

1

GOD MADE
THINGS
BEAUTIFUL





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



Sparrows

To think God watches sparrows, folks,
just almost blows my mind
When there are birds much fancier
and of a different kind
Like eagles, peacocks, humming birds
that have a lot of class,
Yet God knows when the sparrow falls,
He doesn't let it pass.

And this is what this says to me:
God loves both great and small,
And not a thing escapes His Eye,
He sees us one and all.
So if you're rich with lots of stuff,
or if you're down and out,
If God has time for sparrows, folks,
then no one is left out.



*Don't be afraid; you
are worth more than
many sparrows.
Luke 12:7*



Bird Songs

I've thought a lot about the birds-
when they wake up they sing;
It seems they're glad to be alive
with thanks for everything.
No doubt they take a nap at noon
and don't sing in their sleep,
So if you're listening for them then
you may not hear a peep.
But wait awhile, they'll sing again
when daylight starts to fade;
I wonder if they sing because
another day they've made.



It could be birds are pretty wise
to start the day with song;
Do you suppose they're giving thanks
that nothing bad is wrong?
And then again in evening time
before they go to sleep,
I wonder if they're thanking God,
and trust Him for their keep.
Don't under-estimate the birds
and think they are not smart,
For somewhere hidden deep inside
they have a singing heart.



*they will sing before
the Lord. Psalm 96:13*

Creation

I've read in God's Book when He created man
 It took but a week to complete all His plan;
And though some may think it took thousands of years
 To make everything, yet to me it appears
That God knew His business and worked very fast
 And made things of beauty, and made them to last.

The reason I think this was done in six days
 He had it all planned ere He started first phase.
It wouldn't make sense to have flowers and trees
 With blossoms and fruit, and with honey from bees,
All laying around, and just going to waste
 With none to enjoy and with no one to taste.

And so He created all things everywhere
 And put them together so each one could share
The love of each other, have plenty to eat
 And get along well with whatever they'd meet.
Yes, God in six days made the earth at it's best
 And used the next day for enjoyment and rest.



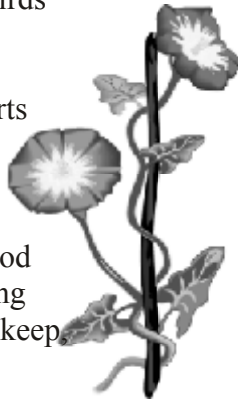
Bird Brain



If someone calls you "bird brain"
you should worry not a whit,
This spring I watched a pair of birds
bring grasses bit by bit,
And somehow built a rounded nest
to raise a family in,
And knew that eggs laid in that nest
must be kept warm within.

It didn't take too many days
'fore little birds were born
And mama bird knew what to do
so they'd not feel forlorn.
She'd keep those fuzzy little birds
well fed with worms and stuff,
She knew just what she oughta' do
to keep them full enough.
And she knows when the time is right
to make them leave the nest.
It must be God who made the birds
so they'll do what is best.

I wish we folks with all the smarts
would do as well as they--
And have a home and family
and with our children play;
And feed them good nutritious food
and teach them right from wrong
And show them how to earn their keep
and give to them a song.



Are You Too Busy To Enjoy?

Are you too busy to enjoy
the beauty God has made?
Do you take time to rest a bit
And sit down in the shade?
Do you take time to sit and watch
the breakers on the shore?
There's more to life than daily grind--
there's love and so much more.

So don't just sit and watch TV
and let life pass you by,
You can improve your days and hours
if you'll give it a try.
Enjoy the birds, the setting sun,
the flowers of blue and pink,
There's beauty well within your reach
more than you'd ever think.



And take the time to feed your soul,
God's Book has good advice;
And if you live by what it says
your life will turn out nice.

*Put your hope in God
who richly provides us with
everything for our enjoyment.
1 Timothy 6:17*

Today I Heard A Joyful Sound

Although the grass is turning brown
and it is getting dry,
Today I heard a joyful sound
up somewhere kinda' high.
It was a bird with cheerful voice
that made me think a bit;
How much we'd miss had God not made
some voices that would fit
The creatures that He made down here
with their distinctive sound--
How awfully quiet it would be
if they were not around.

If lions didn't have a roar,
or cats had no meow,
Or dogs could not give out a bark,
no mooing from a cow;
No cricket sounds on humid nights,
no growling of the bears,
No birds that sing their pretty songs,
no sound from dens or lairs.
I tell you, folks, we'd miss a lot
if none of them had voice
And God had made them with
no sounds,
you know, He had a choice.

Some folks down here are pretty smart
and do some fancy stuff,
But they cannot compare with God
who makes things up to snuff.



*Flowers . . .
God's Special Touch*

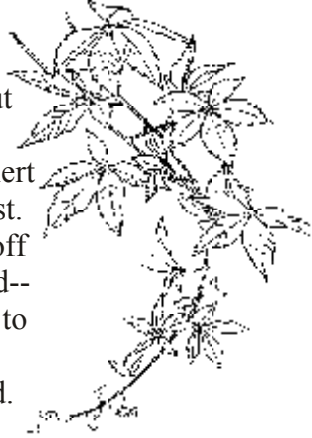
God could have made all flow'rs the same;
He had a choice, you know,
But He's not much on cloning things
and then just let them go.
He has an eye for beauty
so they're different as can be,
No matter where you live on earth
they're there for all to see.

To some God added perfume
and He gave them colors rare,
And some are big and some are small,
for He made them with care.
It seems to me when God made flow'rs
He gave His special Touch
So when we give them to a friend
it says we love them much.



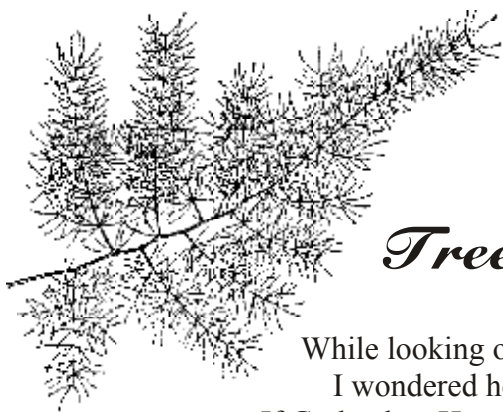
What Do The Robins Think About?

What do the robins think about
while sitting on a nest?
In daytime hours they're so alert
and seem to look their best.
You never see them dozing off
as if they're tired or bored--
E'en though they've worked to
build a home--
the best they could afford.



But resting up for several weeks
should make them feel quite bright
So when the little birds appear
they've strength to treat them right.
Their little brains may plot and plan
of where they'll find their food,
For baby birds like worms, you know,
that taste so yummy good.

I'm not just sure what time in life
they'll teach their young to sing,
But Mama Bird will care for that--
she doesn't miss a thing.
I'm sure she doesn't realize
how people love her song;
If she kept still at dawn and dusk
we'd wonder what went wrong.



Trees

While looking out the window, folks,
I wondered how 'twould be
If God, when He created things,
had never made a tree.
Where would the birds all build their nests,
and what would monkeys climb?
And where would vultures watch for food,
and rest if they had time?

We ne'er could sit beneath a tree
and revel in it's shade,
Nor could the kids climb up and see
a tree house they had made.
There'd be no wood to build a house,
no wood for cane or crutch,
We'd have no walnuts or pecans
that we enjoy so much.

And how much beauty we would miss
were there no trees at all,
We would not see green leaves in spring,
nor colored ones in fall.
There'd not be blossoms and their buds
that look so fresh and bright--
So thank the Lord that He made trees
before you sleep tonight.



Putting Today On "Hold"

Today is such a pretty day;
the temperature is right,
The sky is almost cloudless
and the breeze is very light;
I'd like to push a button
that would put the day on hold,
But if I'd do a trick like that
the leaves won't turn to gold.

So I'll enjoy the sunny days
each time they come along,
And even when the wind blows cold
I'll lift my heart in song.
We need the falling leaves and snow
to give the ground a rest
Then flow'rs can come up in the spring
so earth will look well dressed.

*This is the day the Lord
has made; let us rejoice and
be glad in it. Psalm 118:24*

What Is It, Mom?

Our weather has been awfully hot
and also extra dry,
We give the birds both food and drink
so they won't up and die.

I've thought about the little birds
who've not lived through a rain--
When drops of water finally come,
does mother bird explain?

The little birds may be afraid
when things fall from the sky
And they may get quite worried
till they know the reason why.

But mother bird is pretty sharp,
explaining everything,
And so the birds learn how to cope
and even how to sing.



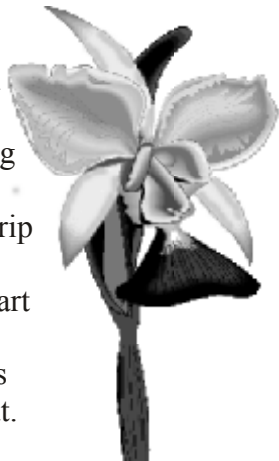
The Smart Ones



Now some folks think they're awfully smart
and know a lot of stuff,
They quote from well known sources,
and if that is not enough
They use big words to show the world
how very wise they are;
They dress in fancy tailored clothes
and drive a high priced car.

Now, if you feel you are out-classed
and get to feeling blue,
Just think how, when they take a trip,
they need directions, too.
I wonder how those flying geese
that yearly travel south
Can make that trip without a hitch
and have no word of mouth
To tell them when they ought to leave,
or where they ought to go,
They haven't any maps or signs
that say they're high or low.

It seems to me folks should not brag
about how smart they are--
Those flying geese can make their trip
without a map or car.
So folks who think they're extra smart
and have a lot of clout
Should realize there are some things
they don't know much about.



Take Time To Smell The Roses

Take time to smell the roses, friend,
You never know when life will end.

Don't be so busy every day
That you've no time to sing or pray.

There's more to life than work and cash,
You may lose things you've tried to stash.

Take time to hum and sing a tune
For life is over all too soon.

Enjoy your kids, your friends, the flowers--
What better way to spend your hours?

It's only once you'll go this way
So save some time to laugh and play.



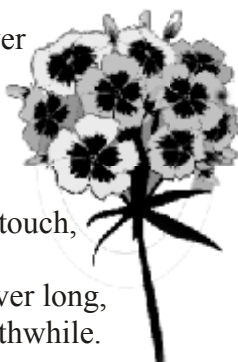
*Flowers appear on the
earth; the season for
singing has come.
Song of Songs 2:12*

*Isn't It Nice
To Hear a Song,
To Smell a Flower*

Isn't it nice to hear a song
we've not heard for a while?
It brings back memories of the past
and causes us to smile.

It's also nice to feel a breeze
blow lightly on our face,
It helps to brush life's cares away
and smiles will these replace.

It's nice to stop and smell a flower
that's robed in shades of blue,
It truly shows the handiwork
God made for me and you.



A kiss, a hug, a laugh, a touch,
and even just a smile
Can brighten days however long,
and make our life worthwhile.

It's nice to have these little breaks
to help us through each day;
God must have known we'd need those things
so planned it just that way.

2

DO SOMETHING
BEAUTIFUL
FOR GOD





*Carry each others burdens,
and in that way you fulfill
the law of Christ* Galations 6:2



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
before you pass away.

*Whoever receives one of
these little children in my
name receives me. Mark 9:37*



Smile A Lot

Smile a lot, friends, smile a lot—
It makes folks wonder what you've got
That makes you laugh and smile and grin
As if you've something deep within
That's kinda' secret from the rest
And makes you look like you are blessed.
You need not have a lot of clout
To show what life is all about.
If you have joy it's gonna' show
So if you have it, let it glow.
A lot of folks could use a smile
And they are never out of style.
So spread your joy and just relax
Then you can live life to the max.



