

## **Lecture #24 – More Hymn Writers You Should Know**

### **I. Francis Ridley Havergal**

1836-1879

English

Anglican

Wrote when she was saved at 14: “There and then I committed my soul to the Savior – and earth and heaven seemed bright from that moment.”

### **Songs to Know**

“Take My Life and Let it Be”

Frances R. Havergal originally composed her text in eleven couplets as a hymn of "self-consecration to Christ" on February 4, 1874. She told the following story about writing this hymn:

I went for a little visit of five days [to Areley House, Worcestershire, in December 1873]. There were ten persons in the house, some unconverted and long prayed for, some converted but not rejoicing Christians. [God] gave me the prayer, "Lord, give me all this house." And He just did! Before I left the house, everyone had got a blessing. The last night of my visit. . . I was too happy to sleep and passed most of the night in praise and renewal of my own consecration, and these little couplets formed themselves and chimed in my heart, one after another, till they finished with "Ever, only, all, for Thee."

“Like a River Glorious”

### **II. Helen H. Lemmel**

1864-1961

English/American

Baptist

Daughter of Methodist minister.

Emigrated to America when she was 12.

Studied music in Germany and sang concerts.

Vocal teacher at Moody Bible Institute

Worked with Billy Sunday

### Songs to Know

“Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus”

Written after reading a tract by Anglican missionary Lilius Trotter which said:

“So then turn your eyes upon Him. Look full into His face, and you will find the things of earth will acquire a strange, new dimness.”

Is a little complex musically speaking.

### **III. William J. Kirkpatrick**

1838-1921

Irish/American

Methodist

Received his musical training from his father and several other private teachers. A carpenter by trade, he engaged in the furniture business from 1862 to 1878. He left that profession to dedicate his life to music, serving as music director at Grace Methodist Church in Philadelphia. Kirkpatrick compiled some one hundred gospel song collections; his first, *Devotional Melodies* (1859), was published when he was only twenty-one years old.

### Songs to Know

Tunes written:

“Jesus Saves”

“’Tis So Sweet To Trust In Jesus”

“The Comforter Has Come”

“He Hideth My Soul”

CRADLE SONG

“We Have An Anchor”

REDEEMED

“Stepping in the Light”

“Lead Me To Calvary”

“Lord, I’m Coming Home”

ALMOST ALWAYS SUNG IN 6/8 NOT 4/4

#### **IV. Philip P. Bliss**

1838-1876

American

Methodist/Congregationalist

Associated with Moody and Sankey

#### **Songs to Know**

“Almost Persuaded”

“Wonderful Words of Life”

“Whosoever Will”

Inspired by hearing a series of sermons on John 3:16 by English evangelist Henry Morehouse.

“Once for All”

George C. Stebbins, another musical associate of D.L. Moody, stated that this hymn “is conceded to be the clearest statement of the doctrine of grace in distinction from the law to be found in hymnology. Indeed, it was said at the time of Moody and Sankey’s first visit to

Scotland in 1873 that the singing of that hymn had more to do in breaking down the prejudice that existed against Gospel hymns up to that time than anything else, as its teaching was so scriptural and in perfect accord with the teaching of the Scottish divines. The music setting of it, too, could not have been improved upon.”

“Hold the Fort”

A company of Union soldiers was commanded to defend an important supply depot at Altoona Pass. (A million and a half rations were stored there.) Soon surrounded by a much stronger force of Confederate troops, it looked as though the cause was hopeless. But suddenly, an officer caught sight of a white signal flag been flown from Kenesaw Mountain, 20 miles away. Soon, a message was conveyed across the miles: “Hold the fort; I am coming.” (William Tecumseh Sherman). A cheer went up from the men, and they redoubled their efforts and were able to hold on until Sherman arrived with reinforcements and drove the enemy back.

