



Gospel Tract Society, Inc.

August 2014 Newsletter

Dear Brother and Sister in Jesus:

***Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine,
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood!***

Oh, what a Holy Spirit anointing rests on this hymn of Blessed Assurance! Written by Frances (Fanny) Crosby in 1873 based on Hebrews 10:22-23. ***“Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our faith without wavering, for He who promised it is faithful.”***

During the past few weeks my old friend, Mr. Sleep, has been slow coming. Some nights he didn't show up at all. During the dark night hours while waiting for my old friend to show up, I often found comfort, and sometimes relaxation, in listening to music, usually the slow and gentle notes of sweet worship.

On one particular night my friend, Mr. Sleep, did not show up at all, so, it was a whole night of music. The decision was made to make it a Gaither marathon night. As the songs and albums were consumed during the midnight hours, I would find myself in moments of deep worship, and other times, deep moments of praise with tears of joy and peace running down my cheeks because of the Faithfulness of our Lord God.

At about 3:00 or 3:30 AM, while in a state of 'mentally zoning' in and out of the music, there came a song through my earphones that I remembered singing during my childhood, Blessed Assurance. It was one of those old songs that you know so well, that you only listen with half of your attention, such as it was in this case that night. Until the singers came to the chorus. Then a solo singer began to sing the chorus, a voice that I didn't recognize. Now you need to know that I have had the albums and songs for several years, and have listened to them many – many times. However, this time was different. The voice singing the chorus was not familiar to me at all, in fact, what captured my attention was that I could not tell whether the singer was a man or woman.

Leaving the 'state of zoning' my ears focused on the voice, the tones, the range, the quality, the pitch, and the pronunciation of each word. Finally the soloist hit a falsetto note that told me that this voice belonged to a 'true Irish tenor.' By this time the song was coming to the end. The sound of the singer's voice was so unique, that it had to be replayed in my ears again. This time in listening to the song, while the tenor's voice was that of a trained professional, the words of the song stepped forward and captured my mind's attention. By now it was clear to me that my Lord had something to tell me. So, the song was replayed, and replayed, and replayed. You guessed it, by now my spirit was one with God as I laid back in my reclining chair, my hands were raised and my body, mind, and spirit were immersed in praise and worship to God the Father and God the Son.

The next morning, the song was still ringing through my head, and still is. Wanting my sweet wife to hear it, I searched and searched for hours, no, for days, and much to my dismay, could not find the song, singer, nor the album that it was recorded on.

We found out late the next day that my body was under physical attack by a silent killer during that night and we just did not know it until late the following day. The doctors couldn't understand how I had lived through the night, much less, all of the next day.

The Lord was just sweetly telling me in this song that we as Christians do have that blessed assurance in our salvation that was paid for us by Jesus on the cross of Calvary. That power, sweetness, fellowship, and worship is only a foretaste of what we will enjoy when we see Jesus and our Father.

This Blessed Assurance is more than just a warm fuzzy feeling, it is the full power of the Throne of the God of the universe. **It is salvation. It is protection! It is healing! It is Peace! It is the Blessing! It is Prosperity of the spirit - soul - and body! It is the presence of His Holy Spirit! It is our “Son-ship” to the Throne, equal to that of our brother Jesus Christ - the risen King of Kings!**

In this crazy world that we walk in, day in and day out, we can have that peace and assurance that our

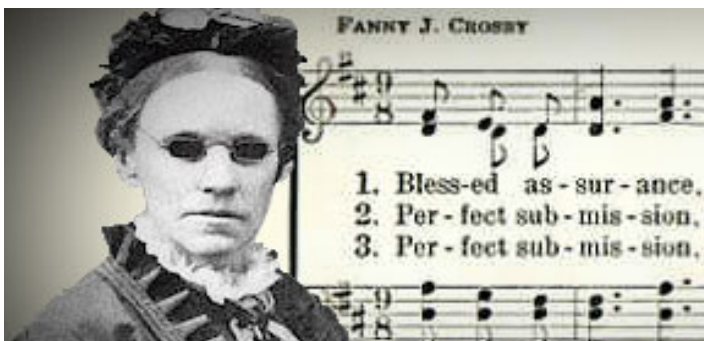
Father knows where we are and what we are going through. With the nightly news telling of family member killing family members, and Israel being attacked by several nations at the same time, our nation torn apart by drugs and perverse life styles, we need to have that Blessed Assurance that Jesus is alive and that He has given His brothers and sisters power to get through each day – day by day.

Fanny Crosby was a prolific song writer. She wrote over 8000 gospel songs and hymns. Yet, she was blind. Most of her songs and hymns are forgotten in today's churches. There are at least 2 generations of Christians that have never heard (or seldom hear) her Holy Spirit inspired writings because we sing the little "ditties" on the wall or overhead screens. Now, some of these little choruses are OK, but the church as a whole, has forsaken and forgotten the hymns of faith that built the church of today.

To hear it on the news broadcast, there is little good in the world today. Even the weather seems worse and more devastating than ever before. Earthquakes, fires, floods, and drought, all at the same time ravaging our nation. Nations rioting over the outcome of a sports game. People are shooting and stabbing others just to get their names in the news.

II Timothy 3:1-6, ***"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, un-thankful, unholy. Without natural affection. Trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good. Traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts."***

Sometimes, it may seem that it just isn't worth it. Oh, so come Lord Jesus! Where are you today? Are you depressed, hurting, lonely, need financial help, or just plain sick and tired of being sick and tired?



Sing out loud the old song Blessed Assurance, and let the Spirit of God swell up within you when you get to the chorus:

**This is my story,
This is MY song,
Praising my Savior ALL the day long,
THIS is My story,
This is MY song,
PRAISING MY SAVIOR
ALL THE DAY (night) LONG**

Let the Spirit of God take you to that place in Him, that only HE can do! Be Strong in the Lord. Read His Word, for it is true and never changing.

Paul wrote to Timothy in II Timothy 1:8-9, ***"Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord ... but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God. Who has saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began."***

The average Christian of today's church doesn't sing the songs of Praise, and acts as if they are ashamed to be a Christian, or at least, not draw attention to their belief and faith in our Heavenly Father.

Psalm 120:1, ***"In my distress I cried unto the Lord, and He heard me."*** (121:1), ***"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made Heaven and Earth."***

Be lifted up today, be encouraged, our Lord hears, cares, and will provide!

In the name of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior;

Phillip Buttram

Phillip Buttram

P.S. As you enclose your love gift to this ministry and tract order, please, remember the needs of the orphans in Haiti, and the prisoner's need for Bibles. Thank you and may God's presences rest on you today!

Gospel Tract Society, Inc.

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This ministry maintained by the gifts of God's people.