

Transforming Daily
“... dwell in the country ...”
Ruth 1:1e.

Elimelech took his family to dwell in the country of Moab specifically because there was a famine in his land of Bethlehem, Judah. The Moabites and Israelites weren't on the best terms with one another. There was some risk involved for them to move to Moab. It wasn't a sure thing that they would receive what they were looking for, as a matter of possibility, they could have been jumping out of the proverbial frying pan and into the fire. But we know the rest of the story. We know that it was the will of God that brought this family to dwell in Moab.

What does it mean to “dwell?” Basically it means to “live.” Elimelech and his family moved to Moab to live there. All of us have moved somewhere to live. Even if it was next door, across the street, around the corner, across town, in another county, state or country, we have moved somewhere else to live. What did we experience? Some things we experienced were good, some not so good, and some things down right forgettable. But in any case, we lived there. Our jobs were there. Our schools were there. Our places of worship were there. Our fields, courses and facilities of recreation were there. Some of us met our spouses somewhere other than where we were born, grew up, or spent most of our childhood. Some of us, on-the-other-hand, having married in our own hometown birthed and/or reared our children in other places than our hometowns. Different reasons have taken us and will take us to different places. Maybe it was the job, education, a change in our family dynamic, parents' retirement, etc.

Though I was born in Tampa, Florida, I spent ten years of my first twelve years traveling all over the United States with my family as my father served our country in the United States Air Force. When he retired after 20 years, our family moved to Brandon, Florida. My dad was born in Largo, Florida. My mother was born in Kahuku on the island of Oahu. My brother, sister, and I were all Tampa, FL born, and yet the family ended up in Brandon, FL where all three of us found spouses. My Brother was first to marry and his spouse was born in Indiana; my sister was second to marry and her spouse was born in Port St. Joe, FL; and my wife was born in Tampa. All of us met in Brandon, FL because our families moved there to live. And now some 30+ years later, our children have children.

No matter where you live, or have lived, or are going to live, there are two things for certain. You have, are, or will, influence those that surround you, and have been, are being, or will be influenced by those that surround you. Therefore, with the purpose that God gives us, let us dwell in the country.