

1

Reflecting God's Love





Psalm 33:18, 22

*The eyes of the Lord
are on those who fear him,
on those whose hope
is in his unfailing love*

*May your unfailing love
rest upon us, O Lord
even as we put
our hope in you.*

*So Sing,
My
Heart*



So sing, my heart! Burst forth
 with song!
 Don't murmur and complain.
Remember that a happy heart
 can help relieve your pain.
An attitude of gratitude
 can make your pathway bright
So thank the Lord for all you've got
 and really do it right.

It's not too smart to hunker down
 and live life half-depressed,
God has good stuff in store for you
 and wants to be your Guest.
So chat a bit with Him each day
 and tell Him all your heart--
You'll find that He's been waiting there
 before you even start.

*Sing and make music in your heart
to the Lord. Ephesian 5:19*

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 some 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 o' dough
to hum and sing and smile
And make folks glad you crossed their path
and talked with them awhile.

*But encourage one another daily
Hebrews 1:13*



Some folks bloom where they are planted
and they kinda' hum and sing,
They count their blessings one by one
with thanks for everything.
Somewhere along life's dusty road
they found it's better far
To live a life of gratitude
and bloom right where they are.

It's no use wasting time down here
till things improve a tad,
It's better far to use your time
to make some others glad.
We're only on old planet earth
what seems a little while
So bloom right where you're planted, friend,
and do it with a smile.

*I know that there is nothing better than for men
than to be happy and do good while they live.
Ecclesiastes 3:12*



"How are you?"



"I'm fine"

"I'm Fine"

So often when we meet someone
we ask them how they are,
It's really just a courtesy
if they're not up to par.
We really do not want to hear
of their complaints and aches
For we are not too well ourselves
and lots of grace it takes.

I know that I am often asked,
"How do you feel today?"
And I will simply say, "I'm fine,"
and let it go that way.
Now I want you to understand
when I give my reply
I give the feelings of my heart
and really didn't lie.

The body that surrounds my soul
is not the real "me,"
It's only temporary, folks,
but it's what others see.
I think I'll still tell other folks
what's in the inner man
And I will keep a thankful heart
and live the best I can.

*inwardly we are being renewed
day by day. 2 Corinthians 4:16*

Tell 'em Off

To tell people off is really not smart

For it lets them know what is deep in your heart,

Harsh things you have spoken cannot be unsaid

And may live to haunt you until you are dead.

So always be careful to keep your words sweet,

Who knows but that someday you'll have
them to eat.



*A wise man's heart guides his mouth
Proverbs 15:23*



Some people come into our lives
and don't impress us much,
Still other folks will come along
and leave their special touch.
I guess the thing this says to me
is that we oughta' live
So if someone is watching us
we've something good to give
Like kindness, love, and gentleness
to cheer a lonely heart,
And compliments can give a lift
if someone's way is dark.

Some folks may think they are not watched
but you can almost bet
The things they say and things they do
are things some won't forget.
So choose your friends with love and care
and really play it smart
Because without a doubt they'll leave
their footprints on your heart.

*...your faith in God is known
everywhere. 1 Thessalonians 1:8*

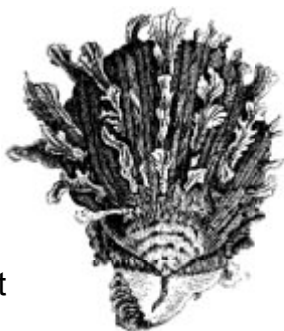
Faces

I've seen a lot of faces
as I've traveled to and fro
For everybody has one
that they take where'er they go.
You can't leave home without it
and it has a tale to tell
If you are sad or happy
or not feeling very well.
And then the eyes will tell a lot
what's going on inside,
There may be pain or sorrow
they are trying hard to hide.

It's nice to see big open eyes
beholding lots of things
Especially in children,
the excitement that it brings,
It matters not the color,
whether blue, or brown, or gray,
Eyes tell a lot about us
that we haven't words to say.
And eyes are set with color
into different shades of skin,
No matter where I go on earth
I find we all are kin.
Of all the faces I have seen,
the one I like the best
Is one that has a great
big smile,
I'll bet you could have guessed.



Pearls



Have you thought about
the oyster?
It's really pretty smart
For when something invades it's shell
it doesn't fall apart.
Instead, that irritating thing
that really could annoy
Is used to make a precious pearl
for people to enjoy.

I know at times things can get tough
and bad things come our way--
We'd really like to fall apart
and kinda' run away;

I wonder if the oyster
has a word for us down here
That says when we have problems
there's no need for us to fear
For we can change our bumps in life
into a joyful song;
If we cheer the folks around us
it helps to keep us strong.

Don't let yourself live in the pits--
it truly doesn't pay;
Remember oysters make nice pearls
so start on yours today.

Good As It Can Get



Let the love of God
 shine through you
 everywhere you go today
So when this day is over
 you can bow your head and pray
And you'll feel no tinge of sadness
 or have feelings of regret;
If you have peace within your heart
 it's good as it can get.

Don't ruminate on little things
 that rob you of your sleep,
Instead rejoice and praise the Lord
 that He your soul will keep.
God never goes to sleep at night
 nor does He take a nap,
E'en when He sends His angels out
 they never need a map;

So let God hold you in His Hand
 and let His love shine through
For He likes folks who show His love
 in everything they do.

*Let your light shine before men, that they
may see your good deeds and praise your
Father in heaven. Matthew 5:16*

*God Is
Still God
Tomorrow*



I know we tend to worry
over lots of little stuff;
We can get bent all out of shape
if we've not faith enough
To realize that God is God
and still will be tomorrow
And He knows what the future holds
of blessings or of sorrow.

Sometimes we watch the TV news
and get shook up a bit,
It's easy to feel kinda' down
if we watch much of it.
But if the Lord lives in our soul
it's good for us to know
That God is God for always
and it ever will be so.

If our eyes are fixed on Jesus
and we know God's in control
We know we ought to thankful be
that He has touched our soul.
There's nothing that surprises Him,
He's never caught off guard
So put your future in His Hands
and trust Him real hard.

*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday
and today and forever. Hebrews 13:8*

Wait a Bit

If we would think before we speak
and pause a little bit
We'd have more friends along the way
with whom we love to sit.

If we express our views too much
insisting we are right
We may have hurt a close, close friend
who won't sleep well tonight.

Now it's alright to have our views
if kept inside our head--
Unless we've something nice to say
it's better left unsaid.



*The tongue that brings healing is a tree of life,
but a deceitful tongue crushes the spirit.*

Proverbs 15:4

Old Love



We like to go to weddings
And see the groom and bride
All gussied up and smiling big
As they stand side by side
Just waitin' for the preacher
To pronounce them man and wife
Then rush off on their honeymoon
And start a brand new life.

We also like to celebrate
Some older folks, you know,
Who've lived together time on end
Like fifty years or so.
Their love has not eroded
But has grown throughout the years,
They've learned to stay on top th' heap
Through sunshine and through tears.

I think God likes the young folks
But smiles on oldsters, too,
I guess God planned it just that way
So we'd know what to do.
It seems we need each other
Whether young or old and gray
And we'll continue to hold hands
Till God takes us away.

Up or Down?

I've thought about it quite a bit
But cannot figure out
About the speed that oldsters go,
Of this I am in doubt.
Do folks slow UP or just slow DOWN
When they are up in years?
I guess it doesn't matter much
Just so they shift their gears
Accepting things that come their way
And greet it with a song
So neither slowing up or down
Is really, really wrong.
So take your pick and make your choice
Of which you'd like to do
But keep a twinkle in your eye
So folks will know it's you.



The Forgetters



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

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

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

Standing Tall

I wonder if you've thought about
the kind of work you do,
Of course there are some kinds of jobs
done only by a few.
There aren't too many Governors
or Heads of State, you know,
But there are lots of common folks
who know how things should go.

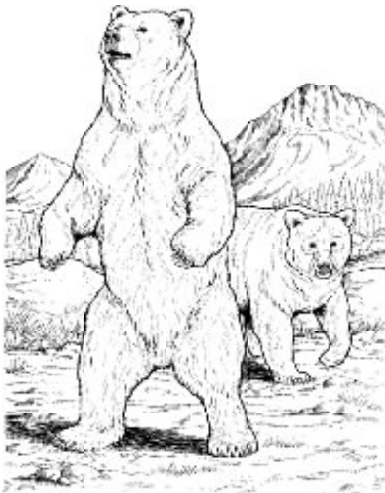
They also are important
and they do a lot of stuff
And if they didn't do it well
we'd not keep up to snuff.
If no one painted houses
and if no one mowed the lawn,
If no one threw a paper
on your porch when it is dawn,

If Mom's would let the laundry go
and not clean up the sink
Things really could deteriorate
much faster than you think.
I know some folks are kinda' proud
that they have lots of clout
But maybe it's the common folks
who keep things up, no doubt.

Now if folks with lots of status
would go abroad, you know,
And take a long vacation
anywhere they want to go

They would not be too sorely missed
those weeks they are away,
They know their job would still be here
when they return someday.

But what if garbage handlers
would be gone a week or two?
We really would get all messed up
and not know what to do.
Don't think you're not important, friend,
because your job is small--
We all should do our very best
and keep on standing tall.



*Whatever your hand finds to do,
do it with all your might
Ecclesiastes 9:10*

Porches

I see a lot of porches
 as we drive down the street
That kinda' beautifies a house
 and makes it look quite neat.
There are swings and chairs and cushions
 inviting folks to sit
But they are much too busy now
 so they use none of it.

It seems the folks of yesteryear
 took time to sit and chat,
They'd watch the kids out playing
 with their baseball and a bat.
They'd cheer 'em on and clap their hands
 and even stomp their feet
So kids could learn to handle stuff
 like winning and defeat.

