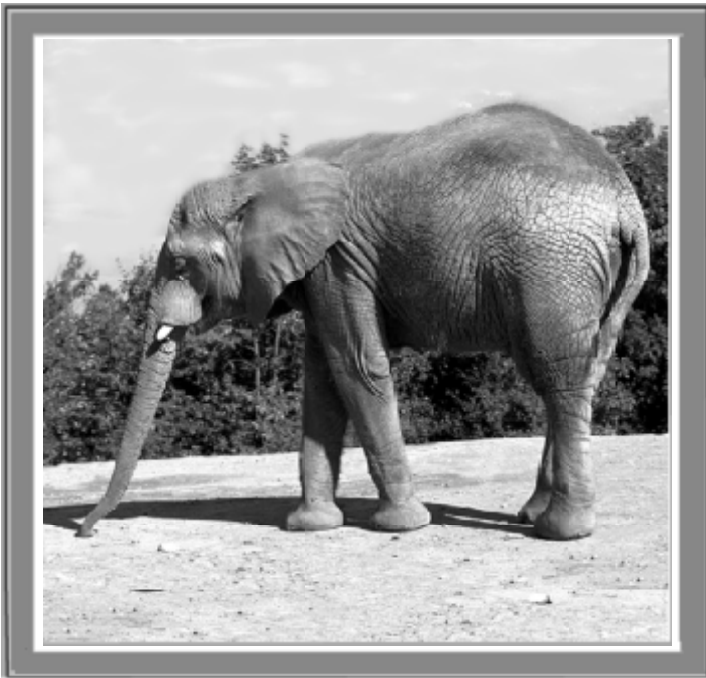


7

*Enjoying  
the Journey*

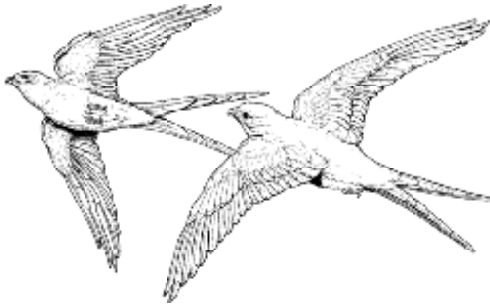




*Psalm 32:18,48,14*

*I will instruct you  
and teach you  
in the way that you  
should go;  
I will counsel you and  
watch over you.*

*For this God is our God  
forever and forever;  
He will be our guide  
even to the end.*



## *Travelers All*

I'm sure you know that all of us  
are travelers of a sort  
And hope that we can safely land  
at some familiar port.  
Some folks enjoy the journey  
as they travel mile on mile  
And anywhere they go in life  
they greet it with a smile.

Their attitude of gratitude  
is always good, you know,  
For if it comes straight from the heart  
it's always bound to show.  
This state of mind is catching  
so it should be passed around  
And folks who aren't immune to it  
will like what they have found.

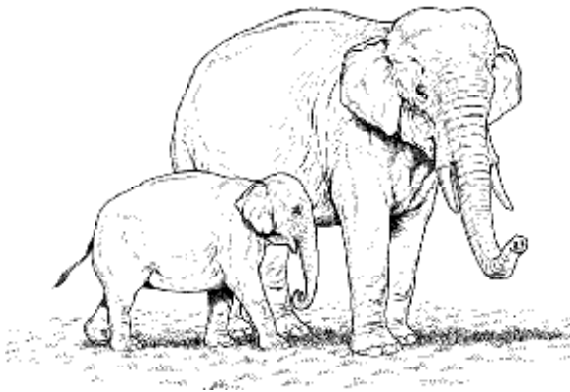
So friends, enjoy the journey  
while you tread this earthly sod;  
You'll find life is more pleasant  
if you walk each day with God.

## *In His Hands*

My life is in Your Hands, dear Lord,  
and this is what I choose,  
Without Your Hand to guide me here  
no doubt my way I'd lose.

So many things, so many paths  
would beckon me today  
And if I don't have help from You  
I just might lose my way.

So nudge me when I'm out of bounds  
and kinda' off the track  
And give me wisdom what to do  
and lead me safely back.



