

1

Joy

*Choosing to Live
With a Full Cup*



Naomi (my joy)

*For you made me glad
by your deeds, O Lord.
I sing for joy
at the works of your hand.
Psalm 92:4*

*I have told you this
so my joy may be in you
and that your joy may be complete.
John 16:22*

*May the God of hope
fill you with all joy and peace
as you trust in Him.
Romans 15:13*

Today

Today my heart will have a song;
I will look up and smile,
I have so much to sing about
to make my life worthwhile.

When I have God to care for me
why should my heart be sad?
I'll leave my problems in His Hands
and He will make me glad.

There is no night too dark for Him,
no heart He cannot heal;
And so my heart will have a song
for God is very real.



But let all who take refuge
in you be glad; let them ever
sing for joy. Psalm 5:11

The Mind

It fascinates me quite a bit
when I think of the mind
And how it serves us day and night
with lots of stuff, I find.
The brain is such a mystery
for in that three pound mass
We can decide what things to think
or simply let them pass.

Some folks will ruminate on stuff
not really worth a hoot
And wonder why they're so depressed
though they have lots of loot.
We choose our attitude and thoughts
and all the words we say
So why not think on happy stuff
and have a glorious day?



I have written...
to stimulate your mind
to wholesome thinking.
2 Peter 3.11

Glimpses

Though we have traveled here and there
and seen a lot of stuff
We never have seen Heaven
though we know it's up to snuff.

But this we know God is alive
and fully in control
Because He pours His blessings out
on every living soul.

And He gives glimpses of Himself
in awesome kinds of ways
Like putting rainbows in the clouds
to brighten up our days.

He also made the flowers
and the birds that sail the sky
And we see other things as well
that money cannot buy

Like sunsets, moon, and many stars
that brighten up the night,
When God decides to do a thing
He really does it right.

No doubt some things I like the most
that God wants us to do
Is how to show forgiveness
and to love our neighbor, too.

Also, God is big on kindness,
and He likes for us to treat
The folks who need a helping hand
for we're His hands and feet.

When people fall in love with Christ
life never is the same
Because they've had a glimpse of Him
they're oh, so glad He came.



Though you have not seen him,
you love him. . . you believe in
him and are filled with an inexpressible
and glorious joy. 1 Peter 1:8



A lot of firsts come to us all
Though some of these we can't recall;

But there are things we don't forget
And hold a place in our heart yet.

The day we started off to school,
The time we learned the golden rule,

The day we got a paper route
So we could earn a little loot.

The day we got a two-wheel bike
And we rode wobbly down the pike.

And later still we owned a car
And hitched our wagon to a star.

The day we went on our first date
If it was nice or second rate.

The day we struck out on our own
And thought we'd make it, though alone.

The day we first became a bride
When Mama smiled and almost cried.

But if we want to top them all
It could have been when we were small

And stood before a Birthday Cake
And Dad would then a picture take.

No worries spoiled that special day
We'd eat some cake then go and play.

The world was ours—oh what a place
To just enjoy God's care and grace!

. . . God, who richly provides
us with everything for our
enjoyment. 1 Timothy 6:17b

Even God Sings

There's a verse in Zephaniah
that I like quite a lot
It tells about God's Character
and other things He's got.
It says He's in the midst of us
and that He's mighty, too,
And that He is a joyful God,
so we should be so, too.

So read along in Chapter three
and check verse seventeen
And you will find a God who sings—
you'll know just what I mean.
I'm glad I serve a God like that—
One filled with love and joy
And has a song within His heart
that nothing can destroy.

I know it says in Scripture
we're the Apple of His Eye
And so I will believe it's true
until the day I die.



Special Stuff for Special Days

Sometimes we save some special things
that we like quite a lot
And think we'll use them later on,
so use the stuff we've got.
And so we hoard our valuables
to use at later date
And time goes marching on, ya' know,
and we don't celebrate.
So if you have nice things saved up
to use some special day
You've no promise of tomorrow
so just use them anyway.
We do not stop to realize
each day we live on earth
Is really quite a special day
to live for all we're worth.



Therefore do not
worry about tomorrow,
for tomorrow will
worry about itself.
Matthew 6:34

The Whistler

I know its not unusual
to hear some people sing
But it has been a long time
since I heard a different thing.
It seems some folks of long ago
would whistle now and then
And when I think on it a bit
those folks were mostly men.

I think it helped them cope with things
when life was kinda' tough
And if they whistled while they worked
it almost was enough
To get their minds off mundane things
and lift their load a tad
And if they whistled happy tunes
life didn't seem so bad.

They didn't have a cell phone then
held to a listening ear
But they had things within their heart
that gave them hope and cheer.

If they had peace and joy inside
it saved them lots of stress
And whistling told the outside world
that they had happiness.

We have so many gadgets now
to use to entertain
That it's a wonder we don't get
an overloaded brain.
If you've not whistled for a while
why not give it a try,
It's so much better for your heart
than living with a sigh.

I will make music to the Lord
Judges 5:3



The Seasons

I really like October with its skies
so blue and clear;
It kinda' sets the soul on fire
and fills the heart with cheer.
To see the colored leaves drift down
when gentle breezes blow
Reminds us of God's promise
that He gave so long ago.

Remember Noah and the Flood
when things got really bad?
But when the earth was dry again
God made old Noah glad
Because He put a rainbow
right above him in the sky
And promised that another flood
would not make people die.

He also said there'd always be
the seasons of the year
So future generations need not live
in dread and fear.
I like each season when it comes,
it's pretty nice, you know,
To see the colors in the fall
and then it's time for snow.

And when the snow has moved on out
there comes another scene
And flowers then will come alive
with earth so fresh and green.

We won't pass up the summer months
with kids all out of school
And when hot, humid days arrive
they'll head straight for the pool.
Yes, God is very good to us
and we should thankful be
That He made all things beautiful
for folks like you and me.

God saw all that he had made
and it was very good. Genesis 1:31



The Universal Language

There's a universal language
that all people understand,
No matter where one goes on earth
by air, or sea, or land.
Folks should use this language often
as they travel mile on mile
For everyone on planet earth
can understand a smile.



A happy heart makes the face cheerful
Proverbs 15:13

A Song

If you haven't a song, maybe something is wrong
And you need to look in your heart
For located there may be trouble and care
That pierces your soul like a dart.

Old wounds left unhealed have so often revealed
Great scars that can darken your years,
It simply won't pay if you live life that way.
Forgiveness can wipe away tears.

Get rid of the things that pure misery brings
And wash the sludge out of your soul.
You'll find you've a song as you travel along
And heartaches will not take their toll.

There's more to this life than just sorrow and strife,
Don't dwell on the things that are wrong.
Your life can be good
 like the Lord says it should
If you fill your heart with a song!

Sing and make
music in your heart
to the Lord,
Ephesians 5:19



Aunt Mary

I hope you had a favorite aunt
that you loved very much,
The kind that seemed to know a lot
and had a special touch.
Aunt Mary was my special aunt,
a sister of my Dad,
I think I no doubt loved her most
of all the aunts I had.

She cooked and baked and made preserves,
her home-made bread was great
And when she fixed a meal for us
we ate and ate and ate.



Her fingers were kept busy
with her needle and her thread,
She made some really pretty stuff
a lot of folks have said.

She lived to be a hundred
and outlived her kids and spouse,
But somehow she could handle that
for there was in her house
A Bible that she loved to read;
her faith in God was strong
And somehow through the trials of life
her heart still had a song.

The world would be a better place
with folks like this around
For by their love and gentleness
they make a joyful sound.

Even to your old age and gray hairs
I am He, I am He who will sustain you.
I have made you and will carry you;
I will sustain you and will rescue you.
Isaiah 46:4

Worthless Stuff

Don't waste your time on nurturing
some nagging, worthless stuff
For if you do I think you'll find
your life will be more tough.
Some folks will sometimes hold a grudge
until the day they die
And if they do they'll miss a lot
and let me tell you why.

Hard feelings will depress you
and may take away your sleep
And even with a sleeping pill
you'll still be counting sheep.
You may even see your doctor
because you feel so blue
And other than prescribe some pills
he won't know what to do.

So check on things inside your heart
and even in your mind
And if you do it carefully
it could be you will find
Some feelings of resentment,
maybe jealousy or pride
And if they smolder in your heart
you won't have peace inside.

Forgiveness can cure lots of stuff
when hurtful things abound,
'I'm sorry,' works like magic, too,
a lot of folks have found.
Don't harbor things within your heart
so you cannot relax
Get rid of nagging, worthless stuff
and live life to the max.



Get rid of all bitterness, rage and
anger. . . Be kind and compassionate
to one another, forgiving each other,
just as in Christ God forgave you.
Ephesians 4:31,32

2

Encouragement

*One of Our
Happiest Duties*



Barnabas

*Joseph, whom the apostles called Barnabas,
(which means the son of encouragement)
sold a field he owned and brought
the money and put it at the apostles feet.*

Acts 4:36

*Your love has given me great joy
and encouragement*

Philemon 7

*We have different gifts
according to the grace given us.
If a man's gift is encouragement,
let him encourage.*

Romans 12:6,8

The Cheering Section

Are you in the cheering section
as you travel on life's way?
Friend, if you're not you oughta' be
and cheer some folks today.
When folks go to a ballgame
they don't look all tired and glum
For if they did the folks nearby
would think they're kinda' dumb.

The clapping and the hollering
may sometimes be quite loud
But you can bet those cheerers
are a motivated crowd.
They want their team to win the game
so urge them on a bit,
It's hard to think the team would win
if fans would simply sit.

It just might be that way in life—
folks need a little praise
To help them stay on top th' heap
as they their children raise.
The oldsters also need some help
and look for words of cheer
So let them know you think they're great.
These words they need to hear.