I wonder if they've gained a lot
 by sitting in a chair
And watching movies and TV
 and what they offer there.
Or maybe they'll compute a while
 and see what's on the Mac
And don't make any effort
 to watch kids who play out back.

It's sorta' strange the way folks live,
it seems they don't feel blest
And yet they've gathered lots of stuff
to feather up their nest.
According to the TV ads
our living's up to par
If we live in a great big house
and drive a fancy car.

The Bible says that godliness
and a contented mind
Are what makes people happy
and is really quite a find.
So take a break, sit on your porch,
enjoy the things you see,
You might discover as you watch
you're as happy as can be.



*But godliness with contentment
is great gain. 1 Timothy 6:6*

Serving

If you're going to serve the Lord, my friend,
then give it your best shot,
Don't only serve Him sparingly
but give Him all you've got.
Don't nod your head and tell Him, "Hi"
and think He'll understand
For He would like the best from you
and wants to hold your hand.
He really understands and knows
what He sees in your heart;
He knows if you are holding back
or giving every part.
It seems the friends that I hold dear
and cherish very much
Are those who have a lot of love
and so we keep in touch.
Our God is great and awesome
so don't let the privilege pass
To serve the Lord with all your heart
and do it, friend, with class.

*... serve the Lord
your God with all
your heart and with
all your soul
Deuteronomy 10:12*



People-watchers

Sometimes I like to people-watch
When I am in a crowd--
The short, the fat, the skinny folks,
The poorly dressed, the proud.
Of course my observations
Really don't amount to much
But sometimes I see lots of folks
Who need a loving touch.

When I watch folks it makes me think
How busy God must be
To watch the billions on this earth,
Including you and me.
He knows the feelings of each heart
And sees each deed we do,
I don't know how He does it
But the Bible says it's true.

The folks who really hunker down
In God's great love and care
Are awfully glad God watches them
And sees them everywhere.
They don't worry 'bout the future
And stuff that could go wrong,
They just let Jesus fill their cup
And fill their heart with song.

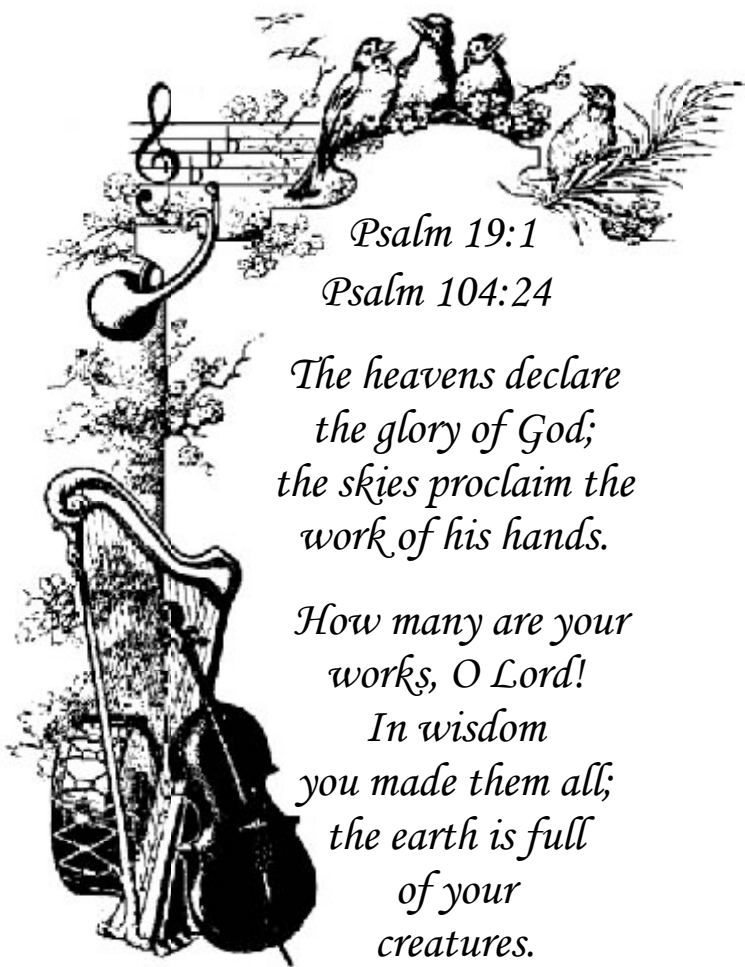
*I will counsel you and
watch over you
Psalm 32:8*



2

*God
Did It*





Psalm 19:1

Psalm 104:24

*The heavens declare
the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the
work of his hands.*

*How many are your
works, O Lord!*

*In wisdom
you made them all;
the earth is full
of your
creatures.*

Acts of God



We used to hear of “acts of God”
when big events occurred--
Tornadoes, earthquakes, storms,
and floods
our status quo has stirred.
These things do happen now
and then,
God does display His power,
But there are other “acts of God”
that happen every hour.

Who puts the love in mother’s hearts
to love a wayward child?
Who feeds the birds and animals
that live out in the wild?
Who gives a peace to weary hearts
who struggle through the day?
Who gives our minds the power to think,
and form the word we say?

Who puts a song within the heart,
a smile upon the face?
Who makes a person want to help
someone of different race?
Who doesn’t blame when things go wrong,
and tries to make it right?
My friend, it’s God who does all this--
all day and every night!

*The Lord is faithful to all his promises
and loving to all he has made.
Psalm 145:13*

Seasons

I like the seasons of the year--
Each one is great, and when it's here
I almost like that season best,
For change can bring a kind of rest.

The snow has beauty hard to beat
If you're inside with warmth and heat;
And Spring is welcome as can be
When robins fly from tree to tree.

Then Summer has it's fun times, too,
With picnics, sun, and Mountain Dew.
When tired of heat the Fall looks good
And with it's beauty, well, it should.

Don't frown and gripe when seasons come,
Enjoy yourself, and sing and hum.
When each day comes look up and thrive
For after all, you ARE alive.



Our Awesome God

Folks, when I think on it a bit
it kinda' blows my mind
How really awesome was our God
when He made up mankind.
To think there are no lookalikes
no matter where you look
Is quite a marvel in itself
and wasn't from some book.

Not only are our fingerprints
our very, very own,
Our DNA belongs to us
for it is ours alone.
The scientists can tell a lot
from just one single hair
So when our God created man
He did it with much care.

Then there's the brain with all its smarts--
folks still can't figure out
How it can tuck so much inside
so we can move about.
How come we taste, and hear, and talk,
and have emotions, too;
God didn't clone a bunch of folks
and fasten them with glue.

God gave us personalities
and also gave us choice
So we can hack life by ourselves
or listen to His Voice.
He also gave us talents
we can use or we can lose
And some folks make the best of them
because of what they choose.

Some folks become musicians,
others preach, still others write,
God sure gave us variety
and really did things right.
But best of all God gave us love
or we'd be incomplete
And if you love Him in your heart
this life is hard to beat.



*I praise you because I am fearfully
and wonderfully made; your works
are wonderful. Psalm 139:14*

Roses and Thorns

There are lots of pretty roses
that we ooh and aah about,
Their colors are magnificent
there's not the slightest doubt.
Sometimes we sorta' wonder why
the thorns are on the stem
As if God kinda' goofed things up
and spoiled a perfect gem.

But when I think on it a tad,
I wonder could it be
That it was no mistake at all--
God wanted us to see
That life has lots of blessings
and our road is smooth and straight,
But at times we hit a speed bump--
then we don't feel so great.

I wonder if the roses
have a lesson for us all:
That life has lots of beauty
if we stand straight and tall,
But then when
disappointments come
like thorns upon the stem
God wants to polish us a bit
so we can shine for Him.



Nest Building



I saw two birds just yesterday
when I looked out the door,
Their beaks were full of grass and stuff;
they knew what it was for.
For spring had sprung, the birds both knew
that they should build a nest
And God had put inside their brains
how they could do it best.

You know, the birds are pretty smart
when they know what to do
For they can build a nest that lasts
without some super glue.
I am amazed they can make nests
to stand both wind and rain
And then they raise their babies there
with seemingly no strain.

I know if I collected stuff
and tried to build a nest
E'en with some string and glue and tape
mine wouldn't stand the test.
When winds would blow my would-be nest
would drop and fall apart,
But God gave birds a joyful sound
and made them really smart.

By Heart

Mom's don't learn to mother babies
by reading from a book
For Mom's have something in their heart
that when they take a look
Immediately they fall in love
and heart will bond to heart
And when that happens you can bet
they're off to a good start.
I know Mom's learn from old wives tales
some steps they oughta' take
If babies seem to cry a lot
and keep the house awake.
Most babies are quite healthy
and if Mom is healthy, too,
They usually can figure out
just what they oughta' do.
And happy are the little ones
whose mother is quite smart
And takes the time to give them love
and mother them by heart.



The Hopalongs

If you'd go to Australia
you'd see the kangaroo;
It's fun to see them in a park,
not just one in a zoo.
Some of the large variety
can leap a nine foot fence,
A twenty five foot leap is theirs
if life gets pretty tense.

Their back legs are a tower of strength,
their tapered tail is strong,
And with a baby in their pouch
they simply hop along.
I'm not sure how a kangaroo
would work out on a farm--
They might leap over fences tall
and do your garden harm.

I think when God created them
He made them to be free
And didn't want them all fenced in
or tied up to a tree.
So if you go down under
you'll enjoy the
kangaroo--
They're in a class all
by themselves,
I know you'll think
so, too.



Australian Teddy Bears



Koala bears are loved by all,
they're like a teddy bear
And with their special hands and feet
just any limb's a chair.
They don't stay on the ground too much,
they'd rather live aloft;
It takes six months before their fur
is thick and cuddly soft.
They're awfully small when they are born--
an inch is far too long,
They weigh much less than half an ounce
but once they're grown they're strong.

