



"Whispers of Love"



### **POEMS AND PRAYERS**

by
Olive Borland







Poems, Prayers & Pictures

By Olive Borland

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### Foreword

Olive doesn't "write" poetry – she shares the thoughts that the Lord has given her through poems. As I have read over this book I have felt challenged in many areas of my own life. Pick it up for yourself – read it with an attentive heart and let the Lord Himself speak to and challenge you into a deeper walk with Him. Olive inspires me as she has "tuned" in to what God wants to say to her and others through many differing circumstances in life and has put it together for us to read. The advantage of poetry is that you can pick it up and read a poem here or there and allow it to bless your heart. Read and be blessed, open it again and again and give the book to others that need encouragement.

Hilary Lamberton

I wish to express my sincere thanks to Hilary Lamberton and John McAteer for all of their help with this book prior to going to print. I hope the thoughts which I believe were given to me by God will be of help to all who read them. Proceeds from book sales after print costs are given to the Lord's work.

Olive Borland

### Whispers of Love

Whispers of Love from heaven above Speak to this heart of mine And tell me of the gift that cost The life that was Divine!

> The gift of my salvation Was bought upon a tree By the lovely Son of God Who died on Calvary!

I thank Him that He whispers still And that for good, and not for ill May I ever attentive be To the one who speaks to me!

John 10:4 & Romans 8:23

# There has to be a God

As you look at my pictures
I hope you too will agree
There has got to be a God
Who created the beauty we see.

We can see God's handiwork
And His Almighty power
From the tiniest bird
To the most beautiful flower!

Everything has been created With a purpose and plan With detail and design That outwits many a man.

Of course I'm sure you'll agree Nothing happened by chance When I looked at my babies I saw God's ability at a glance.

My husband planted their seeds
But I was unable to do
Anything but wait with anticipation
Our precious children to view!

Yet they were born with abilities
To feel, see, think, speak and do
They were miraculous creations of God
I'm sure you too know this is true.



# The Power of the "Son"

This picture very clearly depicts how the hot sun's shining rays Can melt even the hardest frost on cold, cold winter days!

I think this is a mirror image of how the divine love of God Can melt cold, hard hearts if His love is allowed to shine thereon!

God can turn hard, stubborn hearts into hearts filled with love He can melt the hardest heart through His Son who dwells above.

When Jesus lived on earth He said, "I am the light of the world." Yet many refuse to let Him shine His light their hearts upon.

There would be less fear, distrust, hatred, jealousy, murder and crime. This world would be a different place if Jesus' light was allowed to shine

#### John 12 v 46

(Jesus said) I have come into the world as a light, so that no-one who believes in me should stay in darkness.

### We Humans!

Every day we humans take so much for granted We expect our bodies to work as they should I don't know about you but I know this I do And I expect you are also part of this brood.

We open our mouths and we expect to hear Thoughts that quickly flash through our minds We don't have to search through books or files Nor do we have long, long discs to unwind.

We can see, taste, hear, smell, feel and touch
Fear, hate and love, we have been endued with so much.
Our legs can sit, stand, walk, jump, kneel and lie
With our hands, we can do so much if we are willing to try.

Our minds enable us to envisage, create and plan These complex organs that have baffled many a man We can use our abilities to make this world a better place We can help people we meet or leave this world in disgrace.

# The Necessity of Light

When our van wouldn't start one very dark night There was not a single, solitary light in sight. But as I started walking I thought, "I don't mind, I will retrace the steps I have just left behind."

I knew there was a house along the way
So I hoped I would arrive there safely.
Because the road ahead was straight I knew
I walked confidently, although it was hidden from view.

I was soon to discover to my cost
That because it was dark I could get lost
Instead of walking straight ahead
I found it was into the ditch I sped.

Then, up ahead I saw a light
My heart was lifted, it was a welcome sight.
As I approached this light I knew
Within this home, there would be a welcome too.



# Birds in Flight

When travelling by car the other day
A flock of crows took flight suddenly
They flew to the right over cars ahead
With speed that would leave humans dead
They flew with such precision and skill
As we watched with awe, they gave us a thrill
Their pattern of flight looked like lace
They spectacularly flew with such skill and grace
They didn't choose which bird should go first,
Fly to the right, to the left or their speed adjust
They took to the air before I could count to three
Their Creator created them with these skills evidently
Their brains are tiny in comparison to yours and mine
Yet God gave them abilities that would blow our minds.

# God Can Speak Through the Sunshine

God can speak through the sunshine
He can speak through the rain
He can speak through the snow
And through the howling gale
But we His created are unable to do
Ought but perceive His creation
And His deeds to view
We couldn't even make a blade of grass
Never mind mountains, flowers, trees
Or the changing seasons that pass.

# Peace despite the Storm

Underneath the rolling waves of the stormy sea
The water is as calm, as calm as calm can be
This I was told by someone who knows
How the wind blows and the water flows.

This spoke to me of our humanity
Many people live in turmoil and adversity
But if they have their trust in Jesus as Lord
Their hearts can abide in peace despite the odds.

# A Revelation from God

When travelling on a hilltop
I inquired of my God
Why we don't always remain
On the spiritual hilltop with our Lord!

I believe God just then inspired me
To look ahead because I could see
Lough Swilly and the Inishowen Peninsula
But I couldn't see into the valleys near to me.

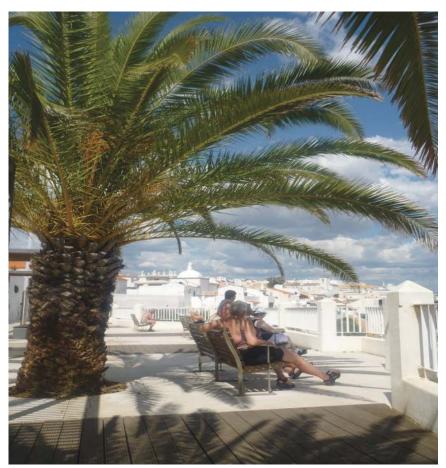
It was as if God the Holy Spirit then said, "If you don't enter the valley you won't see Where other people are at in life, And I want you to help them find me."

"If I allow you to experience trials
Of sickness, sadness, parting or pain
You will then be able to help others
By telling how I helped you again and again."

God has taught me much in the valleys of life When He helped me, which I know was His aim He lifted, strengthened, healed and taught me Praise; be to His great and holy name.

# You may think I'm daft

You may think I'm daft And that may be true But I assure you there is truth In what I'm saying to you! The Lord Jesus Christ The divine Son of God Gave His life on Calvary's cross To save sinners all! While Jesus was human He was also divine He didn't allow sin to curse His soul While we allow it to curse yours and mine! But because God loved those He created He sent His one and only Son To take our punishment upon Himself So we sinners, could condemnation overcome. Thankfully all you and I now need to do Is accept God's offer and His grace pursue To receive forgiveness, joy, peace And an eternal resting place. No-one can work for, Pay for or merit it Salvation is a free gift of grace No-one can earn it.



### The Palm Tree

The splendour of the palm tree Spreading branches high and wide Is supported by a tree trunk That looks like an elephants hide.

The branches like arching fans Dance and flutter in the breeze Giving shade to holidaymakers Who shelter beneath its leaves.

Again God's creation speaks
Of His gracious love and care
Providing for the needs of His creatures
As they shelter from the sun's glare.

# Galway's Stone Walls

Have you ever considered the amount of work involved? In gathering stone to construct Galway's many stone walls? We in Donegal can boast of stone walls too But in comparison to Co Galway, our stone walls are few. If you go and look I know you will be amazed just like me, Boundary after boundary as far as the human eye can see. Nothing but wall after wall built completely of stone, I'm sure many a tired builder was glad to get home. There must have been many a sore back and many a stiff bone, Many a big blister and many a weary groan Long day after long day and long week after long week, With many a man labouring long after his peak But their labours left a legacy that is still plain to see, A legacy that sets their county apart historically Hard work changed land that must have been covered in stone Into a place where animals can graze and crops can be grown. I'm sure animals were used to assist men in their labours, I'm sure help was given by family, friends and neighbours. Work well done back then still benefits both man and beast, Walls give shelter from winds north, south, west and east. These walls were built in areas where there is hardly a bush or tree, These walls are a "Godsend" I'm sure many farmers would agree. Stone walls need less maintenance than fences of timber or wire, Stones will never rust or rot and will never expire. Numerous boundaries still remain intact after hundreds of years Future generations will thank their ancestors for their sweat and tears.

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### Summer

The radiance of God's beauty
Is reflected in the sun
It shines its glorious light
And heartens everyone!

Where all around was dismal Dull, dark and drear Now it shines in splendour Because the sun is here!

Birds they sing sweetly High perched upon the bough Lambs they are playing Over every grassy "knowe"!

Cows and calves and lying Contentedly in the sun They too are happy That summer has begun.

("Knowe" is an Irish name for the crown of a hill.)



Downings, Co Donegal

# Seagulls

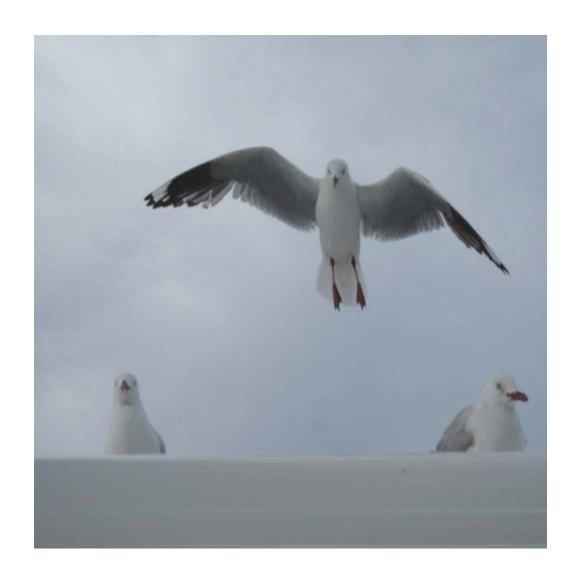
Where do seagulls come from?
Where do seagulls go?
Yesterday there were none around
Now many fly to and fro.

Who told them that the farmer Was ploughing in the field Who told them that the worms Would make a tasty meal?

Why did the rooks and ravens
And robins not come too
Surely it is only fair
That they should get a few?

Why is it that in autumn?
When the potatoes are in the soil
That the seagulls let the crows come
To scavenge, eat and spoil.

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# The Sadness of Parting

It's sad when there's parting
It's hard when there's loss
But through this valley
We all must cross.

If we know the Saviour As shepherd and guide He will lead us safely To the other side!

There we will dwell
Forever, Amen
United with Him
And our loved ones again!