Encourage everyone you meet—
your kids, your boss, your spouse
And it may change the way you live
at work or in your house.
It never is too late to start
to join the cheering crew
And you will be amazed and pleased
at what it does for you.

But encourage one another daily
Hebrews 8:13



Maybe A Hug

When we meet neighbors on the street
or in a grocery store
We only see the outer man,
but inside there is more
And they don't really say too much
of what they feel within,
They've kinda' learned to hide their thoughts
and take life on the chin.
A lot of people cry inside
and don't want folks to know
That they are struggling deep within
and feeling mighty low.
So we should greet them with a smile
and lend a listening ear,
Some folks have things within their heart
they'd like someone to hear.
So don't rush off but take the time
to treat them like a friend--
You might find out a little hug
could start their heart to mend.



Your love has given
me great joy and
encouragement.
Phileman 7

Kindness



I know a lot of kindnesses
do happen every day:
A father gets his soft ball out
to teach his son to play.
A neighbor takes a pot of soup
to John who lives alone,
A son who lives far, far away
calls Mother on the phone.
The grocery clerk said, 'Howdy, ma'am,'
and gave a great big smile,
A friend of mine stopped by today
and chatted for awhile.
A little boy, with dog in tow,
brought flowers to his Mom,
A pastor called on someone ill,
and prayed and read a Psalm.
God touched a heart and gave a song
to someone long depressed,
A daughter helps her Mom with work
so she can get some rest.
We fail to see these kindnesses,
we think they're much too small--
But look at all your blessings, folks,
you just can't count them all.

Always be kind to each other
and to everyone else.
1 Thessalonians 5:15

Criticism

A lot of folks will criticize
what others say and do;
I 'spose a little of their words
could possibly be true,
But seldom does this kind of stuff
help others very much,
The people who are talked about
may need a loving touch.
Its better to encourage them
and give those folks a lift
And tell them things that they do well
and not produce a rift.
If we feel good about ourselves
we'll surely want to find
The good there is in other folks
and always treat them kind.
Its not our place to run them down
and make them feel depressed--
We need to give encouragement
so they can do their best.



Therefore encourage
one another and build
each other up, just as
in fact you are doing.
1 Thessalonians 5:11

Arguing

I'm not too much on arguing
or having verbal fights,
The folks who do this type of thing
may have some restless nights.
They might cook up an ulcer,
even get their pressure up
And if they harbor unkind thoughts
they'll have an empty cup.
Harsh words when said in anger
can cut deep and e'en destroy
A heart already hurting
even if a girl or boy.
One easily could get upset
and maybe lose a friend
But its not worth the stress one gets
to hate folks to the end.
It's better far to seal your lips
and listen for awhile
Then when the fuss is done and through
your heart still has a smile.
The Bible has an answer
that I think is pretty neat:
When people get their
hackles up
keep answers soft
and sweet.

A gentle answer turns
away wrath, but a harsh
word stirs up anger.
Proverbs 15:1



The Old and the Young

I know I'm quite old fashioned
for my age can tell you that,
But kids who are much younger
never sat where I have sat.
They think it strange that I still think
the way that I was taught;
When I was just a little kid
my folks taught me a lot.

And though I've learned much more
since then
I guess my mind is set
On things I still believe are true
and will not soon forget.
No doubt I seem a little strange
to young folks of today
Who may not think the way I do
or know the things I say.

But someday when they're old and gray
with back a little bent
They'll look back on their childhood days
and how those years were spent
And they may feel they're out of sync
with young folks on the streets
Whose nimble feet can keep in step
with different drummer's beats.

But when I think on this a bit
and dwell on it a while
I realize there've always been
some folks quite out of style.
As generations come and go
there's bound to be some change
So folks who've lived a lot of years
need not feel they are strange.

But I would guess God thought it good
to have both young and old
So they could help each other
with whatever life would hold.
So I'll enjoy the golden years
and pass along the truth
That God would like to live in them
while they are still a youth.

I was young and now am old
yet I have never seen the righteous
forsaken Psalms 37:25





Brothers

If a bird sits on your shoulder
and a brother's at your side
No matter what life's handed you,
you needn't run and hide
For you've a brother who will help
and likes you quite a lot
And if you need a helping hand
he'll help you on the spot.

We all need brothers now and then
when life might go awry
For he's a person we can trust
with laughter or a sigh.
So if you have a brother
you should sing and you should smile
Because you know if life gets tough
he'll go the second mile.

The Blessing Business

Are you in the blessing business
Helping those whose life is hard?
There are lots of struggling people
Whose hearts and minds are scarred.
They need a helping hand, my friend,
They have their feelings, too,
So don't harass the down and out
Whatever you may do.
If everyone would lend a hand
To help a fellow out
Folks lives would be much happier
And easier, no doubt.
Unloving folks can criticize
And say a lot of stuff
That never should be said at all
And make a life more tough.
The people who bless other folks
Will find they, too, are blest;
For its the key to happiness
When one will share his best.



. . . encourage the timid,
help the weak, be
patient with everyone.
1 Thessalonians 5:14

The Winning Team

So often Christians smile and say
they're on the winning team
And that is really quite okay
for it is not a dream.
If Jesus lives within our heart
our lives are truly blest,
We feel that we have been set free
and find both peace and rest.

But lest we settle in and say
that we are number one
It could be we should think a bit
of what the Lord has done.
Christ was the friend of sinners,
like the woman at the well,
It's folks like these He came to save
and of salvation tell.

He healed the crippled, raised the dead,
and caused the blind to see
And people who were bound by sin
He really set them free.
He came to save the sinners
and to give them peace inside,
In fact, He loved us all so much
that on a cross He died.

So if we feel we have it made
and kinda' fold our hands
We need to know there's lotsa' stuff
the Christian life demands.
The Bible tells us many things
of how the Christian lives
And how he spreads Christ's love around
and how he freely gives.

So if you're on the winning team
remember some are not
And lend a hand to hurting folks
who need the love you've got.
So serve the Lord with all your heart,
it's there that you will find
Your life will be much happier
and you'll have peace of mind.



Therefore as God's chosen people...
clothe yourself with compassion and
kindness Colossians 3:12

Passing Their Way

Are some folks happier today
because you passed their way?
God likes it when we take the time
to brighten someone's day.
Too many folks don't take the time
to help a fella' out,
Somehow they haven't learned quite yet
what livin's all about.

The people who are happiest
and have a song to sing
Are those who live for other folks
and happy tidings bring.
If you let things that you possess
just steal your heart away
Folks will not feel much happiness
because you passed their way.

So if you'll go about your day
and spread your love around
You'll find a lot of folks out there
who'd love your joyful sound.

Above all, love each other
deeply, because love covers
over a multitude of sins.
1 Peter 4:18



Retired

A lot of folks will work for years
and finally retire
And for a while it's kinda' fun
to sit down by the fire,
But from some things that I have heard
it may not be too smart
To be a couch potato
and not exercise the heart.

It seems long life may smile upon
the folks who laugh a lot
And don't spend time in worrying
'bout things that they have not.
And keeping busy saves the day
and makes their life worthwhile
If they will volunteer a bit
and give the world a smile.

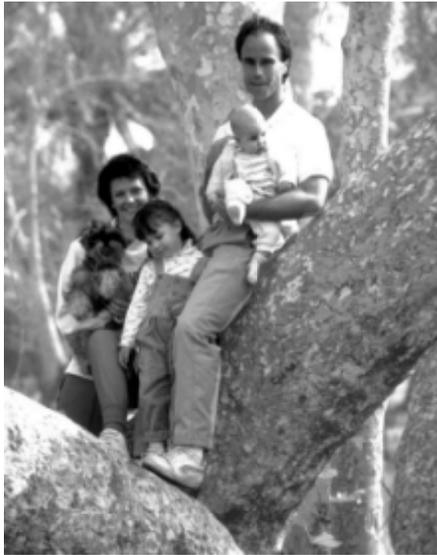


And do not forget
to do good and to
share with others,
for with such sacrifices
God is pleased.
Hebrews 13:16

3

Love - Family

*You Are Loved
More Than You Know*



David (beloved)

*I have found David, son of Jesse,
a man after my own heart;
he will do everything I want him to do.*

Acts 13:22

*This is love, not that we loved God,
but that He loved us
and sent His Son as an atoning
sacrifice for our sins.*

1 John 4:10

*Dear friends,
since God so loved us,
we ought to love one another.*

1 John 4:11



It's nice to think of family
and how much they mean to us
For with them we can be for real
without a lot of fuss.
We kinda' know each other
from the inside to the out,
Though none of us are perfect
we have lots to talk about.

It's around the kitchen table
that we share a lot of stuff
And all support each other
whether times are good or tough.
Yes, it's great to have a family
where we know each other well
And share the stuff we have inside
but don't to others tell.

There's nothing like a family's love
to cheer your heart and soul
Though they are scattered far and wide—
perhaps from pole to pole,
But email and the telephone
help each to keep in touch
And what a joy a family has
who love each other much.

Sons (daughters) are a heritage from the Lord,
children a reward from Him. Psalms 127:3

A House a Home

A house is just a building, folks,
until a home is made,
It needs a yard where kids can play
with lotsa' trees for shade.
The kitchen should be kinda' big
for food is right good stuff,
Its there we all can sit and chat
until we've had enough.

Among the things a home should have
is a big cookie jar,
And there should be fun things to do
when kids aren't up to par.
I like to think a home is where
each one can tell his tale
And share the feelings of his heart
e'en though sometimes they fail.

No other place on planet earth--
no matter where we roam

Will warm our hearts and

cheer our souls
like when we're
all at home.



The Meeting Place

I know there are important folks
 who meet day after day
And they discuss important stuff
 in all the things they say.
I know someone must head a group
 no matter small or large
And let the folks all gathered 'round
 know they're the one in charge.

