

# Healing Ambience

BY CARMEN LAU

Ambience is defined as the character or atmosphere of a place. Here is an example: When I joined the effort to provide mass vaccinations to folks in Alabama, the ambience in the makeshift drive-through clinic felt a bit like Disney World. There was an anticipation for a long-awaited event, excitement to participate as the chosen, and a willingness to experience inconvenience for the greater good of others.

What will be the ambience in heaven? Gratitude? Humility? A readiness to learn? I often think of the reference, in Revelation 22, which states that the Tree of Life has leaves for the healing of the nations. Does this allow for the concept that folks will not arrive in heaven fully formed and totally renewed? To me, a tree with healing leaves implies that life in heaven will be dynamic. People and groups will heal in ways known best only by the Great Healer.

I believe that upon arrival to God's heavenly kingdom, pilgrims will embrace an inestimable capacity to begin to grasp the grandeur of God in all of its beauty and complexity. This will lead to the vibe of constant welcome and love and will inaugurate a journey of healing in a kingdom infused with abundance, not scarcity. Civility now



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can be thin and self-serving, and I relish the chance to cultivate heart-felt, love-based, community building.

We are to pray: *Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven.* For Jesus Followers, prayerful contemplation can access the deep ground of God to experience some heaven on earth. Many

fruitful, varied, and life-giving practices can help one be nourished by the Sacred Presence. Can a person access the attributes symbolized by the Tree of Life, now? Can a person get a sense of heaven, now? At the vaccination clinic, folks may have gotten a slice of heaven when they came to receive something that would allow them to live abundantly in community. They came for healing.

Heaven will be no Disney World or vaccination clinic, but when I arrive, I imagine a sense of delight to be in a community that shares a common goal. I expect all God's children will humbly relish a vibe that features learning and healing. I believe we can partake of that now because of Emmanuel—God with us. Maranatha.



CARMEN LAU is board chair of Adventist Forum.

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