



HOMETOWN

By Evelyn O. Shih

It seems that the word 'hometown' has become a historical term. What exactly is a hometown? One's birthplace? If one's family has moved away soon after one's birth, however, then this definition of 'hometown' means nothing to him .

How about the place in which one has been brought up? Or the place where he or she stayed for first 18 years? The idea of a hometown often conjures up the image of a small town with natural beauty. So, if one lived in such a place, it might be memorable. But if the parents had to move around in a big city and rear the children in crowded apartments, there would be no traditional notion of a hometown to seek.

The time have truly changed. When I was a teenager during the war, we also moved a lot. Yet when we wrote in each other's Souvenir Book, we would leave a permanent address to indicate our hometown, a place where we wished to go back as soon as the war was over. Now, however, how many of us can write out a permanent address? Even if we still remember the name of our village, no one in the village will remember you after so many years of being away.

After China opened up again, there were many people who went back to their hometowns looking for their roots. I was one of them. I found my

hometown was entirely changed and ruined; the reality even shattered my sweet dreams of memory. After a half century, of course everything had changed, especially in this time of rapid changing. So, for many, the idea of a hometown is a disappointment; one does not want to go back and live there.

I believe that we, this generation of Chinese, are like Abraham. Although we didn't hear God's command: Leave your country, your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you; we did just the same thing, and God has led us, protected us and blessed us all the way, just as He promised Abraham so long ago.

Abraham lived in a tent all his life, he didn't reside in a certain city, nor did he return to his hometown, because he 'admitted that he was an alien and a stranger on earth, and he is longing for a better country – a heavenly one, the city God has prepared for him.'

Now, when we don't know where our hometown is, let's learn from Abraham look up will be with our precious Lord and our dear.

