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# Hymn Lovers' MAGAZINE



**ARNIE HARTMAN**

## A GOSPEL MUSIC MAGAZINE

PUBLISHED BY HYMN WRITERS

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**A Prince Among Hymn Writers**  
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**Spurgeon - Hymn Writer**  
*H. J. Garland*

**MAY - JUNE**

**1950**

**Price 50c**

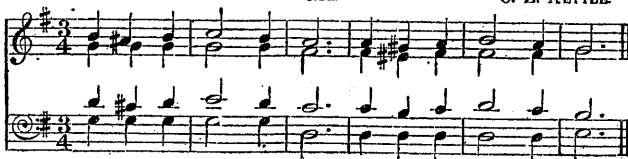


# The Holy Hymn

WOOLWICH.

S.M.

C. E. KETTLER.



By permission of the Proprietors of *The Bristol Tune Book*.

- mf* 1 SWEETLY the holy hymn  
Breaks on the morning air ;  
Before the world with smoke is dim,  
We meet to offer prayer.
- p* 2 While flowers are wet with dews,  
Dew of our souls, descend ;  
Ere yet the sun the day renews,  
O Lord, Thy Spirit send.
- mp* 3 Upon the battle-field,  
Before the fight begins,  
*dim.* We seek, O Lord, Thy sheltering shield,  
To guard us from our sins.
- mp* 4 Ere yet our vessel sails  
Upon the stream of day,  
*cr.* We plead, O Lord, for heavenly gales  
To speed us on our way
- p* 5 On the lone mountain-side,  
Before the morning's light,  
The Man of Sorrows wept and cried.
- mf* And rose refreshed with might.
- mp* 6 O hear us, then ; for we  
Are very weak and frail :  
*cr.* We make the Saviour's name our plea,  
And surely must prevail.

*Charles Haddon Spurgeon*

The tune set to this hymn is the one Spurgeon always used at the famous mid-week prayer meetings, when one thousand of his members assembled for prayer. This he always said was the main cause for his soul-winning power as a preacher, and also the influence of his printed sermons.

## *Successful Hymn Writer of the Past*



THE HOUSE AT KELVEDON, ESSEX, WHERE C. H. SPURGEON WAS BORN

## SPURGEON - *Hymn - Writer*

REV. H. J. GARLAND

**C**HARLES Haddon Spurgeon was a hymn writer! We think of him as being the greatest preacher of his day. We read his wonderful sermons, but we seldom hear that Spurgeon found one of his greatest joys in expressing his love for his Savior by writing hymns.

The best known of his Psalm versions and hymns is entitled, "Sweetly The Holy Hymn." It is to be found in most English hymn books and it is a favorite hymn with which to open a service. A copy of both words and music will be found on page 4.

Spurgeon was born June 19, 1834 in Kelvedon, England. His father was a tradesman and pastor of a small, independent church. The family descended from Protestant refugees from Holland and the simple piety of their ancestors marked the humble home.

Spurgeon, however, believed strongly that length of days should be measured from the date of one's spiritual birthday. It is fitting, therefore, that this year we recall his conversion because it was one hundred years ago, on January 6th, 1850, that Spurgeon was "born again."

His conversion was the result of many prayers, offered by his parents, grandparents, and their friends. The famous missionary, the Rev. Richard Knill of Chester, when on a visit to Essex, stayed with the family of Spurgeon.

He spoke to the strong-willed boy about his soul and prayed with him. Then he called the family together and placing Charles on his knee, Knill said, "I have a presentiment that God will answer our prayers on Charles' behalf. One day he will preach the gospel to multitudes and so sure am I of this that I predict, he will preach from the famous pulpit of the Reverend Rowland Hill in London. I shall ask him to promise me that when that time comes, he will open the service with Cowper's hymn—"God moves in a mysterious way, His wonders to perform."

Charles promised, and in due course the prophecy was fulfilled and the hymn was sung by a vast congregation.

The conversion of Spurgeon, however,

was long delayed. He was long under conviction of sin and yearned to be saved. He made the mistake of trying to save himself and failed to find peace with God. He says, "I heard until I was sixteen many good sermons, from various ministers, mainly to believers. I was warned against the consequences of living in sin, but no one explained to me how to dispose of my burden of sin. I lived under a dark cloud but no Evangelist pointed me to the 'Wicket Gate' of salvation by faith."

On January 6th, 1850, Spurgeon rose before dawn to read his Bible and pray. He was on a visit to Colchester, Essex and had decided to attend the Baptist chapel. On his way a storm began and the fall of snow was so heavy that he took refuge in the Primitive Methodist Chapel on Artillery Street. The service had begun and the hymn used by the Methodists on Covenant Sunday was be-

*(Continued on page 36)*



THE SPURGEON MEMORIAL. WITH PANELS OF HIM PREACHING AND CONVERSING WITH ORPHANS

## SPURGEON HYMN-WRITER

(Continued from page 19)

ing sung—"Come let us anew, our journey pursue."

Spurgeon found only sixteen people present and owing to the rough weather the minister failed to arrive. A tall, thin local preacher entered the pulpit, opened his Bible, and from Isaiah, read, "Look unto Me and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth."