They live in mother's pouch awhile
then when they venture out
Their hands and feet grab mother's fur
so they are safe, no doubt.
The eucalyptus leaves are best
to curb their appetite
And when the leaves near by are gone
they choose a different site.
These teddy bears seem unafraid
as folks watch from below;
They simply go on living
like they always do, you know.



Ships of the Desert

Have you sat upon a camel?
It is kinda' fun to do;
I did it once some years ago
and I've seen quite a few.
I like those rugged-looking beasts
that walk the desert sand,
God knew when He created them
they'd cross a lot of land

So He gave them a hump or two
so they could carry stuff
Across a burning desert
where their living would be tough.
All camels have three stomachs
and two of them store fat,
The other is for water
as they need a lot of that.

Some camels that are sturdy
carry up to half a ton
And can walk close to thirty miles
before their day is done.
Don't put off riding one of them,
they're pretty cheap to run,
Besides you'd save a lot of dough
and Wow! Would you have fun!

Giraffes

Some animals have beauty
as they gallop o'er the plain,
The tall giraffe has lots of class
with seemingly no pain.
But if there was a big giraffe
with problems in his neck,
What kind of doctor should he see
to have a spinal check?

But also if his throat was sore
from eating thorny stuff,
I wonder if they swabbed it good
would that be quite enough?
Those creatures stand and gaze around
and look so worldly wise,
Is it because they see a lot with head
up in the skies?



We may be lucky they don't talk
and tell us what they see
For if they gave a full report
'twould worry you and me.
So I'll just stand in awe of them
and watch with
wondering eyes
And try to guess just what
they see
with head up in the skies.

Elephants



I know you've seen
 big elephants
when you've gone to a zoo;
Some really are quite teachable
 if one knows what to do.
In India they're used a lot
 to do a bunch of stuff,
They can move tons and tons around
 without a huff or puff.

The elephants in Africa
 that we've seen here and there
Have longer tusks and stroll around
 with seemingly no care.
If they have sugarcane to eat
 along with leaves on trees
It seems that they are satisfied
 and life is quite a breeze.

One good thing to remember
 is to not get in their way
But watch them from a distance,
 also give them right-of-way.
The elephants have mem'ries
 that can last until they die;
Alzheimers is unknown to them--
 it makes one wonder why.

Buffalo

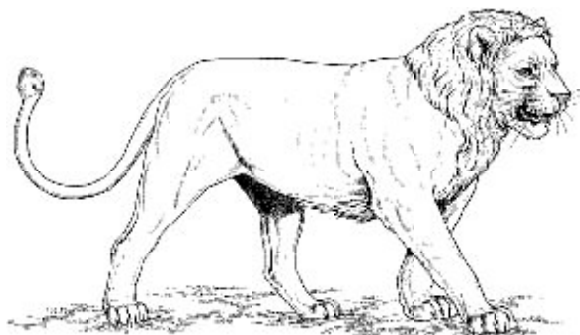
We've seen two kinds of buffalo
besides the kind out west;
The water buffalo are tame
and we like those the best.
It doesn't bother them a bit
if kids climb up and ride;
They roam the streets in India
and they don't run and hide.
The other buffalo we saw
were of a different breed
And they were called Cape buffalo
and dangerous indeed.
We saw this kind in Kenya
so we gave them due respect
For if they're big and wild and fast
it's what one would expect.



The King of Beasts

The lion is the king of beasts,
at least I've heard it said,
And other animals near by
may live in fear and dread.
If they have had a great big meal
they sleep throughout the day
Then go to water holes at dusk
to sneak up on their prey.

They're not too much on forests,
they prefer tall grass and sand
So they can scratch off really fast
and cover lots of land.
I've watched them lying 'neath a tree
where they lay fast asleep
For we were parked just feet away
and watching from a jeep.
They look so harmless sleeping there,
but don't be fooled, my friend,
If you got out and petted one
this story soon would end.



Giant Pandas

Once I saw a giant panda
 inside a Chinese zoo,
I'd never seen one live before
 so this was something new.
Its black and white thick furry coat
 would surely fill the bill
So they can live where it is cold
 and have some comfort still.
Those giant pandas six feet long
 must have a lot of clout;
If I would see one in the wild
 I'm sure I would watch out.
But I won't have that problem
 it is pretty safe to bet
For they're in Szechwan, China,
 and they're also in Tibet.
I'll leave that trip for younger folks
 whose travel shoes are new
While I stay home in my soft chair
 where you might join me, too.



Zebras

If you've been on safari, folks,
or even in a zoo,
You've seen a lot of animals
and watched the things they do.
There's one I like an awful lot
with stripes of black and white,
It looks like someone painted it
and really did it right.

But I have heard from folks who know
no paint job is the same,
I think God liked variety
when He created game.
We've seen the zebras single file
walk in the open plain
Stretched out for almost half a mile
in search of food and rain.

Yes, zebras stand out in a crowd
like they're a painted horse;
I'm glad two got on Noah's Ark
for us to see, of course.





Aardvark

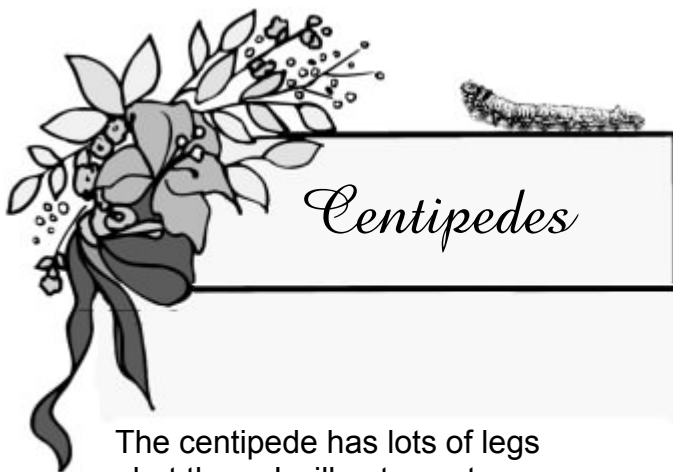
You may have safaried in park after park
And never have seen what is called the aardvark.

It's really quite different from beasts of the field--
An eighteen inch tongue it can easily wield
To lick up the termites in old termite mounds
Just oohing and aahing as he makes his rounds.

With ears like a donkey and snout like a pig,
He also has claws with which he can dig.
Another good thing is his kangaroo tail--
With features like these he's not likely to fail.

One reason may be why you missed the aardvark:
It seldom goes prowling unless it is dark.
It never has said why it so hates the light
And sleeps through the day then works
 through the night.

But if he can see we should not give a care
What schedule he keeps, or just when, even where.
I'm really quite grateful there is an aardvark;
It's name starts with A, was it first off the Ark?



The centipede has lots of legs
but these I will not count,
Yet I suppose that if I did
it'd have the right amount.
And if that wormy centipede
would have to buy some shoes
It sure would take a lot of bucks
if Nike it would choose.
I guess the thing that baffles me
is why is it so slow?
You'd think that with so many legs
a-flying it would go.

Mice

Mice have some traits that are quite good:
They're nimble on their feet,
Their eyes have lots of sparkle,
They think cheese is hard to beat.

And they are smart, though rodents small,
They won't a cat befriend,
They realize that if they did
Their earthly life would end.

I know it sounds like I defend
The quiet little mouse
But they are best when they are in
My next door neighbor's house.





Cats

We've heard it said cats have nine lives,
I wonder what they do
To have so many lives to live,
much more than me or you.

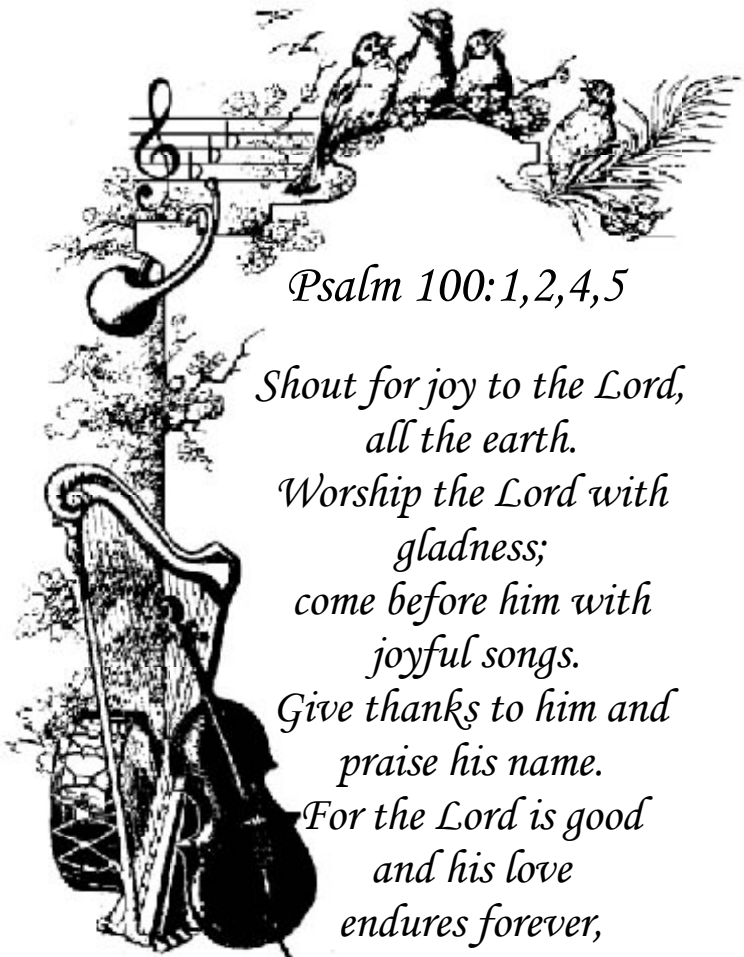
It seems they purr an awful lot,
(I guess that's how they sing),
Do you suppose a happy heart
longevity will bring?
Of course they like a little milk
along with fresh-caught meat;
I'm sure those cheese-adoring mice
for us would be no treat.

