



WEEKLY LETTER FROM MONSIGNOR KEN

I had a wonderful vacation and visit with my brother. It was during one of my flights several years ago that I had the “vision” of seeing a person in the clouds. From this came the idea for my book, *The Cloud People*. Since then, I have been working on a sequel, for now only called *Cloud People II*! I have two chapters left. One of my goals for vacation was to read over what I have written so far. Mission accomplished! Not too bad, if I say so myself. Well, this time as the plane was landing in Nashville, I looked out the window and saw all the houses below. That view was just a small look at that area. The thought came to me that in each of those homes and buildings were people, countless people, each with their own stories and needs and hopes and dreams. From that small slice of Tennessee, I extrapolated to the world. That’s God. He sees and knows each and everyone. It was a powerful reminder of the omnipresence, and wonder, and compassion of God. To see all that, be a part of all of that, and love all of that. As moved as I was by that thought, no book this time! I have enough to do to finish *Cloud People II*.

That began a delightful and relaxing visit. My sister-in-law is having some back challenges, so we did not do a lot of gallivanting, which I enjoyed! Of course, Paul and I made our traditional stop at St. Mary’s Book Store, making a few purchases of books. Then, off to the nearby Pancake Pantry, this time for buckwheat pancakes, which fed me for two more days! Beyond that, our other trips included a curiosity visit to a newly opened Dolly’s Travel Stop. It was Dolly Parton’s version of a truck stop, although not on an interstate. Packed. Food was good. An interesting find.

The other visit was to a local distillery, Leiper’s Fork. Jack Daniels was too far. Much smaller, the three of us had a private tour, and tasting! After in the gift shop, I looked at the bottles, thinking I could get a small bottle just to have—not at those prices!

The highlight was Sunday night with my two nieces and my grandnephew, Sammy, whom I have never met. Great night. Now, Paul and Cathy have what I shall call an interesting dog, Buddy. Sammy was fascinated with Buddy and wanted to pet him. Buddy did not return the interest. He did everything he could to avoid an excited two-and-a-half-year-old!

Beyond that, much of the time was spent enjoying old westerns and Sci-fi, including *Branded*, *Chronicles of the Old West* (I learned some stories I never knew), and pre-George Reeves *Superman*. It was a serial from back in the days that was shown before the feature film, always ending abruptly with the invitation to see what happens “in this theatre next week.” We did go one day to the movies, which I haven’t done in forever. We saw *Toy Story 5*. I enjoyed it but was amazed and pleased that it was a critique of kids overusing electronics! Another find was an older movie starring Peter Fonda, *The Maldonado Miracle*, released in 2003. I won’t give it away, but it was a great movie.

The weather was quite nice, and I had the treat of sitting on their back porch in the mornings, and also later afternoons to say my prayers. Very peaceful, looking out at the woods behind their home. I also revealed, for those who saw it on the website, my secret identity! However, to ensure my secret remains hidden, I decided to fly back via airplane! Wonderful vacation. Thank you--Paul and Cathy!

“Give thanks to the Lord for He is good, His mercy endures forever!” (Psalm 107:1)