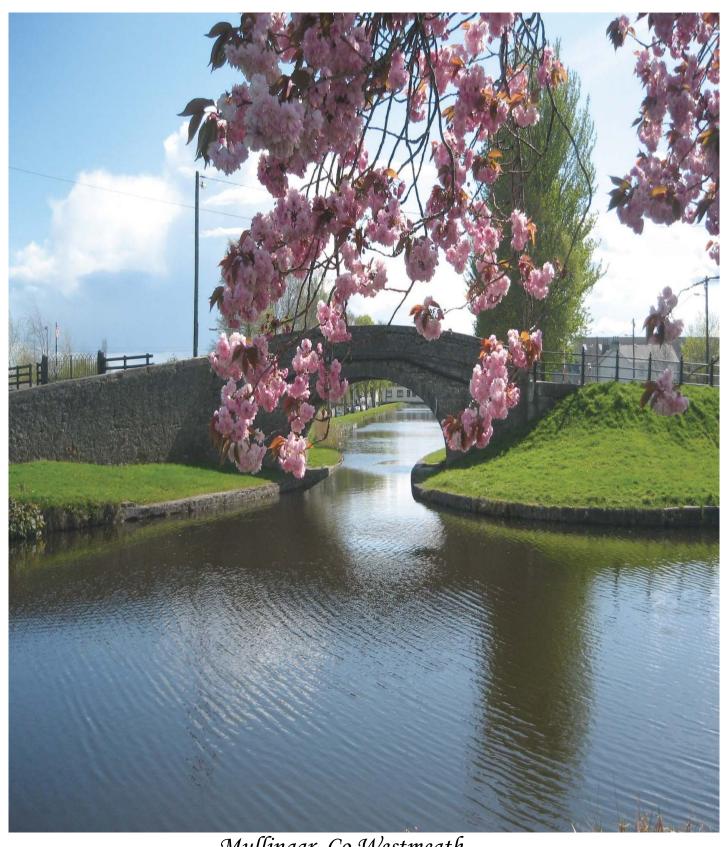
What a day of rejoicing
And excitement there will be
When we meet with our loved ones
Who are now content, happy and free!

#### Psalm 23 v 4

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me, your rod and staff they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil, my cup overflows. Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.



The Harry Blaney Bridge on the Fanad Peninsula



Mullingar, Co Westmeath.

### The Postman

As the postman goes from door to door He delivers letter by the score Often there is good news within Sometimes the news can be sad or grim Perhaps it's the news of baby's birth Or it may be an unexpected birthday gift Brown envelopes contain the dreaded bills Another may tell of a friend who is ill We all like to see the postman come We hope there will be good news for some Many people write with style and flair But I have a letter that's beyond compare It is full of good news for you and me It brings news of forgiveness and liberty Although it was written by many scribes Its author was the One who for us died It tells of a huge, huge debt that we all owe It tells of a cunning, fearful, mighty foe But it also tells of God's love and care It tells us that Jesus came, our debt to bear I would like to share this letter with you Please phone me at 074 91 59032.

# The Chiropodist

Are your feet comfortable? Are they ready to go? Are your shoes too tight? Do they pinch your toe? Do you have corns? Bunions or callouses galore When you take a step Do your feet feel sore? Do you groan at the thought Of walking a mile Do your feet make it difficult? For you to smile If so, there is only one Place for you to go Straight to the chiropodist For he /she alone knows How to relieve tired feet And soothe problem toes So treat yourself Say goodbye to your woes.

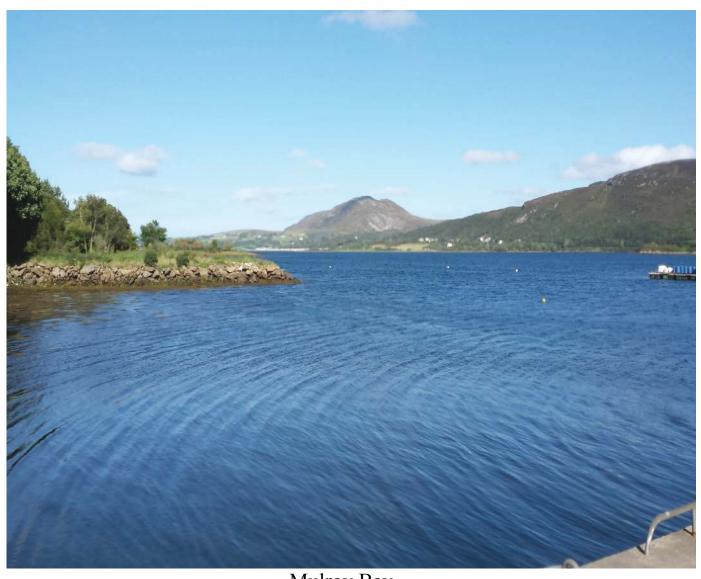
# Why we need the Dentist

If we don't clean our teeth they will rot and decay
If we clean them they will last for many a day
We are told we should clean them at least twice a day
This is what the dentists are often heard to say.
If we are lazy or careless and miss a few times
Our mouths will feel awful as if full of grime!
The longer we leave them the less aware we will be
Of the accumulating grime that other people now see.

God tells us this is a mirror image of our spiritual life When we trust in Jesus He will make our souls white But He warns us if we are tempted and fall into sin We will feel awful because we are unclean within. If we don't come to God and confess right away Our souls will then fall into spiritual decay Whereas if with sorrow we repent and draw nigh He will forgive us when He hears our heart's cry.

# Our God is able to do what He pleases

Our God is the God who is well able to do Whatever He pleases let me tell you He created this world by His word of command From the rolling waves and sinking sand To the sun and moon and stars in the sky From the elephant and dinosaur to the butterfly He created our ancestors from the dust of the ground He enabled them to recreate, that is why we're around He knit us together in our mother's womb He numbered our days before we were born He made us like himself; He gave us the ability to do That's why this world is filled with treasures to view He gave us feelings, sight, hearing as well as speech To enable us to relate to people near and out of reach We ought to lift our voices and sing His praise While we remain on this earth for the rest of our days!



Mulroy Bay

### "Our Hands"

When I moved my hand the other day
My fingers cramped suddenly
They were extremely painful I've got to say
I now realise we take much for granted daily.

Our hands are an invaluable asset to you and me
We use them almost continually
But because they generally work as they ought
We overlook this blessing our God has wrought.

We can comb our hair, we can wash our face
We can clean our teeth, we can our friends embrace
We can make our food, we can open a jar
We can write a letter, we can drive a car.

Our abilities are numerous as you well know I'm sure you will agree that this is so If that is the case I hope you will also agree We ought to thank our God continually.

# When holidaying in Spain

When holidaying in Spain
Thoughts came to mind
Of how children understand language
Very different to mine!

What sounds like gibberish
They clearly understand
Yet many are mere infants
Sitting in a push-chair or pram!

When God created mankind
One language was spoken by all
But because man disobeyed God
He confounded their language at the fall.



# Changes in my lifetime

When the phone rang this morning A thought came to mind Of how things have changed In my lifetime When I was a child Few homes had phones The postmistress relayed messages I'm sure there was many a stiff bone Most people walked or cycled To post-offices far from home Some people had cars or tractors Some had horses to rely upon Most posted letters they'd written To family or friends far away Mail took time to reach its destination Some took months, weeks or days We now have phones in our homes We can not only speak, we can see The person we communicate with Regardless of where they may be!

# Thoughts when working on our lane

When my husband and I worked on our lane one day I drove the Land Rover and filled some potholes along the way Until our eldest son, David arrived on the scene And he put his hands on the shovel where my hands had been As I then stopped, started and drove the land-rover along I soon viewed in the mirror a job very well done. After some time my posterior it began to get sore And I began to wonder if it could take much more But when my hands got tired of twiddling my thumbs I wrote this poem your eyes now rest upon. It was then my thoughts turned to the state of our roads After the wet winter weather there are potholes galore But while the potholes are many, the workmen are scarce I wondered if I would be allowed to take on the job myself But I didn't think that would be possible in this our day Because health and safety would soon come my way Nor do I have a digger, dump truck, traffic lights, cones or men And all these things are necessary now I comprehend Then my mind went back to the good old days long gone by When roadsides were maintained and a delight to the eye Pat O'Brian, Packie Friel, Tommy McAteer and Barney Herrity Cut weeds, maintained water tables, gullies and dykes. They had nothing but shovels, hooks, brushes and the like But they did a great, great job in their day I think.

# My prayer for you

May you open like a flower
To the love of God today
May you let His love shine in
And chase the darkness all away.

May the beauty of your life
Be like perfume on the air
So that folk all around may know
You are in God's loving care.

## A Mother's Prayer

Lord, please keep my children in your way
Help them not from you to stray
Help them to seek your face each day
When from their home they are far away.

# My Salvation

It was not what I did for God But what He did for me That gained my salvation On Calvary's Tree!

But now that I know Him There is nought I won't do Given the opportunity To share this news with you!

# I Long for the Day

I long for the day when I will be
With my Lord throughout eternity
Imagine the celebration there will be
When we meet with family and friends
Around His knee!!

### IF only the Broad Leaf Trees could speak

If only the Broad Leaf Trees could speak
Would they sigh, would they cry, would they moan?
Would they say, "What a miserable life"
"We can do nothing but hang and get blown?"

"Hardship upon hardship day after day In the rain, the hail and the snow Then in the summer we're burned to a crisp We have a miserable life, don't you know."

Or, would they give thanks for their lot Amazed at all they can see Poised on their advantage point Suspended o'er land and o'er sea?

Would they delight in the change of the seasons? When leaves turn from green, to rust and to brown What would they say if they saw a chain saw? Would they change their smile to a frown?

Would they sigh if now they could see? The woods where their mates stood tall Sad because many such places are empty With fewer and fewer trees each fall.

If only the Broad Leaf Tree's could speak Would they say? "Plant instead of destroy." "This world would be a much better place With better health and weather to enjoy"



### The Scarlet Pimpernel

The tiny scarlet pimpernel Have petals so, so small They are so very tiny They are hardly there at all.

Their slender stems like silken thread Suspend their hearts of gold These tiny little beauties Are such pleasures to behold.

What strikes me as amazing?
Is their habitat and home
They grow upon the rugged rocks
Despite rough weather, wave and foam!

#### How many plans did God make?

How many plans did God make? Before He made this earth How often did He change His mind? What do you think yourself? Nothing happened by accident I hope you will agree If you don't, I hope you'll change your mind When my picture you now see As you know when we make anything We have to think, plan, organize and do Or the outcome of our efforts We would want no-one to view There is so much beauty around us Yet we take it for granted every day When we should be in awe of God The One who created everything so perfectly Take a look at these Brussels sprouts Then I think you will agree with me That their Creator didn't just make and edible food He created them a thing of beauty for all to see.



### Please Take Note

When reclining in my garden
Recalling time spent there
Yes, thirty and forty years ago
I became acutely aware
That within another few years
I will be admiring a garden fair
Where no weeding will need doing
Because there will be no weeds there.