*Our  
Journey*



We all are on a journey  
on this planet here below;  
Some folks will hustle right along  
while others may be slow.  
It's rather easy to get stalled  
and let the world go by  
And not fulfil the dreams we had  
and kinda' let them die.

We sorta' go in circles  
with our progress almost nil,  
It seems we're treading water  
waiting for our cup to fill.  
I know when we are struggling  
and we only seem to creep  
We really need encouragement  
to stay on top th' heap.

We love those folks who have a smile  
to give our heart a lift--  
A hug, a wink, a list'ning ear  
are like a special gift.  
When life is tough and even mean  
and feel we cannot cope  
We're glad that God sends friends along  
to give us love and hope.

*Your love has given me great joy  
and encouragement Philemon 7*

## *So Much to Enjoy*

I know some folks aren't happy  
With all the stuff they've got,  
They have a bunch of aches and pains  
And they complain a lot.  
Somewhere along life's winding trail  
They got all focused wrong  
And thought if they had lots of stuff  
Their heart would have a song.

Somehow it didn't work that way  
And finally they see  
That God made lots of pretty things  
And best of all, they're free.  
No matter how much gold you have  
You can't create a star,  
You simply have to raise your head  
And see them where they are.

You cannot paint a rainbow  
And then show it to your friends  
And sunsets are a work of God  
Whose glory never ends.  
God did not clone the human race  
And make all folks alike;  
He put a lot of beauty  
In some things He thought you'd like.

And if you'd take a little walk  
Inside a city park  
And linger there you just might hear  
A singing meadow lark.  
The flowers there would be arrayed  
In coats of blue and pink,  
You'd see so many of God's gifts--  
More than you'd ever think.

So look for good stuff every day,  
Don't murmur and complain,  
A happy heart and thankfulness  
Might help you with your pain.  
God's given you a lot of gifts  
And if you're really smart  
You'll thank Him for the stuff you've got  
And love Him in your heart.



*And God saw all that he had made,  
and it was very good. Genesis 2:31*

## *Armchair Journey*

You're never too old  
to enjoy a good trip.  
A tour bus, an auto,  
a plane, or a ship  
Can take you to places  
exotic and grand  
And fill you with pleasure  
and your life expand.

Now if you are limping  
with knees full of pain  
That hurt even worse when  
there's thunder and rain,  
Just draw up a chair,  
(a recliner is best)  
And grab a good book  
and just start on your quest.

There's lots to be seen  
in this country of ours,  
From canyons, to mountains,  
to beautiful flowers;  
Mount Rushmore, the Badlands,  
the St Louis zoo,  
Snake River, and Aspen,  
the Niagara, too.

When through with those pages  
just get a new book  
And go overseas  
for a much closer look.



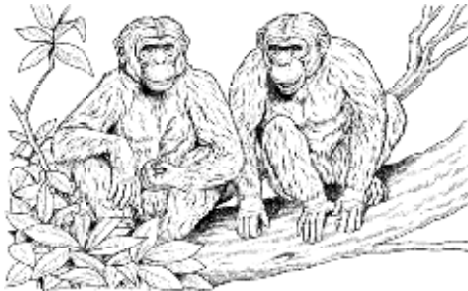
There's Bethlehem's church,  
and the Jew's wailing wall,  
Manila, Jakarta,  
and that isn't all.

There's Buckingham Palace,  
the alps and Kowloon,  
'Tis better by far  
than a trip to the moon.  
If health is a problem  
or money is low  
There's really no reason  
why you shouldn't go  
And see from your armchair  
some faraway clime.  
It's such a good way  
to spend quality time.



## *Don't Travel Alone*

I know some folks are lonely  
but they really needn't be  
For there are people everywhere  
I'm sure that you can see  
Who also are quite lonely  
and are looking for a friend,  
And if you'd smile and say "Hello"  
your loneliness could end.  
The Bible says if you want friends  
then you must friendly be,  
It really is a two-way street  
it's pretty plain to see.  
Your family and your neighbors  
are a good place you can start  
So let them know you think they're great  
and open up your heart.  
It's much more fun to share your heart  
with someone you can trust,  
And if you would enjoy your life  
friends really are a must.  
If life is tough and you're depressed  
and feel you're all alone  
Get out the number of some friends  
and call them on the phone.