And so the chairman of the board—
 perhaps the CEO,
Will tell the folks just sitting there
 the things they need to know,
And though they delegate and plan
 an awful lot of stuff
The best laid plans may come to naught
 if times are mean and tough.

The things that really matter
 are discussed another place,
It's in the kitchens of the world
 where folks talk face to face

And learn how they're supposed to act
and how they oughta' think
And bits of wisdom come from Mom
who's busy at the sink.

The kitchen is the very place
where all the family meet
And it's the boardroom of the home
and really can't be beat.
So if the kids have been taught well
and know what's right or wrong
The CEO's, with staff like that
could end up with a song.

Train up a child in the way he should go
and when he is old he will not turn from it.
Proverbs 22:6



Pictures

Have you wished you had your camera
that's home up on a shelf
Because your child with dog in tow
is playing by himself?
He's not bothered with big problems—
life's as good as it can get
For when he's just a little guy
you find his needs are met.
And so with not much going on
your child can just relax
And how you'd like a picture
as he lives life to the max!
But then a lot of Moms and Dads
are really pretty smart
For they have found that they can take
a picture with the heart.



Family Ties Will Last

Now just what is a family for
if its not there to care--
A place each finds contentment
and away from wear and tear.
Its fun to have our little jokes
and kid about the past
And know whatever comes to pass
the family ties will last
For sometimes life comes crashing in
and things seem pretty bad,
And if we find there's love at home
a caring Mom and Dad
Can help to get the wrinkles out
and mend a thing gone wrong,
And by the family's love and care
can help restore their song.
There's no place like a family,
God planned it be this way,
And if we live in harmony
We'll find love every day.



Children's children are
a crown to the aged.
Proverbs 17:6

The Pickers

If you will look around, my friend,
no two folks are the same;
Some really are laid back, you know,
while others strive for fame.
It seems some stay right with the flow
and seldom go up-stream,
They kinda let the world go by
without a goal or dream.

I rather think folks in between
may have a lot to give--
They haven't stopped dead in their tracks
so they know how to live.



Though some may pick the world apart
and say how bad things are
Some others pick apart their friends
though they are near or far.

But aren't you glad that little folks
know living at its best--
They aren't caught up in grown-ups games
and now you've surely guessed
The kids know what's important
and each day that comes along
They take it like it's meant for them
and seldom do it wrong.

They don't complain about the world
or what their neighbors do,
They concentrate on just today
so they don't sit and stew.
The kids take time to pick some flow'rs
and make a spring bouquet
And when they give it to their Mom
it really makes her day!

From the lips of children and infants
you have ordained praise. Psalms 8:2a

Despair Not

Don't ever despair of a child, my friend,
No other gift that God could send
Will equal the joy that a child can bring
And cause the parent's hearts to sing.
If life seems hard, and sometimes tough,
A song and a prayer may be enough
Along with love that never dies
To heal some wounds from children's cries.
Each one is precious in God's sight--
He wants them always treated right.
God trusts His child into your care,
So do your best, and don't despair.



And he (Jesus) took the children
in his arms, put his hands on them
and blessed them. Mark 10:16

Watch 'em Grow

Some folks can't seem to find a job
while others start out small,
They start by mowing sidewalks
but that really isn't all—
Sometimes the mower hits the grass
and makes the green stuff fly;
It takes a while to learn the trade
when one's a little guy.



But watch that fellow as he grows,
he'll learn a trade or two;
Might even go to college
and find out what he should do.
Kids have a lot of brains, you know,
and often play it smart,
And if they're given half a chance
they just might steal your heart.

Bedtime Stories

If Mom and Dad were busy
it was nice to have a son
Who'd read a bedtime story
when daylight hours were done
To give the kids some happy thoughts
before they'd fall asleep
And trust that God would through the night
their trusting souls would keep.

'Twas back in olden times, it seems,
that kids liked stories read
So they'd have stuff to think about
ere they were tucked in bed.
It seems that Peter Rabbit
was a rascal most the time
And caused McGregor lots of stress
although he did no crime.



When Goldilocks tried out the chairs
 the Three Bears owned one day
She found just one that really fit
 so didn't run away.
And then there was that awful troll
 beneath the bridge, you know,
Who'd scare the travelers half to death
 if they that way would go;
And Humpty Dumpty on the wall,
 Jack Spratt who ate no fat,
Old Mother Hubbard's empty shelves,
 some kids remember that.

Little Boy Blue who blew his horn,
 Bo Peep who lost her sheep
Were stories much beloved by all
 and helped kids go to sleep.
I'm not too sure kids of today
 hear fairy tales and such,
It seems folks are too busy now
 to do this very much.
There's something about stories
 that can fill a child with joy
And fairy tales should be a part
 of every girl and boy.

Scolding

The little folks make small mistakes
And right away receive
A scolding or a reprimand
Like you would not believe.
But older folks, when they grow up,
Can make a big mistake
And they don't want a reprimand
For all the goofs they make.
So lets make sure that when we scold
We don't give more than due,
And realize that like adults
The kids have feelings, too.
So next time when the milk is spilled
Do not your child harass.
I've never seen a scolding that
Puts milk back in the glass.



Fathers, do not embitter your children
or they will become discouraged
Colossians 3:21

Longevity

Some folks will live a lot of years
and seldom see the Doc
Who tunes 'em up a little bit
and kinda' winds their clock.
I sometimes dwell on this a bit
and wonder, could it be
That folks inherit long, long lives
straight from their family tree?

Or could it be they handle well
the stress and strain of life
And live in peace with other folks
including kids and wife?
The folks who harbor hatred
which has festered in their heart
May shorten up their days on earth
and cause 'em to depart.

Christ told us how we ought to think
and how we ought to live,
One thing that He said loud and clear
is that folks should forgive.
If there's no hatred deep within,
instead there is a song
It might explain the reason why
some oldsters live so long.

Forgive as the Lord
forgave you.
Colossians 3:13



The Oldsters

When folks get up in years, you know,
 they've learned a lot of stuff
And yet in our fast moving world
 sometimes it's not enough
To keep us up on top th' heap
 like things we oughta' know,
But it could be we struggle some
 because our steps are slow.

And I would guess another thing
 that slows us down a bit
Is that we've figured some things out
 as in our chair we sit.
We see success for what it is,
 we watch folks at the top
And find that those who always rush
 just may not want to stop.

It's hard to smell the flowers
 if you're always on the run
And folks who are too busy
 well might miss the setting sun.

The oldsters who have lived a while
 may have it figured out
That those who take the time to live
 may know what life's about.

So don't pass by the older folks
 and think they are not smart
For they have learned a lot of things
 and keep them in their heart.
It just might be when life is tough
 and you've a rainy day
You'll find they have a list'ning ear
 and like the things they say.



4

Laughter

Looking for the Humor



Isaac (he laughs)

*Abraham gave the name Isaac
to the son Sarah bore him.*

Genesis 21:3

*And Sarah said,
“God has brought me laughter,
and everyone who hears about this
will laugh with me.”*

Genesis 21:6

*A cheerful heart is good medicine
Proverbs 17:22a*

*Our mouths were filled with
laughter,
and our tongues with songs of joy.*

Psalms 126:2

Laughter



Have you a sense
of humor
as you live from day to day
Or do you find it's hard to laugh
no matter what folks say?
If you can't snicker now and then
and even laugh out loud
You may not be invited much
to join a happy crowd.

Laughter is good medicine,
it makes your mind relax--
I wonder if it might prevent
some future heart attacks.
To laugh a lot relaxes you
and helps your blood flow free,
It's good for body, mind, and soul;
e'en doctors will agree.

But if you want to live uptight
and hassle stress and strain
The chances are you'll feel depressed
and often will complain.
Why not try laughing every day
and smile at folks you meet?
It might bring joy into your life
and that is hard to beat.

A cheerful look brings joy to the heart,
and good news gives health to the bones.
Proverbs 15:20

The Merry Heart

A merry heart, the Bible says,
is like a medicine.
I wonder if we laugh a lot
when with our friends and kin.
If we would smile and sing and hum
our stresses should be few,
For it is hard to hold a grudge
when smiling through and through.
And laughing is contagious, friend,
it drives the blues away,
For if you have a happy heart
depression will not stay.
When I see people all stressed out
and eyes keep looking down,
It is no wonder that their face
shows nothing but a frown.
A smiling face, a happy heart,
works better than a pill
And if you wonder if this works,
you bet your boots it will.



A cheerful heart
is good medicine
Proverbs 17:22



Hats

If you come
to our house
and stay overnight
You'll find when you enter the room
The four walls are covered with forty some hats--
Too many to wear, I presume.

Some hats are of cotton, and some are of silk,
And others are made out of felt,
Of course the straw hats on the hot, humid days
Are helpful so that you won't melt.

There's fur from the rabbit and wool from the sheep
These both keep you warmer than toast,
But some with their ribbons, their strings,
and their pins,
Are prob'ly the ones I like most.

There's leather and plastic, and even wood pulp,
Palm fronds and batik are both nice,
The shapes and the colors all vary a bit,
As well as the country and price.

I'm saying all this for I want you to know
That I have a purpose in mind:
In case you are hounded by long sleepless nights
Where else in the world can you find
A room where the hats are all hung on the wall
Just waiting for someone to wear;
Your night would pass faster if you'd try on hats
Relaxing with never a care.

And though you can't sleep and your eyes
won't stay shut--
Not even just one little tad
You'll greet the next day with a smile on your face
Remembering the fun that you had.



*Eat
More
Fish*

It must be fish is good for us.
I've thought on it a bit
For Jesus fed the multitudes
an awful lot of it.
He didn't hand out burgers
to that hungry, waiting bunch,
He also knew that French fries
might not be too good for lunch.
No doubt He knew some of the folks
could not eat fat and grease
And so He gave them healthy food
when they received each piece.