Time passes very quickly
So please take time while you may
To consider the fact of death
That will one day come our way
Only those who have trusted Jesus
Will view this garden with me
And I hope to meet you there
So we can celebrate eternally.

Last night I was in the home
Of a man who had passed away
He was seen falling in his garden
His life taken instantly
Just now I have been told
Of a forty-three-year-old mother of two
She just dropped in her kitchen
There was nothing any human could do.

But we're told death is not the end
So take note while you may
Because Jesus clearly stated
There will be a judgement day
And only those who repent and trust
In His finished work on Calvary's Tree
Will have their sins forgiven
And rejoice with Him eternally.

## The Mystery of Sleep

Sleep is a gift from God we all should treasure:

Its benefits in life are far beyond measure;

Sleep is something we all need to do:

Yet, it is something difficult to explain to you.

The dictionary states: sleep, a periodic state of physiological rest

During which consciousness is suppressed

And yes, that may be the case, it may be so,

But does that explain to you where it is we go?

When we put down our heads and close our eyes

We drift to wherever and time just flies.

Sleep, we have done from the day we were born

If we didn't sleep our bodies would be far from the norm.

As we work, rest, relax and play:
Conscious of how and where and when
Aware that our physical security depends
On how we act and what we do
Every hour of each day given to me and you
Yet, when most close their eyes they just let go
Of cares, anxieties, plans, problems and woes
While for some getting to sleep is more difficult to do
If we could just press a button we would I assure you.
It's great to be able to drift off to that place of rest
Where bodies, souls and minds are blessed

When I drive in the countryside at night
I think how strange: everywhere is so dark and quiet;
Where, have all the busy, busy people gone?
Why no fussing now about what can go wrong?
As you know most busy people are asleep in their beds
And the day's activities are far from their heads
It's as if we have arrived on another planet
To explain this to you: well I just cannot;
I don't know what you think but it seems clear to me
The One who created us knew how we needed to be
With this thought in mind, we should rest content
Knowing God is in control of every earthly event.

#### Torrevieja, Alicante

On the beach in Torrevieja Thoughts came to mind Of how God is still at work In our day and time!

He can speak through the sun He can speak through the rain He can speak through rolling seas Or through the howling gale!

We hear of hurricane Irma Now crossing the Caribbean Many people are living in fear I expect we would do the same.

On TV screens we see disasters
In areas where the storm has reached
Thousands in Florida are fleeing in fear
Ere it will soon their homes reach.

I hope many who never thought of God Are now calling on His Name Realizing their need to repent Least they meet God in sin and shame.

I know they could meet God as friend Within a few seconds of time If they trust in Jesus, His Son Who died to bear their sin and mine.

> We all need to take note Because you or I don't know When God will call our name And we will have to go.

We can go to Heaven rejoicing
Or we can go to a place of woe
Jesus Christ bought tickets to Heaven
For all who trust in Him before they go!

#### Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!

Our memory is so short
That we really ought to say
Thank You, Thank You
A hundred times a day!

We forget to count our blessings
Until something goes wrong
Then we are reminded
We have a God we can rely upon.

There is so much we take for granted
Each and every single day
Like air to breathe and food to eat
And money to give away!

We ought to thank our God For our family, neighbours and friends We ought to thank Him for our homes And a place to lay our heads!

We ought to thank Him for the gifts Of sight, of hearing and speech And when something goes wrong We have help within our reach.

We ought to thank Him for our land
Where we can legally say and do
Much that would be forbidden elsewhere
There is truth in what I'm saying to you.

We ought to thank Him for the privilege Of being able to speak to Him in prayer Casting all our burdens on Him Who understands and cares.

We ought to thank Him for His beloved Son
The One paid our great debt for sin
And opened heaven's communication gate
So we can now communicate with Him

### The Uncertainty of Life

Life is uncertain
This all of us know
This is why God tells us
We must be ready to go.

We must be forgiven
By trusting God's Son
If we are to live
Forever with him!

# Lord, I want to abide in you

Lord, I want to abide in you, Reside in you, confide in you, Lord, I want to hide in you, For in you alone is peace.

### How Good!

Oh how good it is to know
The love of the Saviour while walking below
God said all who trust in His Son will be
United throughout all eternity!

# Our God Will Keep His Word

As we live our lives amid turmoil, worry, stress and strain Our Saviour will keep His Word to us again, again and again He will bring us through the storms of life, praise His holy name He will give us the strength to lift our heads again, again and again

### Peace and Rest

In life, we may have problems
Sadness and distress
But if we trust in Jesus
He will give peace and rest.

### Farewell Blessing

I ask the Lord to bless you
As you go from here today;
I pray He will guide and keep you
As you journey on life's way.

#### How I wish that I could be

How I wish that I could be
There right now to visit you
However, there is one thing I can do
I can come to the throne of God for you.

I ask God to keep you in His care
I ask Him to assure you of His presence there
I pray you will know His loving touch
He wants you to know He loves you much.

It was for you He bled and died
It was for you He was crucified
He paid the debt we could not pay
That's why He can offer us New Life today.

#### 1Peter 5 v 2

Cast all your anxiety on him (the Lord Jesus) because he cares for you.

#### Mother

M. is for mother the one who loved and cared

O. says it's obvious our needs she observed

T. is for the thanks that ought to go her way

H. is for the help she gave through every passing day

E. is for everything she taught our whole lives through

R is the reason we share what she meant to us with you.

### Since Mother Left

Since mother left this scene of time Thoughts of her still flood my mind And when I remember her loving care I thank God for the love we shared.

### Are You Ashamed?

No young child is ashamed of its parents Its cries for its mother are a thief's deterrent.

A child may boast and be heard to say My Mammy and Daddy know the way.

If we claim to be a child of God We should not be ashamed His name to laud.

If we are ashamed we will hear God say "I'm ashamed of you on judgement day.

### Our Heavenly Father Envisaged

Our heavenly Father envisaged That we His created could be Replicas of Him Throughout eternity!

## Jesus, Can mend a broken heart

Jesus can mend a broken heart If He is allowed to come in He can put a life together again That has been broken by sin.

But, like anything that is broken It will remain beyond repair If the pieces are hidden From Him who loves and cares!

#### Good News

God was pleased to have His fullness Dwell in Jesus Christ, His Son Now all who repent of sin and believe Can receive redemption through Him!



Kerrykeel Presbyterian Church

## A prayer from my heart

Dear Lord, please lead, guide and direct me In everything I say, think and do Help me to give praise, honour and glory In every circumstance dear Lord to You!

Thank You for Your blessed Holy Spirit That comforts, strengthens and keeps Help me to dwell in Your Divine Will Every day whether awake or asleep!

Please, oh please dear Lord, help people to see
What you want them to know through thoughts you give me
Help me to understand Your Word as I read
So that I can help others who are in spiritual need.

Please give me wisdom and discernment each day As I meet people who need you on earth's pathway Take from me anything that would hinder or hurt The people I meet whom you love so much.

Take from me arrogance, hypocrisy and pride And anything else that should not dwell inside Please show me clearly how you see me And enable me to live as I ought daily.

Take from me thoughtlessness and selfishness I pray Help me to show your love to all who pass my way Lord, I desire nought but to dwell in Your Will May Your Holy Spirit enable me Your Will to fulfil!

### "Happy Valentine's Day" To a wonderful husband

Just a little note to say
You are my Valentine
No other could compare with you
In this entire world I find
You are kind and you are gentle
and you are loving too
No wonder many years ago
I gave my heart to you.



#### It's nice to get up in the morning

It's nice to get up in the morning
But it's nicer to lie in bed
Particularly when I have a great shoulder
On which to lay my head
And then it's even better
When I hear my loved one say
Raise your head a minute
Until I put my arm around your shoulder honey.

### I hope God Has a Sense of Humour

A new hat, a new coat, a new house, a new car
Seriously Lord, I'm doing the best I can
You know things are getting into a terrible state
Things need to change before it's too late
I'm getting no younger although I do the best I can
So please hurry quickly and send me a man
I have waited and waited but I can wait no longer
Waiting made me weaker, while I need to be stronger



I believe this stone shows that God does have a sense of humour.

#### All the P's

People also produce pictures
In pastels and paint
And preserve for posterity
Popular places
And portraits of people
Portrayed on paper
Then placed on pedestals
For people to ponder
To preserve or procure
At phenomenal prices!

### Christmas Time

I write in verse, I write in rhyme The story that is Christmas time!

The story of the birth the angel foretold To the virgin in days of old!

The angel told Mary, "You will have a son. God will be the father of this Special One!"

Jesus was born in a stable on a cold winter's night And a special star gave wise men light.

Wise men brought gifts from a country far Gifts fit for a king with a special star.

The shepherds too heard the angels sing They came to Bethlehem to see this King.

The angels sang of this Saviour from sin What wonderful news for everyone.

Are you like the wise men who sought this King? Do you too desire to worship Him?



### Jesus is born

Ring out those bells loud and clear Jesus the Son of God is here.

The angels told the shepherds of old You'll find Him wrapped against the cold.

He was laid in a manger, crude and bare In Bethlehem's stable with the oxen there!

They sang His praise, that heavenly throng Praise to the Saviour who had just been born.

The wise men too, they came from afar Guided by God to follow the star!

They also sought help along the way Until they found where the baby lay.

They knew they went in search of a King It was their intent to worship Him.

Wise men still, they do the same It was for us that Jesus came.

The story is old, but it is true He came to give redemption to me and you.

Luke 2:8-20

### Christmas Lights

Lights sparkle and lights glow
They brighten the countryside below
They relieve the gloom on a dark night
And remind us of the God of light.
Jesus left heaven many years ago
He was born in a stable in Bethlehem we know
He came to relieve our awful plight
He knew we were sinful in God's sight
That's why the angels of our Saviour sang
Oh! How the heavenly anthems rang.



Christmas lights at Michael Whoriskey's, Kerykeel

### Christmas without Christ

If we take Christ out of Christmas we have nothing left But three simple letters that are meaningless Without Christ, many lives appear meaningless today Because life can feel pointless, hopeless and scary God created us to have a relationship with Him But that is impossible because we were born in sin God says because He is holy we cannot dwell with Him In fact, He says we are spiritually dead within But God loves us so He sent His Son, Jesus Christ From heaven to be born as a babe on this earth Although Jesus was born of a woman He was also divine His heart was sinless unlike yours and mine God sent him from heaven to save sinful souls He alone can cleanse us and make us whole God allowed Jesus blood to be shed on Calvary's Tree As a ransom to set repentant sinners free But we need to trust Christ as Saviour while we may We may not have the opportunity on another day God wants to give forgiveness, love, peace, and joy To each and every man, woman, girl and boy That is why God sent His precious Son to this earth So we ought to celebrate Jesus birth this Christmas We ought to lift our voices and sing His praise This world needs God's offer of grace these days.