“I Will Sing of My Redeemer”

In December, 1876, the great gospel hymn writer, Philip Bliss, and his wife boarded a train home to Pennsylvania after attending an evangelistic meeting in Chicago. As their train crossed over a river in Ashtabula, Ohio, the bridge collapsed and the train fell into the icy river below. Bliss escaped, but when he realized his wife was still in the burning wreck, he went back into the melee to find her. Neither Bliss nor his wife survived. Some of Bliss’ possessions, however, in the front carriages that made it across the bridge unharmed, were later retrieved. Inside one of his trunks, his friends found a new text Bliss had just written, entitled, “I Will Sing of My Redeemer.” It’s said that at the meeting in Chicago, he told the crowd, “I may not pass this way again.” Did he have some inclination that he would soon be meeting his Redeemer? When he penned the words, “he from death to life has brought me, Son of God, with him to be,” did he know he would be making that journey soon?

Tunes Written:

“Jesus Loves Even Me”

Sometimes Bliss is listed as the author of the text, but he denied writing it. It appears to have been written by Emily S. Oakey.

“It is Well with my Soul”

## **V. Elisha Hoffman**

1839-1929

American

Presbyterian

Composed over 2,000 songs and edited over 50 song books.

### Songs to Know

“Glory to His Name”

“Leaning On the Everlasting Arms”

Anthony J. Showalter received letters from two friends who had lost their wives about the same time. He wrote back to express his sympathy, and included a verse of Scripture: “The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms” (Deuteronomy 33:27 KJV). As he thought about that text, he wrote the music and refrain to this hymn. He asked Elisha Hoffman to write the stanzas. The hymn was first published in 1887 in *The Glad Evangel for Revival, Camp, and Evangelistic Meetings*, for which Showalter was an editor.

“Are You Washed in the Blood?”

“Is Your All on the Altar”

### **VI. Ira Sankey**

1840-1908

American

Methodist

Longtime associate of D.L. Moody

### Songs to Know

Wrote the Tunes:

“Ninety and Nine”

“There’ll Be No Dark Valley”

“Trusting Jesus”

“A Shelter in the Time of Storm”

## **VII. D.W. Whittle**

1840-1901

American.

Associated with D.L. Moody

Used the pseudonym “El Nathan”

### **Songs to Know**

“Showers of Blessing”

“I Know Whom I Have Believed”

“The Banner of the Cross”

## **VIII. James McGranahan**

1840-1907

American

Associated with D.W. Whittle

### **Songs to Know**

“Verily, Verily”

The words are sometimes attributed to “G.M.J.”, which is a pseudonym McGranahan used.

Wrote the TUNES:

“I Know Whom I Have Believed”

“I Will Sing of My Redeemer”

“Christ Receiveth Sinful Men”

“The Banner of the Cross”

### Hawaii Connection

One odd story about the music of James McGranahan is how one of his tunes became associated with Hawaii.

Congregationalist missionary Lorenzo Lyons wrote new words to the tune McGranhan wrote for a song called “I Left it All with Jesus”.

The new text is known as “Hawai’i Aloha” and is a popular state song, though not the official one.

### **IX. George Stebbins**

1846-1945

American

Baptist

Associated with A.J. Gordon, Moody, Sankey, Bliss, and Whittle.

### Songs to Know

Wrote the TUNES

“Jesus is Tenderly Calling Today”

“Have Thine Own Way, Lord”

“Take Time To Be Holy”

“Saved by Grace”

### **X. Daniel Towner**

1850-1919

American

Methodist

Associated with Moody Bible Institute.

### Songs to Know

Wrote the tunes:

“Trust and Obey”

“At Calvary”

“Grace Greater Than Our Sin”

“Saved by the Blood”

“Ship Ahoy”

### **XI. E.O. Excell**

Edwin Othello Excell

1851-1921

American

Methodist

Associated with Sam Jones

### Songs to Know

“Since I Have Been Redeemed”

Tunes written by Excell

“Count Your Blessings”



NEW BRITAIN – “Amazing Grace”

He arranged the traditional folk tune used in William Walker’s Southern Harmony  
(SHAPE NOTES!)

“Jesus Wants Me for a Sunbeam”