So watch your diet, friend of mine,
be careful what you eat;
The food that you put in your mouth
should not your health defeat.
So while you ponder what to eat
and want a healthy dish
I wonder if you'd be quite smart
to eat a piece of fish.

Old Wives Tales



I do not have a horseshoe hung
above my cottage door,
And I won't take a rabbit's foot,
I think it needs all four.
To worry about ladders
and to read my horoscope
Just seem like they're a waste of time
and will not help me cope.

I really doubt I need to fear
a cat with coat of black,
And if I sing before I eat,
would I get off the track?
I've never used a worry stone
and left my thumbprint there,
To knock on wood won't do much more
than mess my head of hair.
I wonder if the folks who plant
their garden by full moon
Will have a whole lot better crop
than those who plant too soon.

Oh, there are superstitions
and a lot of crazy stuff
That people may believe in
but it makes their life more tough.
I'm not just sure who started these,
but I can plainly see
To put my hand in God's big hand
is much the best for me.

Feet

I've seen a lot of people's feet
where most are walking down the street.
Some feet have shoes with lots of shine
(but I'll admit these are not mine),
While others have a dusty look
as if a mountain trail they took.
Some feet are bare with callous thick
and carry scars where thorns did prick.
They've followed paths unknown to most
which do not go from coast to coast.
Some feet are gnarled and worn from toil
of planting seeds in hardened soil.
All feet have their own tale to tell --
from castles grand to prison cell.
If feet could talk or write a book
I'm sure we'd take another look.
They'd tell how folks have spent their life--
if pastures green, or toil and strife.



Cement Plant

Today I saw a little plant
that grew up through a crack;
It was surrounded by cement
yet seemed to have no lack
Of all those nutrients and stuff
it needs to make it grow.
How it can thrive in such a place
I guess I'll never know.

Now can it be when we plant things
and give them lots of care,
We give them too much water and
we drown them then and there?
Or we could be too anxious and
might over-fertilize
And then we wonder why on earth
it withers up and dies.

It must be God knows where to plant
and how to make it grow
And has some secrets all His own
that we'll just never know.
So while I struggle hard to grow
my plants in fertile soil
I'll watch for plants that
God has grown
without my touch or toil.



The Sloth

I saw a sloth up in a tree
a' hangin' upside down,
He really seemed quite nonchalant,
he had no smile or frown.
He hung right there, ignoring me,
and did not try to flee,
It seems he's really at his best
just hanging in a tree.

His meat hook claws work very well
and keep him quite secure
For when he moves about at night
it's only a short tour.
He's not too much on exercise,
nor has much social grace,
He pretty much stays to himself,
it seems he cannot face

The busy world that rushes on
some feet below his head
For if he tried to join that group
he'd likely end up dead.

I've thought about the sloth a bit
and thought what he might do;
Could he be a detective
for the rich and well-to-do?

Content to watch from up above
the changing scene below
He may be smarter than we think,
I guess we'll never know.
But we are sure he'd watch and wait
without a bit of sound
And most important we would know
he always hangs around.



Awards

The Hollywood folks have their Grammy Awards;
each hope in their heart they will win.
They're dressed in their finest, put on a big smile
and wait for the meet to begin.

The place becomes silent as names are announced,
then breaks into thunderous applause.
A few tears are shed, hugs and kisses abound,
for this is a Hollywood cause.

Reporters are there with their cameras and mikes
and don't want to miss any sight,
For they want to tell the whole world
so they'll know
what happened on this special night.

What those folks don't know with their
trophies and gold
with rise in prestige and with fame,
Is millions of Granny's all over the world
will get an award just the same.

It may be a flower clutched in a small hand
and held up to Granny with pride,
It may be a piece of a sticky bon bon,
but Granny takes these in her stride.

She treasures each gift that a loving child brings,
for children are really quite smart,
And I'd rather have just a Granny Award
for it is a gift from the heart.



Dandelions

Some folks do not like dandelions
to show up in their yard,
They spray the plants with poison stuff
and sometimes work quite hard
To kill off all those pretty blooms
that let us know its spring;
They miss the little round balloons
the blossoms soon will bring.

I've really wondered many times
if that strong poison spray
Will wash into our rivers, folks,
and make us sick some day.
The folks who can't stand yellow
should take trowels and a spade
And root out plants that they don't like
and then they'd have it made.

It could be that these folks don't know
the roots contain a drug
That's used to treat the liver
so some good stuff they have dug.

The leaves are rich in vitamins;
just wash them up a bit
And add them to your salad greens,
they just might make a hit.

Now if you crave a little wine
just make it from the flow'rs--
You better start with just a sip
as it may last for hours.
It seems to me a simpler thing
and safer far to do
Is learn to love your dandelions
for they have beauty, too.



The Garbage Handlers

You're looking for a partner, friend,
with whom to spend your days?
I may have a suggestion that
will your percentage raise
Of how long you'd stay married
and enjoy your wedded bliss;
It's not a questionnaire of sorts,
or how well he can kiss.
It matters not the car he drives,
it may be truck or van,
His I.Q. may be average
but he does the best he can.
It's not his gold or bank account
or kind of clothes he wears;
It's more important you find out
if he's a man who cares.
He really wouldn't have to have
an awful lot of clout,
But look for one you think, my friend,
who'd take the garbage out.



Living in the Pink

Do you have a sense of humor?
E'en laughter is a gift
For it erases strain and stress
and gives the heart a lift.

It's good to have around all day
and even every night
For if you kinda' laugh a lot
more things will turn out right.

So don't leave home without it, friend,
life's better than you think
If you will smile and laugh a lot
and live it in the pink.



Colors

I know the decorator folks
do lots of fancy stuff
And they may charge a bunch of dough
to bring you up to snuff.
Their color combinations
they promote with vim and zest
Assuring you that you'd be pleased
with what THEY think is best.

But when I think on this a bit
the thought occurs to me
There's something that these fancy folks
may simply fail to see.
God made the earth so beautiful
with colors all galore
That never seem to clash a bit
from His eternal store.

Take notice of the sunsets
with their orange, gray, and red,
There even might be purple
or a bit of pink instead.
And have you noticed flowers
with their glowing colors bright
For God is big on beauty
and so He does it right.

He must have loved bright colors
when He made our world, you know,
For there is something colorful
most any place you go.
I've never seen a spring bouquet
with colors that would clash
For God made all things beautiful
and did it with a splash.

So do not be discouraged, friend,
with colors that you use
If they look pretty in your sight
use any that you choose.
Don't let the decorator folks
get in your way one bit
For after all, it is YOUR home
and YOU will live in it.



Many colors
are one of God's
great gifts.

5

Faith - Trust

*Being Sure of God's
Care and Guidance*



Mary (strong)
Peter (rock)

*Blessed is she (Mary) who
has believed that what the Lord said
will be accomplished.*

Luke 1:45

*You are Peter, and on this rock
I will build my church.*

Matthew 16:18

*Take heart daughter, he (Jesus) said,
your faith has healed you.*

Matthew 9:22

*Blessed is the man
who makes the Lord his trust.*

Psalms 40:4

Two Arks

We all have read or heard about
old Noah and the Ark,
When times were evil as can be
and morally were dark.
And though we know the wicked
were destroyed by all the Flood
And it took many, many months
to dry up so much mud.

But that is not the only ark
the Bible tells us of,
There was a tiny little ark
built by a Mom with love.
King Pharaoh was an evil man
and gave a bad decree
That all the Hebrew baby boys
should die right instantly.

But one Mom hid her little boy
for three whole months, and so
She then made just a tiny ark
of bulrushes, you know.
She waterproofed the whole inside
with slime and also pitch
And when she tucked the babe in there
she hoped there'd be no glitch.

Then when she put the cover
on that tiny, floating boat
She must have wished with all her heart
that it would safely float.
Of course we know the story well
how Pharaoh's daughter found
The ark with baby safe inside
who made a crying sound.
She had compassion on the child
and took him as her son
And so the Lord saved Moses life
when it was just begun.

It's really quite exciting
how God makes things come to be
And He has plans for all of us—
including you and me.



For I know the plans
I have for you,
declares the Lord. . .
plans to give you hope
and a future.
Jeremiah 29:11

Passing Out Lunches

When Jesus fed five thousand
his disciples said, 'With what?'
And then He answered them and asked,
'Just what all have you got?'
They said there was no food around
except a youngster's lunch
And knew two fish and five small loaves
couldn't feed a hungry bunch.

But Jesus said to seat those folks
in groups upon the ground,
And when the Lord gave thanks to God
they passed the food around.
I'm sure the twelve disciples
were amazed and quite aghast
When Jesus used just one boy's lunch
and made it last and last.

No doubt they said among themselves,
'Wow! This is really great!'
And they rejoiced with all the crowd
because they ate and ate.

They must have almost danced for joy
as they walked down each aisle,
I'd guess when they were serving folks
they did it with a smile.
They'd seen a lot of miracles,
their trust in Christ was strong,
And now a miracle like this
sure helped their faith along.

I'm glad I serve a God like that
Who cares about our needs
And when we're tired and lonely
our hungry soul He feeds.
Don't miss the opportunity
to serve a God like this
For if you do you'll surely find
a lot of things you'll miss.

It is the Lord Christ
you are serving.
Colossians 3:24



Peter

There's something about Peter
when you read about his life
That makes you kinda' like him
though he had some toil and strife.
He really was outspoken
and he loved the Lord a lot,
If he was asked what he believed
he'd answer on the spot.

He had enthusiasm
and he had a lot of zest
He often spoke out for the Lord
when he was at his best.
Sometimes he also made mistakes
when he would speak too fast
But then he would apologize
so didn't come in last.

