jesus • Together

### New Weekly Feature

The Center for Creative Ministry is proud to introduce the new video series *Amazing Transformations in Christ*.

This series presents inspirational messages from various thought leaders, the latest news from the Adventist world, beautiful music, and some familiar faces. It is our hope that this weekly feature may be used to enrich your Friday evening worships, add value to your personal devotions, and catalyze thoughtful discussions with your family and friends.

*Amazing Transformations in Christ* updates on [our website](#) and [Facebook page](#) every Friday.

To see the latest editions, please click the button below. We know you won't want to miss them!

Blessings,

Paul Richardson  
Executive Director

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### The Ultimate Rest

**For use:** September 19 - 25

**Texts:** Revelation 1:9-19; Matthew 24:4-8, 23-31; Revelation 14:6-12; Hebrews 11:13-16; Philippians 4:4-6

To many of us, the ultimate paradise is life on a tropical island. Though it may seem an impossible dream, there are actually five islands which are advertising job vacancies and offering free land to those who are willing to relocate there, cites [travelordietrying.com](http://travelordietrying.com). [1]

The population of Pitcairn Island has dwindled down to 50 people. Beautiful Easdale Island in Argyll off the west coast of Scotland is in a similar predicament, with a population of 70. They need people who will bring skills to help develop their community. Now that they have electricity and internet service, these islands don't seem as isolated any longer.

Cape Breton Island on the east side of Nova Scotia needs farm workers, and they'll give a 2-acre plot of land to anyone who will commit to five years of work. The community of Kaitangata on the South Island of New Zealand has nearly 1,000 job vacancies they need to fill. Finally, Hawaii needs qualified education specialists, and they are offering generous salary and compensation packages to those who will work in their local schools.

These all sound like amazing opportunities to realize our dreams of paradisiacal sights and relaxation. Of course, the uber-ultimate paradise is heaven itself, and thanks to Christ's generous sacrifice, our invitation to live there really is free.

God's Word guarantees us that Jesus is coming again to take us to our true home. Jesus promised us in John 14:1-3 that there are many mansions there, just waiting for us to occupy them.

It is a challenge, however, to keep our focus on heaven. The cares of this life demand our attention, and thinking of heaven can seem like a fanciful daydream. And, as we face the anxiety and turmoil of daily life on this planet, worldly cares often interrupt our Sabbath rest.

The truth is that this world is not our real home. We are strangers and aliens here, just passing through on our journey home. We can, however, rest assured that we have a bright and hopeful future. Whether we live to see Jesus return, or rest in the grave until that day, we each have a home in paradise right now, waiting for us, with our name etched on the door. When we enter that home and settle down into our heavenly furnishings, we can finally rest from this earthly toil.

~Chuck Burkeen

[1] <https://www.travelordietrying.com/sounds-unbelievable-but-these-5-paradise-islands-offer-free-land-to-anyone-who/>

## For Reflection

**Connecting:** If you could live anywhere in the world, where would you move? Is there some place on your bucket list that you dream of visiting someday? What makes those locations so attractive to you?

**Sharing:** What, to you, is the most restful aspect of life in heaven?

1. No more alarm clocks and work deadlines

2. The temptation to sin has disappeared
3. All of our relationships are open and honest, devoid of needless drama
4. We won't worry any longer about our salvation—we will have arrived
5. We experience our true rest in Christ, and we will be in the actual, physical presence of God
6. Other:

**Applying:** Using a concordance or search feature on a Bible app, look up every instance of the word “saved” in the book of Acts. What do you find there? How then should we prepare for Christ’s return?

**Valuing:** Do you struggle to keep reminding yourself of the reality of heaven? Do you wrestle with the notion of your assurance of salvation? Make a list of your favorite Bible promises about our eternal home and commit to reviewing them regularly.

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