I'm sure I'll never figure out
why cats have lives of nine
While most of us have just one life
before we cross the line.
But, I could theorize a bit
and say if life is tough
Nine lives would be too much for us--
just one would be enough.

3

*Thank You,
God*





Psalm 100:1,2,4,5

*Shout for joy to the Lord,
all the earth.*

*Worship the Lord with
gladness;
come before him with
joyful songs.*

*Give thanks to him and
praise his name.*

*For the Lord is good
and his love
endures forever,
his faithfulness continues
through all generations.*

I Kinda' Wonder



I wonder if you've read
 in Psalms
 where it says loud and clear
That we should always
 praise the Lord
 because He's always near.
I know sometimes when life gets tough
 we're prone to lose our song
And join the folks who whine a lot
 because some things are wrong.

I kinda' wonder, could it be
 things might improve a lot
If we would praise and thank the Lord
 for all the things we've got?
The folks who murmur and complain
 about how bad they feel
May interfere with all the things
 that make the body heal.

So try a new approach to life:
 tell God how glad you are
That He has blessed you, oh, so much
 though you're not up to par.
God likes to bless the thankful hearts
 though they may smile through tears
For He knows how to share your load
 and add life to your years.



*This
I
Know*

Sometimes we hear the thunder roll
and clouds obscure the sun
And wind and rain beat down on us
until the day is done.
It kinda' makes us feel depressed
and really down a tad
And then we end up feeling blue
because we feel so bad.

But if we'd count the sunny hours
that we enjoy each day
We'd find there are more sunny times
than there are days of gray.
It's easy to let stormy clouds
make some folks lose their grip
Unless they have a song inside
to brighten up their trip.

There's one thing that I know for sure
that all of us can do
Is simply count our blessings, friend,
then we won't feel so blue.
The sun out-lasts the storms of life--
it has and always will
And if our trust in God is strong
our cup He'll surely fill.

Thank You, God

Thank You, God, for loving me
and giving me Your peace,
There is no other thing on earth
that gives such sweet release
For when my heart is heavy
and burdened down with care
I find you never fail me,
in fact, You're always there.

I have a lot of friends on earth
who help when life gets tough,
And though at times they help a lot
sometimes it's not enough
And so You see I need You, Lord,
to care for me each day
So I will kinda' keep in touch
each evening when I pray.

I really have a lot of things
I'd like to thank You for
And while I think on it a bit
I'll mention three or four:
I thank You for my family,
for the flowers and the trees,
I thank you for the sunsets
and the gentle evening breeze.

I also have some neighbors
who are very nice to me,
With all the good things that You give
I'm blest as I can be.
And so my soul will thank You, Lord,
my heart will have a song
Because You're watching over me
all night and all day long.



*Give thanks to the Lord,
for he is good; his love
endures forever. Psalm 118:1*



*Do It
With Style*

When you do something for the Lord
Please give it all you've got
So He will know without a doubt
That you love Him a lot.
It's not too good to give to Him
Some stuff you do not need,
Remember, friend, when you buy things
You want them guaranteed.

I know some folks don't give to God,
He isn't on their list,
I'm sure they do not realize
The blessings they have missed.
God's love is all around us
And He'd like for us to show
By words we say and things we do
That we love Him, you know.

Do something beautiful for God
And do it with a smile;
It's bound to please the Lord a lot
If you do it with style.

Thanks for the Food

It's strange some people do not pray
and thank God for their food
For if we had no food to eat
we'd really come unglued.
God knew what He was doing, folks,
when He created stuff
And made it in abundance
so we'd always have enough.

So don't just chomp and chew your food
without a second thought
For you have many blessings
that a lot o' folks ain't got.
I'm glad some folks are thankful
and they bow their head and pray
And thank the Lord for all the food
that He provides each day.



*God
Watches
You*



Be glad that God is
 watching you
 each day and every night
For sometimes life can get quite tough
 when things don't turn out right.
But Jesus says, "Come unto Me
 and I will give you rest,"
And if we do that very thing
 our lives can turn out blest.

Christ did a lot of miracles
 when on this earth He trod
And showed us things so we could know
 about the love of God.
He wanted us to understand
 how much He cares, you know,
No matter if on mountain top
 or in the vale below.

A lot of folks bear burdens
 and they struggle day by day
But God has something better
 and we need not live that way.
Just put your hand in God's big Hand,
 tell Him what's in your heart
And thank Him that He watches you;
 God always does His part.

Flowers

I simply cannot figure out
what makes a flower grow;
Or how it knows just when to bloom,
I s'pose I'll never know.
What makes it red, or pink, or blue,
with spreading leaves of green?
How does it know how tall to grow?
What keeps it fresh and clean?
What gives it fragrance all its own?
What makes it large or small?
How does it know if it should sprout
in early spring or fall?
There must be something in the seed
that tells it what to do;
And who but God would put it there
for folks like me and you.



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

The Amazing Cross

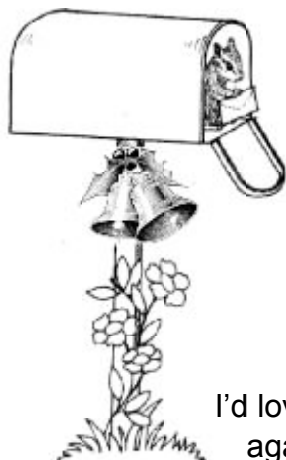
Some years ago when traveling
 we saw a special sight
That could be seen for miles around
 though it be day or night.
We took a boat from Hong Kong
 and headed for Macao
Which sticks out in South China Sea
 and I remember now
This Portuguese Peninsula
 A gambler's paradise,
Had buildings large and beautiful
 attracting gambler's eyes.

But that is not the special place--
 I want to tell you of
The site that I'm referring to
 tells folks about God's love.
A church with many steps in front
 once stood atop a hill
And on its roof a cross was built
 that could be seen at will.
In fact the sailors on the Sea
 could see that rugged cross
It helped them know right where they were
 so didn't suffer loss.

If storms were raging round about
they seldom lost their way
Because the cross was visible
to them both night and day.
But one day when the tempest came
the church came crashing down
Along with other buildings
in that a close-to-China town.
But one amazing thing that stood
and did not suffer loss;
The front wall of the church stood firm
which held aloft the cross.

And so the cross stands firm today
and lets the sailors know
If they are where they ought to be
and which way they should go.
And so the Cross of Christ still stands
and points to us the way
So we can know the love of God
and serve him every day.
And though the storms of life blow hard
against our heart and soul
We know that Christ, the Son of God,
can help us reach our goal.





Ring Those Bells

I'd love to hear the Church bells ring
again on Sunday morn
Reminding folks both young and old
that Jesus Christ was born
And that He wants to give them hope
and even cheer them up
For Church bells call the faithful
so that God can fill their cup.

I know some folks are grumpy
and they think life is not fair
But maybe if they went to Church
they'd find a blessing there.
Besides, they might meet lots of folks
who go to Church each week
Who like to sing and pray to God
and hear the preacher speak.

It seems to me each Church should have
a bell that they could ring
So folks could hear about God's love
and hear the faithful sing.
There's nothing in the whole wide world
as wonderful as love
And God is just the Person
who can send it from above.

The Sea

Who would want something more
than to walk on the shore
With someone you love by your side,
with feet that are bare
and shells here and there
And the sound of the rising tide?

The noise of the sea
is so peaceful to me
It makes me feel tiny and small.
The gulls on the beach
seem within easy reach
And answer to each others call.

I love to go there
where the wind blows my hair
With only the sound of the sea.
It freshens my soul,
and brightens my goal,
I'm grateful to know I am free.



Old Memories

When God created people
they were made in such a way
That they could keep stuff in their heads
as they lived day by day.
And what a blessing that has been
for memories of the past
Are stored for many, many years
as treasures that will last.

Of course the people who are smart
occasionally review
The things that mean a lot to them.
It kinda' helps them through
The cloudy and the rainy days
when loneliness sets in
And with good stuff to think about
they feel a peace within.

Some thoughts may cheer a tired soul
and even bring a smile
And when they see how blessed they are
it makes their life worthwhile.
So cherish your past memories,
God gave us power to store
A lot of good things in our heart
and still leave room
for more.

*I thank my God
every time I
remember you.
Philippians 1:2*



Rain



Now, what about a rainy day,
does it make you depressed?
Do clouds and rain make you feel down
before you've even dressed?
Now just put on your thinking cap
and take a different view
For if we never had some rain
what really would we do?
The earth would be so brown and dry
and clouds of dust would form;
We'd have to daily dust things off
because there as no storm.

We need to see that when the rain
comes pouring from the sky
It gives the earth a beauty bath
and won't let flowers die.
The water dusts the leaves on trees,
it gives the birds a drink,
The grass puts on it's robe of green
and roses wear their pink.
So thank the Lord for sending rain
and look not down, but up.
How nice to sit and read and dream
with coffee in your cup.

Thank you, Friend

I wonder if I've told you
that I'm glad you are my friend,
For friends are of one of God's great gifts
that He delights to send.
I thank the Lord that you came my way
and added to my days
A bit of courage and of love
in lots of different ways.

Some days are kinda' tough, you know,
and it is hard to cope
But if I talk to you a bit
you give me joy and hope.
Though I may treasure lots of stuff
and like it quite a lot
There's really nothing like a friend
in all the things I've got.

So when I count my blessings
and then kinda' add 'em up
I find that it is folks like you
who help to fill my cup.
I'm thankful that you crossed
my path,
you really make my day.
I hope you know folks
love you
in a special kind of way.