## *The Tourist*



The tourists come from everywhere  
Japan, the States, Taiwan, Zaire,  
From England, Scotland, Timbuctoo,  
From Poland, Greece, and Fontaine-bleau,

They come in different shapes and size--  
Some short, some fat, some almond eyes;  
Some black, some white, some in-between,  
Most in safari garb are seen.

Their bulging purse is out of sight,  
Now filled with shillings crisp and bright.  
Safaris cost a bit of dough;  
Then, there are souvenirs, you know.

With camera slung straight over head,  
Or under the left arm instead,  
And rolls of film stuffed in the bag  
'Tis quite enough to make it sag.

If we would look inside a purse  
There's First Aid stuff, should things get worse  
Like aspirin, gum, and meds galore  
With snacks, and Coke, and so much more.

But tourists all can face the day,  
It matters not how bald or gray.  
They've planned for years to make this trip,  
So now, by George, just let 'er rip!

## *There's More Up Ahead*

"It is never enough," we can say of our days,  
As we spend our lives in such various ways.  
Life's simply too short to get everything done  
That we'd like to do, for we've found  
    life is fun.

We've built our sand castles and filled them  
    with dreams  
And lots of our plans are fulfilled, so it seems.  
It is never enough. There is more up ahead.  
Life's ours to enjoy, and is not ours to dread.  
We still want to visit some faraway place  
And see if it's better than our hectic pace.

This earth has so much that's fantastic to view,  
And sharing it's beauty with friends old and new  
Makes living worthwhile, and it just seems to me  
That this is the way that our lives ought to be.



## *A Long Liver*

I've thought about Methuselah  
    who lived so many years,  
He must have thought on happy stuff  
    and didn't dwell on fears.  
Nine hundred sixty nine, ya' know,  
    are lots of years to live;  
He must have talked to God a lot  
    and knew how to forgive.

He may have exercised each day  
    and ate good healthy food  
For if he ate a lot of junk  
    he might have come unglued.  
I would doubt that he ate pizza  
    and other greasy stuff--  
Could he have eaten cornbread  
    if times got kinda' tough?

I'm not sure what his diet was  
    that made him live so long  
But I am sure he loved the Lord  
    who gave his heart a song.  
Another thing that might have helped  
    was there was no TV  
For couch potatoes can die off  
    if that is all they see.

Back then computers were unknown  
and microwaves were nil,  
No planes were flying overhead,  
the atmosphere was still.  
I'm sure he lived a different life  
than we folks do today  
And must have had great peace of mind  
that made him want to stay.

So if we'd live a long, long time,  
I wonder could it be  
We oughta' keep a song inside  
that kinda' sets us free?  
If we love God with all our heart  
and serve Him every day  
It could be He would help us live  
until we're old and gray.



## *A Donkey??*

I know that you've seen donkeys  
but were really not impressed,  
They're really lowly animals,  
not one that you'd like best.

But when I think on them a bit  
the thought comes deep within,  
Was this the beast that Mary rode  
when they stopped at the Inn  
And found that all the rooms were full  
but told that they could go  
And stay out in the stable dim  
with animals, you know?

So Mary who was great with child  
made it a Holy Place  
By giving birth to Jesus Christ  
and saw His lovely face.  
Then when they fled to Egypt  
to escape King Herod's wrath,  
I wonder, did a donkey  
carry Mary down that path?

And then again the donkey  
was not counted as the least  
For it was on Palm Sunday  
Jesus rode that common beast.  
He didn't ride a fancy steed  
nor in a chariot grand  
But He just chose a donkey  
for this is what He planned.

To think the Son of God would choose  
a donkey on that day  
Tells me He likes the common things  
surrounding us today.  
The common folks, the blind, the lame,  
are precious in His sight  
And if He cares for donkeys, friends,  
He'll care for me tonight.





