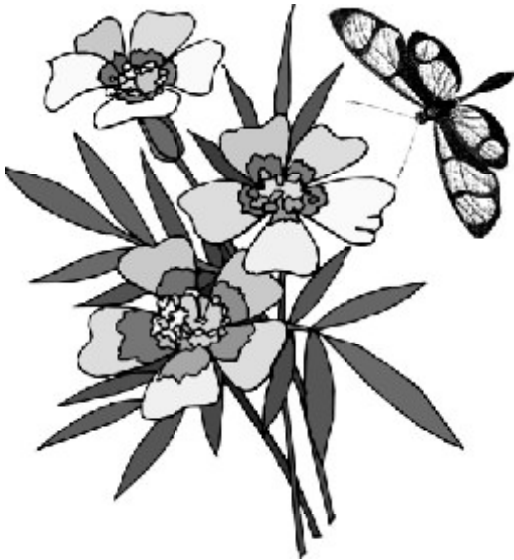


5

*Jesus Came
And Is
Coming Again*



Christmas

“How much farther is it, Joseph,
until we reach the Inn?
I’m kinda’ anxious to lay down
and get some rest again.”
And Joseph reassures her
that the Inn’s not far away
And they can get some good hot food
and then call it a day.

And so the donkey travels on
with Joseph by its side
And finally they reach the Inn
where doors are open wide.
A lot of folks were traveling
to pay their tax, ya’ know,
“The Inn is full,” the boss told him,
and this was quite a blow.

So Joseph said to Mary,
who was on the donkey’s back,
“We can stay in the stable
and it’s there we can unpack.”
So Mary, who was great with child,
gave birth that holy night
Among the animals and flies
and also lantern light.

I like it that some angels sang
to shepherds tending sheep
For they responded right away
when wakened from their sleep.
The angels clearly told them
that Jesus Christ was born
And where they'd surely find the place
on that most special morn.

I wonder what God's angels thought
when Jesus came to earth
And took on Him the form of flesh
with such a lowly birth.
God must have loved the folks down here
to give His only Son
And kept in touch with Him a lot
until His work was done.

Folks, Christmas is not ornaments
and tinsel on a tree
And shopping carts all full of stuff.
I think you will agree
That Jesus Christ would like a gift,
not from a shopping cart
But He'd think it was special
if you gave to Him your heart.



*Every good and perfect
gift is from above,
coming down from the
Father of the heavenly
lights James 1:17*

Christmas Where?

I know Christmas is a busy time
for folks who live down here
For people do a lot of stuff
to spread some Christmas cheer.
The pageants and the caroling,
the shopping and the rest
Will kinda' stir some people up
so they will do their best.

And as I dwelt on this a tad
the thought occurred to me—
What happens up in Heaven
when we gather 'round OUR tree?
Will they have a celebration
and give gifts to Christ the King
While a choir of angels gather 'round
and praises to Him sing?

It's kinda' fun to ruminate
and wonder what's up There
Where things will be so different
when we walk that Golden Stair
And enter through those pearly Gates
where Jesus is the King,
It's then we'll thank Him He came down
and that's worth everything!



*Thanks be to God
for his indescribable
gift. 2 Corinthians 9:15*

The Real Christmas

Maybe some folks look for Christmas
inside a shopping mall
Where there are lots of things to buy
for both the large and small.
The merchants have their merchandise
all gussied up a bit
In hopes you'll buy a lot of stuff
before you up and quit.
You could look through a hundred stores
in search of special stuff
And have your shopping bags so full
it makes you huff and puff.

E'en though you've seen the ornaments
and tinsel strewn around
And thought you saw old Santa Claus
about to leave the ground
And get his reindeer and his sled
away up in the sky
It still would not be Christmas,
and I'll just tell you why:
You can't buy Christmas anywhere
though you check every mart--
The real Christmas comes to those
who have Christ in their heart.



*Jesus Came . . .
and Will Come Again*

For many years the Israelites
looked forward to Christ's birth,
The prophets told long years ago
that He would come to earth.
Some may have thought they'd figured out
quite how he would arrive
But when He came they knew Him not
though He was quite alive.