Country Kitchens

I like my country kitchen
and I like my apron, too,
For when we eat together
we do more than sit and chew.

We've lots of things to talk about
with family and with friends,
It could go on an hour or more
before the chatting ends.
Yes, it is fun to reminisce
and talk about the past
When maybe we would come in first
or sometimes even last.

It seems a kitchen is the place
where folks can share their heart
And tell about the dreams they have
and how they plan to start.
So don't despise your kitchen,
e'en with dishes in the sink
For it's a power house of love--
more important than you think.



Survival

I wonder if it's dawned on you
 how folks can live so long
When there's a multitude of stuff
 that really could go wrong.

Most kids survive when riding bikes
 or even climbing trees,
Besides the measles, chicken pox,
 and countless skinned-up knees.

Then teenage years soon come along
 and kids begin to drive,
We're happy if they can adjust
 and manage to survive.

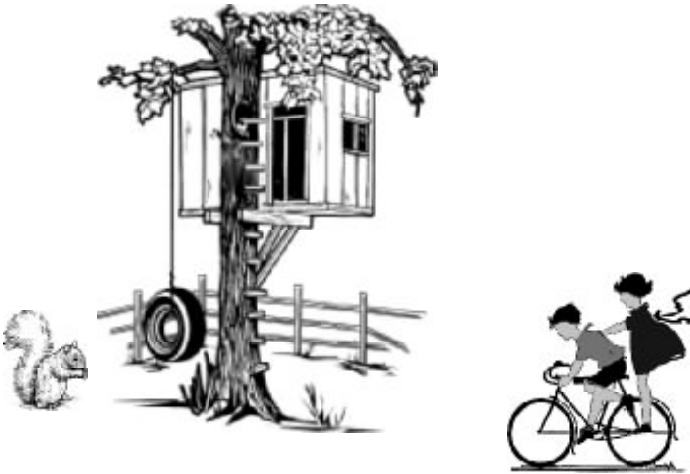
And then, of course, the years roll on
 and lots could come our way,
And of the things that do go wrong
 we hope they will not stay

Like heart disease, a fractured hip,
 arthritis, or the gout,
And ulcers are not good to have
 a lot of folks find out.

Even cataracts or aching back
are not to be desired,
And if you're wearing hearing aids
you might feel like you're wired.

I will not mention all of them
for it would take a book
And really might depress your mind
if you would take a look.

So, if you have lived fifty years
or even ninety-nine
Enjoy the years that you have left
and make them mighty fine.



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



Remembering

I have a lot of memories
I've saved for quite awhile,
Some really are out-dated
and no doubt are out of style.
But I keep hanging on to them
in both my heart and mind
And as I think on them a bit
a lot of stuff I find.

I like to think of long ago
when I was just a kid
And life moved at a slower pace
and things that I once did.
Life's problems were quite different then,
there was no Internet,
And things we watched on our TV
did not get us upset.

Computer glitches were unknown
and microwaves were nil,
But somehow folks of yesteryear
could empty stomachs fill.
Our friends and neighbors seemed to know
how they could best survive
And most of them had faith in God
that helped keep them alive.

It's nice to have a lot of stuff
stored up from years gone by
And when I see the things we have
it makes me wonder why
We tend to murmur and complain
and bellyache a lot
About how tough life is for us
and things that we have not.

We need to count our blessings
when we think our life is tough
And thank the Lord that what we have
is much more than enough.
Be glad you are alive today
and please don't soon forget
Compared with folks of long ago
we're in the best times yet.



Grandpas

Don't think, my young friend,
 because Grandpa is old
 that he's not too smart in the head,
His shoulders may droop
 and his hair may be white,
 his tummy may look too well fed.

But stored in his mind is a lot of good stuff
 he's gathered from over the years,
He's watched people rise and he's watched
 people fall,
 and sometimes he's had to shift gears.

He's learned to adjust to the changes in life
 no matter how good or how bad;
He's dealt with the crafty, he's dealt with the good;
 he learned a whole lot from his Dad.

He's learned to say "no", and he's learned
 to say "yes"
 depending on what was at stake,
If he'd write a book I feel sure we would find
 a lot less mistakes we would make.

Don't think for a minute that age makes him dull--
in fact, it will sharpen his wits;
He knows what's important and what to forgive
the older and older he gets.

So learn from your Grandpa and watch very close
and copy the good things you see;
Some day you'll be blest and have
grandkids yourself,
then what a nice Grandpa you'll be.



4

*A Song and
a Prayer*





*Psalm 42:8
Job 35:10*

*By day the Lord directs
his love,
at night his song
is with me--
a prayer to the God
of my life.*

*. . . God my maker
who gives songs
in the night.*

Waking Up



When you wake up in
the morning
do you have a happy heart
That sings a song down deep inside
to give you a good start?
I think it's kinda' foolish
to let something steal your joy
When God made things so beautiful
that you ought to enjoy.

He didn't clone the animals
and only make a few
But he created thousands
when the world was fresh and new.
I wonder if the animals, and birds
that sing so sweet
Are giving messages to us
when we the morning greet.

The birds will start their day with song,
the animals will stir
And kinda' stretch a little bit,
then gussy up their fur.
It seems they do not have to think,
"What shall I do today?"
They get right busy doing stuff
and then get on their way.

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

The Happy Heart

The folks who have a happy heart
are pretty smart, ya' know.
Some whistle, sing, or hum a bit
most everywhere they go;
And if you do that very thing
folks wonder what you've got
That gives you happiness inside--
a thing that they have not.

A lot of good things happen
when you spread your love around--
Some folks who feel down in the dumps
sure need a joyful sound.
So brighten someone's life today
by things you do and say,
Sometimes a smile will let them know
that they are loved today.



*Dear friends, let us love one another,
for love comes from God. 1 John 4:7*



Don't waste your time in arguing,
It's such a waste, you know,
To raise your voice in anger
is just not the way to go.
To say things that should not be said
can hurt a person bad
So keep your cool and shut your mouth
and keep your spirit glad.

The Bible gives advice on this
that's really pretty neat--
It says if folks are full of wrath
keep answers soft and sweet.
It takes two or more to argue
so if you're really smart
You'll not shout out those unkind words,
it could affect your heart.
Though we may live a long, long time
life still goes pretty fast
And happy are the gentle folks
who make the good times last.

A patient man calms a quarrel
Proverbs 15:18

Today's Song

Today my heart will have
a song
for I will grateful be
For all the good things
in my life
that God has given me.
It seems that anywhere I look
I see His love and care,
There is no place where He is not--
He's simply everywhere.



I know some folks don't say too much
and feel depressed and sad,
I wonder if a smile or song
would cheer them up a tad.
I realize a lot of stuff
can kinda' steal our song
And so we've got to careful be
that that won't last too long.

Don't let your heart be troubled, folks,
our God is in control
And He's aware of everything
that irritates your soul.
So put your hand in His big Hand
and hang on real tight
Assured that when He's in control
He'll make things come out right.

*Do not let your heart be troubled.
Trust in God John 14:1*

The Upward Look

When you wake up in the morning
 and you're feeling mighty fine
Do your eyes and heart turn upward
 and get Heaven "on the line?"
Do you tell Him you are grateful
 for your family and your friends
And truly do appreciate
 the blessings that He sends?
Do you tell Him that you love Him,
 that you're proud to be His son,
And thank Him that His eye's on you
 until this life is done?
We would save ourselves some trouble
 and some stress along the way
If we'd talk to God in Heaven
 and to Him commit our day.

*Commit your way to the
Lord; trust in him
Psalm 37:5*



Just Keepin' In Touch

Dear Lord,

I talked to You a while ago
and I'm already back,
I really like to keep in touch
before I hit the sack.
I kinda' want to thank You
for Your help throughout the day,
I'm glad You're not annoyed with me
because I often pray.

Some days are kinda' tough, You know,
some nights get pretty long
But knowing that You care for me
sure gives my heart a song.
It's great You're not too busy, Lord,
to hear the words I say,
I'm glad I need not stand in line
and wait and wait to pray.

And so I'll say good night
for now
and then when I get up
I'll get in touch with You again
so You can fill my cup.

*Be joyful always;
pray continually;
give thanks in all
circumstances
1 Thessalonians 5:16*



You're In God's Heart

You have a place in God's big heart
and He'd like you to know
That He would like a place in yours
because He loves you so.
If you would fall in love with Christ
and give Him all your soul
Your life would never be the same
because He'd make you whole.

A life that's lived apart from God
can never satisfy
The empty feeling down inside
no matter how you try.
So ask the Lord into your heart,
He'd give your soul a song
And you'd find life is sweeter
when you have the Lord along.



*Here I am! I stand at
the door and knock.
If anyone hears my
voice and opens the door,
I will come in and eat
with him and he with me.
Revelation 3:20*

Songs in the Night

Some folks will take a sleeping pill
to help them sleep at night,
They hope they can drop off and sleep
until the morning light.
But pills don't always work that well
and put a guy to sleep
And so sometimes they just end up
by counting endless sheep.

But that is not too smart, ya' know,
there's better stuff to do
For you can hum a song inside
that means a lot to you.
So don't despair and waste that time
and toss and turn in bed
And ruminate on unkind things
you may have done or said.

Lift up your heart and talk to God,
He has good news for you
And seeing He's awake
all night
He'll know just what to do.

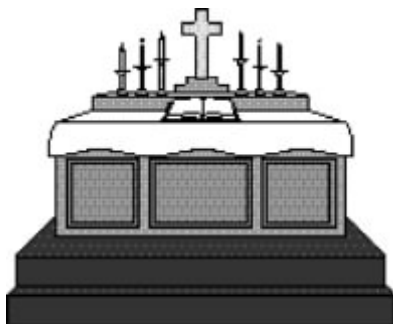
*God my maker
who gives songs
in the night..
Job 35:10*



Not all Altars are in Churches

All altars aren't in churches, friend,
they're where you meet with God;
Sometimes they're by an old highchair
where children sit and nod.
Some folks will find an altar
above their kitchen sink,
Still others are in bed in pain
with lots of time to think.