I like the way he followed Christ,
when he was called to serve
He simply left his boat behind
which took a lot of nerve.
He knew Christ was the Son of God
and said it loud and clear--
He was the first to voice this fact
to others standing near.

King Herod didn't like him
so he had him thrown in jail,
His praying friends were not allowed
to even pay his bail.
The night before King Herod
would call for him next day
We find that handcuffed Peter
between two soldiers lay.

The story we are told in Acts
says Peter was asleep
He must have trusted God
a lot
that He his soul would keep.
And then to think an angel came
and shook him wide awake
And told him to put on his clothes
and led him out the gate.



Yes, Peter was a special man
who dared to give his all
And was not disappointed
that the Lord gave him a call,
He left his nets and fishing boat
to follow Christ the King
And folks who do the same today
find it's worth everything.

Shaky Faith

If your faith is sometimes shaky
there is something you can do--
Just get your Bible off the shelf,
It has good news for you.
It tells of many people
who can build your faith a lot
And how they really trusted God
Who helped them on the spot.

Remember Jonah in the whale
was in a yucky place
But God was watching all the time
while in that little space
And He was counting days and hours
and when the time was right
The whale threw up old Jonah
and saved him from his plight.

And read how Noah and his sons
built that great big old boat
And though it rained for forty days
they found that it would float.
When all the flood was over
and the land outside was dry
God surprised the eight survivors
with a rainbow in the sky.

And other folks had faith in God
it tells us in His Book
Of David, Moses, and St. John,
so take the time to look.
Their faith was not on shaky ground
but it was firm and strong;
They sometimes suffered for their faith
when people did them wrong.

At times it takes a lot of trust
to stay on top th' heap
But if your hand keeps clasping His,
your soul He'll always keep.



You, Lord, keep my lamp burning;
My God turns my darkness into light.
Psalm 18:28



*Just Count
Your Blessings*

You think that you've had troubles
and could even name them all?
I wish you'd read some verses, friend,
that tell about St. Paul.

Have you sat in a prison cell
and prayed and sang at night?
Have you been beaten thrice with rods
right out in broad daylight?
Have you had forty stripes save one
five times upon your back?
Have you been shipwrecked several times
so that you have lost track?

Have you been let down from a wall
to get outside a gate?
Have you been stoned or left for dead
by folks all filled with hate?

I know that we have problems
that we face along the way
And aggravations rankle us
and cloudy up our day,
But even if our times are tough
and find it hard to cope
If we will count our blessings
we may find there still is hope.

Now if we count our problems
they just add to our distress
And where we'll end up if we do
is anybody's guess.
Be thankful you're not dodging stones
or in a prison cell--
As you can see we're mighty blest
and things are going well.

The Fiery Furnace

The fiery furnace was a threat
for three young Hebrew men,
But they'd not bow to other gods
no matter who or when.
They really had their mind made up;
they would not bow the knee,
If God delivered them, okay--
if not, they'd wait and see.

And when the king said, 'Throw 'em in,'
it didn't singe a hair,
It only burned off all their ropes,
no smell of smoke was there.
But when the king, to his dismay,
saw still another face,
It scared him that he saw God's Son
was also in that place.

I'm glad I serve a God like that,
for when we're in the fire
He's right there close beside us
to give help and to inspire.
If you don't have a God, my friend,
to help when things go wrong
I'd recommend you serve the Lord,
He'd give your heart a song.



Exciting Days

It must have been exciting, folks,
to live in Jesus' day
And follow Him from place to place
to hear the words He'd say
And watch how He'd do miracles,
no matter of what kind,
In fact he fed the multitudes
and often healed the blind.

To see Him walk on water, too,
and even raise the dead
Sure fascinated lots of folks
who thought on what He said.
There was no thing too hard for him
no matter what was wrong,
He cleansed the folks with leprosy
and gave their heart a song.

No wonder people followed Him,
His message was quite clear,
He showed the world
what God is like
and brought them hope and cheer.
And Jesus still works miracles
and changes hearts of stone
Of those who'll up and follow Him
and make His will their own.

... the people were delighted
with all the wonderful things
that he (Jesus) was doing.

Luke 13:17



God Did It

I don't believe all things I read
or all things that I hear--
Some scientists promote some stuff
that's really kinda' queer.
They don't believe God made the world
and work hard to explain
Some crazy theory they've hatched up
somewhere inside their brain.

They talk of evolution
but they really are not sure
Of just how all things came to be
and how they still endure.
They can't explain a lot of stuff
and tell it blow by blow,
Though they may have a lot of smarts
some things they do not know.

Another thing I'd like to ask
is who made gas and oil
And other things like diamonds
hidden down beneath the soil?
The rubies and the sapphires
and some other fancy gems
Are not picked off some kind of tree
or from some flower stems.

They can't explain the sun or moon
or who hung earth in space,
Or how the stars got where they are
with each one in its place.
There's one more thing I'd like to ask
before I up and quit--
I'd like to know where love comes from,
are folks just born with it?

It's hard for me to understand
why folks don't read God's Book;
It tells how all things came to be
if they'd just take a look.



In the beginning God created
the heavens and the earth.
Genesis 1:1

*The
Rose*



When you see roses on a bush
I wonder what you see--
Do see yellow, red, or pink,
as pleasing as can be?
And do you take the time to smell
the fragrance of that flow'r?
It's better than the best perfume
all day at any hour.

Some folks just will not take the time
to stand and gaze a while
At things God made so beautiful
that ought to bring a smile.
And some, of course, will see the thorns
that decorate the stem,
And wonder why God put them there
as if to spoil a gem.

But then, I guess we wonder, too,
when life seems kinda' tough
Why God will let us suffer
when our road is long and rough.
But God knows what He's doing, friend,
when thorns beset our way;
It's then that we lean hard on Him
to help us through the day.



There are some folks with illnesses
who suffer lots of pain,
Though life for them is pretty tough
they rarely will complain.
It seems they have a secret code
all hidden in their mind;
If you could see inside their heart
some good stuff you would find.

They think on happy times they've had
and count their blessings, too,
And do not think depressing thoughts
that leave them feeling blue.
They have a happy world inside
for faith in God is strong
And so in turn He gives to them
a heart that has a song.

Brighter Days

If your heart is apprehensive
about the days ahead
It could spoil a lot of livin'
and fill your mind with dread.
God has a remedy for this,
the Bible says it best:
Christ said if we would come to Him
He'd give us peace and rest.

So if your future's in His hands
the best thing you can do
Is take the time to live each day
like He would want you to.
It's not too smart to let a day
go by without a song
For days are so much brighter
if you have the Lord along.



Peace I leave with
you; my peace I
give unto you.
John 14:27



When skies are blue and problems few
and life is kind and good
It's easy then to hum and sing
if we do like we should.
But when we have a lousy day
and stuff keeps going wrong
It takes an awful lot of grace
to hang on to our song.

It seems we have to realize
life can be mean and tough
And trust the Lord to help us cope
so we'll have strength enough.
God loves us on the mountaintop
and in the valley, too,
And if our hand is clasping His,
He'll surely see us through.

He will keep you strong to the end
so you may be blameless on the day
of our Lord Jesus Christ.
1 Corinthians 1:8

Not Everything Is "Iffy"

It might, it could, I wonder if,
perhaps, it well may be,
I think, I wish, I guess, I hope,
are used so frequently.
It seems we aren't too sure of things,
we talk of 'iffy' stuff,
There's not too much we know for sure,
and this is kinda' tough.
But one thing that we're sure about
is God is in control
So if you're really wise, my friend,
you'll trust to Him your soul.



Know therefore that
the Lord your God
is God; he is the
faithful God
Deuteronomy 7:9

Bedtime

At night before I go to sleep
I like to read a while
And just enjoy some happy stuff
that makes me kinda' smile.
I try not think of lumps and bumps
that may have come my way,
I know I'll sleep much better
if I read awhile and pray.
One thing that I appreciate
is that God doesn't sleep
And with that knowledge in my heart
I know my soul He'll keep.



When I awake, I am still with you.
Psalm 139:18

The Untroubled Heart

If you let you heart be troubled
you are sure to lose your song;
There's stuff out there to rankle you
and make your day go wrong.
If hatred dwells within your heart
it's sure to make you blue,
It doesn't hurt the folks you hate
but it will damage you.
Your anger will not change a thing
to even up the score,
It could give you a heart attack,
a stroke, or something more.
It really isn't worth it, friend,
to harbor worthless stuff--
It's better far to just forgive
then life won't be so tough.
The Bible has the answer
how to live life to the max:
Forgive the folks who've done you wrong
then love 'em and relax.

Do not condemn and
you will not be condemned.
Forgive, and you will
be forgiven. Luke 6:37



Details Inside

If you want to go to Heaven
when life down here is through
You need to read your Bible, friend,
it has good news for you.
It tells of things you need to know
to give your heart a song--
You'll find that livin's mighty good
if you've the Lord along.
You'll find why Jesus Christ was born
and even why He died
So read God's Handbook often
for it gives details inside.



For God so loved the world that he gave his
one and only Son, that whoever believes in
him shall not perish but have eternal life.
John 3:16 (1 John 1:9 and Revelation 3:20)

6

Friendship

*A Friend Loves
at All Times.*

Proverbs 17:17



Ruth (friendship, companion)

*Do not urge me to leave you
or to turn back from you.*

Where you go I will go. . .

*Your people will be my people
and your God my God*

Ruth 1:16

*There is a friend
who sticks closer than a brother.*

Proverbs 8:24

*The pleasantness of one's friend
springs from his earnest counsel.*

Proverbs 27:9

The Kitchen Folks

It's nice to have folks over
for a snack or for a meal,
Folks who accept you as you are--
its not that big a deal.
It may be just a piece of toast
with cocoa steaming hot,
But it is eaten with delight,
in this I kid you not.