It didn't happen as they thought
and so their hearts were dim
But angels told some shepherds
to make haste and worship Him.
So after angels sang their song
and took their upward flight
Those shepherds took off on the run
on that most Holy Night.

The angels told them where to go
to find that tiny Babe:
A stable with a manger
was where Jesus Christ was laid.

The common folks and well-to-do
had filled up every space,
And so the Keeper of the Inn
gave them this humble Place.
I'm sure the folks who filled the Inn
and roamed about that night
Knew not the King of kings was born
by simple lantern light.

And who'd have thought this little Babe
would so important be
That He would change folks by His love
and really set them free.
Sometimes I think on this a bit—
how God pulled a surprise
Of how and where Christ would be born
'midst animals and flies.

Friends, Jesus Christ in coming back,
it could be night or noon
And many folks who love the Lord
hope that it will be soon.
It seems some folks have figured out
how they think this will be
But I would guess they'll be surprised
when Jesus' face they see.

I know the Bible gives some clues
of what will come to pass
Before He calls all Christians Home
and they will leave en masse.
But if our Lord comes differently
than some folks think He might
We'll find no matter how He comes
He'll really do it right.



*When Christ, who is
your life appears,
then you also will
appear with him
in glory.
Colossians 3:4*

What If?

If Jesus Christ had not been born
two thousand years ago
Our lives would be much different,
knowing not which way to go.
We wouldn't have a Christmas time
that comes around each year
Reminding us God gave His Son
to live with folks down here.

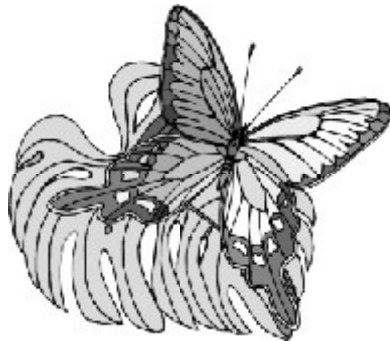
We wouldn't know that angels sang
to shepherds watching sheep
And told them where they'd find the Babe
which woke them from their sleep.
I wonder if they ran so fast
they hardly touched the ground
To find the manger where Christ lay—
with animals around.

To be the first to see the Babe
by angel's invitation
Would make a shepherd's heart to sing
in joyful jubilation.
They had no gifts to offer Him
but they were very smart;
They gave to Him the best they had.
They gave to Him their heart.

Then when the shepherds left that place
and went back to their flock
It's not hard to imagine
that excitedly they'd talk.
The angels, and the singing,
and the trip to Bethlehem,
And then to see the lovely Babe,
was all so new to them.

One thing the shepherds knew for sure
as they did homeward plod
Was that they'd never be the same—
for they'd been touched by God.

Luke 2:8-20



The King Is Coming

The King is coming, Christian friend,
it could well be today;
And folks all over planet earth
won't want to longer stay.
They'll hear the trumpet when it sounds
and rise right out of sight
And meet the Lord up in the air--
it could be day or night.

But this will be a special group
who'll hear that trumpet sound,
Its for the folks who know the Lord
whose feet will leave the ground.
They could be yellow, black, or red,
or even brown or white
Who'll be in that great company
that takes its final flight.

We needn't send our home address
to tell God where we are;
He has His eye on Snowbirds, too,
though they have traveled far.
So keep your heart in readiness;
your eye upon the sky,
King Jesus may soon come for us
to live with Him on High.

*And so we will be with the Lord forever.
, , , encourage each other with these words.
1 Thessalonians 4:17, 18*

Resurrection Morning

I've been thinking about Easter
and the joy it brings us here
When millions celebrate the fact
of Easter time each year.
But have you thought about
that Resurrection morn
When Christ went back to Heaven--
did Gabriel blow his horn?

Were angels all alerted when
Christ Jesus would be back?
Was there someone in Heaven
who was scheduled to keep track
Of when He would return again
so they could celebrate
And give a royal welcome when He
walked in through the gate?

I'm sure Heaven rang with praises
on that holy day and grand,
But wonder if some shed a tear
when they felt His nail pierced hands?