## Because of Christmas

Because of Christmas we can sing Hallelujahs to our King; The Son of God our Saviour came To bear our sin, our guilt, our shame!

He who dwells in high sublime Came to save your soul and mine; Because of love for you and me He gave His life to set us free.

He knew there was no other way; We could go heaven one day; He asks us now to trust in Him He alone can cleanse our souls of sin.



## Recalling 2017

Now that 2017 has passed and gone And 2018 we have embarked upon If we are wise we will take stock and see If 2017 was all that it should have been For some the last year they may want to forget They may have said or done things they now regret Some may have memories of sadness and pain When they felt they would never be happy again While for others the year that now is o'er Was the year when love came through their door? I think if we look back we will clearly see We were given strength to overcome every difficulty How often did we grumble, worry or groan Instead of taking our concerns to the Heavenly Throne Did we grow and flourish or did we stagnate? Bereft of spiritual food that can resuscitate Before we move on should we do or say Something that will help others on life's way Most of us in hindsight can now recall Many good times had by one and all In general, I think we have cause to say "Thank You, Lord, for blessings day after day."

## Let us share the Good News

We have so much to be thankful for I am glad to say As we leave the old year behind and see another underway We can thank God for family, friends and food to spare For health, happiness and clothing to wear For comfortable homes, for protection from cold For good relationships with friends new and old For work and the privilege of hearing someone say "Well done! That was a good job you did today." For the greatest gift of all, peace of mind, heart and soul These blessings are within our Heavenly Father's control, Only He can forgive and give peace within Every heart burdened by the weight of guilt and sin, No wonder we have celebrated the birth Of our Saviour who brought salvation to earth, He came to earth with one purpose in mind He came to save a helpless, lost mankind, This gift of salvation so rich and free Is freely made available to you and to me Sadly many still don't know why He came Many lives are cursed by guilt and shame, Lives wrecked by anger, bitterness and pride Distrust, disharmony and other problems besides, Let us do all in our power in the days to come To share the Good News of peace found in God's Son.

## God's Holiday Plan

Now Christmas is over and what do we see Holiday advertisements now on TV Urging us to book and beat the mad rush Offering good value ahead of the crush To exotic places in far away lands With beautiful beaches and golden sands "Come pick up a brochure here off the shelf You need a holiday so come treat yourself." But many are disappointed with delays for flights And hidden costs that soon come to sight While holiday brochures look glossy and grand Tourists sometimes find builders, bricks and sand. I have an amazing brochure here in my hand It's the Word of God with His holiday plan He offers a destination in splendour on high You won't be disappointed if to Him you draw nigh All who travel to meet their Saviour in this beautiful land? Will enjoy wonderful fellowship with a happy band!

#### John 14 v 1-3

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so I would have told you. I am going to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

### Why Jesus Came

When Jesus left heaven and came to this earth He was born in Bethlehem of virgin birth He did not come from heaven this world to enjoy He came because He was in His Father's employ.

Angels told shepherds in the field that day A Saviour is born who will take sin away Wisely they said, "Let us go and see if what they are telling us can really be?"

Wise Men from the East searched for Jesus too They followed a star when it came into view They told King Herod they were seeking a King They said they had come to worship Him!

All who are wise still seek Jesus today
He is now only a penitent's prayer away
He says, "I have come that you may have life"
So my question is, "Why not come tonight."

Now as you know 2017 has gone And we are well past the millennium At Christmas we again celebrated Jesus' birth It is 2000 plus years since He came to earth.

We are told in God's precious Word of truth
That Jesus is coming back again to earth
This time to receive all who have repented of sin
And have put their faith and their trust in Him.

God still invites all on earth to seek His Son
Jesus came to be the Saviour of each and every one
But all who reject His invitation to come
Will never, ever dwell in God's heavenly home!

### As Easter Approaches

As Easter approaches once again We come to you in the Saviour's name For we are reminded of what He has done To buy salvation for everyone We now recall how He was betrayed With a kiss from a supposed friend as he prayed Betrayed, for thirty pieces of silver But Judas was to find that money could never Buy joy, happiness or peace for the soul It only brought heartache and gave the devil control. My Saviour was quizzed, questioned and tried And although found innocent "Crucify Him" people cried He was spat on, mocked, whipped and flailed Until He was unrecognizable as a human male While all of this happened His friends fled Peter denied Him three times and blasphemous words he said Jesus foretold all; He knew what would take place He knew His blood alone could save the human race He knew this was part of His Father's divine plan To save the souls of sinful woman and man Even when He hung on the cruel, cruel tree Dying there for sinners in awful agony He was prepared with compassion to say "Father forgive them for what they do today" "It is finished" He was also heard to say Before committing His soul to His Father's will that day After death His body and in a tomb was laid On the third day our heavenly Father, his part He played From the grave His dearly beloved Son He raised Now countless thousands offer Jesus their love and praise They have found that by seeking forgiveness for sin Jesus alone can give peace and joy within.

# The Year that's Passed and Gone

Two thousand and seventeen
Is the year that's passed and gone?
Into the annals of history
Yet we our lives live on.

The weeks and months have flown
As swiftly as a bird in flight
But you and I were powerless
To delay even a single night!

So many great opportunities Came with each and every day Did we speak a word for Jesus? Or did we fritter our time away?

Were there things we should have done?

But the time just passed us by

Never to be recovered again

No matter how hard we try.

Did we thank God for the beauty? As we looked around each day And saw our amazing universe That God created so carefully. Did we thank Him for our families?
For health and friends who cared
For our homes, for work and happiness
Was our voice ever heard?

Two thousand and seventeen Brought sickness and trouble too Were we thankful to our God? It was He who saw us through.

There were also happy times
Of physical and spiritual birth
That reminded us that our Creator
Is still interested in our earth!

Years they come and years they go Each of us knows that this is so But what we do from day to day Is being recorded and stored away.

As we now step into 2018 Let us thank God again and again Confident that our God will be As faithful as ever to you and me!

# Who is our God?

Our God is the One who is well able to do Whatever He pleases; let me tell you He has the ability to do at His leisure Whatever gives Him joy or gives Him pleasure. He created this world by His word of command. From the rolling seas; to vast areas of sand From mountains high; to planets in the sky Plus land to sustain animals and man lest they die. In the Bible we're told, God made man from the dust of the ground Breathing life-giving breathe into him; that's why we're around He created us in His image; so we could think, feel and do He wanted to have a personal relationship with me and with you. He also made the birds in the sky and the fish in the sea And numerous animals to roam this earth freely He put all creatures under the control of man But the first man called Adam was lonely so God had a plan He put Adam to sleep and from a rib in his side He created Eve to be his helpmate and his bride God said, "You can eat of the fruit of the trees," But, it was as if they then heard Him say, "Please," "Don't eat the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil or you'll die," However, they disobeyed and they were immediately aware That their relationship with God was in disrepair They were embarrassed and ashamed, their conscience had awakened They now knew their relationship with God was broken They covered themselves with the leaves of the trees When God came looking for them they behaved deceptively When they heard Him in the garden they hid and they lied They knew their wrongdoing could not be denied God now told them they would have to work by the sweat of their brow They and their offspring would have trouble and one day they would die But He said although the serpent (the devil) would crush their heel One day He would send One who would crush the serpents head God then slew an animal and clothed them with skin He knew blood had to be shed to cover their sin We, at Christmas, celebrated the day the One spoken of came He is our Lord Jesus Christ who was born in Bethlehem When He, who was both human and divine, was laid in that manger of hay He knew He would one day die on the cross on Calvary God had sent His one and only Son to earth to save sinful man Who were powerless to do aught but put their trust in His Son, Jesus allowed His sinless blood to be shed on Calvary's Tree To save wretched sinners like you and like me!

### Who is Jesus?

Jesus is not only the Son of God Jesus is God the Son He is part of the triune Godhead The Creator of each and everyone!

Although Jesus was born of a woman He was both human and divine He was conceived of the Holy Spirit So He could save your soul and mine.

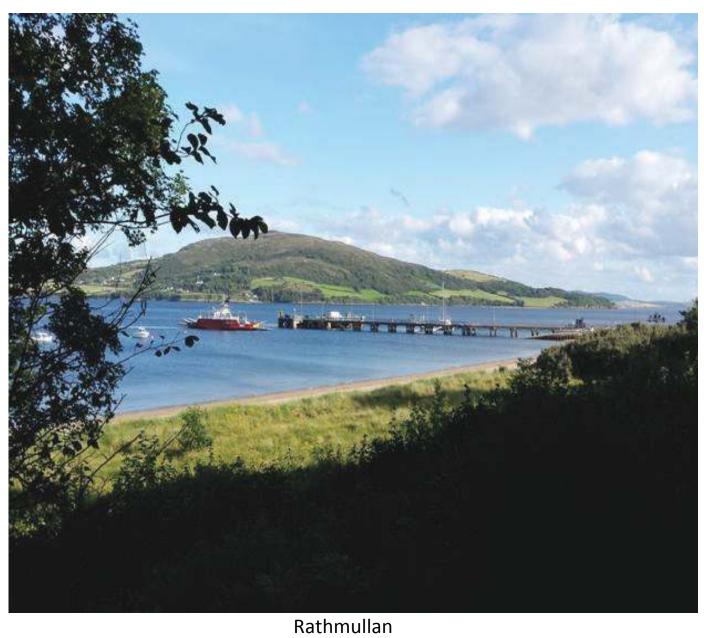
God sent Him from the splendour of heaven Knowing that one day He would die He was sent to save fallen, sinful man Who could not to a holy God draw nigh!

Jesus alone lived a sinless life Unlike mankind, including you and me That's why through faith in Jesus Christ We can be from sin set free.

Jesus blood was shed as a ransom
To redeem our sin-sick souls
Now all who accept God's amazing grace Can by trusting, be made whole.

#### Luke 9:35

A voice came from the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to Him."



## There is only one place to go

If I work my fingers to the bone I can never for my sin atone If I try to buy my way to heaven I will still remain un-forgiven If I try to rid myself of sin I will still be left unclean within If someone speaks to God for me I still won't gain my liberty There is only one place I can go I know because God's Word says so God says He sent His one and only Son Jesus gave His life to redeem everyone Yes, Jesus gave His life for you and me God says He alone can give liberty So I must go to Him and say I'm sorry I have gone astray.

#### I'm not here to boast about me!

I'm not here to boast about me
Or anything I have done
I'm here to boast about Jesus Christ
God's dearly beloved Son!

I myself am weak and helpless
Sinful and apt to stray
While Jesus Christ the Son of God
Never sinned in any way!

That's why God accepted the sacrifice Of Jesus blood on Calvary's Tree God demanded sinless blood be shed As a ransom to set sinners free!