*When I smiled at them, they scarcely
believed it; the light of my face was
precious to them. Job 29:24*

Only One



I know that I am only one,
I can't do everything
But if I keep a cheerful heart
and kinda' hum and sing
It might get spread around a bit
and other folks might see
That it's not fun to live depressed
so sorta' copy me.

I know that folks can always find
a drummer with a beat
And if the drummer's beat is good
it could be pretty neat
To follow one who knows the score
and won't lead you astray
So you'll be happy in your heart
and smile from day to day.

It's pretty nice to be the one
who spreads some cheer around
For folks are always listening
to hear a joyful sound.
It doesn't take a lot of dough
to hum and sing and smile
And make folks glad you crossed their path
and talked with them awhile.



Love is the greatest force on earth,
the Bible tells us so;
If folks don't have it in their heart
it's really gonna' show.
The ones who harbor bitterness
and hatred in their heart
Will never live life to the full,
which isn't very smart.

Love has a language all it's own,
it's good just anywhere
For folks can understand a smile
no matter here or there.
The Chinese smile, the Russians smile,
the Indians do, too,
The Eskimos will smile the same
as folks in Timbuktu.

So if you find you have no smile
you better check it out
And find out what the trouble is
and how it came about.
You don't need words to show your love,
but folks, you oughts' smile
For it's the language of the heart
and makes your life worthwhile.

*And now these three remain: faith, hope
and love. But the greatest of these is love.
1 Corinthians 13:13*



The Encourager

If you don't have much for talent
 (At least that's what you think),
Your doctor may confirm it
 if you've gone to see a shrink.
You cannot paint, you cannot draw,
 Nor can you give a speech,
And writing things is not for you,
 you certainly can't teach.
It seems that when you first arrived
 on good old planet earth,
No talents were passed out that day,
 at least no ones of worth.

And so you kind of lean 'way back
 and watch the other folk
Who seem to do so many things
 while you are tired and broke.
But really, none are born this way
 who cannot do a thing;
There're lots of folk like you and me
 who cannot preach or sing.
But there's one thing we all can do
 and do it every day,
We can encourage other folks
 by the kind words we say.

Today I'll Pray

I hope you take the time each day
To bow your head and softly pray
And tell the Lord what's in your heart
And how you want to do your part
To help someone along life's way
And make them feel they're loved today.

In all our busyness and toil
It's far too easy to let spoil
The close relationships we've had
With folks whose hearts are hurting bad.
Today I will take time to pray
And then, Lord help me on my way
When I will try to bring some cheer
And dry another's falling tear.



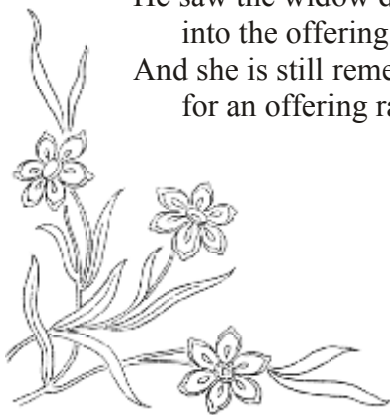
But encourage one another daily
Hebrews 3:13

The Healing Touch

Jesus healed a lot of people
when He walked down here on earth,
He didn't seem to care too much
about their earthly worth.
He preached to many thousands,
and the multitudes He fed,
And many were converted
when they heard the words He said.

But have you noticed what He did
and what was His technique?
He had a lot of feeling
for the sick folks and the weak.
He'd stop and touch a blind man's eyes,
He even raised the dead
And he also cured ten lepers
who lived in fear and dread.

He saw the widow drop her mite
into the offering plate
And she is still remembered
for an offering rated 'great.'

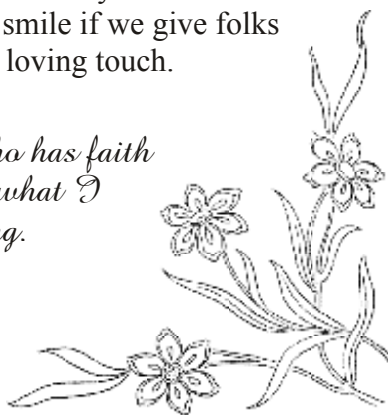


He loved the little kids a lot,
of course they loved Him, too,
And when folks love each other
they know just what to do.

Although Christ preached to multitudes
we notice that He spent
Some time with individuals
most everywhere He went.
He didn't wave a magic wand
and heal just everyone
He much preferred to touch the sick
and do it one by one.

I know there are evangelists
who preach with vim and zest
And they will reap a great reward
with preaching at it's best.
But lots of us are lesser folks
who love folks very much
And God will smile if we give folks
a heart-felt loving touch.

*. . . anyone who has faith
in me will do what I
have been doing.
John 14:12*



You Can Help

There's life beyond your windows, friend,
Don't let your world be small,
If things are bad and you're shut in
God hears you when you call.

If you can't travel 'round the globe
And see the needs out there,
There is a way to help those folks
By giving, and through prayer.

We may not speak with silver tongues,
We may not come to fame;
But we can help to heal life's hurts
By prayer in Jesus' Name



Set Free

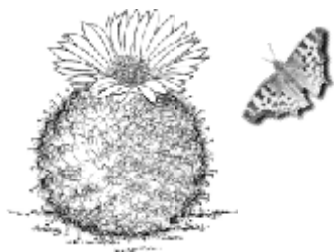
I had a thought the other day,
'twas kinda' new to me,
I realized that when you sing
it kinda' sets you free.

The problems that you're dealing with
will not seem quite so bad,
For if a song is in your heart
it lifts your load a tad.

It's hard to harbor hateful thoughts
if love is in your heart,
And it will keep your language sweet
if you'll just play it smart.

I've never seen how unkind words
expressed in fits of rage
Can mend a deed that's gone awry--
it won't turn back the page.

Forgiveness is the only way
to have your song restored,
So get your heart in tune again
and sing unto the Lord.

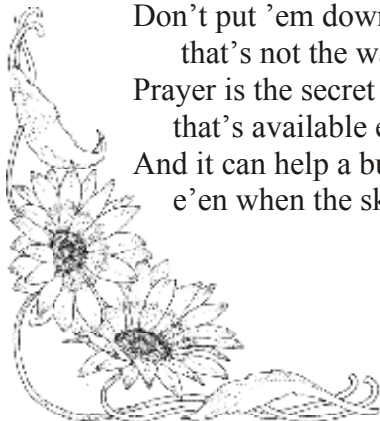


The Secret Weapon

Some folks find life is pretty tough
as they go through the day,
Sometimes they're disagreeable
in things they do and say.
They grumble and complain a lot,
they seldom have a song,
At times they're kinda' hard to love
when they come on too strong.

But there are ways to handle folks
who sometimes lose control,
It could be it's a cry for help
and have a hurting soul.
So put your heart on 'listen'
and with your stethoscope
You may hear sounds that tell you
they are trying hard to cope.

So don't give up on folks like this,
they need some help, you know,
Don't put 'em down or seek revenge—
that's not the way to go.
Prayer is the secret weapon
that's available each day
And it can help a burdened heart
e'en when the skies are gray.



The Climbers

It's not so much what happens, friend,
As what you do with it,
For if your life is in God's Hands
He'll process every bit.
He will not let unwanted stuff
Control your heart and mind,
And when things seem unfriendly here
He's sure to help you find

Peace can be yours, and help you cope
No matter what your lot
If you will put your faith in Him
And give Him all you've got.
It's not the things you stash away
And hoard from year to year
That makes you happy in your heart
And fills your life with cheer.

The givers are more happy
Than the takers every time;
No doubt these folks discovered
That this makes their spirits climb.



Love Is Stronger Than Cement

It was little things that counted much
Between a Mom and Dad,
Plus courtesies that meant a lot
With all the kids they had.
Some grown-ups seem to just forget
That they were once a child,
And praise made better acting kids
Than those who just ran wild.

A happy smile, a gentle hug,
Or just a loving kiss,
Is something that each child should have
And never, never miss.
For love is stronger than cement
Or any kind of glue,
And if you treat your children right
Their love returns to you.



Go Hands-On

We are God's hands and feet, you know,
there is no other way
For some to know who Jesus is
and what He has to say.
It's great to have folks write a check
for missions and the rest
But I have a suggestion
how God might like it best:

Have you thought of volunteering
for a couple months or so?
It might enlarge your vision
if you'd pack your bags and go.
To do some hands-on work for God
could set your soul on fire,
You don't have to be a genius
to give love and to inspire.

So keep on writing out your checks
just like you always do
But put your hands and feet to work
like Jesus wants you to.
You'd find that God would
fill your cup,
'twould even overflow,
And you would bless a lot folks—
more than you'll ever know.





Just Friends

The good Samaritan we know
 was really a nice 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.



Heart Fuel

Love's the Hallmark of the Christian,
it's the fuel of the heart
And folks who fail to live with love
may find life falls apart.
It seems the happy folks on earth
will laugh and smile a lot
For if there's sunshine in the heart
folks may know that you've got
A bit of Heaven in your heart
that makes you hum and sing
For if your heart is right with God
it changes everything.
A lot of folks search far and wide
and buy a lot of stuff
To try to fill their empty heart
but that is not enough
To fuel up their heart with joy
and love that overflows
So folks are glad when they pass by
because, you know, it shows.

Empty Hearts

If your heart seems cold and empty
there's something you can do
The Bible tells us lots of ways
to bring good news to you.
It says to think on happy stuff
like memories of the past
When things were going well for you
with skies not overcast.

And then you need to look ahead
and start to make a plan
Of something you would like to do
to help your fellow man.
We are God's hands and feet, you know,
and if we help folks here
We'll help to fill our empty heart
by giving hope and cheer.



Don't waste your days with bitterness
tucked deep within your soul
For if you do you'll surely find
that time will take its toll
And you will feel depressed and down
and lay awake at night
And stuff may churn inside your head
until it's broad daylight.

It's better far to sing and hum
and count your blessings, too
And be a little light for God
in things you say and do.
So many folks need lots of help
to bring them joy and cheer
So why not spread your love around
today and through the year?



3

SO SING,
MY HEART





*I will sing to the
Lord all my life*

Psalm 104:33





So Sing, My Heart

My heart will make a joyful noise
unto my God and King,
When I count up my blessings, folks,
how can I help but sing?
I'm in His care around the clock,
He doesn't doze or sleep,
And I can know within my heart
my soul He'll always keep.
So sing, my heart; give forth a song;
don't worry and don't sigh;
Remember, friend, God says you are
the apple of His Eye.

*He shielded him and cared
for him; he guarded him
as the apple of his eye.
Deuteronomy 32:10*

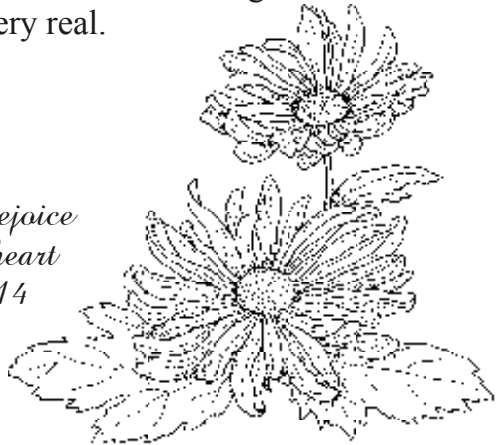
Today My Heart Will Sing

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.

*Be glad and rejoice
with all your heart
Zephaniah 3:14*



A Joyful Noise

God knows that some of us can't sing
or even hum a tune,
But if you read the Psalms a bit
you might learn something soon.

A joyful noise is what God wants
from those who cannot sing;
And if your heart is full of love
it's worth most everything.

So praise the Lord with thankful heart
wherever you may go;
He'd like to hear your joyful noise
and keep in touch, you know.

*Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth,
worship the Lord with gladness;
Psalm 100:1*



Try Humming

If you can't sing, then hum a tune
and give your mind a break;
I think you'd feel much better, friend,
it could depresssion shake.
It does no good to sit and moan
about how bad you feel;
Complaining never helps a bit
and won't your spirit heal.
Some people simply have a knack
of learning how to cope:
They think good thoughts and read good books
that bring them joy and hope.

So if you're feeling mighty low
and want to quit right now,
Try reading in Philippians
for it will tell you how
To get your mind off mundane things
and think on better stuff
That's pure, and honest, just, and true,
these things are quite enough
To chase away depressing thoughts
and make you better soon--
So if you aren't a soloist
just hum a merry tune.

Philippians 4:4-9



Look Up

God has a special blessing
for the folks who will look up,
For He's a God of happiness
and wants to fill your cup.

But there are some who say to God,
"I'll just do things my way"
And they may find that life is tough
as they walk day by day.

Our God is wiser than we are
and knows what is ahead,
And if we put our hand in His
tomorrow holds no dread.

*Let us fix our eyes
on Jesus, the author
and perfecter of our
faith Hebrews 12:2*

*(Jesus), Rose of Sharon
Song of Songs 2:1*



Without You, Lord

Without You, Lord, I'd be afraid,
For life is sometimes tough;
To pick the path that's best for me
I'm just not smart enough.

So many voices, endless roads,
Are mine to pick and choose--
I need my hand in Your big Hand
Or else my way I'll lose.

It's nice when evening shadows fall
To know Your watchful eye
Will see me through the long night hours
As on my bed I lie.

And when I wake and greet the day
I know You'll still be there
To help me out through thick or thin
Because You really care.

*When I awake, I am
still with you.*

Psalm 139:18



The Counters

Now folks, count your blessings
 instead of your dough,
Your blessings are greater
 than you'll ever know.

Our God has created
 some super-nice things
And when we are grateful
 our heart really sings.

The flowers, the mountains,
 the birds, and the streams
Give beauty and pleasure
 beyond all our dreams.

Our children are truly
 God's own special gift,
For when we need cheering
 they give us a lift.



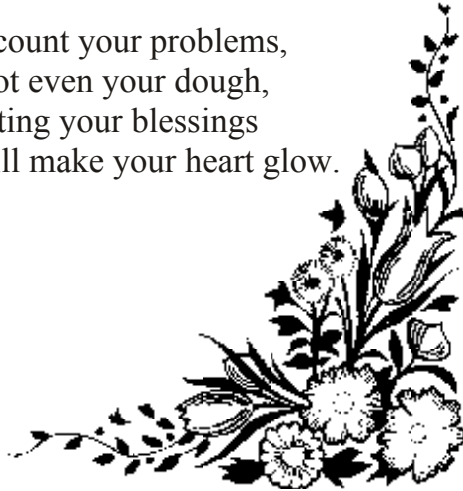
God could have made earth
very barren and bleak,
And could have made man
really selfish and weak,

But He cared a lot
what He put on this earth;
All things that He made
were of beauty and worth.

So don't let your heart
get too carried away--
Your cash and possessions
are not here to stay.

So count all your blessings,
you'll find you've enough
To keep your heart humming
when living is tough.

So don't count your problems,
not even your dough,
But counting your blessings
will make your heart glow.

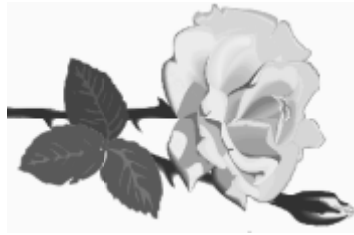


Envy Not

Don't envy the man who has gold in his jeans.
For all of his wealth it just probably means
That he has more problems than you'll ever know
With more house to paint and more lawn to mow;
More cars to wax, and more gadgets to buy,
More things to insure and to keep high and dry.

More thieves and more con men are stalking his path--
Just lying in wait to steal what he hath.
His taxes are higher, his duties increase,
With all of his trappings it's hard to find peace.
So if you have little, don't fret, and don't stew--
You've multiple blessings that God's given you.

Relax and enjoy all the things that you own,
With family and friends you are never alone.
With food and with shelter and clothing to wear
And God's tender guidance, you've never a care.
You are blest beyond measure, your cup runneth o'er.
If love rules your life, who could ask any more?



*(Love) does not envy, it does not boast,
it is not proud. 2 Corinthians 13:8*

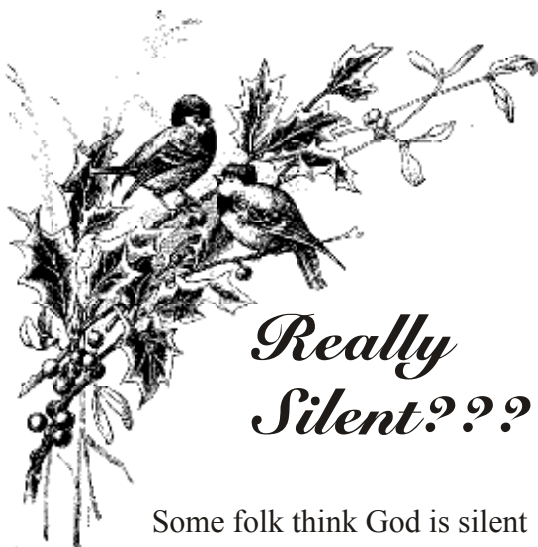
Today Is All You've Got

I wonder if you realize when you get up each day
That it's a new beginning, so don't fritter it away.
Yesterday is history now, today is all you've got
So if you'll kinda' think on it, you'll give it
your best shot.

Tomorrow is a different day not yet come into view
So leave the future in God's hands, He has good
news for you.
Though we don't know what lies ahead of either
good or ill,
God wants us to live for today so He our cup can fill.

So if we have a joyful heart and each day do our best
We'll find life more exciting and even feel more blest.
Don't hassle things of yesterday that are already past
But make each day a glorious day with memories
that will last.





Really Silent???

Some folk think God is silent
and so does not exist,
They think they've never seen Him
so they took Him off their list.

It seems they do not realize
that everyday they see
The beauty He's created just
wherever they might be.

God also works behind the scenes
and holds the stars in place;
He keeps the flowers growing
while we whirl around in space.

Though some folk think there is no God
and things just came to be,
There is no place where God is not
if you have eyes to see.

*The Lord is near to all who call
upon him, to all who call upon him
in truth. Psalm 145:18*

You're On The Winning Team

You may not be the pitcher
or the fella' on first base,
You may not be the catcher
with a shield upon your face,
It just may be you seldom make
a home run for the team
When cheering crowds stand up and clap
and shout or even scream.

Though you may never find yourself
among the baseball greats
If you have helped your team to win
that's really what it takes.
I've thought about it quite a bit
how most of us on earth
Will never get our name in print
no matter what we're worth.

But there are more important things
if you know what I mean--
If you have Jesus in your heart
you're on the winning team.





Still Counting

You folks who've lived a long, long time,
how do you count your years--
By all the blessings that you've had
or by your scars and tears?
We've all had lumps and bumps in life,
but if we're kinda' smart
We will not dwell on these too much
nor hide them in our heart.

A merry heart, the Bible says,
can help to heal our ills,
So don't give worry more than due
on problems and on bills.
It's really quite a miracle
that people live so long,
So count the blessings that you have
and fill your life with song.

I Really Don't Mind Rainy Days

I really don't mind rainy days--
they also have their charm;
It's kinda' nice to just stay put
curled up with book in arm.

The rain will wash the dust from trees
and help the flowers grow,
And make the world look clean and fresh,
and that is nice, you know.

I also like to watch the wind
make branches swing and sway
Like they are painting clouds up there
for rain another day.

If I go out in wind and rain
and get all dripping wet
It feels so good to get back home
for it's the best place yet.

A cup of chocolate steaming hot
sounds awfully good to me,
So I'll take rain, or wind, or sun--
enjoying what will be.





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 happy heart makes the face cheerful
Proverbs 15:13

It's Better By Far To Live and Love

Some folks are happy as can be
without a lot of stuff,
They seem to know within their heart
when they have quite enough.
A person really doesn't need
those things that would impress;
It's better far to live with love
and not from that digress.

Who cares if you have bars of gold
all buried in your yard
That you've saved up from time on end
if times get really hard?
It just may be your time on earth
is later than you think--
So why not just enjoy yourself
while you're still in the pink?

Some folks get all strung out these days
on how to get more dough,
They hope to do impressive things
like jet-set folks, you know.
I'm sure the wealthy and the proud
have problems we don't see;
It could be in their deepest heart
they envy you and me.



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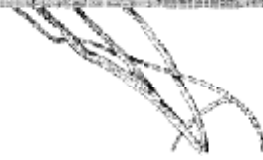
LIVING AT
ITS BEST





*I have come that they
may have life, and have
it to the full.*

John 10:10



Living At Its Best

Are you living like a gypsy
 and it's hard to settle down,
You find you move from place to place
 to seek a better town?
There're quite a few to choose from--
 some are large and some are small,
And though you look the country through
 your hometown beats them all.
It may not have a lot of class,
 pizazz, and other stuff,
But if the folks have lotsa' love
 that just may be enough
To pull your heartstrings kinda' hard
 and make you want to stay--
What better place to raise your kids
 and live from day to day
Among the folks who know you well,
 and go the second mile;
There's nothing else quite like it
 where you live from smile to smile.



Making A House A Home

It's not the building you live in
that makes a house a home,
For it takes more than walls and roofs
and cushions made of foam--
And furniture that reeks of class
and polished to a T
E'en though it cost a million bucks
with lifetime guarantee.
Yes, you may have expensive things
and luxuries galore,
But this won't make a house a home
there's really so much more.

A home is where the family lives
and share their cares and joys,
And happy are the Moms and Dads
who love their girls and boys;
Where each one is important
and can share and do their part,
And this is what a home can be
if God lives in each heart.





My Best Friend

I like you just the way you are,
you need not change a thing
To make me feel that you're first class.
You help my heart to sing.

I like the way that we can talk
and share the way we feel;
It's good to know we'll not be judged
and we can be for real.

It's hard to find a friend like you.
Some folks are so obsessed
With money and the things they own,
and if they look well-dressed.

I like you, for you are yourself,
you help when I'm behind,
Your thoughtfulness and gentleness
is really quite a find.

When I count things that I hold dear,
and really my heart cheers,
The best is that I've been his bride
for fifty and eight years.

My Castle

My home is my castle you plainly can see
For inside its walls are expressions of me;
The colors I like, the pictures I choose,
The things that I cook--be it meat loaf or stews.

The smells from the oven distinctly are mine,
(I may have made brownies if I had the time).
The chairs and the tables, the lamps, the TV,
I've chosen because they're attractive to me.

But when I've surveyed my collection of stuff
I know in my heart it's not really enough
Unless there is family and grandkids around
To share what we have, making pleasures abound.

Thank God for my castle: I truly am blest --
For love of a family is life at its best!



The Rich Ones

Do you keep the home fires burning?
There's no other place, you know,
That's quite the same as folks at home
where all the kids can go.

In our confused and rushing world
home is the very best
Where one can feel relaxed and loved
and get a bit of rest.

No matter how much gold we have
or how much fame or pride,
We're mighty poor if we've no home
with family by our side.

So if you have a Mom and Dad
and happy siblings, too,
You are the richest folks on earth
though you're not in Who's Who.

So count your blessings one by one
and do it every day,
For love is greater than the gold
that you have stashed away.



Mothers

No one will love you like your Mom--
to her you're Number One,
And she will always love you much
no matter what you've done.

Somehow she sees the best in you
and holds you in her heart,
No matter where you are on earth,
if near or far apart.