The Trumpet Sound

I'm lookin' for the Lord, ya' know,
to come just any day
And when I hear the trumpet sound
I'm sure not gonna' stay.
I won't take time to gather stuff
that means a lot down here
For when I get to Heaven, folks,
it will be very clear

All needs will be provided,
we will walk on streets of gold,
And since we'll live eternally
we never will grow old.
I wonder why we folks on earth
will hoard a lot of stuff
As if we'd take a U-Haul
so in Heav'n we'd have enough.



Our finite minds can't comprehend
 how awesome is our God--
We'll have to wait till Jesus comes
 or angels give their nod.
So when I muse on this a bit
 and kinda' think it through
It seems to me that if we're smart
 we'd know what we should do.

Instead of hoarding bags of gold,
 C.D.'s, and other stuff
Why not give joy to other folks
 whose lives are mean and tough?
The happiest people on this globe
 will spread their love around
And they'll not fear when Gabriel blows
 that final trumpet sound.

*He will not forget your work
and the love you have shown him
as you help his people and continue
to help them Hebrews 6:10*



Only God



No one but God could make a plan
like for our Savior's birth
And have it orchestrated right
when He came down to earth.
The governor imposed a tax
that everyone must pay
So people were all hurrying
to get well on their way.

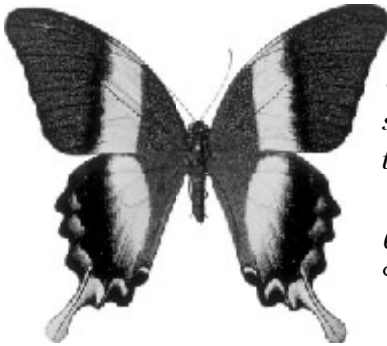
And Joseph led a donkey,
a lowly beast, ya' know,
To an Inn where they could spend the night
and then get up and go.
And Mary, who was great with child,
was anxious to lie down
And kinda' get a breather
in that sleepy little town.

To think the Inn was full that night
and with no place to go
They were allowed to spend the night
in a stable down below.
Of course you know the story well
that Christ was born that day
And Joseph filled a manger
with some nearby straw and hay.

No one who stayed inside the Inn
had offered them their room,
It seems they were too busy
with their own stuff, I presume.

I really like that shepherds
were the first to make it there
Because a choir of angels sang
and told them when and where
They'd find the place where Jesus Christ,
the Son of God, was born,
And sure enough they found the place
on that first Christmas morn.

God didn't send his Son, you know,
to folks who reeked with fame,
He sent Him to the common folks
who'd be so glad He came.
So if you're rich or if you're poor,
and have an empty cup
Just give your heart to Jesus Christ.
He'd love to fill it up.



*And there were
shepherds living out in
the field nearby, keeping
watch over their flocks
by night, an angel of the
Lord appeared to them.
Luke 2:8, 9*

Moving Day

No doubt you've moved from place to place
and found it's pretty tough
To get packed up with all your gear
and your important stuff.
You've got to care for lots of things,
the phone, the bank, the mail,
Plus lots of other odds and ends
and maybe a yard sale.

Sometimes it's easy to sit down
and get depressed a bit
And wonder when you'll finish up
and then be through with it.
Of course the folks with lots of dough
and lots of treasures, too,
May simply call the moving van
and they will bring their crew.



But when we think on this we'll find
the greatest move of all
Was when Jesus Christ came down to earth.
His first home was a stall.
So when you think you're overworked
as you move place to place
Remember that Christ Jesus moved
and left a lovely Place

Where He was King and Lord of Lords,
and then became a man
To show how much we're really loved
according to God's Plan.
We folks down here on planet earth
don't really sacrifice
When moving day has come for us.
We have it pretty nice.

*And she gave birth to her firstborn,
a son. She wrapped him in cloths
and placed him in a manger.
Luke 2:6, 7*



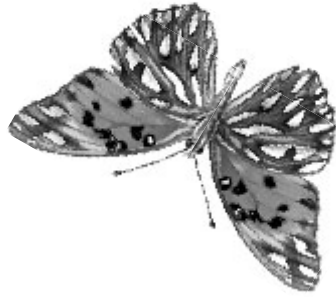
He's Coming Back as He Said

If you knew Christ would come again
at 2:00 p.m. today
Would you start mending fences,
or would you say "okay?"
He told us when He left this world
that He would come on back,
Some folks have read that in God's Book
but others have lost track.

