

PILGRIMS
Hebrews 11:8-16
By Raymond White

Why would anyone leave a comfortable home to travel to a far and maybe dangerous land? People do — English Pilgrims, Mormon pioneers, David Livingston and thousands of Christian missionaries of many different churches to Africa, India, China, to every nation on earth. Why do they do it? Why do they uproot their lives and move?

There is one man in history who might rightly be called the father of pilgrim-ism.

Hebrews 11:8 By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

Abraham left home for one reason: faith. He really believed that God's will for him was to go to a place where he had no idea where he was going. That's divine compulsion. God said go, so he went. It can't ever be easy to do that, but there is a key that makes it possible.

Hebrews 11:13 These all (Abraham's children)... confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. **:16** But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their god: for he hath prepared for them a city.

In other words, it is easier to leave home when you know that earth is not your home. So it doesn't matter where you live. To Paul, Athens was as good a place to live as Jerusalem, and better if by going there he would be where God wanted him to be.

Who are the children of Abraham? People whose faith, like Abraham's, compel them to be where God wants them to be. Maybe it's Plymouth Rock. Maybe it's Utah. Maybe it's a mission to Ecuador or Borneo or the African interior. Maybe it's a soup kitchen in Los Angeles or a shelter for runaway children or battered women. Or maybe it's being home and raising God-fearing children. What place has God put in your heart? That's where you ought to be. And if there is more than one place in your heart, what then? Well, maybe God has in mind for you to be at one place now and another place later. And later still, there is heaven, our real home.