



Reflections by the Lake
Devotions for an Unordinary Time

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Blessings from the Farm
Carol Boseman Taylor

If you have known me for a long time, you will know that I am totally surprised to be living back on the farm. I grew up in Rocky Mount . . . on this farm . . . in this home . . . where Chuck and I now reside. Never in a million years would I have anticipated that we would end up back here.

I grew up in a sort of "patriarchy." The man who built this home and owned this land was Robert Henry Ricks (quite a famous name in the history of Rocky Mount). He "adopted" my grandfather William (Will) David Boseman, who was one of several children and whose father was the dairyman for Mr. Ricks. He saw potential in my grandfather. They took him in, educated him at Georgia Military Academy and then at NC State. They built him a home when he married Della Bulluck and they bequeathed the house and farm to him. My grandparents named their first son Robert Ricks Boseman in honor of Mr. Ricks and the farm was willed to my father at my grandfather's death. My grandfather died on this farm in a tractor accident when my dad was a student at NC State.

You see the line of inheritance? Mr. Ricks. Will Boseman. Bob Ricks Boseman. It was assumed that my brother RRB, Jr. would be living here and operating the farm. But, my brother had enough of the farming life and he struck out on his own path. At the deaths of both our parents the question arose: Who would live in the house? Chuck and I had retired by then and had anticipated living out our retirement at the beach. That did not work out for us. We headed back to the farm to preserve the heritage for our children.

Nothing could have prepared me for how much JOY I find in this place we now call home. There is peace here. There is love here. There is work here (lots and lots of work). There is room here. There is comfort here. There is fun here. There is hospitality here. There is God here. And I praise Him every single day for bringing us HOME.

At one point, God gave me some verses to embrace: Jeremiah 29:10-14. *"This is what the Lord says: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place. For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you, declares the Lord, and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you, declares the Lord, and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile."*

Yes, He did. He brought me HOME! Where is home for you?

Prayer: For the joy of home, Lord, we thank you. For peace and protection. For health and prosperity. For love and compassion. For all that you are and all that you do for us. Lord, we thank thee. Amen.