

## ***The New River Valley 2001***

Each day, as I travel from place to place, here in the Valley, I enjoy the rolling green pastures, with horse & cattle grazing, so peaceful & so content, with the occasional deer hopping across the field. It is indeed a pleasure to see. I feel so fortunate, thinking of the war, pain, and unhappiness on this beautiful planet. Sometimes, I just pull off the road to observe the scenery and to be thankful that the Lord has let me live to enjoy the beauty of the Earth and the New River Valley.

From my back porch, I often look down into the Valley and see a heavy fog covering the River, as it makes bends through the Valley, with the top of the ridges peaking above the fog, in bright sunlight. It is a gift from God to watch those ridges and reminds me of the passage in the Book of James in *The Bible* that says our life is like the vapor . . . it appears for awhile and then fades away.

Other gifts to the lucky folks of the New River Valley are the lookouts along the Blue Ridge Parkway, with miles of beautiful scenery. Yes, the Lord made us a beautiful place to live, to work, and to raise our families. Truly, it is a shame so many folks miss the beauty that exists around us here on Earth in general and the New River Valley in particular.

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