Just serve 'em in the kitchen
and an eye they will not blink,
The stove won't worry them a bit,
nor will the kitchen sink.
They'll feel at home like family--
there is love that you can't buy,
For folks like these are hard to find
e'en though you try and try.

The chatting and the laughter
causes them to just relax,
What better way to spend your days
and live life to the max.
I like the kitchen kind of folks
they're true and down to earth,
And if you haven't friends
like these
you're missing lots of mirth.



The Collectors

Some folks it seems accumulate
an awful lot of stuff,
No matter what they've stashed away
they think its not enough.
Though they collect all sorts of things
and have both cash and gold,
Possessions will not love them back--
they even can grow mold.
The guy who's always looking out
for good old 'number one'
Will find his living pretty dull,
and seldom has much fun.

A person needs some good close friends
to give his life a song,
And those who will invest in them
will find they're seldom wrong.
So get yourself a lot of friends,
they'll help you keep on track,
And I can guarantee you, too,
that they will love you back.



Little Things

Some folks don't really seem impressed
with little things, you know,
They much prefer to swagger in
and kinda' make a show.
They like to talk and tell folks
of some great things they have done
And how they've really made it big,
and trophies they have won.

I know we can appreciate
the folks who come to fame
But most of us live simpler lives
and have a common name.
But when I read my Bible, friends,
I find another view—
God loves one talent folks a lot
for they're important, too.



How would we ever get along
without the folks who smile?
We need the people who give hugs
and go the second mile.
A cup of water in Christ's Name
God says He will reward;
Sometimes the little things we do
speak volumes for the Lord.

Anyone who gives a cup of cold water in my name because you belong to Christ will certainly not lose his reward. Mark 9:41

Listening

God gave us ears so we could hear
the sounds that come our way,
In fact He gave us two of them
that we could use each day;
I guess the reason we have two
is He made doubly sure
That we'd know what is going on,
not merely just endure.
So we are glad to have our ears
to hear a lot of stuff
And though these really are quite good
sometimes they're not enough.
God knew we'd need a little help
if we would play it smart
And so He made it possible
to listen with our heart.



Everyone should be quick to listen,
slow to speak and slow to become angry.
James 1:19

It's Never Enough

'It's 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 most 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 our's 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.



Dogs . . . As Friends

We've heard that dogs are man's best friend,
how does this come to be?
Is it because he listens well
to folks like you and me?
He never breaks your confidence
and tells what he has heard,
He puts his head up in your lap
and utters not a word.
He greets you when you come from work,
in this he does not fail;
He runs and jumps to show his love
and wags his furry tail.
No matter what you tell the dog
he won't betray your trust,
So if you're lonely, get a dog--
it could be, it's a must.



Friends

When I count up my blessings
I find friends will head the list;
No other treasure that I have
would be as sorely missed
As those who touch my heart with love
and care when things go wrong,
These are the special kind of folk
that give to life a song.
If you have friends you are not poor,
you really are quite blest.
Let others rush to get their gold
while you enjoy the best.



Two are better than one
... If one falls, his friend
can help him.

Ecclesiastes 4:9

Who Folks Like Best

I've found that folks don't care a lot
how many years you've spent
On planet earth, and what you've done
to pay your monthly rent.
They mostly like a person
who is honest and sincere
And leans a little closer
when you whisper in his ear.

The young have much to offer,
and the older ones do, too;
So listen well to what folks say,
it could, you know, be true.
So gather friends, both young and old,
and don't from them depart.
It may be those you like the best
are people with a heart.



The Caring Ones

Don't you love the folks who just stop by
to check on how you are?
They don't worry if you've dusted
or if house is up to par.
They still love you if dishes
are piled high in kitchen sink,
They simply stop to check and see
if you are in the pink.

I think God made some special folks
who have a heart of gold
And they know how to cheer the folks
who feel depressed or old.
I wonder if an angel sends
a friend like this along
So they can chase your blues away
and give your heart a song.



As you have opportunity,
let us do good to all people.
Galations 6:10

Old Friends

Old Friends are best you realize,
the ones you've known for years,
For they have stood the test of time
through sunshine and through tears.
It's fun to sit and reminisce
of memories in the past;
Friends really brighten up your day
When skies are overcast.

So keep in touch with folks you love,
Don't let them slip away,
They're more important than the gold
you hoard from day to day.
No matter what you own on earth
on this you can depend,
There's nothing that will bring more joy
than having a good friend.



*Those
Caring
Friends*



The good Samaritan we know
was really a great guy,
He helped a fellow in a ditch
who was about to die.
The Bible tells that other folks
who saw the wounded man
Just left him there and passed on by.
I wonder if they ran.

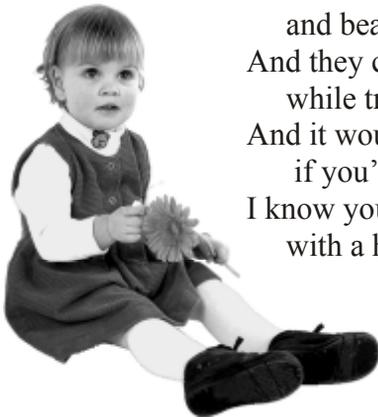
Some folks are not compassionate,
they just go on their way
Ignoring folks around them
who are struggling through the day.
But happy are the loving folks
who take the time to share
And look out for the hurting ones
and show them that they care.

It doesn't matter who we are
or how much stuff we own
We all need love and caring friends
so we are not alone.

The Contented Ones

Contented are the happy folks
who know when they've enough
And do not complicate their lives
with lots of extra stuff,
For if you have more than you need
it takes a lot of care
To keep those things all up to snuff
and causes wear and tear.

I'd like to whisper in the ear
of those whose lives are blest:
'Please spread a little love around
while feathering your nest.'
It's easy to accumulate
a bit of extra cash
And save it for a rainy day
in case the markets crash.



But there are folks who travel on
and bear a heavy load
And they could use a bit of help
while trudging down life's road.
And it would please the Lord a lot
if you'd share of your things--
I know you'd be rewarded
with a heart that hums and sings.

Carry each others
burdens, and in this
way you will fulfill
the law of Christ.

Galatians 6:2

7

The Savior

*God's Greatest Gift
Possible - His Son*



Jesus (Jehovah is salvation)

*You will be with child
and give birth to a son
and you will give Him the name Jesus
Luke 1:31*

*She will give birth to a son,
and you are to call his name Jesus,
because He will save His people
from their sins.
Matthew 1:21*

*Today salvation has come to this house
... For the Son of Man came
to seek and to save what was lost.
Luke 19:9,10*

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!



The Innkeeper

I wonder if you've thought about
the man who ran the Inn,
He may have felt uptight all day
with travelers checking in.
It must have been a busy place--
folks milling all about,
Besides those dusty travelers
were hungry and worn out.

It must have been a hassle
to find beds for everyone,
No doubt it dragged into the night
before the work was done.
The donkeys and the camels
that the travelers rode that day
Must be tied up and bedded down
and given grain and hay.

I wonder if those tired folks
found they could not relax
Because they'd traveled many miles
to pay their dreaded tax.
And so with Inn and stable full
they found a little space
Where Mary, who was great with child,
made this a holy place.

And here is where God's Son was born,
 among the cows and sheep,
And though a manger was His bed
 He still could soundly sleep.
Sometimes we feel so hassled
 with the stuff we do all day
That we don't make room for Jesus
 as we hurry on our way.

We miss a lot of blessings
 like the man who ran the Inn
And then we wonder what went wrong
 if we've no peace within.
There're no two ways about it, friend,
 if you would have the best
You've got to spend some time with God
 to find both peace and rest.



The Wise Men

Have you thought about the wise men
 who traveled from the east?
According to our Christmas cards
 each rode upon a beast.
They seem to think that camels
 were the animals they rode,
Those big ships of the desert
 sure could carry quite a load.

The Bible doesn't say a word
 of how they made the scene,
It simply said they're from the east,
 whatever that could mean.
But facts are there in black and white
 that these three men were wise
And may have been astronomers
 because they watched the skies.

So when they saw a shining star
 much brighter than the rest
That really seemed to ring a bell;
 they started on a quest
For they were looking for a King
 long prophesied of old
And they brought frankincense and myrrh
 along with lots of gold.

They must have had a lot of faith
in what the prophets said
Because they left their folks at home
and plunged right on ahead.
The other folks who saw the star
outshining all the rest
Could well have wondered what was up,
but staying home seemed best.

It's not too different now today—
wise men are seeking still
To find the Christ who sets them free
and can their lives fulfill.
While others kinda' stay at home
and Christ they do not find
Because they do not seek the Lord
with all their heart and mind.



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 angels 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



Still At the Manger

A lot of folks will celebrate
the birth of Christ the Lord,
When Christmas time rolls 'round each year
we find they are not bored.
They like the parties and the trees
with ornaments galore
And like the cards and packages
delivered at their door.

The baby Jesus looks so nice
while in His manger bed
They even stop and listen
to the things the shepherds said.
But then it seems they soon forget
what Jesus came to do
And leave Him in the manger bed
until the year is through.

They don't think about the folks He healed,
the multitudes He fed,
And they don't seem to care a lot
about the things He said.

His death by crucifixion
they don't really think about,
They much prefer the manger scene
and cheerful things, no doubt.

We all like Christmas with its joy,
goodwill, and gracious love,
But had He not both lived and died
and gone to Heaven above
We'd never have a Savior
Who can take away our sin
And if we give our heart to Him
we'll have great peace within.