Some talk to God while shopping
or walking down the street
And God may even help them smile
at people that they meet.
Some talk to God while cleaning floors
and dusting things a bit
For God is listening all the time
and will hear all of it.



We can bow before an altar
in a fancy church or shrine
And hope that God will listen
as we tell Him line by line
About the stuff that bothers us
and how our life is tough
And that we need His grace and love
so we'll have strength enough.

It's nice to go to Church, ya' know,
and hear the people sing
And know that God hears every prayer--
in fact, hears everything.
But lots of prayers aren't said in church--
they're said most anywhere
Where people bow their hearts and minds
and breathe a sincere prayer.



*But God has surely listened and
heard my prayer. Psalm 66:19 and 20*



Tired of Problems

Sometimes I'm tired
 of problems, Lord,
 that would upset my day
Forgetting that they
 come to pass
 and do not come to stay.

Forgive me when I fail to see
 how richly I am blest
With all the things You've given me
 to feather up my nest.

Besides all this I find the things
 that I most highly treasure
Are friends You've sent across my path
 who bring both love and pleasure.
Without them, Lord, I'd not survive
 for life would lose its song
And even more important
 is to have You, Lord, along.

So I will keep a happy song
 tucked deep within my heart
Assured that things that come my way
 won't keep us far apart.
Because I need Your help so much
 I know You'll understand
Why I creep up so close to You
 until I feel Your Hand.

The Doc's

It seems the Doc's know how to do
a lot of fancy stuff--
They transplant different organs now
and if that's not enough
They replace hips and worn knee joints,
they push and pull with zest,
And always they are trying to do
the treatment that is best.

They order pills they think will help
to cure some bad disease,
And often they prescribe some stuff
to make folks feel at ease.
I don't know how we'd get along
without their help, ya' know,
When parts wear out and pain sets in
and we feel mighty low.

So they take care of flu and gout
and tune us up a bit
Then we find out it isn't long
before we're feeling fit.
But if you have a broken heart
and life is mean and tough
The Doc's advice and
pills you take
just may not be enough.
You may need God to touch
your heart
and make it whole and new
For He's the Great Physician
and He knows just what to do.



Lift Up Your Voice and Sing

Don't live among the shadows, friend,
lift up your voice and sing,
God loves it when we're joyful
and give thanks for every thing.
There is nothing like the sunlight
of God's amazing love
To bathe our heart and cheer our soul
like sunshine from above.

I know some folks have troubles
and find it hard to cope,
It seems they've not discovered
God can give them peace and hope.
But others who believe in God
are on the winning team
For He has made life better--
more than they dared to dream.





Cloudy Skies

Sometimes our skies seem pretty gray
and we start feeling blue
Like 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 hum a tune
And if it's from your heart to God
you should feel better soon.

A cheerful heart is good medicine
Proverbs 17:22

Shepherds

I like to see the Christmas cards
that show that Holy Night
When shepherds saw the Christ Child
and stars were shining bright.
But have you noticed they're dressed up
and look so clean and neat?
I doubt if they are barefoot
but have sandals on their feet.

Now when I meditate on this
the thought occurs to me
God chose to send His angels
to some common folks, you see.
The shepherds didn't know that night
they'd hear the angels sing
So they were wearing shepherd's clothes
unaware of anything.

I'd guess they would have tidied up
but with no place to show'r
There wasn't much that they could do
at that near-midnight hour.
But God was looking at their hearts,
not at the clothes they wore
And so He chose some common folks
to worship and adore

His Gift to earth, His only Son,
the very best He had
In hopes there would be peace on earth
and make His followers glad.
And, friend, it is the same today,
God welcomes all who come
And if you give your heart to Him
your soul will sing and hum.



*The shepherds returned, glorifying and
praising God for all the things they had
heard and seen, which were just as they
had been told. Luke 2:20*

What's God Supposed to Do?

Don't treat God like a sickly friend
you visit once a week
For He wants you to keep in touch
and hear the words you speak.
I know it takes some time to pray
and read His Word, you know,
But folks who do this very thing
know it's the way to go.

Somehow they seem to hum a lot
and find God answers prayer
For they have found God listens
and may answer then and there.
Sometimes He answers with a "Yes,"
sometimes He may say "No,"
Sometimes He tells us "Wait a bit,"
but that's okay you know

Because He knows the future
and He sees far, far ahead
And if our God looks after us
we need not live in dread.
So if you're hassled every day
with burdens hard to bear
Just tell the Lord what's in your heart
and then just leave it there.

God has a lot of answers
that He'd like to share with you
But if you seldom talk to Him
what's He supposed to do?
It seems to me if you're stressed out
and really in a bind
You oughta' talk to God a lot
for He gives peace of mind.



*Come to me, all you who are weary and
burdened, and I will give you rest.
Matthew 11:28*

Perks



I've found there are perks
that you get in this life
If you hang together
as husband and wife
And work toward a goal
that you both want to reach
And do the fun things
so important to each.

I'd just like to mention
a few of the perks
That both can enjoy
in a marriage that works.
You need not be lonely
for someone is there,
It's always more fun
if your heart you can share.

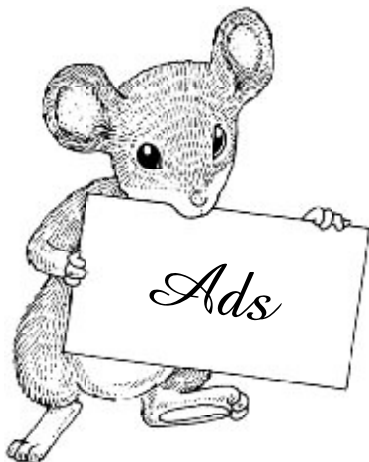
There's someone to care
if you're feeling down low--
They'll do things to help you
to get up and go.

The pains and the aches
get a listening ear,
There's comfort in knowing
another is near.

And then there's the joy
if with children you're blest--
They'll brighten the home
as can no other guest.
The trips that you take
would be lonely and long
If you had no partner
to give it a song.

So folks, hang together,
things sometimes get rough
And if you get thinking
that you've had enough
Hold on to your marriage,
hard times will not last
And 'fore y'all know it
the problems have passed.

The kids will be grateful
to both Mom and Dad
If all hang together
and share the same pad.



Some things that I see advertised
just kinda' tee me off
Because a lot of stuff they claim
won't even cure a cough.
If folks use anti-aging cream
no wrinkle should appear,
And yet I see folks wrinkled up,
why don't they disappear?

And then I see they advertise
a lot of pills and stuff,
It seems if they'd do what they claim
folks should feel up to snuff.
No one would have to lie awake
just counting endless sheep,
They'd take a pill and crawl in bed
then shortly fall asleep.

I know that medicine can cure
a lot of people's ills
But do we really need to take
so many kinds of pills?
I wonder what would happen
if we just ate healthy food--
Would we start feeling better
or would we come unglued?

I wonder if the research folks
would ask the senior group
What really made them live so long--
could it be chicken soup?
Or did they have a song inside
that helped them to relax
And when their heart kept
humming tunes
they lived life to the max?



5

*God Knows
Me and
Loves Me*





Psalm 139:1-3

*O Lord,
you have searched me
and you know me;
You know when I sit
and when I rise;
you perceive my thoughts
from afar.*

*You discern my going out
and my lying down;
you are familiar
with all my ways.*

God Knows Me and Loves Me

No matter what you've said or done
that's hidden deep inside
And you've not told a living soul
of any sin or pride,
Just know that you can't hide a thing
from God's all-seeing Eye
And He will know your whereabouts
until the day you die.

This really is quite nice, you know,
and let me tell you why:
It means you always have a friend
who's ever standing by.
He's someone who will take the time
to listen till you're through,
He cherishes the time He spends
in fellowship with you.

He also likes it when you share
the good stuff in your heart
And if you do it day by day
You're really pretty smart.
Now when I think on things like this
it kinda' blows my mind
And makes me feel relaxed and loved,
more caring, and more kind.

It's kinda' sad some folks don't know
that God is on their side
And watches o'er them night and day,
His Eyes are open wide.
So if God has His Eyes on you
and knows your every thought
Just talk to Him and thank Him
for the good stuff that you've got.



*You discern my going out and
my lying down and are familiar
with all my ways. Psalm 139:3*

*Everybody
Is
Somebody*



If you think you are nobody
then you're completely wrong
Because God keeps His Eye on you
each day and all night long.
Though we may think we're out of sight
while treading earthly sod
We must remember everyone
is somebody to God.

There are no unimportant folks
and God loves each so much
That He would like to talk to them
and give His special Touch.
A lot of folks have troubles
that they hassle day by day
And if they'd give their heart to Him
they'd find a better way.

Don't think that God is far away
because He's out of sight
For He has lots of answers
that can make a burden light.
Remember, you're somebody
who the Lord loves very much
So why not let Him give to you
His kind and gentle Touch?



We are always super-happy
when our kids give us a call--
It surely brightens up our day
but that's not really all,
It means our kids are interested
and want to keep in touch
And we've the chance to tell them
that we love them very much.

If God's our Heavenly Father
and we're in His family tree
That's 'bout as good as it can get
for folks like you and me.
So when we pray to God each day
its like we're calling home
And can always get connected
no matter where we roam.

We don't have to use a cell phone
or wait for lines to clear
For when God hears us call His Name
He bends a list'ning ear.
We find that when we talk a while
we feel our soul relax
And if we love Him in our heart
we'll live life to the max.

God Loves Me Still

Sometimes we're prejudiced, you know,
and don't like other folk
Because they don't agree with us
or may be old or broke.