Now God offers redemption As a gift of His love and grace All who repent; trust and believe Will be restored to their rightful place!

Is it any wonder I want to boast?
In Jesus Christ the Son of God
He is the One who gave me peace
And an eternal home in heaven above!

### Poetry

I am often surprised And amazed to see That when people make poetry They make poetry like me.

Yet when I write poetry
A verse at a time
It is as if these thoughts
Are only mine.

But the more I read
The more I see
That the same Holy Spirit
Speaks to them and to me!

He speaks through sunshine He speaks through rain He speaks through joy And he speaks through pain.

I wait with expectancy
To hear and to see
What new revelations
He has to reveal to me.

# Give thanks to God

If you're impressed by what you see or read Thank God for without Him I would not succeed He, the One who gave me eternal life He inspires me as I write. He can speak through birds, He can speak through trees He can speak through flowers Or the waves of the seas! He can speak through sunshine He can speak through rain He can speak through snow Or frost on a window pane. He can speak through valleys Or through mountains high He can speak through rivers Or a rainbow in the sky! He can speak through sadness He can speak through joy He can speak through the birth Of a baby girl or boy! God has given us so much I could go on and on But sufficient to say God can be relied upon.

### Life is so busy

Life is so busy
We are all on the go
Days and years rush by
Like melting snow

Soon we were five Then we were ten Now we will never See twenty again.

The older we get
The faster time goes
Soon we will reach
Life's final repose

Too late if then
We have not sought
Redemption from the Saviour
Who our salvation has bought!

#### Can I tell you of my Saviour?

Can I tell you of my Saviour?
Can I tell you of my Lord?
He who died to redeem mankind
Before we walked upon earth's sod.

He the sinless Son of God Gave His life on Calvary's Tree To rescue wretched sinners Who could not from sin get free!

He died because He loved us He died because He cared He knew the cunning devil Had our sinful souls snared.

So He the sinless Son of God Gave His life on Calvary's Tree To rescue wretched sinners Who resemble you and me.

He knew we were powerless
To cleanse ourselves of sin
Sinless blood had to be shed
So we could be cleansed within.

Now He, our Divine Creator Our Saviour, Lord and King Offers salvation as a gift Enabling us to live with Him!

Salvation is a gift of grace And as you know gifts are free But we must accept God's gift To dwell with Him eternally!

#### My Understanding of The Lord's Prayer

When the disciples asked Jesus To teach them how to pray He told them, say "Our Father" Many now say these words daily. But I wonder how many acknowledge That they are speaking to The Creator of the universe The God who created me and you? Jesus meant them to speak to His Father With respect, giving honour to God's name Asking that His divine Kingdom would come And His Will, be done on earth the same. He told them to ask God daily For the bread, we need to eat Because without God we would starve We couldn't create food ourselves to feed. He then said, "Ask for forgiveness" Because sinners can't dwell with Him And God expects us to forgive others As we have been forgiven Jesus then went on to say, "Ask God to lead you not into temptation" Jesus knew if we depend on ourselves We would be in a bad situation. He knew we needed God's help To deliver us from evil He knew we don't have the ability To defeat the cunning devil! We would do well to take the advice Of Jesus Christ our Lord If we want to dwell in heaven with Him When we leave this earthly sod! Because The Kingdom of Heaven is God's As is the power and glory Not only for now but forever and ever The wise obey because God our Judge is holy.

# The Bible is the Word of God

Because the Bible is the Word of God You and I should read it every day We shouldn't read it like a storybook Rather discern what God has to say.

While it was written by many scribes Our God who inspired it is divine So the truth within, we need heed As it is His guidebook for mankind.

On God's Word, we need to focus We need to allow it to enrich our mind We need to seek God's Divine Will While we still have the ability and time.

We need to discern what God was saying
To those He was speaking to in their day
Then question what to us He is saying
About how we should live our lives His way!

God says His Word is the Word of Truth Take note, His Son Jesus was heard to say "Heaven and earth will pass away but my words are here to stay."

Luke 21:33

"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away."

### Let the Scripture Speak

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

Is what we are told in God's holy Word

There is no-one righteous, no not one

So don't be fooled, "all" includes everyone We humans may try to do the best we can But sin has blighted every woman and man

God says we are dead in our trespasses and sin We must be born again if we're to receive New Life from Him He says without repentance there is no forgiveness for sin

> So any who are wise will listen to Him Thankfully there is Good News to tell It is my prayer you will listen and listen well

For God so loved the world He gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world but to save the world through Him.

Whoever believes in Him is not condemned but whoever does not believe stands condemned already.

Jesus was also heard to say, "I will remember your sin no more.

And "Though your sins are like scarlet they shall be as white as snow."

No-one will get offers like that no matter where else they go.

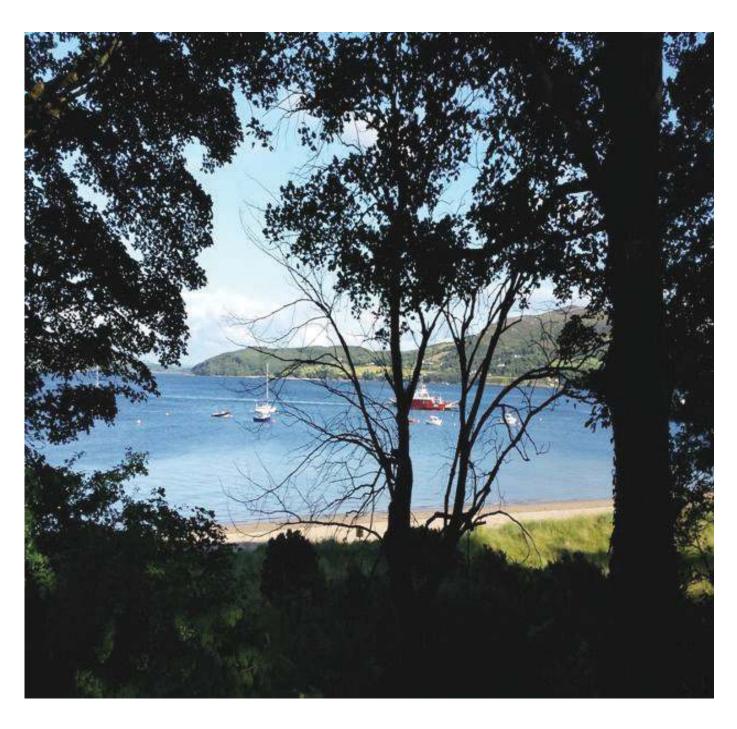
He said, "I have come that you might have life and have it to the full."

Jesus completed His task and He now reigns in heaven with a golden rule.

Romans 3v23, Romans 3v10, Ephesians 2v1, John 3v7, Acts 17v30, John 3v's 16 – 18, Isaiah 43v25 Isaiah 1v18, John10v10

#### We Must Seek Salvation

God wrought miracles from the moment He creation began With nothing at all but His divine Word of command We're told He created mankind from the dust of the earth Saving, "Let us make man in our image." So in man's lungs, He put breath. He made animals and birds on earth and fish in the sea But the man was as lonely as lonely can be So God in His great wisdom created a bride By putting man to sleep, then from a rib in man's side He created a woman to be his helpmate and friend His plan was they should become one in body, heart, soul and mind; The man He called Adam and the woman He called Eve God gave Adam a loving heart for his wife and He enabled Eve to conceive This is how family life as we know it began on this earth Because soon a son was born to Adam when Eve gave birth God now gave mankind laws to obey while they lived on earth God warned Adam that breaking these laws would cause death God not only meant death of the body but death of the soul Spiritual death would change their relationship with God as a whole But Adam and Eve disobeyed God when Satan tempted them to sin Causing judgement not only for them but for generations to come But to His created, God showed love, mercy, redemption and grace He sent His beloved Son, Jesus, to take the sinner's place God's Son's sinless blood was shed on Calvary's cruel tree Because only by the shedding of blood could sinful man be set free God said, "Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness for sin." If we're wise we'll take note and seek mercy from Him God wants us all to live eternally in heaven with Him And that is only possible if we put our trust in God's Son Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many He will appear a second time to take the redeemed to heaven But entry to heaven for no-one is automatic We must all seek salvation or by God be rejected.



Taken from Batts Walk, Rathmullan, Co Donegal

# My feet were heavy

When I realised the life I had had
But then my heart it jumped with glee
When my eyes read the words in front of me
In the Bible, God said He sent His Son
To die for sinners who put their trust in Him
My mind then raced, my feet danced with glee
When I realized what He had done for me
My burden was lifted, my soul was freed
My lips sang His praise, I knew liberty
Now my stomach feels sick, my head feels sore
When I think of this sinful world, that's for sure
But it gives me great joy to tell of His grace
And watch Him put a smile on many a sad face.

#### Jesus Invitation

Jesus invites us to come to Him
And make our wants and wishes known
What an invitation for anyone to receive
From God's Son who died our sins to atone
His generous invitation is open to all
Who come in repentance and faith
Acknowledging our spiritual need
Of redemption, mercy and grace!

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

# If we want to dwell eternally in Heaven with God

If we want to dwell eternally in Heaven with God We must repent of sin and trust in Jesus Christ the Lord He, the Son of God who gave His life on Calvary's Tree Allowed His blood to be shed for sinners like you and me He says if you repent, "I will remember your sin no more, I will cleanse your soul; I will leave it white as snow." "The Holy Spirit will then dwell your redeemed soul within. Peace and joy will replace the vile scourge of sin." I know Jesus can do for you what He has done for me But you must invite Him because one fact you must see God will never force His Divine Will on you or anyone He gives everyone freedom to trust or reject His Son But note if we refuse God's offer of mercy and grace We will spend eternity in the vilest, cruellest place He says only righteous blood can cleanse our souls of sin So be wise, open your heart and let the Lord Jesus come in All who reject His generous offer of redeeming love and grace? Will spend eternity weeping, wailing and gnashing their teeth!

#### Luke 5 v 32

I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

#### Acts 17 v 30

In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent.

# News too good not to share

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God Is what we are told in God's Holy Word There is no-one righteous, no not one We will all fall short if works we rely on Because God is holy He can't look on sin So we have no hope of entering heaven within But God sent His Son who was willing to die on a tree Jesus allowed his blood to be shed for you and for me "No-one comes to the Father except through me." Jesus told Thomas, his doubting disciple sincerely "I am the Way and the Truth and the Life Anyone who believes in me will have eternal life." This news is much, much too good not to share We ought to tell people here and everywhere God says He does not want anyone to perish But we must repent, trust, and His Son cherish If we want our lives to be cleansed of sin And dwell for eternity in heaven with Him.

Romans 3:23 All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Romans 3:10 There is no-one righteous, not even one.