She's always looking out for you
and wants for you life's best;
She's given you the breath of life
and hopes you'll do the rest.

I'm sure God loves His children, too,
and keeps them in his care,
And if we love Him in our heart
we'll find Him everywhere.



Kids

I like the word "kids." It's informal and neat,
And if you ask me, it's a word hard to beat.

I know the word "children" may be more correct
To those who love grammar and seldom reflect.

But it lacks a closeness that comes from the heart,
Though children are charming and really quite smart.

But kids will play baseball out in the back yard
And want Dad to watch as they bat the ball hard.

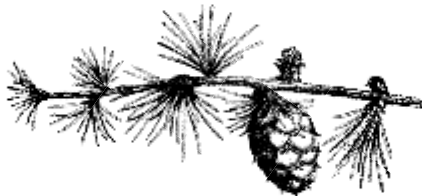
The boys and their sisters all know how to run,
It seems the kids know how to really have fun.

The old-fashioned slingshot is used quite a bit;
An unlucky bird is occasionally hit.

The trees are a challenge for each kid to climb
And they help each other most all of the time.

And though our own kids are grown up and away
And have their own children, I'd still like to say

That when they come home we are still Mom and Dad,
And they're still our kids, and we're awfully glad.



Little Fry

I think that kids are pretty smart,
They're sharp as they can be.
They know when they are really liked;
they're pretty fast to see
Right through a grown-ups plans or schemes
and know when they are wrong;
If you're a phony they can tell.
It will not take them long.
There's something else I like about
the small fry that we meet:
They always have a zest for life
no matter on what street.
Forgiveness from these little folk
is yours upon request;
They'll give you love at anytime.
It's what they do the best.
So share your love with little kids
and give them a fair shake,
You'll be surprised how you'll enjoy
the new friends that you make.



Children Need A Lot of Love

All children need a lot of love
 when they are small and young,
They have an awfully lot to learn
 when life has just begun.
Some parents think their kids should know
 what took them years to learn,
How they should be polite and kind,
 and always wait their turn.

When parents use bad judgment
 and they make their own mistakes,
They hope they can pull out of it,
 no matter what it takes.
They don't expect a whipping
 or an open reprimand,
They hope that friends will love them,
 and no answer will demand.

So when the kids make small mistakes
 that don't amount to much,
Instead of scolding and a threat
 give them a loving touch.
Sometimes when kids are difficult,
 and of them you can't boast,
May be the very time, my friend,
 they need your love the most.



The Loving Touch

I think I may have figured out
why Christ loved children so,
For little folks have lots of love
to give away, you know.

They aren't too busy with their toys
to put them down awhile,
And if you give them half a chance
they'll snuggle up and smile.

Their love can soften hardened hearts
and drive the blues away,
As they aren't filled with hate and pride,
for God made them that way.

I wish we folks who've older grown
still had their simple trust
And took more time to laugh and sing
and much less time to dust.

It seems that kids know how to live
and worry not too much
If Mom and Dad will take the time
to give their loving touch.

*And whoever welcomes a child
like this in my name, welcomes me.
Matthew 18:5*



Don't Despair Of A Child

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.

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

Brighten Someone's Day

If you talk about your problems
When you're chatting with your friends,
They may be looking for the time
Your conversation ends.
They've troubles of their own, you know,
And sometimes life is tough,
And if they're working hard to cope
They've problems quite enough.
So don't unload on those you love,
They'll hate to see you come
If all the things you say to them
Will leave them down and glum.
It's better far to tell your friends
How blest you are today,
And greet them with a smile and hug
And brighten up their day.



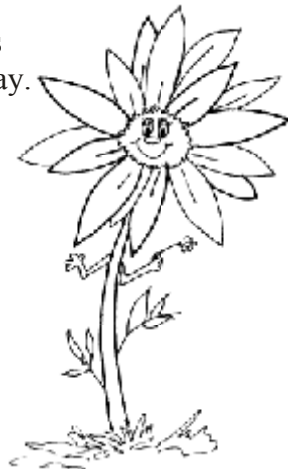
A Smile

If you get angry or upset
‘cause someone did you wrong,
Don't let 'em get your goat, my friend,
and take away your song.

Don't argue, pout, or pitch a fit,
or you may lose a friend,
And it's not worth the stress you get
to hate folks to the end.

And never, never give someone
a large piece of your mind,
The time may come you'll need it all
if life becomes a grind.

A smile is worth a thousand words,
so use it every day,
It solves a lot of problems
no matter what folks say.



Your Cup

Now if you're in a raunchy mood
It's easy, folks, to come unglued.

But if you sing or hum a tune
Things may get better really soon.

Don't let life's struggles tie you up
For Jesus wants to fill your cup.

So get your mug down off the shelf,
This you can do all by yourself,

Then dust it off a little bit
While in your easy chair you sit.

Then if you think on happy stuff
You'll find that life is not too tough,

And once again you can look up
While Jesus comes and fills your cup.



Contentment

It's not too smart to argue
 with a friend or with a foe,
You really have a better way
 to spend your time, you know.

Some folks have their opinions
 and they feel they're always right,
And if they pull this trick on you
 just smile and be polite.

We never have too many friends,
 so treasure every one;
It's nice to have no bitterness
 when comes the setting sun.

How blest the woman, man, or child,
 who spreads his love around,
For by making others happy
 they have true contentment found.



Survive Or Thrive

Sometimes we find that life is tough,
but some know how to cope;
They seem to have a peace within
that gives them joy and hope.

And others find that life is hard
and things look pretty glum,
So they lose heart, their song is gone,
till finally they succumb.

It makes one wonder how it is
that some folks just survive
While others will keep on and on
and actually will thrive.

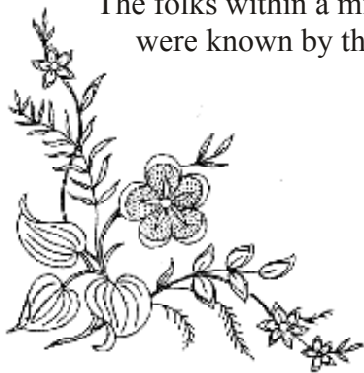
No doubt it is our attitude
and how we face our woe
That makes a world of difference
as to how our lives will go.



Then . . . And Now

I like the things we have today:
 computers, planes, and such,
Compared with what our parents had
 we're blessed with oh, so much.
You'd think with all the things we have
 all folks would happy be,
But that is not the way it is,
 and it's not hard to see.

It used to be in days gone by
 life didn't move as fast;
Folks loved their neighbors and made friends
 with friendships that would last.
They didn't sit around the 'tube'
 or play computer games,
The folks within a mile or two
 were known by their first names.



The family was important then
and child abuse was rare,
For every member of the group
was given love and care.
I know we can't turn back the clock
to kinder, simpler days
When folks knew how to handle stress
and not their voices raise.

It may be we'd be smart, my friends,
if we'd learn from the past
And try to make each day ahead
much better than the last.
It seemed those folks of long ago
knew how to hum and sing
Because they put their faith in God,
and that's worth everything.



5

WHAT'S A GUY TO DO?





*Whatever you do, work at
it with all your heart, as
working for the Lord.*

Colossians 3:23



What's A Guy To Do?

When mole hills seem like mountains, friends,
 and minor things go wrong,
Does it throw you in a tizzy
 and take away your song?
A lot of folks just fall apart
 when trials come their way,
And they forget it came to "pass,"
 it didn't come to stay.

Some things are hard to handle
 and can make a day quite rough,
You'd like to throw the towel in
 and say you've had enough.
It seems that as we older grow
 it's harder just to cope;
The things we used to handle well
 now makes us want to mope.

I wonder, what's a guy to do
 when things don't go his way?
I think the best solution is
 to bow your head and pray.
When you tell God your
 troubles, friend,
 and share with Him your heart,
You'll find that He's been listening
 before you even start.



Listen To Your Heart

You never know what you can do
Until you make a start;
There may be things you'd like to do
Found deep within your heart.
You may not have the money
Or the courage to begin,
But keep that little spark alive
That you have deep within.
Remember Grandma Moses
And just how she came to fame,
And if you listen to your heart
You, too, might do the same.
Some miracles and awesome things
Still happen every day,
So listen to your heart, my friend,
Some good may come your way.



What Are You Looking For?

If you're looking for problems
I'm sure you can find
It's not hard to spot them
and fill up your mind
With stuff that will haunt you
far into the night
And keep your heart troubled
until morning light.

If you're looking for blessings
then they are there, too,
Just waiting for someone
to claim them--like you!
Sometimes we're near-sighted
and don't see too well
The blessings around us
and which on us fell.

So set your sights higher,
don't live with a sigh,
There's lots yet to live for
so give it a try.



Simply Trusting

God really doesn't need advice,
He knows just what to do,
And if you'll let him have your heart
He'll give what's best for you.

So often when we pray to God
we ask for selfish stuff,
Or, maybe we just call on Him
when times are really tough.

I'll bet He likes it when we pray
and don't ask for a thing
But spend that time in giving thanks,
and maybe even sing.

It must please God to have some folks
who often say a prayer
And ask for not a single thing,
but trust to Him their care.



*He cares for those
who trust in him.
Nahum 1:7*

The Professional Worrier

Is to worry your profession?
Is it what you do the best?
Have you achieved your worry goal
and it leaves you depressed?

It's really not too smart to do
for life has proved to us
That many things we hassle here
don't stop because we fuss.

It's really quite a waste of time
to fume and live with stress
And spend your nights with
anxious thoughts;
you could end up a mess.

It seems you'd be much better off
if you would put your hand
In God's big Hand and let Him make
life better than you planned.



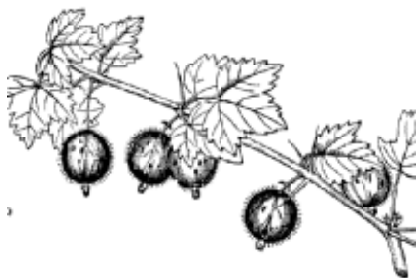
*Do not worry
about your life,
Matthew 6:25*

*(Read the verses
that follow.)*

The Stress Test

Now, have you gone to see the Doc
to have your heart checked out?
He just may order several things
he thinks you need, no doubt.
A stress test on a treadmill
may be just the very test
That he may think important
as he wants for you the best.
So step by step you walk along
and get quite out of breath,
But be assured, oh, friend of mine,
he won't walk you to death.

I kinda' had another thought
about that kind of test--
A lot of folks live treadmill lives
to keep up with the rest.
Their stress is testing them each day,
they huff and puff along,
The fun is gone they used to have,
they've also lost their song.
So if you're on a treadmill, friend,
and don't know what to do,
God has a lot of answers
that He'd like to share with you.



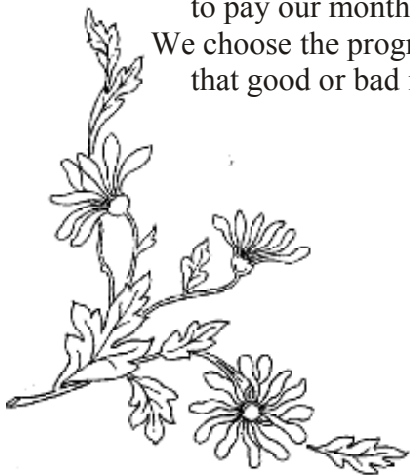
We Choose, and Choose, and Choose

It matters not where you were born
or who your parents were,
You really didn't have that choice--
of this we can be sure.

But later on you can decide
what you would like to be,
And making choices every day
come oft to you and me.

We pick and choose what we will eat
of junk or healthy food,
And we select the friends we make,
we also choose our mood.

We choose the kind of work we'll do
to pay our monthly bills,
We choose the programs we will watch
that good or bad instills.