Their style of life is not like ours,
their goals are different, too,
And so we shrug them off because
we don't like what they do.

I've thought about this quite a bit
because we're quick to judge,
And sometimes we will criticize
and even hold a grudge.

But one thing I find comforting
and also cheers my heart
Is that the Lord's been watching me
right from the very start.



He knows my every thought and deed,
no thing from Him is hid,
He even knew my childish heart
when I was just a kid.

So, thank You, Lord, for loving me
and showing me your will
For You know all about me
and yet You love me still!

*I trust in God's unfailing love
for ever and ever. Psalm 52:8*

The Tax Collector

Zacchaeus was a little man
and found it hard to see
What Jesus really looked like
so he headed for a tree.
He was chief among the Publicans
so he collected dough
When people paid their taxes
which most people hate, ya' know.

It kinda' gets my funny bone
when I see in my mind
How this man ran ahead of folks
to see what he could find
That might give him a bit of height
so climbed a sycamore
And hanging on up there he saw
much better than before.

But when the Lord passed by that way
and saw him in the tree
He said to Zacchaeus, "Come down,
at your house we'll have tea."
Somewhere between the tree and ground
his heart was changed a lot
And he told Jesus right away
he'd share the things he's got.

He'd give half his money to the poor,
which was a large amount
For he was very, very rich
so took a while to count.
He said if he had cheated folks
he'd pay 'em back fourfold;
I reckon that made happy folks
when news like that was told.

To get a tax refund, ya' know,
gives people extra dough--
Do you think Zacchaeus started this
a lot of years ago?
So anyway this little man
who climbed a sycamore
Found Jesus Christ and peace of mind,
plus love and so much more.



Love Never Fails

Friends. love it so important
it's the language of the soul
And folks who don't have lots of it
may never reach their goal.

The Bible speaks of it a lot
and tells what it will do
And if you live by what it says
great peace will come to you.

It says if you don't love a lot
you won't amount to much
E'en those whose lives are full of things
they love to hold and touch

For love is kind, it never fails
though it is hard to cope,
Yet those whose hearts o'erflow with love
will never lose their hope

For love believes, it hopes all things,
and all things will endure
And it's the greatest force on earth--
of this you can be sure.

A lot of things on planet earth
won't last too long, you know,
So set your heart on worthwhile things
and never let them go.

Love stands the ups and downs of life
and grows from day to day
If you will nurture it a bit
and not get in the way.

So, don't leave home without it,
it will help you sing and smile
For if your heart is full of love
your life will be worthwhile.



Love never fails. 1 Corinthians 13:8



Not All Things Change

So many things have changed a lot
in fifty years or so
It takes a lot of know-how
to keep up with things, you know.
It used to be a credit card
was only used with care
And now they are so popular
you see them everywhere.

It's common now to ride a plane
and view some distant shore,
Most homes have television sets
for news and so much more.
We used to write a letter
that required a postage stamp
But now that e-mail is in vogue
folks don't get writer's cramp.

With satellites up in the air
and cell phones in the car
It seems we always are in touch
no matter where we are.
Yes, we have lots of gadgetry,
including Internet
And in our hearts we realize
we're in the best times yet.

And while the days and years roll on
some change is bound to come,
But there are things that never change
and let me name you some:
The Ten Commandments that God gave
are still the same today,
The Bible has no small, fine print
folks can't read anyway.

Each year when January comes
God sends out no brochure
To tell you of your benefits
and how they've changed this year.
And best of all God hasn't changed--
He's still the same today
And as He is He'll always be
for He is here to stay.

O the Lord do not change.
Malachi 3:6



Sometimes when kids are kinda' young
they think they know a lot;
Some even run away from home
with what few things they've got.
They think their parents aren't too bright
with their old-fashioned ways
And so they try newfangled stuff
to brighten up their days.

At times they do not realize
that many years ago
Their Mom and Dad had problems, too,
in growing up, you know.
There seems to be no magic wand
to save one from this plight--
And so it just may take a while
to get things going right.

If kids would think on this a bit
it could be they would learn
That Mom and Dad are pretty bright
while they a living earn.
If Dad is forty seven
and your Mom is forty three
That's ninety years experience
to draw on, don't you see?

Sometimes it's hard to comprehend
the blessings that we've got
Until we've muddled through some years
and thereby learned a lot.
I'm glad that God still loves us
though we may not act too smart
For every day He watches us
and keeps us in His heart.



A Bad Hair Day

Sometimes we crawl in bed at night
and wonder how to say
So God will understand that we
have had a bad hair day.
Do you think God would understand
if we said words like this,
Or do you think He'd turn His Head
and would our message miss?
Now let me tell you, friend of mine,
God's eyes and ears are good
So He knows all your heart and soul--
more than you've dreamed He could.
So tell Him when you're feeling tough
and things seem oh, so wrong;
He may give you a little hug
and fill your heart with song.



Thank You, Lord



Sometimes we don't say
 'Thank You'
In the way we know
 we should,
We don't really count our blessings
That bring us lots of good.
I guess we get too busy
Running down our rabbit trails
That we neglect to thank the Lord
His bounty never fails.

I wonder if you thank Him
You were born in U.S.A.
And thank Him you have lots of stuff
To cheer your heart today.
We owe the Lord an awful lot
For all His love and care
And find no matter where we look
We see Him everywhere.

When you awake and start the day
Be thankful in your heart
And you will find right off the bat
You've got a running start.
So sing a song or hum a tune
And thank God right away
And that will please the Lord a lot
To hear the words you say.

Tipping

Why do we tip the waitress
but we do not tip the cook?
It may be we should think this through
and take another look.
The waitress didn't peel the spuds
or make the garlic toast,
Nor did she make the lemon pie
or even brown the roast.

The rice is cooked by someone else,
she didn't brew the tea,
I've really tried to figure out
just whose the tip should be.
She doesn't clear the table,
she doesn't wash a dish,
She simply takes a tray of food
and seats us where we wish.

I've wondered if the restaurants
just can't afford to pay
A salary that is adequate
to live on day by day.
And so we folks who
like to eat
some place with fancy fare
Continue tipping waitresses,
I guess we shouldn't care
If we help meet the payroll
of the folks who own the place,
Or add a bit to waitress pay,
whichever is the case.



6

*Forgiven
and Happy*





Psalm 103:1,11,12

*Praise the Lord,
O my soul . . .
For as high as the heavens
are above the earth,
so great is his love
for those who fear him,
as far as the east is
from the west
so far has he removed
our transgressions
from us.*

The Psalms

I kinda' like to read the Psalms,
they have good news to share,
They tell us we should praise the Lord
for all His love and care.
They also give the future
written out in black and white
Of what will happen to the good
and those who don't do right.

Of course we know of David
with his trusty little sling
And how he killed Goliath
and great victory did win.
Not only was he famous
for the great things that he did
But he loved God with all his heart
when he was just a kid.

And David also played a harp
and wrote a lot of songs,
He also made some bad mistakes
but repented of his wrongs.
So God loved him an awful lot
because he was sincere
And David found forgiveness
which filled his soul
with cheer.



If you will read the Psalms again
they might bring peace of mind
And if we think on 'em a bit
a lot of stuff we'll find
That gives us strength for dreary days
when we feel tired and weak,
God knows we have some days like that
and knows whereof we speak.

I guess some verses I like best
is where it says to me
That we should always praise the Lord
until His Face we see.
And if He lives within our heart
He'll lead us safely o'er
The banks of Jordan's River
and reach Heaven's golden shore.



*Blessed (happy) is he whose transgressions
are forgiven, whose sins are covered.*

Psalms 32:1



To think that I'm a child of God
just almost blows my mind,
But if you read the Scriptures, friend,
this concept you will find.

The folks who choose to follow Christ
are in God's family tree
And that's as good as it can get
for folks like you and me.

Some people try a lot of stuff
to make their lives complete
But if you have no peace of mind
God's love is hard to beat.

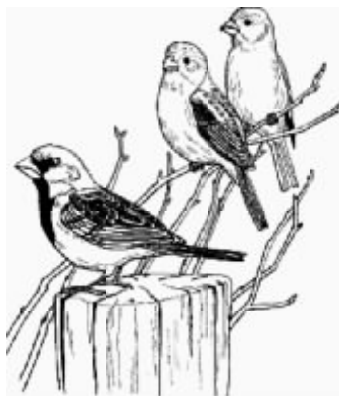
Don't try to make your way alone
when life is mean and tough,
Techniques that you have tried for years
just may not be enough.

So trust in God, hold to His Hand
and give to Him your heart,
You'll wonder why you took so long
to make this kind of start.

The folks who really love the Lord
have 'something up their sleeve'
That's given them a happy heart
and helped them to believe.

So think on this a little bit
and don't too long delay--
It's great to be a child of God
and share His love each day.

*to those who believe
in his name, he gave
the right to become
children of God
John 1:12*





It must please God an awful lot
when people smile and sing
And have a heart that's full of love
with thanks for everything.
They don't request a lot of stuff
they really do not need
Nor do they write a big long list
to hand to God to read.

It's really kinda' strange, you know,
how some folks stew and fret
And worry over lots of things
they really should forget.
How happy are the trusting folks
who really give to God
Their present and their future, too,
till angels give their nod.

The Best Answer

Some folks will worry day and night
(and hardly take a break)
About a lot of trifling things
that keep them wide awake.
They toss and turn from side to side
and sometimes take a pill
And hope they'll get a bit of sleep
while it is dark and still.

When small stuff kinda' gets your goat
and nags away at you
Just give your problems to the Lord,
He'll know just what to do.
If you need to apologize
for what you've done or said
Those magic words may give you peace
and clear things in your head.

I think it's kinda' foolish, too,
if someone did you wrong
To keep that thing deep in your heart
and let it steal your song.
It's better far to just forgive
and get it off your chest,
Then when you go to bed at night
you'll get a good night's rest.