... we have peace with God through
our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 5:1

*Christ Came . . .
and Will Come Again*

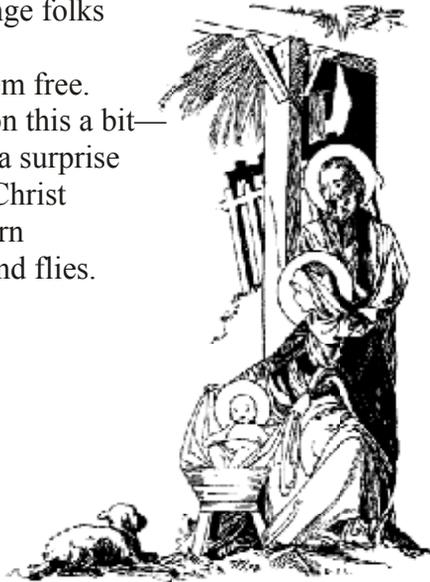
For many years the Israelites
looked forward to Christ's birth,
The prophets told long years ago
that He would come to earth.
Some may have thought they'd figured out
quite how he would arrive
But when He came they knew Him not
though He was quite alive.

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.



continued



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.

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 thousand 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.



Easter

When Easter comes around this year
I hope you'll think above
The colored eggs and Easter clothes
and think about Christ's love.
No other person God has sent
to live with folks below
Has taught them how they ought to live
and what they ought to know.

It's almost inconceivable
that those who knew Him well
Would hang Him on that cruel Cross
before the darkness fell.
'Twas only just a week before
they tried to make Him King;
Now He's forsaken by the crowd
and that changed everything.

Who ever thought one of the twelve
would stoop to turn Him in
To people who believed Him not
and really lived in sin.
But though they hung Him on a Cross
He prayed to God above
To please forgive those sinful folks,
now that was perfect love.

The tomb they buried Jesus in
could not hold Him too long—
For Sunday morning He arose
and gave the world a song.
Although it's been two thousand years
since He rose from the dead
The world has never been the same
that once was filled with dread.

So now when Easter comes this year
lift up your voice and sing
For Jesus Christ is Lord of all
and that's worth everything!

Because I live, you also will live.
John 14:19



8

Prayer

*Finding Help
in Time of Need*



Israel (he struggles with God)

God said to him.

*'Your name is Jacob,
but you will no longer be called Jacob,
your name will be Israel,'*

Genesis 35:10

*Do not be anxious about anything,
but in everything by prayer
and petition with thanksgiving,
present your request to God.*

Philippians 4:6,7

*Let us then approach the throne of grace
with confidence, so that we may
receive mercy and find grace to help us
in our time of need.*

Hebrews 4:16

My Prayer

Sometimes I get a little tired
As I go through the day,
I know I'd never make it, Lord,
If You were far away.
So let me feel my hand in Yours
And whisper in my ear
Important things I need to know
To bring me hope and cheer.
Put Your arm around my shoulder
When my way seems tough and bleak,
You know how much I need your help
When I feel tired and weak.
So bless me with Your Presence, Lord,
It fills my heart with song
And life is so much better
When You're with me all day long.
Amen



‘Call to me and
I will answer you
and tell you things
you do not know.’
Jeremiah 33:3

The Cue

Don't sit and bemoan
That you've older grown,
For what would the alternate be?
Do you realize
It is really not wise
To pity yourself with 'poor me?'

For every long day
When you feel this way
You've wasted some valuable time
To make your life glad
And improve it a tad
So you'll have more strength for the climb.

There're things you can do
If you'll just take the cue
To start every day with a prayer,
Then you'll have a Friend
And your heart He will mend,
And you'll feel His love and His care.

Look to the Lord
and his strength;
seek his face always.
Psalm 105:4



Job

I've thought about Job and what he went through;
With all of his losses he must have felt blue.
On top of all that he had boils on his skin--
This went on for weeks, but he still didn't sin.

His friends were no comfort and even his wife
Told Job to curse God and so end his life.
But Job knew his Maker. He still would not sin
And somehow this struggle he knew he would win.

His life changed around when he prayed
for his friends
And that's just the way that this true story ends.

Now this makes me wonder if this is a clue
When we're facing problems just what we should do.
Job's answer sounds simple, and yet to the point,
Pray much for your friends when your life's
out of joint.



Job 42:10

Altars

All altars aren't in churches, friend,
they're really everywhere
That someone thinks upon his God
and breathes a trusting prayer.
It's nice to go to church you know,
and worship once a week,
But God's not just in churches
where you hear the pastor speak.

God really talks to lots of folks
above their kitchen sink
Or while they're riding in their car--
more places than you think.
Don't limit God to just one place
and think that's where you pray,
No matter where on earth you are
He hears the words you say.



The Lord is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth. Psalms 145:18

The Talkers

It seems some folks don't say too much
but others love to talk
And they have fun just greeting folks
while on their daily walk.
Sometimes I wonder, could it be
the silent folks are sad
Because they really have no friends
to love and make them glad?
Some folks will talk to idols
but their voice is never heard;
Some even talk to teddy bears
that answer not a word.

Some other folks talk to themselves
and ruminate on stuff
But all these tactics people try
don't seem to be enough
To give a fella' peace of mind
and satisfy his soul
Though they have been around the world
and searched from pole to pole.
But some have learned a secret
and they know
just where to start
For Jesus is their
closest Friend
and they talk
heart to heart.

Trust in him at all times,
... pour out your hearts to
him for God is our refuge.
Psalm 62:8





Runnin' Away

When you find that life is tough and mean
and things don't go your way
I wonder if you're tempted
to pack up and run away.
You'd like to stop the world awhile
and have it let you off
Because you're tired of aches and pains
and have a hacking cough.

You're also tired of paying bills
and fixing stuff that breaks--
Your family doesn't realize
just how much grace it takes.
So when you're in a fix like this
and feel like giving up
Tell God what's in your heart and mind.
He just might fill your cup.

Cast your cares on the Lord
and he will sustain you Psalm 55:22

Speed Bumps

Sometimes our road is hard and long,
we're not on Interstate
Where one can go full speed ahead
and cruise along just great.
At times we've speed bumps on the road
which slow us down a tad;
It's tough to keep a happy heart
when things are going bad.

Some illnesses and other stuff
can throw us for a loop,
We find we're drinking mostly tea
and eating chicken soup.
It's pretty hard to sing and hum
when things like that go wrong,
It's then we need a lot of friends
to help restore our song.

The speed bumps that we hit in life
are bound to slow us up
And so we need to ask the Lord
to please refill our cup.
So if our road is bumpy
and we fear we'll fall apart
We need to pray and trust in God
and keep a tender heart.



Just for God

It seems there comes to each of us
a time when we reflect
On what we want to do in life
and what we should expect.
Some fail to come up with a goal
and kinda' drift, no doubt,
Because they've not discovered yet
what life is all about.

Still others seem to plan ahead
on how to reach the top
And though the road is sometimes tough
they do not want to stop.
And if they have the Lord along
they'll find when they get there
A lot of things will turn out right
because they love and care.

And as I think on this a bit
I'd really like to say:
Do something beautiful for God
today and every day.



The Listener

Have you ever wondered just how many prayers
ascend up to Heaven each day
From hearts that are troubled, and lonely, and sad,
and folks wanting help for today?
I've wondered how God can hear
millions of prayers
and keep every one sorted out--
No matter what language ascends to His Throne
He knows what the prayer is about.
He doesn't just answer the prayers of the great,
ignoring the prayers of the small,
His heart is so big for the whole human race
He listens to any who call.
When I try to figure how God handles this
it simply just boggles my mind,
Amid all this volume God hears every day
a wonderful thing do I find:
God's never too busy to hear when I pray
and give me an answer that's best.
To have a great God take an interest in me
sure gives to my heart peace and rest.

If I rise on the wings
of the dawn, if I settle
on the far side of the sea,
even there your hand
will guide me,
your right hand
will hold me fast.
Psalm 139:9





The news we hear is mostly bad—
it tells of wars and such;
There's not a lot to cheer the soul
if list'ning long and much.
Some folks might think that God is dead
and so He doesn't see
The things that plague us here on earth,
just kinda' lets us be.

But if you're in that sorry lot
and think God doesn't care
I'd say you better change your mind
for He is everywhere.
Though tragedy has struck our land
one thing we know for sure
Is that our God is in control
and always will endure.

Sometimes we look for answers
here and there on planet earth,
Though some of them are helpful,
some others have no worth.
I wonder if we'd pray a lot
and with our heart look up
Then God would tell us what to do
while filling up our cup.

Those Wrinkled Days

Some days are kinda' tough, you know,
when you crawl out of bed
You wonder how you'll make it through
the work that lies ahead.
You know you've been too busy
and your body is worn out
And your soul has been neglected
by this busyness, no doubt.

It's not too good to live like this.
It's not good on the heart
And if you get too busy, folks,
your friends may soon depart
For they have problems of their own
with which they try to cope
And they need some encouragement
to give them joy and hope.

So plan those wrinkled days a bit;
They need not stay like this,
If you'd take time to sing and pray
a lot of stress you'd miss.
Don't carry lots of burdens
that you well could do without
Just put your hand in God's
big Hand,
He'll take the wrinkles out.



Cast all your anxiety on him
because he cares for you. 1 Peter 5:7

Answered Prayer

If God would answer all our prayers
with a resounding 'Yes'
I doubt we'd be much happier,
but this is just a guess.
If we'd ask God for lotsa' dough,
a fancy house, and car,
Designer clothes, a bit of fame
so folks know who we are;
And then, of course, we'd want good health
(we'd want no pain or ache),
And could there be no problems, please,
we hate the stress they make.

If God gave all these things to us
I doubt we'd be content;
It might just fill our hearts with pride
because of what He sent.
I'm sure God knows what's best for us,
He'd like to hear us say:
'Lord, You know
what I need the most,
please care for me today.'
God really doesn't need advice
so He'll know what to do,
And if you'll trust to him
your heart
He'll give what's best for you.

