

I'm An Alien

It felt quite odd to be classified by the USA immigration department as a "*temporary alien!*" In U.S. Law an *alien* is "any person not a citizen or national of the United States." In the United Kingdom *alien* means a person who is not a British, Commonwealth or Republic of Ireland citizen.

Last year the Telegraph headline read: "**ASTRONOMERS say a full-scale alien invasion of the Northern Territory has begun.**" Police say the flares seen across a 360km-long stretch of the Top End coast were probably caused by a meteor shower. But highly-qualified UFO-ologists said they believed the bright lights were space ships on a pre-attack scouting mission. Darwin-based UFO expert Alan Ferguson said the flares were obviously aliens. "This all sounds like UFO activity," he said.

A healthy Christian is one with an eternal perspective. This includes recognizing their true residential status on earth. Regardless of a Christian's geographic location, their actual spiritual citizenship is not American or Australian or New Zealand, but heaven. According to the Biblical classification, every Christian is deemed to be an alien, temporarily residing on earth. This is to affect our mentality, the way we think, the way we view life on earth. "*Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honour at God's right hand. Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth,*" Colossians 3:1-2.

The Bible portrays Christians as exiles of eternity. As a Christian alien residing in Melbourne I must never be aloof from society, but live as a representative of heaven. My greatest loyalty is to be to heaven, to Christ. Wherever exiled Jews settled, their eyes were towards Jerusalem. In foreign countries their synagogues were built so that as a worshipper entered they were facing Jerusalem. When a Moslem prays they face towards Mecca. As Christians we do not have a permanent city, but long for the city with foundations, whose architect is God, the city of the living God. Read Hebrews 11:10, 16; 12:22; 13:14. Life is a pilgrimage towards heaven.

This eternal perspective is fuelled by the anticipation of the Second Coming of Christ. When writing to the Thessalonians it is at the forefront of Paul's mind. The Second Coming of Christ is the motive for sharing the Gospel, being a servant leader, enduring persecution, living a life that pleases God and anticipating being reunited with those who have died "in Christ." See First Thessalonians 1:10; 2:19; 3:13; 4:13-18; 5:23.

A famous unwritten saying of Jesus says: "The world is a bridge. The wise man will pass over it, but he will not build his house on it." Do you have an eternal perspective on life?