

## Easter in a Time of War

April 13, 2003

As I write this week's Wellesley Way, it appears that the war against the regime in Iraq is nearing its final stages. Saddam may or may not be alive but according to my CNN website, 122 coalition soldiers have already died although the real number is probably higher.

If you drive around Wellesley, you will find various memorials to soldiers who died in the service of their country. The parsonage is actually right next to "Kelly" Park - named after a soldier who died in battle during World War II. So many lives... so many sacrifices... so many tears...

Maybe that's why Easter is the most important event in human history. The resurrection of Jesus gives us a glimpse of the reality that all believers in Jesus will experience one day. We too will be raised... and all those lives... all those sacrifices... all those tears will be redeemed.

Certain passages of Scripture never fail to move me in a very deep way... one of those passages is found in the last book of the Bible. In this book, the apostle John is given a view of heaven... it's like God allows him to look "behind the curtain"... here, in part, is what he saw: "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away... I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and He will live with them. They will be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away. He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" (Rev. 21:1-5)

When this war is over, new names will be added to war memorials all over the United States... who knows, maybe even here in Wellesley. It is indeed a noble thing to die in the service for one's country - my prayer is for the ultimate satisfaction of that sacrifice - to live eternally in a place where there will be no more tears, no more crying, no more pain, no more mourning, indeed, no more death!