Your father knows
what you need
before you ask
Matthew 6:8



God Speaks

God speaks in lots of different ways
to folks down here below
And yet there are some folks who say
they don't believe its so.

I've read in the Old Testament
where God spoke in a cloud
That hovered o'er Mt. Sinai—
and He spoke really loud.

Black smoke ascended from the top,
the mountain even shook;
You'll find this fact in Exodus
if you'll take time to look.

God also speaks through miracles
like Jonah and the whale,
No other man has lived three days
in under-water sail.

It seems to me when we see stars
flung far out into space
We'd know that God was speaking
when He put them all in place.

I could jot down some other things
and make a long, long list
Like birds that sing and flowers that bloom--
I'm sure you get the gist.

But then God speaks another way
if we'll take time to hear,
One has to be quite quiet
so we'll know that He is near.

He has that still, small Voice that says,
'I will give you rest.'
And that's a favorite of mine.
I kinda' like that best.



Thankful Hearts

If your heart is fixed on money
and the things that it can buy
You may not find much peace of mind
no matter how you try.
It's nice to have some ready cash
so when your bills come due
You'll have enough to pay 'em all
and save a little, too.

I'm not too sure all wealthy folk
are happy on this earth
For they have lots of work to do
just counting up their worth.
The Bible says that godliness
and a contented mind
Will make you happy in your heart
and this is quite a find.

So count the blessings that you have,
don't sit around and stew,
For God loves thankful people
and would like to hear from you.

Be joyful always,
pray continually,
give thanks
in all circumstances
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18



Take Time to Listen

If you're too rushed to listen
you may never hear God's Voice
For God is such a Gentleman
that He gives us a choice
Of whether we will worship Him
and follow Him each day
Or if we'll turn our back on Him
and not His Word obey.

If you don't read your Bible, friend,
and get your facts down straight
It could be you'll be left outside
God's great white pearly gate.
And if you have no Bible
God created lots of stuff
So you would see His handiwork
and that should be enough
To tell you that there is a God
Who is in charge of things
And He would like for you to have
the joy salvation brings.



So listen to His still, small Voice
that whispers deep within,
You'll find that He can
set you free
from all your guilt and sin.

Everyone who calls
on the name of the Lord
will be saved
Romans 10:13

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God is Good

*His Best Gifts
Are Free*



*John (Jehovah is gracious)
Matthew (gift of God)*

*The Lord is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and rich in love.*

*The Lord is good to all;
he has compassion on all that he made.*

Psalms 145:8,9

*The gift of God is eternal life
in Christ Jesus our Lord*

Romans 6:23

*Every good and perfect gift
is from above
coming down from the Father of lights.*

James 1:17

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 road
they got all focused wrong
And thought if they owned 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 us a lot of gifts
and if you're really smart
You'll thank Him for the things He gives
and love Him in your heart.



God, who richly
provides everything
for our enjoyment.
1 Timothy 6:17b



*The
Amazing
Cross*

Some years ago when traveling
we saw a special sight
That could be seen for miles around
though it was day or night.
We took a boat from Hong Kong
and headed for Macao
Which sticks out in South China Sea
and I remember now
This Portuguese Peninsula
that juts out in the Sea
Had buildings large and beautiful
for visitors to see.

But that is not the special place
I want to tell you of
The site that I'm referring to
tells folks about God's love.
A church with many steps in front
once stood atop a hill
And on its roof a cross was built
that could be seen at will.

In fact the sailors on the Sea
 could see that rugged cross
It helped them know right where they were
 so didn't suffer loss
If storms were raging round about
 they seldom lost their way
Because the cross was visible
 to them both night and day.

But one day when a tempest came
 the church came crashing down
Along with other buildings
 in that close-to-China town.
But one amazing thing that stood
 and did not suffer loss;
The front wall of the church stood firm
 which held aloft a cross
And so that cross stands firm today
 and lets the sailors know
If they are where they ought to be
 and which way they should go.

And so the Cross of Christ still stands
 and points to us the way
So we can know the love of God
 and serve Him every day.
And though the storms of life blow hard
 against our heart and soul
We know that Christ, the Son of God,
 can help us reach our goal.

Never Out of Date

It's amazing how the Bible
is never out of date,
It fits all generations
because its truth is great.
It tells us how we ought to live
and what we ought to do;
It plainly tells us why we're here
in words both plain and true.

If folks would do the things it says
obeying God's commands
'Twould almost be a heaven on earth
no matter where one stands.
If folks would love each other
and forgive 'em like they should
There'd be a lot of peace on earth,
more than you think there would.

The Bible's big on thoughtfulness,
on mercy, and on grace
And in its pages it will tell
how we should run life's race.

It helped the folks of long ago
and helps us now today,
Another thing it does for sure:
it teaches us to pray.

Don't ever think God changed the rules
since He gave them to man;
They still are there in black and white
for every tribe and clan.
I'm glad God tells us we can live
some day with Him above,
I'm also glad He tells us
of His everlasting love.

Your word is a lamp
to my feet, and a light
for my path.
Psalm 119:105



Just Passing Through

Some years ago there was a song
that I still like a lot
That says this world is not our home
(and really it is not).
It says that we're just passing through,
and if you think it through
I think you will agree with me
because, my friend, it's true.
God makes us all to live down here
a little while you know
But that is not the end of us,
there's some place else to go.

And as I watch the rushing throng
I wonder can it be
They're only living for today
and not eternity?
It seems they work and work to buy
an awful lot of stuff,
No matter how much dough they have
it never seems enough.
I kinda' think the common folk
who serve both God and man
Live happy lives because they live
according to His plan.

This world is not their final home
so while they're passing through
They help the folks who need a lift
like Jesus told them to.
It's great to have a caring heart
that loves and can forgive
And there's no doubt about it
it's the only way to live.
And then when Jesus calls their name
they will no longer roam
Because they've just been passing through
to their eternal Home.

The Lord is my shepherd. . . Surely
goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life, and I will dwell
in the house of the Lord forever.
Psalm 23:1,6





*Things
We'll
Miss*

Sometimes we get discouraged
and we like to reminisce
On what will be hereafter
and things that we will miss.
Our hearts will not be troubled,
there will be no stress or strain
For in that heavenly Place up There
we'll feel no guilt or pain.
No backaches, toothaches, headaches,
no arthritis, and no gout,
And fractures, shingles, cataracts,
are things we'll do without.

We'll not dread that day in April
when Income Tax comes due;
The daily news will be passe
that could upset us, too.
We'll not make up a shopping list
or fill the car with gas,
And we won't have the monthly bills
that seem to come en masse.

We won't have programs on T.V.
that rankle us a lot,
And junk mail won't be coming through
with bargains that are not.
And credit cards that rob the poor
but make for ready cash
Won't be in evidence up there
but left on earth as trash.

No politics will be in Heav'n
for God's the CEO.
His rules are in the Bible
that was written long ago.
Police cars or an ambulance
with sirens screaming loud
Won't rush to pick a person up
if injured in a crowd
For there will be no accidents,
no fighting and no crime
For former things have passed away
like when we lived in time.

We'll miss the problems that we have
down here where humans dwell
And we'll be glad to leave behind
some other stuff as well.
We'll not look for a hole down here
the day we're called to die
But rather we will look and find
a hole up in the sky.

a faith and knowledge resting in the hope
of eternal life, which God, who does not lie,
promised before the beginning of time. Titus 1:2



Heaven's Windowsill

I wonder if you've ever thought
you'd like to take a look
And see what's inside Heaven
as recorded in God's Book.
I like to think there's lots of stuff
recorded in His Word
That tells what's in that special Place
of which we all have heard.

It's kinda' like a windowsill
where we can gaze awhile
And when we read the things it says
it gives our heart a smile.
For when we stand on our tiptoes
to see the things inside
We'll see a lot of happy folks
all scattered far and wide.

We'll see no beggars on the streets
we understand are gold;
We won't see folks with cane or crutch
and no one will be old.
No one will have a bunch of keys
to lock their place up tight
For there will be no crime nor sin
in that land of delight.

We're told that many angels
will be hovering about
And once a person reaches There
they never will want out.
So spend a little time each day
by Heaven's windowsill
Not only will it cheer your heart,
but God your cup will fill.

He (God) will wipe every tear
from our eyes. There will be no
more death or mourning or crying
or pain for the old order of things
have passed away. Revelation 21:4

Some See God Everywhere

I know some folks do not believe
that God made all the earth
And yet the theories that they give
are really of no worth.
It kinda' seems a little strange
these folks see God no where
And yet a lot of other folks
will see Him everywhere.

They see Him in the flowers,
in butterflies, in trees,
They see Him in the sun and moon
and feel Him in the breeze.
They see Him in the flakes of snow
and in the birds that fly,
They see Him in the sunset
and the rainbow in the sky.

They see Him in the mountains
and in the rushing brook,
In fact they see God every place
where human eyes can look.
I'm glad that I believe in God
and that He cares for me
And knowing this within my heart
I'm happy as can be.



Heaven

Sometimes we get discouraged
And we feel that life is tough;
At times we have to ask you, Lord,
To give us grace enough
To handle pain and struggles
That just seem to come our way
And ask You if tomorrow
Could be better than today.

And Lord, You seem so far away
If we don't keep in touch,
We find that other things in life
Do not amount to much.
So take our hands again, dear Lord,
And overflow our cup,
We'll thank you for the strength You give
To keep us looking up.
We'll do our best to smile a bit
And even sing and hum;
We know full well You told us
That the BEST is yet to come.



Amen

We have this hope
as an anchor for the
soul, firm and secure.
Hebrews 5:19