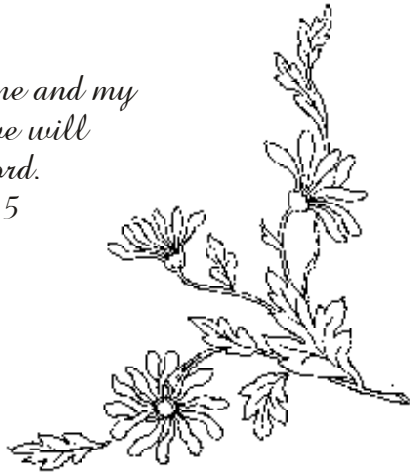
And then we choose a lifetime mate
--a most important choice,
And they can either make us sad
or cause us to rejoice.

We choose what kind of car we'll drive,
what kind of house we'll buy,
We choose the place where we will live
until we're called to die.

So life is made of choices, folks,
it's up to us to choose
What kind of life we'll have down here
and if we'll win or lose.

But if you'd have the best in life
you'll hold to God's big Hand,
He'll help you choose and feel fulfilled--
more than you could have planned.

*But as for me and my
household, we will
serve the Lord.
Joshua 24:15*



Only Today

So often folks will talk about
their future plans and dreams,
And it is good to plan ahead
and work toward them it seems.

But we should keep in mind the fact
we only have today
So we should live it to the full,
not fritter it away.

Tomorrow is not promised us,
our yesterdays have passed
And so we only have today
to do the things that last.

So make today a special day
and love, and sing, and pray,
Then when tomorrow dawns on you,
make it just like today.



Looking Nice For Those We Love

I wonder why we human folks
will get all gussied up
To go into a restaurant
where we relax and sup,

Or even to a social deal,
or shopping, it might be--
And we'll put on our dress-up clothes
for other folks to see.

I wonder if we are mixed up
for other folks don't care
If we look really up to snuff
in all the things we wear.

It seems to me we oughta' dress
right pretty every day
So we'll look nice for folks we love
and live with every day.

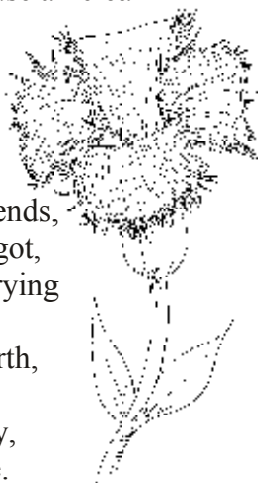


The Dusters

I wonder if you get caught up,
 or stay a bit behind;
I think I'm in the latter group
 with stuff to do, I find.
But that is really not so bad,
 I like to take the time
To sit and chat with friends a bit,
 and sometimes write a rhyme.

Now some folks get their dust cloth out
 and wipe the dust each day,
But if they get too awful neat
 they kinda' waste their day.
It's good to keep the house all clean
 and tidy up a bit,
But don't be servant
 to your house,
 you want to live in it.

So take some time to visit friends,
 be glad for things you've got,
And don't spend time in worrying
 about what you have not.
Enjoy your days upon this earth,
 you're only here a while,
So make the best of every day,
 and give the world a smile.



No Silver Spoon

No silver spoon was in my mouth
the day that I was born;
No one made an announcement,
and no one blew a horn.
Some famous folks with lots of dough,
and also lots of clout,
Would have their babe's arrival
told on TV news, no doubt.
But I had something better, folks,
than silver spoons and such,
For I was born within a home
that loved me very much.

We as a family went to church
and had a Christian home,
This taught me how I ought to live
and not complain and moan.
And what I didn't learn at home
I learned at church and school,
For things went better if we kept
that old, old Golden Rule.

I thank my God that I was born
within the U.S.A.
Though it's not perfect, it's the best
in all the world today.
So I will count my blessings, folks,
I like my family tree.
Forget about those silver spoons--
I'm happy as can be.



Th' Leanin' Side

When you get up in the morning
and th' clouds are hangin' low,
You needn't drag on through the day,
there's help for you, ya' know.

Just open up your Bible, friend,
and read some good news there,
Then bow your head, tell God your woes,
and meet with Him in prayer.

If things are going bad for you,
His arms will open wide;
He'll take your guilt and gloom away,
and prop your leanin' side.



Self Esteem

Some folk have a problem with low self-esteem;
They can't quite pull off the American dream
And feel like they're someone important and great.
Why is it they feel they are just second-rate?
They buy fashion's latest, they drive a big car,
The hotels they stay in are always five-star.
They try to be seen with the heady, rich folk,
(At all costs avoiding the common Joe Bloke).

"You must love yourself," they have read in a book
And this you can tell by a glance or a look,
For they have collected some beautiful stuff,
And yet it just seems it is never enough
To boost their esteem and make folk look their way,
Now what's going wrong for them day after day?
They've read the wrong book it is easy to see--
They'll never feel good if they love only "ME."

They've not found the secret of life at it's best
And not been successful fulfilling their quest.
They need to love others and help them along;
They'd have self-esteem, and yes, even a song.



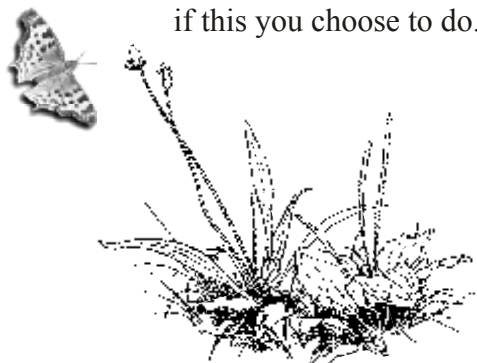
Nothing Tops Forgiveness

Are you someone who holds a grudge
deep down within your heart?
To let that gnaw inside of you
is really not too smart.

You might cook up an ulcer
or some other dread disease,
There's lots out there to get you, folks,
as easy as you please.

The grudge you hold hurts you far worse
than folks you've learned to hate,
There's nothing like forgiveness
to keep heart at proper rate.

Is spoiling life worth all that much
that you would sit and stew?
You'll miss an awful lot of fun
if this you choose to do.



Always Prepared

If life is hard and troubles come,
and clouds are ominous,
God's never, never caught off guard
and He will care for us.
He's never shocked, nor at a loss,
nor taken by surprise;
He knows just what tomorrow holds
for He is very wise.
He is prepared to take our case,
He knows just what to do,
So if you're in the doldrums, friend,
look up! He'll see you through.



If A Little Bird Tells You.



Now gossip can be vicious
 when folks pass along bad stuff,
To cope with problems every day
 can really be quite tough.
If bits of unkind things are said
 and passed from mouth to ear,
It will not make you feel too good
 to pass on things you hear.

A lot of folks will add some things
 to stories they have heard,
And if the grapevine grows and grows
 by just a spoken word
We may have hurt a struggling soul
 who tries to do his best;
And if we fail to help the man
 we'll make him more distressed.

It's better far to tell someone
 that you can plainly see
How well he does on several things,
 then name him two or three.
It never pays to criticize
 another friend or foe,
For we have defects all our own
 and hope they will not show.



Feeling Blue In The Morning?

Do you feel blue when morning breaks
and life has shades of gray?
There's one thing to remember, friend,
it need not stay that way.
If you will change your attitude,
for you've the power to choose
The way you want to feel today
and what technique you'll use.

You need to think on happy stuff
and how your life is blest;
By trusting God with all your heart
His love can do the rest.
You then can find that life is good
and from it you'll not shrink;
Instead of living with the blues
you'll find you're in the pink.



Not Always to the Swift

Some things I can no longer do
for I've slowed down a bit;
To do the things I used to do
I am no longer fit.
So now I've time to read a book,
to visit, and to pray,
What better way to spend my time
as I go through the day?

God doesn't say I have to rush
nor do I have to run;
I thank the Lord I have the strength
to still have joy and fun;
So I will do the things I can
and try to do my best,
And count the blessings that I have,
then He will do the rest.

Life isn't always to the swift,
sometimes it's to the slow;
That may include a lot of us
with no get up and go.
I really think God likes the folks
who trust to Him their care--
And whether I am fast or slow
I know He's always there.



No Need To Worry

No need to worry, friend of mine,
God still is on His Throne,
And He is watching over us
so we are not alone.

Sometimes we're shattered by the news
and things look pretty sad,
And there are folks who up and quit
because they feel so bad.

But don't despair and feel downcast,
God still is in control;
He sees all things on planet earth,
e'en every living soul.

And some day Jesus will return;
Believers then shall rise,
And folks who've made their peace with God
will meet Him in the skies



Counting What You Ain't Got

Sometimes we feel quite overwhelmed
 with all our pains and aches;
It's pretty hard to sing and hum
 with all the grace it takes.
But when we're tempted to complain
 and life seems dark and grim,
Count up the bad things you ain't got
 then life won't seem so dim.

You're not in prison for a crime
 another person did,
Your child is not strung out on drugs
 you thought he might have hid.
Your house has not been blown away,
 and no one stole your car,
And you aren't kidnapped in the woods--
 you know right where you are.

You don't have leprosy or AIDS,
 you're not flat on your back,
There're lots of bad things you
 don't have
 if you would just keep track.
Yes, there are multitudes of folks
 who are worse off than you,
So count the stuff that you ain't got;
 'twill change your point of view.



The Countdown

When folks count up their problems
and they name them one by one,
They're sure to feel discouraged
before they're half-way done.
Self-pity moves right in and asks
"What are you gonna' do
With all the problems that you have
and blessings all too few?"

Some folks will answer and respond
and say with half a groan,
"No one has problems like I have;
I feel so all alone."
If that's your choice so let it be,
you have the right to choose
If you will climb on top the heap
or if you'll sing the blues.

I know some folks who won't allow
their lives to be that way,
And give their troubles all to God
and thank Him when they pray.
God knows the needs you have,
my friend,
He's always standing by
To help the folks who trust in Him
and don't sit down and sigh.



6

AND FROM
GOD'S
FAMILY TREE





*I will be their God
and they will be my
people.*

2 Corinthians 7:16



God's Family Tree

I know the Lord loves all of us
 who travel here below,
It matters not if you're a kid,
 or in your teens, you know;
The middle aged are in His sight
 and so are blind and lame,
The rich, the poor, the common folks,
 e'en those who've come to fame.

I know He loves us all a lot,
 but wonder, could it be
That old folks have a special place
 in God's big Family Tree?
The oldsters aren't as pushed and rushed
 and dashing to and fro
As younger ones with lots to do
 and always on the go.



The older ones have time to think,
to read God's Word and pray,
They've found out what's important
and they try to live that way.
They hold beliefs they've had for years;
they know quite how to cope,
For God has put within their heart
His love, and joy, and hope.

They kinda' let the world rush by
when steps are slowed a bit,
Enjoying birds and flowers and trees
as on their porch they sit.
They've known the Lord a long, long time
and trust Him as their friend,
And know within their heart of hearts
He'll keep them to the end.

*You are a chosen people. . .
a people belonging to God
1 Peter 2:9*



Peter

I've thought of Peter stuck in jail
 with guards within his cell,
And even though his chains were on,
 he slept there very well.
The guards were also fast asleep,
 the angel saw to that,
But wakened Peter with his touch,
 or just a gentle pat,

Now that woke Peter really fast,
 he sat up with a start;
The angel whispered, "Grab your coat.
 You're going to depart."
His chains fell off. The door swung wide.
 The gate creaked open, too.
The angel left, and Peter ran.
 He knew just what to do.

He went directly to a house where
 prayers were being said,
And told them he was out of jail
 and that he wasn't dead.
I've often thought of Peter--
 how he slept within that jail,
He must have known within
 his heart
 his God would never fail.

Another thing is clear to me:
 the awesome power of prayer.
So, folks, just when we need Him most,
 our God is always there.