1 John 1:7 ..the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

John 14:6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life.

No-one comes to the Father except through me."

John 10:26&27 "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish;

no one can pluck them out of my hand."

Acts 17:30 In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent.

#### My thoughts about Nicodemus

Nicodemus began to question
How eternal life could be attained
He went to the only One
Through whom this knowledge could be gained.

When Jesus answered Nicodemus; question
He didn't waste time and say
"You may, you can, you could or you should"
He said, "You must be born again."

Nicodemus asked, "How is that possible sure I am a grown man?"
"Is it possible I can enter a second time? into the womb of a woman?"

Jesus said, "You must be born of water And of The Holy Spirit too If you are to receive eternal life This is the truth I'm saying to you."

Nicodemus was confused He simply could not understand Jesus reminded him of the Israelites Saved by the snake in Moses' hand! "Like the snake the Son of Man must be lifted up on high Then everyone who trusts in Him will live and never die."

Jesus allowed His blood to be shed On the cross on Calvary Now all who put their trust in Him Can be from sin set free!

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son That whosoever believes in Him will have lives that go on and on!

God sent His one and only Son To this world to be its Saviour Not to judge and condemn it For its vile, sinful behaviour!

God in His Word now warns us That we too should count the cost Of rejecting His offer of salvation Lest our sinful souls are lost!

John 3 v 1-21

### Nothing more to do

I would like to share Good News with you
There is nothing more we need to do
To add to what Jesus Christ has done
When He died on the cross, He, salvation won
All we need do is trust, repent and believe
Salvation and New Life from God to receive!

# The Greatest Gift

There is peace, joy and forgiveness
To be found in Christ alone
Nothing earthly can offer
This greatest gift that's known!

No-one else can lift the heart And cleanse the human soul Of sin and its consequence And make the person whole.

### Come while you may

When Jesus Christ walked this earth
These words he was heard to say
"I am the Way and the Truth and the Life"
My advice is, "Come to Him while you may."

# God is waiting for us

It is so good to know
That when our journeys end
God will be waiting for us
On that, we can depend.

It is my hope and prayer
That you who read dear friend
Will also spend eternity
With our Saviour at life's end!

# A Sobering Thought

What a sobering thought
To realize I could be
A stumbling block
For somebody!

Lord, help me to be More like You So that people will then Want to know you too.

#### So Much to Know

There is so much you have to teach me Lord
There is so much I need to know
For I want to live my life for you
While dwelling here below!

#### The Master's Band

We can never be part
Of the Master's Band
If we don't place our lives
In the Master's Hand!

# My Prayer for You

My thoughts and my prayers
Are with you today
I ask God to give you strength
Every step of life's way!

May you and yours
Know His love and power
I ask Him to be your comfort
In each needful hour!

# Too Busy

Many are too busy to talk to God Nor do they listen to His Word!

"Don't bother me Lord I'm in a rush Call some other time and please don't fuss."

"I'm so busy
I don't have time
Maybe some other day
will suit me fine?"

"But listen here son now is the time I have decided to call on your line"

"I have not promised you'll see tomorrow Please listen now or you will be in bother."

"Remember the farmer who thought he was fine." "He'd pull down his barns, he had plenty of time."

"He had lots of possessions, He had houses and lands But I then said, "Fool" I have no part in your plans."

"That night he left all his possessions and wealth He didn't realize he was going to meet the judge of the earth,."

#### Let the world know

From a baby is born
Until it gives its first cry
It is an anxious time
This baby may die.

It must open its mouth And let the world know It has arrived on earth And it is ready to go.

Jesus said it is the same
In the spiritual realm
We must open our mouths
If we are to live in Heaven!

We are justified freely
If we truly believe
We must confess Christ
Salvation to receive!

No young child Is ashamed to say "My Mammy or Daddy will show me the way"

God says in His Word And I believe it is true "If you are ashamed of me I will be ashamed of you."

#### Romans 10v9

That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

#### God allows man to make choices

When God looked on man with compassion
He in mercy devised a rescue plan
Knowing that sin destined man
To be from His presence banned!

Because God is a God of mercy
He sent the Lord Jesus Christ, His Son
To rescue sinful, fallen man
Whom He created to live with Him!

Yet to mankind God gave freedom He allows man to make choices in life Man can accept or reject God's offer He can choose eternal life or death.

John 3 v 36 "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him."

#### All we need do is say, "Please".

It is God's wish that people will see That He has a plan to set them free From the bondage of sin and shame To rid their hearts of fear and blame He wants to put a new song in each heart He wants to give all a brand new start He wants to wipe every soul's slate clean He says, "I won't remember your sin again." He wants to fill lives with joy and peace To lift sins bondage and give relief He wants us to repent and turn from sin He wants to cleanse our souls within Of ourselves this we are unable to do So He sent Jesus to die for me and you All we need to do now is say, "Please" And we will His gift of redemption receive.



# Saved by Grace

We are not saved by works
Or anything that we have done
We are saved by placing our faith
In Jesus, God's Almighty Son!

We are saved by the sacrifice Of Jesus' life on Calvary's tree There His precious blood was shed Because of His love for you and me!

His blood alone was spotless Unlike your blood and mine His sacrifice alone was acceptable To the Judge of all mankind!

How we ought to thank Him We ought to praise Him day by day For His tender love and mercy That was undeserved in every way.



#### Please read God's Word

Please take time to read God's Word dear friend It's the Bread of Life for me and you We must feast on God's spiritual food If we're to grow as He wants us to.

If we put our trust in the Saviour We become mere babes in Jesus Christ But God doesn't want us to stay babes He wants to grow our spiritual life.

Many think of God's Word as a treat
To be indulged in one day a week
Depending on another to search its depths
and reveal its great riches and truth!

If we did this with physical food We would be dead before very long So please, oh please take note dear friend God wants us to become spiritually strong.

So please start to read God's Precious Word It's His divine Word of Truth to you We are all invited to the banquet God invites your friends and family too.

We can all be careless and lazy
We can be easily distracted too
But we will soon bear the consequences
Of not taking time the Lord's will to pursue.

We will soon become weak and feeble We will soon become parched and dry There may come a time when we can't read Then the opportunity will have passed us by.

#### Salvation is obtained by "Faith"

Satellites are now clearly visible They can be seen with the naked eye They look like diamond broaches Suspended high in the sky!

We know they have been created by man
To gather information about our earth and planets
We have to accept what we are told by "faith"
With lack of knowledge, we don't understand it.

Many people don't believe there is a God Who dwells in heaven on high? And in a sense that is understandable Because we can't see Him with our eye!

But in His Word God clearly tells us
That when He created you and me
He created us both physical and spiritual
So we can dwell with Him eternally.

But in His Word God also warns us
That because we were born in sin
We can't have a relationship with Him
His Spirit cannot dwell sinful lives within.

Yet, He tells us that because He loved us He sent His one and only Son To take our place on Calvary's Cross Our burden of sin God placed on Him.

If we're wise we will accept God's offer Of forgiveness and redeeming grace By trusting for salvation in Jesus Christ Who died to take our rightful place!

God's tells us His Holy Spirit will dwell Within our souls, if we trust in His Son And He then promises us an eternal home Where we will dwell forever with Him!

#### God wants us to shine our light

God wants us to shine our light So that when people travel they will see How they can reach their destination As they sail life's stormy seas.

Many lighthouses have saved lives
As seafarers sought the shore
Many family members rejoiced
When siblings walked through the door!

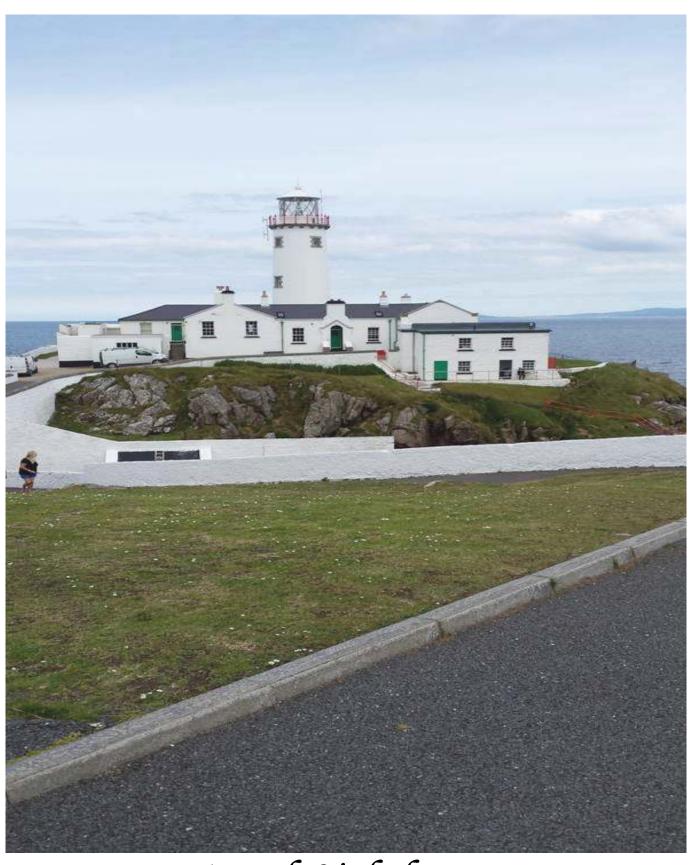
Jesus told His disciples
"I am the Light of the world"
"Follow me, don't walk in darkness"
He guides us by His Spirit and Word.

"You are the light of the world"
"So let your light shine before men"
Was what Jesus told His followers?
He says the same to us as to them.

So let us shine our light for Jesus Who is the Way, the Truth and the Life Only those who trust in Him Will enter heaven's door at death!



Permission to use this picture given by Joe Robinson: the creator of the lighthouse and boats, Inch Road, Burnfoot, Inishowen.



Fanad Lighthouse

#### John 5:16

In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your father in heaven.

#### John 8:12

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

John 8:12 Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of men."

John 12:46 (Jesus said) I have come into the world as a light, so that no-one who believes in me should stay in darkness.

#### John 5:14

(Jesus said) "You are the light of the world."

1John 1:5 This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.

# Jesus Invites the Whosoever

Jesus death bought redemption For the "whosoever will" We must receive it as a gift Or remain separated still Because God will not accept us If we come another way It doesn't matter who we are Or what it is we say Nor does it matter what we do Or even what we pay Because Jesus, He said, "I alone am the way" It is by grace and not by works Least you or I should boast And belittle God's only Son The one God loved the most God gave Jesus as a ransom To redeem you and me So we who trust in Him Can gain the victory Now if we the whosoever Will trust and believe Pardon, grace and forgiveness We will freely receive.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son that whosoever believes in him shall not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world but to save the world through him. John 3 V's 16 & 17

#### REPENT

R: Remember,

E: every

P: person

E: everywhere

N: needs

T: to repent of sin, trust in the Lord Jesus Christ and be born again of the Spirit of God

Because God's Word tells us in Romans 3:23
All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

*In Romans 3:10 we are told:* There is no-one righteous, not even one.