But for the folks who know the Lord
their heart may skip a beat
For they have waited for the time
when Jesus they would meet.
I know it's hard to visualize
the greatness of that Day
When there will be no problems
and all tears are wiped away.

So if your heart's not ready
for Christ's imminent return
It might be smart to clean it up
and quickly to Him turn.
No other day on planet earth
will exceed that glorious day
When Christian's feet will leave the ground
and be with Christ to stay.

The Return



The news that Jesus will return
just like He said He would,
Brings joy to every Christian's heart
and makes him feel so good.
Then things we've tried so hard to get
and stow away like cash
Will be so unimportant then
as if its only trash.

For if you're with the King of kings
where there is no more pain
And everything is light and good
a man would be insane
To choose to stay on planet earth
where greed and crime abound,
And not ascend with Christ on high
and hear a joyful sound.

No wonder Christians scan the sky
and often sing and hum
For just as Jesus went away
some day He's sure to come.

*while we wait for the blessed hope. . .
the glorious appearing of our great
God and Savior Jesus Christ.*

Titus 2:13

Wings



I've thought about pilots and what they go through
To get silver wings to fly through the blue.

The study, the tests, and the practice it takes
To fly over mountains, and valleys and lakes,

And then smoothly land on an airstrip somewhere
Takes a lot of practice, precision, and care.

But then when at last he is given his wings
He knows the great joy that accomplishment brings.

It's kind of like people who live on this earth
Who hustle and strive for all they are worth

To make something good of the life they are given--
Improving each day for as long as they're livin'

And trusting in God that when this life is past
They'll make their last move up to Heaven at last.

They'll try to be faithful 'til that special day
When they'll get their wings and then just fly away.

The Forgetters

I'm sure some people wonder why
some oldsters oft forget
A lot of unimportant things
and stuff they oughta' get.
I guess they do not realize
the brain inside their head
Has saved up lots of memories
and really is not dead.

I wonder, does it matter
if there's stuff they can't recall?
If they've lived eighty years or more
their brain can't hold it all.
The really most important thing
is memories they've saved up
And if they have a lot of love
and God has filled their cup.

So if they need to think a bit
on things they'd like to say
And though sometimes they goof things up
and might be in the way,
Remember, friend, they need your love,
encouragement, and more
For every day they watch and wait
for Heaven's open door.



*And when the Chief
Shepherd appears,
you will receive the
crown of glory that
will not fade away.
1 Peter 5:4*

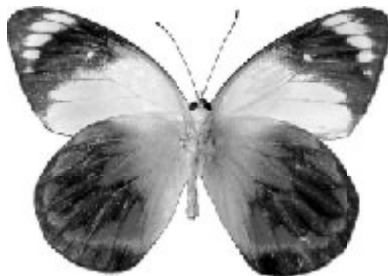
Your Cup

When your cup is runnin' over
You can smile and you can sing
And thank the Lord for all you've got
With thanks for everything.

God really likes those: "Thank You" prayers
Ascending to the sky
And when I think on it a bit
I know the reason why.

God gets a lot of messages
When folks call 911
These frantic calls from folks down here
Keep angels on the run.
So when God hears a loving heart
Not asking for some things
My guess is that He listens hard
And maybe even sings.

God made us in His Image
So He has feelings, too,
So talk to Him as your best Friend.
He'll love it if you do.



Memories

Sometimes I've wondered about the soul,
is that where memories are?
And when we leave this planet Earth
will they be up to par?
Now if you take your thoughts with you
do they need sorting out?
I kinda' think that ugly thoughts
should be thrown out, no doubt.
Some folks will harbor so much stuff
they've saved for years and years
And if they'd empty out that trash
it might save them some tears.
So keep the windows of your soul
washed free from sin and shame,
Then you'll be ready when you hear
the angels call your name.

*Everyone who has this hope in him
purifies himself just as he is pure.*

1 John 3:3