The Shepherd's Psalm

No other Psalm that David wrote
is like the twenty-third;
It simply covers lots of things
like none we've ever heard.

To have our pastures green and fresh,
our waters still and clean,
Our soul restored when we have failed,
and life is tough and mean;
E'en death will hold no fear for us,
for with His staff and rod
He'll guide us through death's shadow
and lead us home to God.

A table He prepares for us
when folks would do us wrong;
He makes our cup to overflow
and gives our heart a song.
To think His goodness follows us
each day we tread this sod,
And then to know we'll get to spend
eternity with God.



The shepherd, David, knew his sheep,
he knew them like a book;
Why don't you read that Psalm again
and take another look?



*Thanks
For Passing
My Way*

Thank You, Lord Jesus, for passing my way,
You make such a difference in my life each day.

So whether I'm down, or whether I'm up,
Your love still surrounds me and fills up my cup.

With You in my heart I have nothing to fear
For if trouble comes I know You are near.

With songs in my heart and a smile on my face
I find life is good whatever my case.

So I will look up for it's then that I know
That You, Lord are with me wherever I go.

*And surely I am with you always,
to the very end of the age. Matthew 28:20*

Storms

One day the disciples were out in a boat
and Jesus was there with them, too,
But He was so tired that he soon fell asleep
and a storm was beginning to brew.
The sea got so rough with the wind and the waves
these fishermen feared for their lives,
They knew they might die if the ship broke apart;
they thought of their children and wives.

Their faith was so weak and their fear was so great,
they never had been so distressed,
They finally decided to wake Jesus up
and see what He'd have to suggest.
But Jesus spoke peace to that violent sea
while fishermen stood there aghast;
They realized then that with Jesus on board
that turbulent storm would not last.

Could this be a lesson for us here today?
We need to keep Jesus on board,
No matter what happens our ship will not sink
if we will make Jesus our Lord.

Luke 8:22-25



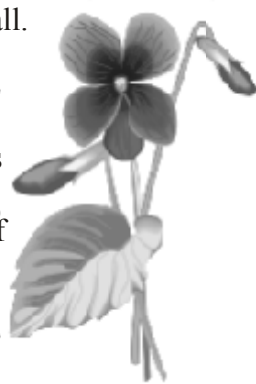
Stocks And Bonds

I wonder if you realize
that in God's Holy Book
Both stocks and bonds are mentioned there
if you'll just take a look.

It tells that Paul and Silas sat
within a prison cell
And both were put in stocks and bonds
which held them very well,
Until, of course, an earthquake came
and shook that city jail
And scared the jailer half to death
and made him sickly pale.

He saw the doors were open wide
and thought the prisoners fled,
He knew that if his boss found out
he'd probably be dead.
When he was reaching for his sword
so he could on it fall
He heard a prisoner holler out
"We're here, each one and all.

And as you know, the jailer asked
how he could know the Lord,
And so two men in stocks and bonds
and held in prison ward
Could even make their plight pay off
though things looked pretty grim
Because their faith in God
was strong
and fully trusted Him.



Acts 16:22-34

The Thankful Heart

One day when Jesus was on earth
He saw a group of ten
Who from a distance shouted out
that they were leprous men.
They asked the Lord for mercy
and to heal their leprosy,
So Jesus told them what to do,
so they'd be clean and free.

And as they hurried to the priest
as Jesus told them to,
One man discovered he was healed
and knew just what to do.
He turned around and went on back
and knelt at Jesus feet,
And thanked the Lord that he was healed
right on that busy street.
But Jesus said, "Where are the nine?
I healed all ten of you
And you are now the only one
with thankful heart and true."



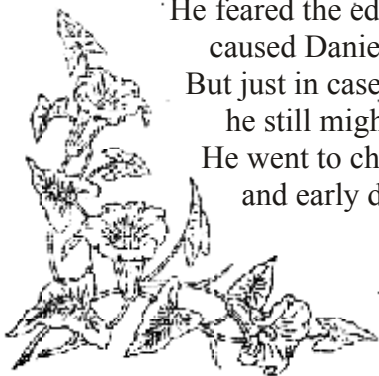
I guess today it's much the same;
not many pause to say
They're thankful for the blessings
they enjoy from day to day.
It seems they're much too busy
to give God a second thought
Until they're in a jam again
then ask Him for a lot.

Luke 17:11-19

Daniel, Saved By An Angel

I know you've heard of Daniel,
 how he prayed three times each day
Before his open window,
 for he had a lot to say.
Back then, as now, there were some folks
 who seemed afraid of prayer,
And they reported to the king
 what he was doing there.
This Daniel was an honest man
 and trusted by a king
Who made an idol for himself
 and that spoiled everything.

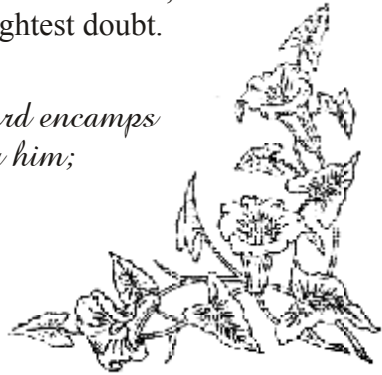
I know you know how Daniel
 was thrown in the lions den,
His enemies seemed oh, so glad,
 he'd ne'er be seen again.
The king went home, but could not sleep;
 all night he tossed in bed,
He feared the edict that he made
 caused Daniel to be dead.
But just in case there was a chance
 he still might be alive,
He went to check the lions den,
 and early did arrive.



He took the cover off the den
and called with shaking voice,
"Oh, Daniel, did that God of yours,
the One you serve by choice,
Deliver from the lion's paw
and keep you safe last night?"
And Daniel answered from below,
"Oh, king, I'm quite all right,
For God has sent His angel
so these beasts could not attack."
The king rejoiced his friend was safe,
and Daniel soon was back.

Some folks today feel they're alone
when problems come along,
And troubles have filled up the heart
where once there was a song.
Too many things have crowded in,
and then it's hard to see
The angel that God sends along
to help to set us free.
Yes, I believe in angels, friends,
I'm sure they're round about.
And often they protect us here,
I've not the slightest doubt.

*The angel of the Lord encamps
around those that fear him;
and he delivers them.
Psalm 34:7*



The Widow's Mite

We know that Jesus went to church
and taught the people there;
One day He watched the treasury
to see how people share.
Some folks who had a lot of cash
put in a large amount,
Of course, this made their coffers full
and took a while to count.

But Jesus saw a widow there
who put in just a tad,
She took two mites from her worn purse
though it was all she had.
But Jesus watched her put it in
and said to those around,
"This widow gave the most of all
of anyone I've found."

So if you're rich and give a lot
to help folks here below,
God also wants the widow's mite
from poorer folks, you know.
For those who give with love are blest
and have a song to sing,
And if you have a happy heart
it's worth most everything.

Mark 12:41-44



The Cross

I often think about the Cross
and of the words Christ spoke;
And asked God to forgive and love
that group of sinful folk.

He could have come down off that Cross
where He was hung that day,
But He would not forsake His Cause
and rather chose to stay.

It's at the Cross where people kneel
and find great peace within
For Jesus knows just how to deal
with heartaches and with sin.

I like to think the cross-piece
has a special meaning, too,
The one side points to yesterdays,
the other, future view.

And then that upright piece of wood
points upward toward the sky
Where Heaven is awaiting us
and we will no more die.

And as we kneel before that Cross
King Jesus meets us there
And gives us the assurance
that He hears our faintest prayer.



Moses

I'm quite amazed that Moses,
 who at eighty years of age,
Was called to lead God's children out
 and be on center stage.
Old Pharaoh down in Egypt land
 did not want them to go
Because he liked the work they did
 in making bricks, you know.

But after plagues of frogs and lice,
 and locusts who could chew,
Plus hail, and thunder, fire, and flies,
 and bloody rivers, too,
When even darkness filled the land
 along with other stuff,
Old Pharaoh finally let them go
 for he had quite enough.

So Moses had a job to do
 that took him forty years;
Those folks were a complaining bunch
 that shed a lot of tears.



But what surprises me a lot
is that the clothes they wore
Did not wear out those forty years--
they had no need for more.
They did not have big Nike shoes
to tread that desert land,
But what they wore for forty years
could take that desert sand.

Their ankles and their dusty feet
were never prone to swell;
When God produces miracles
He really does it well.
So Moses, that great friend of God,
was loved by Him so much
That when he died God buried him
and gave His special touch.

God keeps His Word; He cannot lie;
He's working still today;
So if you're treading desert sand
His Hand can lead the way.

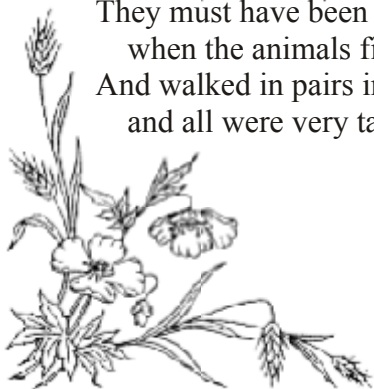


Noah's Ark

It happened many years ago
that Noah built a boat,
And God told him just what to do
so it would safely float.
It took one hundred twenty years
for Noah and his sons
To build that great big floating ship
that weighed a lot of tons.

The world was wicked at that time,
as vile as it could be;
Though Noah kept on warning folks
a flood they'd surely see,
His neighbors laughed and taunted him
and thought he flipped his lid
When they watched him year after year
and saw the things he did.

They must have been quite awestruck
when the animals first came
And walked in pairs into that boat
and all were very tame.

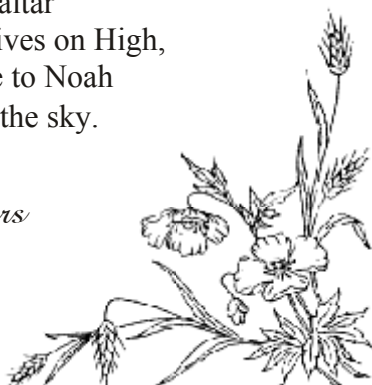


It must be God told Noah how
to store a lot of stuff
For He'd make sure both man and beast
would really have enough.

Of course we know it rained and rained
for forty nights and days
But Noah's ark was built to last
though angry were the waves.
When all the earth was flooded,
things would float a ways away,
And artifacts might still be found
by searchers yet today.

When Noah and his family
did finally disembark
They must have felt a great relief
to leave that big old ark.
Then Noah built an altar
to His God who lives on High,
And God's response to Noah
was a rainbow in the sky.

*Genesis: chapters
6,7 and 8*



The Prodigal

I know that you've heard of the prodigal son
Who said to his father, "Dad, I want to run.
I'm not much on farming and staying at home,
And if it's okay, I would now like to roam.

I've heard it's more fun if I travel abroad,
I'd like to up-grade; be a little more mod.
If you'll pay me off what you planned to give me
I'll spend money wisely, you just wait and see."

And so his old father, with tears in his eyes,
Gave cash to his son as they said their goodbyes.
And then the young man traveled far, far away;
He thought his good times were just going to stay.

So, recklessly spending the cash that he had
In time it was gone and things went pretty bad.
He landed a job feeding bunches of hogs,
He shared in their food along with the dogs.



He finally came to himself and he said,
"I'm going back home where I'll have a clean bed.
I'll tell Dad I'll work as a servant all day
If he'll give me food, I won't need any pay."

And so he trudged home looking haggard and thin
And knowing full well the result of his sin.
His heart beat much faster as he neared the gate;
His father now saw him, he just couldn't wait
To welcome his son to his home once again.
With wanderings now over he'd live like a man.

The story is told so we'll know that if we
Have wandered from God and have tried hard to flee,
He still is there watching for us every day
To come back to Him and repent and obey.
The thing your heart wants as through life you roam,
You'll find it, my friend, when you've returned home.