But in Romans 6:23 there is good news: For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life.

But beware because in Acts 17:30 we read: In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent.

# Life Has Only One Certainty

One fact that is true
One day we will die
It's the truth I'm telling you.

Babies may live for a minute Or for a hundred plus years But die they will do As will all of their peers.

They may spend 15 years studying And working 50 years more But in time they will leave earth And that is for sure.

The one important fact in life
That every person needs to know
Is when they leave this scene of time
Where then will they go?

Many people living on earth
Are completely unaware
That they have spiritual souls
That will live eternally somewhere.

Unlike the many holiday destinations
At death, destinations are just two
To heaven to live with God in love
Or hell, that place no-one would want to view.

If you want to rejoice in heaven There's one thing on earth you must do Put your trust in God's precious Son Who died to gain admission for you!

If you don't trust in Jesus, you'll regret it
Not for a mere day or two
But for forever and ever
It's a decision you will rue.

If you think this is a joke
Then put it to the test
You have nothing to lose
But your soul could find rest.

# Lord, Please Help Me

Lord, please help me to come to thee
When my mind can think and my eyes can see
Before I become too old and bent
And realize my years are nearly spent.

How sad if then I do not know Your wonderful promises before I go It will be sadder still if I anxious be But have eyes too dimmed Your Word to see.

It will be sad if when I hear Your Word
My mind cannot hold what I have heard
So help me now to read and see
What your Living Word would say to me.

### You are in my thoughts

You are in my thoughts and prayer today
Indeed from my thoughts, you are never far away
There is much I would like to be able to do
Now I can only come to the throne of God with you.

I ask Him to hold you in His loving care
I ask Him to help you this cross to bear
I ask Him to guard you both night and day
I ask Him to be your strength and stay.

Remember; hold on to His promise that's true When He says that He will never forsake you His purpose now may be hard to see But one day he will show you clearly.

### Deepest Sympathy

May you know the comfort?
Of your Saviour above
As you now remember
Your loved one with love!

I'm sure it is a blessing
For you to know
They are with their Saviour
Whom they loved so!

It is wonderful
To have the assurance
That one day we will be
Reunited with loved ones eternally!

# The Good News

God commissioned me to tell
To sinners old and young
That because He loves them so
He sent His one and only Son
From the splendour of heaven
To this world of sin and shame
To redeem all who seek salvation
In Jesus precious and holy name!

God, knew we were powerless
To cleanse our souls of sin
Sinless blood had to be shed
If we were to be cleansed within
Because God's Son was sinless
His blood was shed on Calvary's tree
So that all who seek forgiveness
Could from sin's judgement be set free!

### Questions will be answered

As you remember days gone by You may be sad and wonder why God chose to take your loved one home While you are left this world to roam!

Before you leave this scene of time Answers to these questions you may not find But if with faith in Jesus you run life's race God will give you answers face to face.

### God's Question

"Have you put your trust in Jesus?"
Will be the question that is asked of me
When I leave this scene of time
And meet God in eternity.

It will not matter who I am
Or what I have said or done
All that will matter on that day
Is whether I have trusted in God's Son?

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### God's Children

God's adopts us as His children If we put our trust in His Son And accept Jesus as our Saviour He's God's only remedy for sin!

When God becomes our Father
We must give Him respect
While acknowledging His holiness
We can speak to Him direct.

Jesus then intercedes for us
There is no-one else who can
He, our Saviour and Lord is seated
In heaven at God's right hand!

#### Lord, I Thank, You

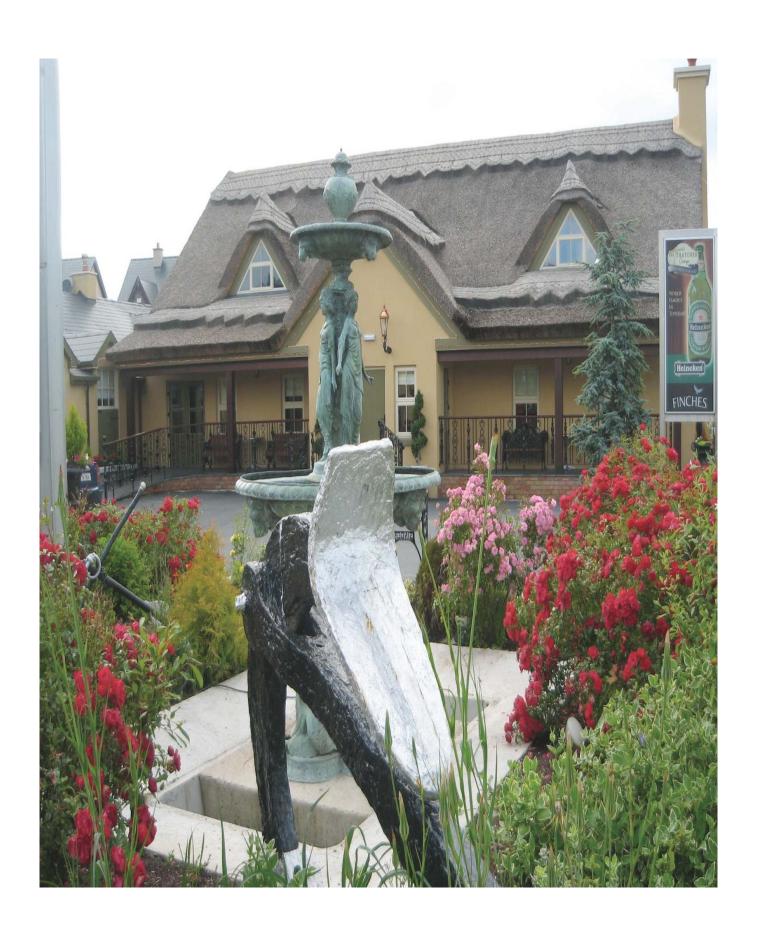
Lord, I thank you for working
Within this life of mine
I pray you will keep on working
Until my life resembles Thine!

### "Be my Witnesses"

Get up, get out, and get at it
There is work for you to do
You cannot expect someone else
To do the work that's been given to you.

Jesus said, "Be my witnesses, tell people what I have done for you Others need to hear this Good News this is now what I want you to do."

Mark 16 v 15 (Jesus said) Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

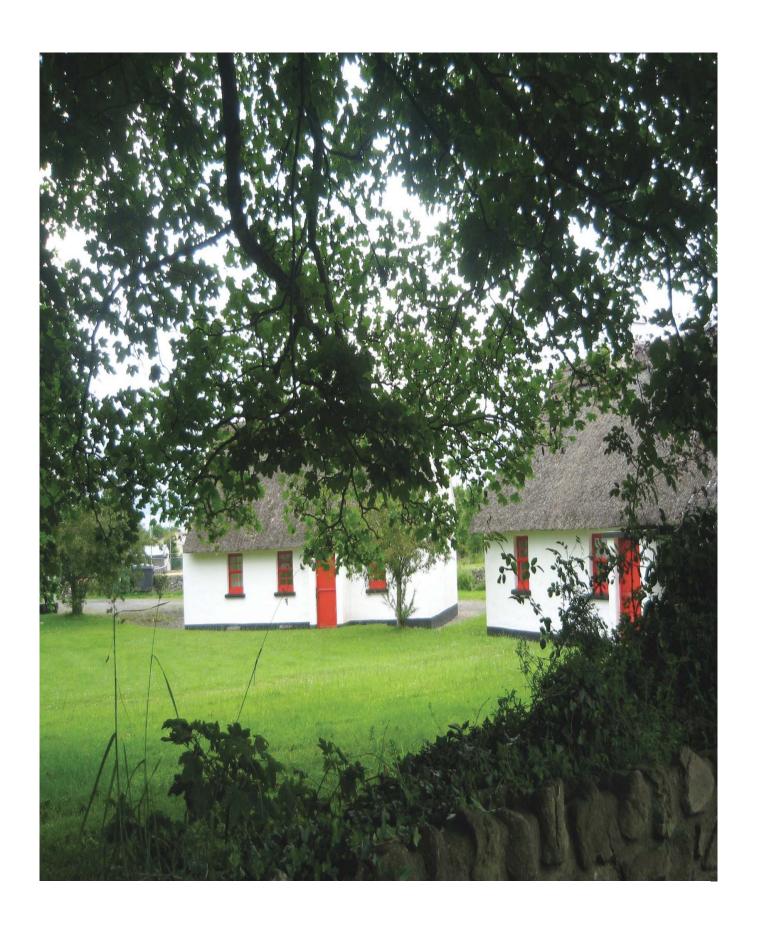


### I Step Out In Faith Today

As you are aware Lord I step out in faith today Your divine will and grace I hope to display I know within myself there is nothing I can do Other than depend entirely dear Lord upon You.

I'm hoarse and I have to speak at a meeting at eight I seek your healing touch before it's too late I know Lord there is nothing you can't do And you know it's my desire to give glory to you.

As you know dear Lord I have no alternative plan And I don't want to disappoint this group if I can This meeting was booked such a long time ago, I have no other option at this late stage as you know.



### God's Eternal Guarantee

We should read; study and learn What God's Word has to say? About how we should live our lives On earth day after passing day!

He, our Almighty Creator
Has created for us a plan
And we would do well to take note
While we may and while we can.

We ignore God's Word at our peril Because He has given a guarantee That those who obey His instructions Will be rewarded eternally!

But like each and every guarantee
If rejected it will become null and void
Then we will only have ourselves to blame
When we bear the judgement of God!

Man's guarantees are temporal God made His with an eternal plan We can either dwell with God in heaven Or to hell be eternally banned.

So I implore you, study God's Word And trust in Jesus, God's own Son He willingly gave His sinless life To purchase redemption for everyone!

#### A Clean Slate

It would be great to be able to step back in time And eradicate the errors that you and I find; Errors so numerous they are hard to explain For which we have no one but ourselves to blame; Errors of omission, commission, default, Errors of inaction of word; deed or thought, Errors large, errors small, Errors we didn't know we had committed at all; Errors that caused damage in any way, Errors that may have caused people to stray; The more we look, the more we find: It is impossible to eradicate your debt and mine. We know in our own strength it is impossible to undo The damage sin caused within me and you. I am thankful to say there is good news to tell I received this good news and I hope you will as well; God's Word clearly states and I believe it is true His Son paid the debt owed by me and by you Jesus says His blood will cleanse from all sin Everyone who repents and invites Him to dwell within; Jesus Christ alone can our sin eradicate And leave you and me with a clean slate.

John 3 v 16 & 17 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world but to save the world through him."