"This is a simple text," the preacher began, "It says, Look. Now looking does not take any effort. A child can look, an unlearned man can do the same. Many are looking to themselves and do so in vain. It is to Jesus we must look. It is He who bore our sins on the tree. Perhaps some think they must wait for the striving of the Spirit before they look, but the text bids us not wait for anything, but to look and live."

Thus the man continued for about ten minutes. Then he began to apply his message. He noticed the strange young man, and fastening his eyes on him, he said, "Young man, you look very miserable and you will always be miserable, in life, in death and in eternity, if you don't obey the text." Lifting his hands, raising his voice in true Primitive Methodist fervor, he shouted, "Young man, look to Jesus. Look, look and He will save you this moment. You have nothing to do but to look and live."

Spurgeon says, "I did leap for joy. I saw that as the dying Israelites in the wilderness were healed when they looked at the brazen serpent, so my soul would be healed by a look at the Crucified One. I could have stood that very moment and sung Cowper's lines—

'Eer since by faith I saw the stream  
His flowing wounds supply  
Redeeming love has been my theme  
and shall be till I die.'

As we sang the last hymn, "There is a fountain filled with blood' I knew that I had lost all my guilty stains. I had passed from death unto life."

With the joy bells of heaven ringing in his soul, the newly converted young man looked at the snow covered houses and streets and understood another text from Isaiah. It was, "Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow."

Though he was only sixteen, he set out to fit himself to preach by attending school at Newmarket. His parents urged him to go to college but he felt "Necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel."

He also joined a 'Lay Preachers' Association.'" One evening he and a friend were sent to an evening service. On the way Spurgeon remarked, "I trust God will bless your labors tonight."

To his astonishment his friend replied, "My labors? I never preached in my life. I was asked to accompany you."

Thus Spurgeon preached his first sermon! Within a year he was called to a small Baptist church and two years later he was invited to preach in a London church. His originality and fervor so impressed the congregation that he was asked to take the pastorate.

He was not yet twenty, but he was able to reach the people for Christ. The building was filled so the congregation moved to a larger one. Again this was repeated, and again, and again until a final home was found in the Metropolitan Tabernacle, with seats for six thousand. Before he was twenty-three he spoke to twenty-four thousand in the Crystal Palace.

For forty-two years, by his silvery voice, his graphic pen, he helped thousands of sinners to find the Savior. The way he found Christ influenced his preaching. He preached with great simplicity and in every sermon, in some

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# SONG STORIES

## IN TIME OF NEED

Lilia Inosanto

Lilia Inosanto had prayed but God did not answer. To Lilia it seemed as if God had forgotten her. She went through the Bible trying to find something to comfort her and found many wonderful promises that gave her hope. Her heart was filled with joy as she realized that she could come boldly before the throne of grace and find help in time of need. She was so happy that she ran over to the piano, thinking to play some hymns; instead she played a tune of her own.

## SPURGEON—HYMN WRITER

(Continued from p. 36)

form, the truth, 'Look and live' appeared. He said, "I have nothing else to preach but Christ crucified . . . . He is the whole gospel."

As founder of the Pastor's College, he influenced hundreds of students for the Baptist ministry. Some of them became eminent soul winners, going all over the world. He also built the Stockwell Orphanage and led hundreds of orphans to Christ. It is impossible to tabulate the blessings which followed his conversion. Through his printed sermons they still continue.

He never again met the humble preacher who led him to the Savior. When 16 years later, he preached from the same text in the Colchester Methodist Chapel, the man was not there. But in glory, he shares the happiness of the one hundredth spiritual birthday of the famous preacher!

A famous preacher who loved hymns! Spurgeon's favorite hymn was "All hail the power of Jesus name." It was most impressive to hear his congregation of many thousands sing it, as was the rule, unaccompanied. He said, "I would have rather been able to say I was the author of that hymn and especially the last verse

## HE REIGNS WITHIN MY HEART

Frances Johnson Bostwick

Sometime ago I received a valentine from Grace Ramont, the editor of this magazine. The message it contained was a song poem of her own composition, entitled, "Is Jesus King or 'your Heart?'" My song was, and is, the answer to that question. Praise God, He does reign King of my heart.

HIS FOREVER

Gordon E. Hooker

At the time this song was written the Christian Endeavor Society of Los Angeles County put on a contest for the best song. "His Forever" won first place, so Dr. Hooker dedicated the song to the Society.

than have all the honors this world could give."

In his last hours he bid his friends sing,  
"O that with yonder sacred throng,  
we at His feet may fall  
Join in the everlasting song and crown  
Him Lord of All."

## "MUSIC IN EVANGELISM, AND STORIES OF FAMOUS HYMNS"

This popular 240-page book by PHIL KERR has been widely circulated, and is now a standard textbook in many schools and colleges. The first part contains a study of the history and importance of Christian music. The second part presents the stories of more than 150 well-known Christian songs, and brief sketches of famous hymn-writers. The current edition (published within the past month) includes up-to-date data on many of the still-living hymn-writers.

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