## *Mary*

If you've ever had a baby  
you no doubt had gone by car  
And checked in at a hospital  
which wasn't very far.  
The doctor and the nurse in charge  
did the admission stuff  
And put you in a nice clean bed  
and gave you meds enough  
To help you through the labor pains  
until your child was born  
And then you got to see your babe,  
though you were tired and worn

I wonder if you've thought about  
how Mary, great with child  
Could travel many weary miles  
and still be meek and mild  
When they would come up to the Inn  
where she could get some rest  
And find the place was all filled up,  
though Joseph did his best.

I wonder just what Mary thought--  
do you think that she sighed  
When she lay on a bed of straw,  
and maybe even cried?  
I doubt she had much stuff along  
to make a cozy place--  
She must have prayed to God a lot  
to give her strength and grace.  
Who ever thought this humble place  
would welcome such a Guest  
Who truly is the King of Kings,  
the Best of all the best.



## *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  
to feel His nail pierced hand?

## *Angels*



I'm glad that God made  
angels, friends,  
I think they're really neat.  
In pictures that I've seen of them  
they have both hands and feet.  
But then they have a pair of wings  
to get to places fast,  
And if they're watching folks down here  
they shouldn't come in last.  
God sends these special messengers  
with news of vital worth  
For singing angels came to tell  
of Jesus' lowly birth.  
And did you notice at that time  
the shepherds heard their song?  
They didn't sing to Pharisees  
whose hearts were proud and wrong.

I wonder if, when angels come  
and visit earth today  
They might appear to humble folks  
who they know would obey.  
Yes, I believe in angels, friend,  
I'm sure they hover 'round  
And though I've never seen one,  
as they may not make a sound,  
I'm sure that they surround us  
and protect us here below;  
How many times they've intervened  
I'm sure I'll never know,  
But in this hectic world of ours  
with wars, and sin, and greed,  
Those angel wings surrounding us  
are all we really need.

*God  
is  
Awesome*



I've really traveled quite a bit;  
I've seen a lot of stuff  
That is the handiwork of God  
that's really up to snuff.  
The canyons and the mountains  
and the sparkling rivers, too,  
Are really just a small amount  
of what our God can do.

He made the stars, the sun and moon,  
the darkness and the light,  
When He created people  
he really did it right  
For we are marvelously made  
with heart and mind and soul  
With the capacity to love  
and feel that we are whole.

When He made all the flowers  
He splashed on colors rare  
So they'd have lots of beauty  
for people everywhere.  
And how we love to watch the birds  
and hear the songs they sing--  
It seems they're singing hymns to God  
with thanks for everything.

If you've been on safari  
you've seen animals galore  
And marveled as you've watched 'em run  
by hundreds, maybe more.  
There's really lots of pretty stuff  
down here on planet earth--  
God doesn't do just half a job,  
but He does things of worth.

I know that God made everything  
in earth and sky and sea,  
But when I read my Bible  
I'm amazed as I can be:  
When I read I Corinthians,  
verse nine in Chapter two  
It tells what Heaven will be like  
and what God's been up to.

(over)



*You have made known to me the path of life;  
you will fill me with joy in your presence,  
with eternal pleasures at your right hand.*

*Psalms 16:11*

It says that eyes have never seen,  
and ears have never heard,  
Nor have imagined in our heart,  
according to God's Word,  
The things that He's prepared for those  
who really love Him here,  
So that will be exciting when  
Christ Jesus will appear.

I don't know how God thought of things  
when He created earth  
And still provided for our needs  
and gives us joy and mirth,  
But if He made our world so grand  
and Heav'n surpasses this  
It sounds like it's the Place to go  
and will not want to miss!



## *I Wonder*



I wonder if you've thought about  
when Jesus came to earth  
And angels sang to shepherds  
to tell of Jesus' birth--  
What happened up in Heaven  
when He left that holy Place  
And took on Him the form of flesh  
to save the human race?

Did angels weep or get depressed  
when they gazed down on Him  
And saw that He was born that day  
inside a stable dim?  
Was there silence up in Heaven  
or did angels lose their song  
When they saw Jesus come to earth--  
had something bad gone wrong?

I wonder what was in God's heart  
the day Christ went away,  
He knew He had a special plan  
so would return some day.  
I 'spose we'll never comprehend  
the depths of God's great plan  
When He showed His great love for us  
to save the soul of man.