1 John 1 v 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

### The driving Seat of Life

Get out of the driving seat And let Jesus get in Give over the controls Of your life to Him He is a much better driver Than you'll ever be Just give Him a chance And I know you will see That you can rely On His experience and skill To direct your life Over every valley and hill He will never get lost Or lead you astray For He alone knows Every inch of the way He will take you with caution With confidence and care To His wonderful destination That He is preparing up there.

#### Satan

There is one who is evil There is one who is bad He has led many astray And that's very sad Many do not know The One who can beat This lying foe Who is full of deceit? All are tempted And all are tried By this cunning one Who is ruled by pride? If we seek help From Jesus, God's Son He will gladly help us Satan to overcome!

#### 1 Peter 5 v 8

Be self-controlled and alert, your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

### I can fully understand

I can fully understand
Why people don't believe
That Jesus Christ the Son of God
Was sent our souls to save!

Many believe Jesus was a human Just like you and me So who gave him the authorityto judge our spirituality?

They don't know or understand God's written Word of Truth They don't know Jesus fulfilled Many prophecies since birth!

How we need to tell them So that they too can believe That Jesus fulfilled the plan of God Who raised Him from the grave!

Jesus fulfilled prophesies written
Hundred's, yes thousands of years before
We would all do well to take note
If we want to enter heaven's door!



Picture taken in Australia

### Are we growing in The Vine?

An apple tree bears apples Because it's an apple tree You and I bear sin Because we sinners, be!

We will never, ever see Peaches grow on a pear tree Nor will we ever find Apple growing on a vine!

Bananas, apricots and limes
All grow on trees after their own kinds
Raspberries, strawberries and gooseberries too
All grow where they are supposed to.

Have you ever thought why this should be?

Or ever took time to look and see

If you can find a unique tree

That will go down in history.

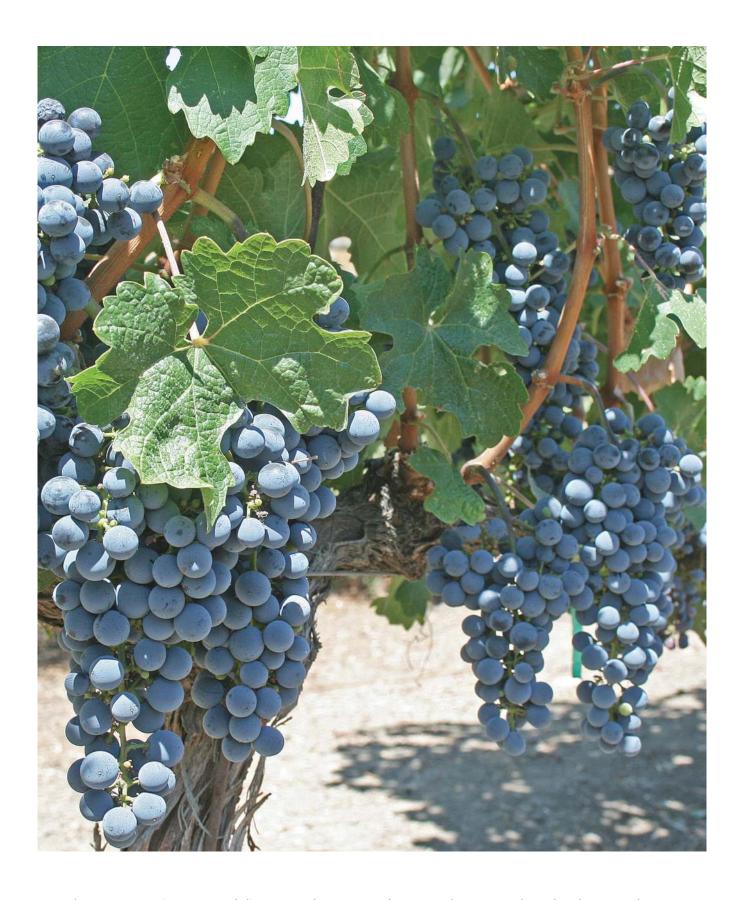
God says despite what we profess
The fruit we bear will be the test
If we are growing in The Vine
What our lives produce should be like wine.

It may be plain for all to see
That we are as wild, as wild can
But God has the power to take you and me
And graft us into the parent tree.

An expert gardener, if he has the mind Can graft a second variety into a tree of its kind He can have both fruits grow side by side And create a new flavour if he has the mind.

God chose the Jews to be fruit of His kind
He had a special role for them in mind
They are the rootstock of the Vine
Through them, Jesus brought salvation to mankind.

Now if we repent of sin and put our trust in Him God will with delight graft you and I in Into the tree, where He wants us to flourish and grow This is the only tree that will live eternally we know.



John 15 v 1 (Jesus said) I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener.

### The Big "If"

If you want to secure your eternal destination
In heaven at life's end
Then put your trust in the One
Who came to be your Saviour, Lord and Friend!

He says, "I am the way and the truth and the life No-one comes to the Father except through me"

So don't be foolish and reject trusting in Him

Or you will regret it eternally.

Jesus says, "He who comes to me I will not cast out"
So don't on His divine offer cast a doubt
Put Him to the test and I know you will see
His promises fulfilled now and throughout eternity.

#### John 14:6

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No-one comes to the Father except through me."

#### John 6:37

"All the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away."

## Will you hear the words? "Well Done"

If you love the Saviour do you serve Him?
In all you think, say and do
Do you live your life to tell others?
That He died because He loved them too?

Does it concern you that there are many?
Who have never heard His Name?
Are you aware that if you don't tell them
You could be told you are to blame.

Jesus said: The fields are ripe unto harvest
But the labourers, they are few
When God looks from heaven upon them
Is He looking on me and you?

When you go to heaven to meet Him Will you hear the words? "Well Done" Because you have done His will on earth And brought many to faith in His Son?

Matthew 9 v 37
Then Jesus said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few.

#### Words

Words of wisdom
Words of care
Words of love
Are words to share

Words of anger Words of hate Words of bitterness Are words that grate!

How we need To choose with care The words we utter Everywhere!

I know that this
Is hard to do
I know that you
Will find this too!

God's Word tells us
And it is true
Controlling our tongue
Is hard to do!

# Words Can Heal or Hurt

Words can be used For good or for ill Words have the ability To heal or to kill!

The same mouth that utters
Endearing advances
Can utter words
That can hurt like lances.

We will give an account
Of the words we speak
When we stand before God
At His judgement seat!

We should be aware That we need to be Guarding our mouths Continually!

### We have a problem

If we work our fingers to the bone We will never reach our heavenly home If we try to buy a heavenward fare We will still be left in bleak despair If we try to rid ourselves of sin We will still be lift unclean within I know there is nothing I can do To get to heaven and neither can you God says no sin will enter there So we have a problem beyond compare We can only accept God's offer of love If we are to dwell in heaven above He says we must repent and believe His gift of salvation to receive So my advice is come and do so now This decision you won't regret I vow Then one day you and I will meet As we sit around our Saviour's feet.

### Jesus alone is worthy

While Jesus wants to be Saviour
He also wants to be Lord
If you want joy in His presence
Yield every thought, action and word.

The Lord Jesus alone is worthy Of the deep, sincere love of the soul He paid our ransom on Calvary's Cross That you and I may be made whole.

He knows well our failings
He knows we are as weak as can be
He knows it is only through His Spirit
That you and I can be set free.

God in His Word clearly tells us
To ask if we want to receive
The gift of the Holy Spirit
All He asks us to do is believe.

### Physical & Spiritual Sight

When we step out of darkness into light Everything around looks clean and bright Suddenly we find there is so much to see. That hitherto was hidden from you and me.

Imagine a person who was blind from birth When the first see the beauty of our earth Preconceived ideas could never compare With the majestic beauty that is hidden there.

Would they have mixed feelings before Mum and Dad?
Would they be afraid of shattering the conception they had?
I'm sure there would be tears of both sadness and joy
When they realized they were foolish these thoughts to employ!

In their mother and father's eyes would they now see?
The love they had felt when they sat on their knees
The mist of ignorance would now be erased
As knowledge would at last questions replace.

I'm sure they would now be eager to see and explore
All their minds could only visualise before
I know the excitement they would experience within
Could only be compared with redemption from sin!

### Take time to honour God

We ought to take time to honour God every day
We ought to take time to worship and pray
We ought to take time to stop and say
"Thank You for all your blessings today.

We ought to thank God for food, health and home For family, friends and a beautiful world to roam For sight, hearing, touch, taste and smell For soundness of mind and emotional feelings as well!

We are often so busy I think it is fair to say
We ignore our Creator many and many a day
For most this is the case until something goes wrong
Only then do they approach the One who can be relied upon.

Indeed many deny there is a Creator at all
I think that is as silly as expecting paint to jump on a wall
Or expecting ingredients themselves to make a cake
Or fire to materialize in a grate.

If God treated us the way we treat Him
I wonder what kind of mess would our world be in?
I think we ought to take note before it's too late
And ask Him to forgive our sinful, fallen state.

#### S.I.N.

SIN = Satan's Scourge our Saviour's sacrifice = God's Solution

> Sin Invaded Nature Separation Is Noticed Sin Is Natural Strife Infiltrated Nations **Suffering Intensely Nasty** Sinner's Inadequacy Noted Saviour Is Needed Someone Is Nominated Son Is Notified Salvation Is Near Sacrifice Is Nailed Satan Is Nervous Scourge Is Neutralised Sovereign Instigates New Birth Sinner Identifies Need Sin Is Nullified Sanctification Is Necessary Spirit of God Indwells Newborn.

### Fight the Battle, Win the War

There's a battle to be fought There's a battle to be won The foe is on the offensive The war has just begun.

We need to wear the armour We need to bind it tight We need to study warfare And keep victory in sight.

The enemy is subtle
The enemy is sly
But we will gain the victory
If to the Saviour we draw nigh.

Fierce may be the battle Strong may be the foe But our God has promised the enemy to overthrow.

Satan may be clad in splendour
He may be clothed in fun
But He has no prize to offer
If he the battle wins!

Ephesians 6 v 11
Put on the full armour of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

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#### Other books & CD's by this author:

#### **Books of Christian Poetry**

Whispers of Love 1

Whispers of Love 2

Whispers of Love 3

Whispers of Love4

Whispers of Love5

Whispers of Love 6

Whispers of Love 7

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#### The Jigsaw Puzzle

A personal testimony of how God revealed himself through times of illness

#### "Kerrykeel"

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Memories of childhood spent in Kerrykeel, Co Donegal

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My Uncles testimony and my recollections of his life

#### Testimony Time, Saved by Grace

A book of Christian testimonials

#### Our visit to Israel

My recollections of our visit

#### I Thank God for His Healing Touch

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Olive reading poetry backed by Gospel Music by Jas. Strange

Contact details: Olive Borland,

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