*... if you hold
anything against
anyone, forgive
him Mark 11:25*

Laughter



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

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

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

Try Forgiveness

I guess I'll always be amazed--
 when Christ was crucified
By people He had fed and healed,
 then just before He died
He asked God to forgive them
 "for they know not what they do,"
No one but Jesus would do that,
 then He forgave them, too.

We know that Jesus died for all
 who will His Word obey
And though it made folks happy then
 it's still the same today.
There's nothing like forgiveness
 that can set your spirit free
And fill your cup with happiness
 the way it oughta' be.

So next time you are angry
 and folks rankle you a bit
Forgive 'em for the whole nine yards
 and then be through with it.





*What
Would
Happen
If . . . ?*

If everyone was happy
 would it put folks out of work?
What would they do with all the pills
 that one buys from a clerk?
Would Ely Lilly, Merck, and Squibb
 who make those tons of meds
Lay people off because they'd find
 the sick aren't in their beds?

If no one had a headache
 or no stress of any kind
Psychologists and therapists
 some other work would find.
The Doc's who treat folk's ulcers
 and the ever-beating heart
Could also have much less to do--
 would their job fall apart?

This might affect the lawyers, too,
their work load would decrease
For happy families don't divorce--
they live in love and peace.
They also wouldn't bring a suit
against their fellowman,
They'd reconcile their differences
and do the best they can.

The folks who make the booze and drugs
would also give pink slips
For if you're happy you don't need
that stuff to touch your lips.
Police would find much less to do,
the jailer could relax;
If everyone was happy, folks,
we'd live life to the max.



School

I know you've heard of schools of fish,
I wonder, does that mean
No other creatures God has made
has any classroom seen?
Who teaches little birds to sing
or kittens how to purr,
Or koala bears to sit on limbs
while holding mother's fur?
The elephants and kangaroos
all know what they should do
And none of them have gone to school
but they are right smart, too.
I've thought about this for a while
and this is what I guess
God introduced home-schooling
and made it a success.





I like the common people
for they make good sense to me;
They really know what life's about
this you can plainly see.
They promise things and keep their word;
they look you in the eye,
For most of them are first class folks--
not those who cheat and lie.
They have a view that's pretty smart
on issues of the day,
On politics and woman's lib
they've quite a bit to say.
They seem to know what works in life
and what is bound to fail,
They don't waste time on worrying
and seldom are in jail.
They much prefer to spend their time
on things that count a lot;
They teach their kids important stuff
so they won't go to pot.
They also teach them how to pray
and how to trust in God,
And when their kids are doing well
they smile and give a nod.
If you can pick your parents
you are mighty smart to choose
A common man and woman
who are upright in their views.



Tough Days

Sometimes our days are kinda' tough,
we feel depressed and blue,
We're really not on top th' heap
so what's a guy to do?
It's not too smart to sit and cry
and wallow in our plight,
There must be something we can do
to make things turn out right.

Now when I wonder what to do
and think on it a while
It seems the best thing we can do
is give the world a smile.
And if we're smiling through and through
our attitude will change
And we'll start counting blessings
which really isn't strange

For when one has a happy heart
and counts his blessings, too,
He's bound to rise above the storm
and feel his strength renew.
So don't succumb to lousy days,
get up and do your part,
God wants to fill your cup and then
you'll have a joyful heart.

Sleep



When I was just a little kid
I heard of young Boy Blue
Who wasn't too ambitious
when there was work to do.
The story goes that when he should
have tended to the sheep
He just hid beneath a haystack
and lay there "fast asleep."

Does this mean that he dropped right off
as soon as eyes were closed
And had no dreams or nightmares
as he lay there fast and dozed?
I've never heard of "slow sleep"
although that well may be
The way a lot of folks drop off
perhaps like you and me.

And if a guy is "sound asleep"
does he not make a sound?
Or does it mean he snores and talks
to get himself unwound?
Perhaps I'll never figure out
the if's and and's of sleep,
It just might be I'd have less stress
if I'd just count some sheep.

The Seniors

By the time folks get near eighty
they have learned a lot of stuff
And yet in our fast-moving world
sometimes it's not enough
To keep us up on top th' heap
with things we oughta' know,
But it could be we struggle some
because our steps are slow.

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

It's hard to smell the flowers
if you're always on the run
And folks who are too busy
well may miss the setting sun.
The oldsters who have lived a while
may have it figured out
Why God put us on planet earth
and why we're here no doubt.

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



*It's hard to smell the flowers
if you're always on the run.*

*The
Vet*



A doctor who treats animals
 must really be quite smart
For animals can't tell the Doc
 if it's it's head or heart
That makes it feel down in the dumps
 with head a' hangin' low,
And if their tail is dragging, too,
 they're pretty sick, you know.

The Vet can't understand meows,
 a whinny, or a bark,
I've never heard a ferret talk
 when it hides in the dark.
It must upset the Doc a bit
 when he just has to guess
About the medicine he gives--
 should it be more or less?

When treatment is a guessing game
for those that cannot speak
And if the Vet says, "Open wide
so I can take a peek"
The animal may eye the Vet
and wonder what he said
And even give a wistful look
with heart that's full of dread.

I know I could not be a Vet,
I know I'd sorry be
When cats, or dogs, or horses
would look wistfully at me.
No doubt I'd have to specialize
on those that can be heard
And only treat just parrots
and the talking myna bird.



Granny-proof

I find some stuff is Granny-proof
I try to break into,
When stuff is wrapped up very tight
what should we oldsters do?
If we take paring knife in hand
or get our scissors out
We still will hassle quite a while
to open stuff, no doubt.

The plastic that we have now days
is really pretty tough;
When Granny's try to open things
it makes 'em huff and puff.
But if we had no plastic wrap,
no plastic bags, and such
It sure would foul our living up
for we use them so much.
So I will worry not a whit,
I'll use that plastic stuff
Because in my retirement
I sure have time enough.





Some folks like home cooking and get in their car
And travel the highway--no matter how far

To find a cafe that has good stuff to eat
That tastes like home cooking and that's
hard to beat.

When dinner is finished they're stuffed to the gills
And out comes the wallet to pay all the bills.

Of course they're expected to tip ten percent
Or maybe fifteen, it depends where they went.

But I've often wondered if we want good food
Why not stay at home and feed all the brood

And make it a special whole family affair
That's really home-cooked by everyone there?

7

*Enjoying
the Journey*

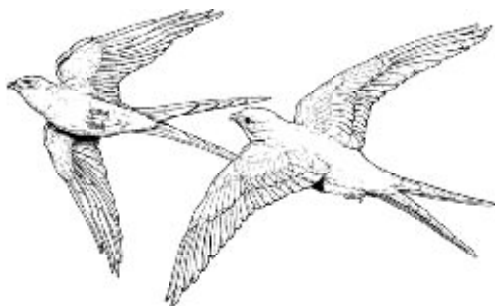




Psalm 32:18,48,14

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

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



Travelers All

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

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

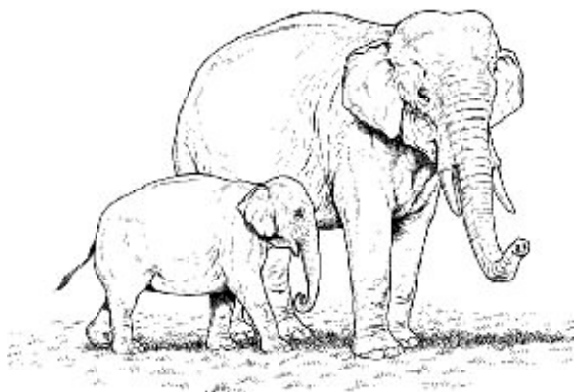
So friends, enjoy the journey
while you tread this earthly sod;
You'll find life is more pleasant
if you walk each day with God.

In His Hands

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

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

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



Our Journey



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

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

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

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

So Much to Enjoy

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

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

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

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

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



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

Armchair Journey

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

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

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

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

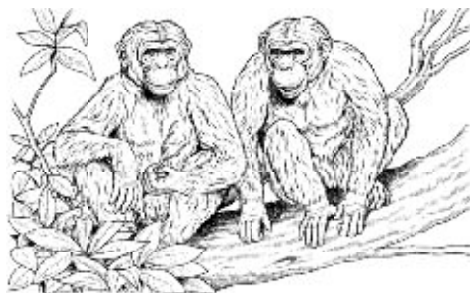
There's Bethlehem's church,
and the Jew's wailing wall,
Manila, Jakarta,
and that isn't all.

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



Don't Travel Alone

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



The Tourist



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

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

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

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

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

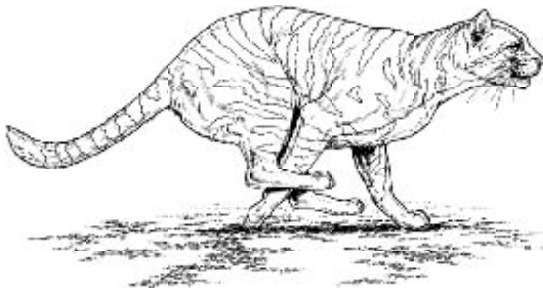
But tourists all can face the day,
It matters not how bald or gray.
They've planned for years to make this trip,
So now, by George, just let 'er rip!

There's More Up Ahead

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

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

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



A Long Liver

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

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

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

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

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



A Donkey??

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

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

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

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

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



Mary

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

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

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



Resurrection Morning



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

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

I'm sure Heaven rang with praises
 on that holy day and grand,
But wonder if some shed a tear
 to feel His nail pierced hand?



Angels

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

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

*God
is
Awesome*



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

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

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

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

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

(over)



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

Psalms 16:11

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

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



I Wonder



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

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

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