Luke 15:11-24



The Extended Family

We have extended families
and how we love them all--
With uncles, aunts, and cousins, too,
e'en some we can't recall;
Plus grandkids and our children
make it quite a lively bunch,
And many are the happy hours
when they come home for lunch.
God knew we needed folks to love
and came up with a way
So we could always keep in touch,
though some live far away.

I wonder if you realize
God has a family, too,
It's very much extended, folks,
including me and you.
But there are lots of other folks:
some black, some red, some brown,
Who may live far across the sea
or in a distant town.
He loves the folks with almond eyes,
and those with long black hair,
E'en those who live in simple huts--
He doesn't seem to care.

God's heart is big enough for all
who have this planet trod;
Join this extended family, friend,
and be a child of God.



Angels

I've wondered about angels,
do they ever take a nap?
When they're sent on an errand,
do they take along a map?

With all the billions on this earth
that travel to and fro,
How do they get directions straight
so they know where to go?

We've read of angels in God's Book,
it really doesn't tell
Too much about the lives they live
and things they do so well.

But then I guess we need not know
too much about them here;
We understand they work for God
and that is their career.



We're certain angels do exist
and comforting to know
That when we're in big trouble,
folks,
they know just where to go.

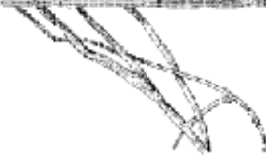
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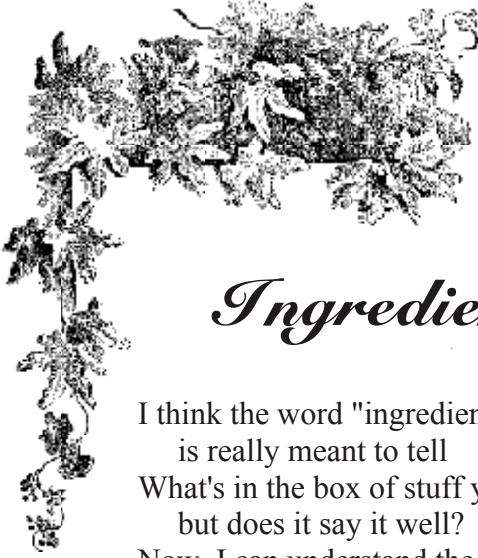
NOW
CONSIDER
THIS





*Then I turned my
thoughts to consider
wisdom.* Ecclesiastes 2:12





Ingredients

I think the word "ingredients"
is really meant to tell
What's in the box of stuff you buy,
but does it say it well?
Now, I can understand the words
like butter, eggs, and salt,
But when they use those fancy words,
it's there where I default.

If something is "hydrolyzed,
"bromated," or "preserved,"
I wonder if it's safe to eat,
or should it not be served?
Now soy, and whey,
and parsley flakes--
from those I would not shrink,
They sound like pretty healthy stuff,
at least that's what I think.

But what is sulfite, BHA,
and BHT to boot?
It doesn't sound like vegetables,
nor does it sound like fruit.
I wonder how our stomachs stand
this foreign sounding stuff;
It must be that our bodies
are built strong and really tough.

I guess you'll have to make the choice
of what you want to eat;
To some folk it's a problem,
while to others it's a treat.
Now when you read what's in the box,
decide on what you think--
If you don't like the things it says,
just pour it down the sink.



*Get On
With It!*



If you want a vacation don't just stay at home.
Get out of the house. Get away from the phone.
Escape from TV. Get away from the news.
Just close up the house. Go wherever you choose.

There are caves to explore, there are mountains to climb;
There are rivers to cross if you'll just take the time.
There are fences to mend, there are castles to build,
Get on with your life and be really fulfilled.

So don't make your life just all work and no play--
Start planning your trip and then get on the way.
It's easy to wait and think "maybe next year,"
There's no guarantee you will even be here.

Don't save all your money and pile up your cash
There's no way to know that the market won't crash.
There's many a man when death gives him a glance
Would give his right arm if he had one more chance.

So start doing now what is deep in your heart.
Throw caution away. It is now time to start.
Relax and enjoy, and love God and all men.
You might even make it past three score and ten.

The Calorie Counter

I have a calorie counter
that goes everywhere with me,
And if I eat unwisely,
it's for all the world to see.
I may be skinny as a rail,
or I may be too fat,
But if you watch the TV ads,
I soon can handle that.

Just exercise with bike and weights,
and eat some special stuff,
I'd surely lose unwanted pounds--
it's really not that tough.
I guess if I were really smart
I'd not indulge so much.
And all those things that taste so good
I'd never, never touch.

So it's a hard decision
as to what I ought to eat,
But while I'm trying to decide
I'll fix myself a treat.



Pre-approved

We get a lot of envelopes
that come through U.S. mail,
A lot of it is useless
as it tells of stuff for sale.

Among the offers in our box
come words that sound like this:
"You're pre-approved for Visa,
with our interest you can't miss."

But if you get your glasses out
and read the print so small
That's printed on the back, you know,
you won't give them a call.

But let me tell you, friend of mine,
an offer you can trust
And it's found in the Bible
by a God who's true and just.



You're pre-approved for Heaven
if you give to Him your heart,
But just like any credit card
you have to do your part.

God doesn't print the details
in small letters you can't read,
It's written there in black and white
to tell you what you need.

The reason you are pre-approved
is that God gave His Son
And by His death upon the Cross
He turns away not one.

So talk to God, He'll change your heart
and make it new and clean,
And thank Him that your're pre-approved--
He'll know just what you mean.



Players and Watchers

Most folks who see a baseball game
do not participate;
They're simply watching someone else
bat balls across the plate.
So they are an observer
watching others play the game;
Observers and participants
are simply not the same.

Then there are those who go to church
and don't participate,
Although at times you'll see them drop
an offering in the plate.
But often they will just observe
the folks who are devout,
And watch the clock while gath'ring wool
till service is let out.

And we who live on planet earth
are pretty much the same;
Some folks will really get involved
and truly play life's game.
But some will not participate,
they only will observe,
Then wonder why they feel so blue
like they've been
thrown a curve.





Take A Power Nap

I have a neat suggestion that
I'd like to share with you;
When you feel tired and all worn out
there's one thing you could do.

Just find yourself a nice soft chair,
remove your shoes and cap,
And settle down, and close your eyes
and take a Power Nap.

Then when you waken from your sleep
I'm sure that you will find
That worries that you had before
are now quite out of mind.

With body rested and refreshed
put on your shoes and cap
Rememb'ring you can always take
another Power Nap.

Arguments

I'm not too much on arguing,
 I've found it doesn't pay
To tell another person off
 and spoil a happy day.

Most things that people fight about
 aren't really worth a dime,
So why upset the apple cart
 and waste a fella's time?

To get a person's hackles up
 and tell folks where to go
Will not make for much happiness,
 nor will "I told you so!"

It really doesn't matter, folks,
 who wins a savage fight;
It's better far to give a smile,
 and then sleep well at night.



Building Your Patience Skills

I wonder if it gets your goat
when you call on the phone
And want to talk to someone else
but sit there all alone
And hear a voice recorded there
that gives you lots of choice
To push some numbers on your phone
to hear another's voice:
Push one, push two, push three or four,
or maybe even five,
It takes so long to reach someone--
could they still be alive?
Sometimes a person longs a bit
for older, simpler ways
When one could reach the party called
without an endless maze.
But this is progress, so they say,
and so, oh, friend of mine,
You now can build your patience skills
while waiting on the line.

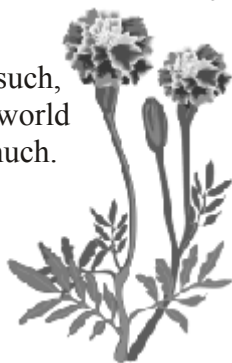


Upgrading

It seems the world keeps telling us
that we should all upgrade,
And so we have much info now--
and lots of dough we've paid.
Because we've information
doesn't mean we get more smart
Unless we do the things we learn
and practice them in part.

I think I'll let the other folks
upgrade on what they will,
And I'll just watch from my tent door
as they their wants fulfill.
I kinda' like the simple life,
not one that's too high tech,
For if I spend more than I have
I'll be a nervous wreck.

If we're too busy to relax,
ignoring friends and such,
Then all the upgrades in the world
will not amount to much.



The Rear View Mirror

Throw out your rear-view mirror, folks,
Stop living in the past,
And keep your mind on what's ahead
Or you may come in last.
It's not too smart to think about
Mistakes from way back when,
It makes no sense to ruminate
On things that might have been.
If you can hum and sing and smile
While looking straight ahead
You'll find there's lots to live for yet,
You need not live in dread.
So scrap that rear-view mirror, friend,
I think you'll surely find
It's better far to look ahead
And not at what's behind.



Only At Mom's

When I go to a restaurant
I cannot figure out
How they can cook so much good food
with dishes all about

With not a smell of baking bread,
of roast, or barbecue,
Or waffles, bacon, casseroles,
potato soup, or stew.

They give no good aroma
like when Mother used to cook
And things smelled good around the house,
you didn't have to look

To see what made a hearty meal,
your nose would lead you there,
And you could hardly wait to eat
and settle in your chair.



But now you need your eyes along
to tell you what to buy
Or you'd be in an awful fix
on just which dish to try.

I wish they'd leave those cooking smells
right where they used to be;
It sure would add an awful lot
to all the food we see.

I'd like to have an eating place
have coffee that you smell,
I have no doubt that this would make
that yummy stuff to sell.

I've just about decided
that good smells are now passe.
If I want smells like I've described
I'll eat at Mom's today.



Take Your Choice

Sometimes our skies seem pretty gray
 and we start feeling blue
And we've kinda' hit some speed bumps,
 so what's a guy to do?
We can either slip into a rut
 our anxious thoughts have dug
Or we can sing a song to God
 and He'll give us a hug.

Life is kinda' what we make it,
 we can sing or we can pout,
But if we have a happy heart
 it shows from inside out.
So if you find life tough and mean
 you need to get a song
For life is so much better
 when you have the Lord along.



The Web

We hear about the world-wide web
and what its s'posed to be,
I'm not too sure I understand
its benefits for me.
I feel quite sure the dots and coms
are pretty fancy stuff,
But if you're in big trouble, folks,
its really not enough.
God has a line direct to you;
He waits for you to call,
He never is too busy
though He watches over all.
A lot of folks don't seem to use
the world-wide web of prayer,
And feel that God's too far away
to hear, or even care.
But millions of believing folks
like God's old saintly Job
Believe the Lord with all their heart
from all around the globe.



Candlelight

Do you remember years ago
you ate by candlelight,
And things were quite romantic then
with future looking bright?

But years have passed; time took its toll
and things aren't quite the same,
Some vital parts are wearing out--
and kinda' seems a shame;
The candles on the table
have been put quite out of sight,
And in their place are jars of pills
for you and for your wife.

But don't despair about all this
and think you are not blest,
You've pills to make it through the day
to help you get your rest.
So if you're young and candles glow
and life is quite romantic,
Be thankful for those colored pills
that help when you're rheumatic.





Christmas

A lot of folks like Christmas
with its gifts and mistletoe,
It seems some folks are happier
most anywhere they go.
They like to think of Jesus Christ
asleep on bed of hay
But some folks seem to leave Him there
and kinda' walk away.

The wise men and the shepherds
make a pretty Christmas scene
But Christmas is much more than that
with colors red and green.
God gave His greatest Gift to us—
His very, very best
So we could have eternal life
and be forever blessed.

Christ Jesus in the manger, friends,
is nice, but there is more--
He asks us all to follow Him,
no matter rich or poor.
We are Christ's hands and feet, you know,
and we should do our part,
But most important we should have
Christ born within our heart.

