

## ABOVE THE CLOUDS

Dear Friends:

Last week I was flying to what my two brothers and I have come to call "The Brothers Reunion". We decided a few years ago (when they both lived in Florida) to be sure to see each other and do stuff we guys like to do. We don't go to wild; two of us are pastors and the third one has attended some seminary and has helped two churches get started. Our version of fun is going to a college or professional sports event, hitting the beach when in Florida, and going to any U.S. War museum or memorial.

Anyway, back to the flight. This year's reunion was at the middle brother's house in Richmond, Virginia. My flight departed last Thursday at 7:00am (got up at 4:55am!). We were a few minutes late leaving but when we did it was daylight and very cloudy. 99.9% of the time I get an aisle seat and cannot see outside very well. This time I had the 3-row seat to myself, so I put the shade up and looked out the window. The clouds were extremely thick; I could not see anything but clouds. I kept watching and eventually we broke through the clouds, and it was a beautiful, bright, sunny view.

Immediately God gave me a spiritual lesson: "Mike, this is just like life. When you are in the midst of tests or trials, all you can see are clouds around you. Sometimes only clouds of discouragement, but hang in there, trust in me, I can see you and eventually I will get you through the clouds and you will clearly see the Son again! Above the clouds the Son is always shining. A scripture we could all use is: Isaiah 43:2 "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned...". Whether it is the waters, the rivers, or the fire, God is both walking us through them and above them where it is always Sonny and clear!

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Mike

Prayers: The family of Helen Martindale, Midge Gathers, Clarabell Harlan