Precious In God's Sight

Sometimes folks worry needlessly
about a lot of stuff;
They wonder what will others think
if times for them are tough.

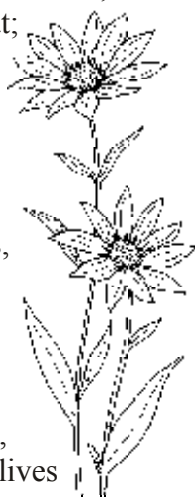
Their house is not on Easy Street,
plus they don't feel too good;
It seems they've lots of problems, too,
more than they feel they should.

Their car's not really up to snuff--
all waxed and shiny new,
And they don't wear designer clothes,
and that's a worry, too.

The self-help books don't solve too much,
They need much more than that;
They wonder if some other folks
have sat where they have sat.

It seems their sky is seldom blue,
but rather endless gray--
But if they'd count their blessings,
folks,
they'd have a brighter day.

Some folks sure need reminding
they are precious in God's sight,
And if they'd let Him touch their lives
things would turn out all right.



Church Bells



I know it's been a long, long time
 since I've heard church bells ring
To call the faithful folks around
 to worship and to sing.
It seems the bell could then be heard
 about a country mile
And Mom and Dad with kids would go
 and get refreshed awhile.

We've lots of churches in our town
 and if each had a bell
And they all rang on Sunday morn
 they'd have a tale to tell
Reminding folks it's time for church
 and it's a special place
To leave their worries far behind
 and learn of love and grace.

So if you do not hear a bell
 and have to watch the clock,
Just stir yourself and go to church
 and join God's faithful flock.

*I rejoiced with those who said to me.
"Let us go up to the house of the Lord."
Psalm 122:1*

8

WINNING
WAYS





*I press on toward the goal
to win the prize for which God
has called me heavenward
in Christ Jesus* Philippians 3:14





Running For The Gold

For hundreds of years folks have run for the gold
To win a fine medal to wear and to hold.

They practice and practice day in and day out.
There isn't much else they are thinking about.

Committed, determined, they go on their way
Just hoping and praying they'll make it some day.

It's much like the Christian who runs in life's race:
Committed, determined, to see that great Place

Where not just a medal of bronze or of gold
Is handed the winner, but this I've been told:

Rewards will be given to all who arrive
So send up your treasures while you're still alive.



Better Than Gold

There are some things that we don't need
as we go through this life,
But it would be a dreary world
and filled with lots of strife
If no one loved us as a friend
and we felt all alone
When cares of life press down on us
and tired to the bone.

Some folks may have a lot of cash
to jingle in their jeans,
But if they don't have love and friends,
it very little means.
So keep your bridges well intact
and try to keep in touch
With friends you've made throughout the years,
for they still love you much.

Old Friends Are Best

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.



The Low-down

I wonder when we tell someone
we'll try to find out stuff
About another person
and can tell it 'off the cuff';
We say we'll get the low-down
and I wonder what that means--
Does that suggest we'll dig up dirt
so we can 'spill the beans?'

I wish we'd use another word
and say we'll try to find
The many things that one does well
and how they're good and kind.
So if you're getting all the scoop
and looking all around,
Just see the good that others do
and tell folks what you found.





When life gets so hard that you're ready to wilt
And folks would harass you and fill you with guilt,

Do you find a place you can be all alone
And pour out your heart to our God on the Throne?

Back two thousand years when Christ Jesus was here
He knew we'd have problems, and troubles, and fear;

He told us a way we could manage that stuff,
No matter what happens when living is tough.

He said if we'd seek Him we'd have peace and rest,
For He has the answer, whatever the test.

So don't try to carry your burdens alone,
The Lord sure can help when you're tired to the bone.

Sometimes he sends angels to help us a bit
So we'll keep on trying and not up and quit.

He has special love for the hurting and sad,
And He'd like to help you and make your heart glad.

The Finest Whisper

Do you miss God's finest whispers
because the world is loud
And its hard to hear His still, small Voice
while busy in a crowd?
You may be doing lotsa' stuff
to while your time away,
But if you're finding peace with God
you give Him time each day.
God has a lot of secrets
that He'd like to share with you,
But if you're always on the run
there's not much He can do.
It says to me quite loud and clear
He gives each one a choice
To either be too busy
or to listen to His Voice.



*Be joyful always;
pray continually;
Thessalonians 5:16*

The Successful Man

A lot of people think success
 is having lotsa' dough,
Though dollars are quite nice to have,
 there's more to life, ya' know.
If you have gold deep in your jeans
 but not a happy wife
Your life may send out signals
 that show pain and even strife.

 If you've no kids to watch and wait
 beside an open door
Till you come home from work each day
 miss love and so much more.
Don't worry 'bout what others have--
 enjoy your kids and wife
And you will find you've peace of mind
 and true success in life.

It's not your money or your fame
 or feats your tongue can tell;
It's rather how you live your life
 and if you finish well.

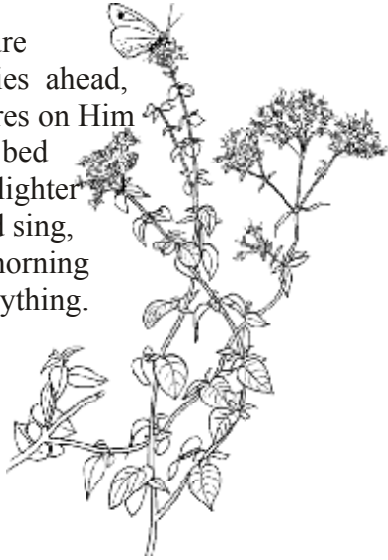


Meet God In The Morning

If you meet God in the morning
when the day is at its best
And put your hand in His big Hand
you'll find your life is blest.
The problems that may irk you now
and seem so tough to bear,
Could be resolved, or cut in half
if God is there to share.

Because He sees the future
and knows well what lies ahead,
If you'll but cast your cares on Him
when you crawl out of bed
You'll find your heart is lighter
you may even hum and sing,
If you meet God in the morning
He'll help care for everything.

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



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.

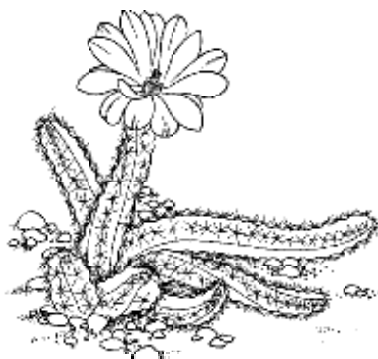


*In the day of my trouble
I will call to you,
for you will answer me.
Psalm 86:7*

Dear God...

Do I bother you too often
 when I talk to you a lot?
I hope my frequent coming
 doesn't interrupt your thought.
It seems I want to talk to You
 a bit throughout the day;
A lot of it is small talk,
 will you listen anyway?

Sometimes the days are kinda' tough,
 some nights get pretty long,
So I need someone just like You
 to help restore my song.
I kinda' think You hear me, God,
 when I take time to pray,
So while you're watching sparrows,
 will you care for me today?



Forgiveness

If you're pushed beyond your limits
 and you've kinda' lost your song
Do you steal away to Jesus
 and ask Him what is wrong?
He's good at solving problems
 if you open up your heart;
To hide your troubles deep inside
 is really not too smart
For some day they'll catch up with you
 in many different ways--
You'll find you're living in he pits
 and not a life of praise.
Forgiveness can work miracles,
 it kinda' set you free;
Forgive the folks who've done you wrong.
 I know it worked for me.
So keep in touch with Jesus,
 He'll have something to suggest
And if you do the things He says
 He'll give you peace and rest.



Share That Load

Some folks may have a heavy load
stacked high upon their heads,
While others hold within their hands
what feels to them like lead.
And some folks use a shoulder,
or the middle of their back.
And I s'pose some use other ways--
I've really not kept track.

But these are not the only loads
that mortals lug around,
Some people's hearts have heavy loads,
too often I have found.
So listen well to what you hear
and keep a watchful eye;
It may be you can share that load,
At least, it's worth a try.



God's Amazing Book

It's really quite amazing, folks,
the Bible is so great
Though it was written years ago
it's never out of date.

No matter where you go on earth
it fits their culture, too,
God knew just what mankind would need
so they'd know what to do.

There's not a section just for blacks,
or those with almond eyes,
His Truth is for the whole wide world
and to us all applies.

No other book stays up to date
while centuries have passed;
But God in Love gave us this Book
with wisdom that will last.



Looking ahead

God made the earth so beautiful
with trees, and birds, and such,
Creating not just earth and sun,
but things we love to touch.
And, He gave folks a lot of smarts
to make things while they're here,
And so we have just lots and lots
to put us in high gear:
Like cars, computers, radios,
TV's, and other stuff,
The Internet, and E-mail, too,
makes living not too tough.
The cell phone also makes it nice
so folks are not alone;
It matters not where you're on earth
you always have the phone.
So we enjoy a lot of things
our parents never had
And people keep inventing things
to upgrade just a tad.
And though we think our life down here
is good as it can get,
St. Peter just may say to us,
"You ain't seen nuthin' yet."



*We have a building
from God, an eternal
house in heaven, not
built by human hands.
2 Corinthians 5:1*

Story Time

I had a thought the other day
that I'd not had before,
About the things we'll do in Heaven
where time will be no more.

One thing I'd like to do up There
is listen to a bunch
Who sat down on a hillside there
where Jesus gave them lunch,

And hear them tell of how they felt
when Jesus broke the bread,
And thousands ate till they were filled,
and hear what people said.

Another thing I'd like to do
is sit at David's feet,
And hear just how Goliath looked
when he fell in defeat.



I think that Moses, too, could tell
some things while on the go;
Those forty years in desert sand
were pretty hard, ya' know.

To think their clothes did not wear out,
nor did their ankles swell,
Those folks who wandered all those years
must have a lot to tell.

And there are other stories, too,
like Jonah and the whale,
I'll bet he'd have a lot to say
on under-water sail.

I know I could add to the list
of folks I hope to see,
I'd also guess a lot of folks
would listen There with me.





Thinking About Our Heavenly Home

Sometimes I kinda' muse about
 what I think Heav'n will be;
I know I cannot picture it
 as you will plainly see.
But things will be so different there
 (and I am glad they will),
A lot of things we have down here
 up there will just be nil.

I'm sure we won't need plumbers there
 for what would those folks do?
The things God makes won't need repairs,
 they'll always look brand new.
The doctors and the nurses, too,
 will not a patient find,
For all the folks who live up there
 are well, and none are blind.

Psychiatrists and counselors
will have no work to do,
For no one there will be depressed
and no one will be blue.
Mechanics will be out of work
for cars are there passe,
We won't need travel visas
for we're in that place to stay.

No global warming will take place,
No floods or famine there,
The streets of gold will ne'er erode
and be in disrepair.
No TV ads will rankle us,
no junk mail in our box,
And as there'll be no crime or sin
we'll have no need of locks.

continued



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



No congress will convene up there,
 for God will be in charge
And He knows how to run the Place
 although it's super large.
Another thing I think is neat,
 there'll be no monthly rent,
Nor will we have to pay a bill
 AT&T has sent.

No self-help books are on the shelf;
 No cash will needed be--
There'll be no need of earthly stuff,
 we'll be completely free.
And this I often think about--
 what will we do up there
For nothing will be breaking down
 in need of quick repair.

Do you suppose we'll use our time
in fellowship and praise,
And maybe even join a choir
and joyful voices raise?
It seems to me we'll have the time
to talk with friends we've known
And arm and arm stroll down a path
where flowers have been sown.

The Bible says we folks down here
don't know what Heav'n will be,
So we will have to bide our time
Till Jesus' face we see.
But one thing sure when I am done
with living here below
I'll trust in God with all my heart
so that's where I will go.

