



Today We Sing  
By Becky Combee

My father was a church musician in that era of history when hymns were at the heart of our worship. Through his dedication, we were taught to embrace and honor the great hymns of the church. Often, I've jokingly said that I could quote more hymns than I could Bible verses. I don't suppose this was true, but certainly, Christian music was very important to us.

I still love yesterday's church music. Although modern churches frequently desert older music, the anointing of God that guided the heart of the songwriters of yesteryear continues to flow from the chords and poetry of their songs. Intertwined with the beauty of our new worship songs, they form a solid foundation that usher in the presence of the Lord. Together, the old and the new, lift our hearts heavenward.

Years ago, I was asked to give a five minute devotional at a ladies luncheon. Five minutes. Can you imagine a Bible teacher, who can talk four or more hours a day, held to five minutes? For a long time, I pondered this assignment. I decided to spend my five minutes sharing words from the hymns that I loved. I'll never forget the impact. The atmosphere was as still as the eye of a hurricane. Across the room, a lady was weeping. Yet, I've never done that again. Some things are ordained for one moment only, and that day, it was God's divine order.

Today, the inspiration of the hymnal is still a

Jesus, Superhero  
By Suzanne D. Williams

*In him there was life, and that life was the light of men. And the light shines in darkness, a darkness which **was not able to master it.** (Jn 1:5-6 KNOX)*

You can't turn God's light off. You can cover it up. You can close your eyes and pretend it's not there. You can even change rooms and walk around in the dark if you want to. But no amount of effort on your part will put the Light out. The devil tried more than once, but the Light only became brighter.<sup>1</sup>

He wanted to kill infant Jesus, but God sent Mary and Joseph into Egypt.<sup>2</sup> He wanted to toss Jesus off a cliff at the hands of irate men, but Jesus walked right through them like they weren't there.<sup>3</sup>

He couldn't, in fact, touch Jesus until the Savior surrendered Himself, and even then, even after the nails, the beatings, the crown of thorns. Even after a sword pierced His side and His body was wrapped and placed in a tomb, even after He wasn't moving, His heart wasn't beating, His flesh was cold, blue, stiff – even then, the Light kept shining.<sup>4</sup>

Unquenchable, unchangeable, **unstoppable.** Unsatisfied with darkness. Unhappy with the state of things, the Light changed them, it breathed Life and next thing anyone knew, there's Jesus again, only better.

*(Continued from TODAY WE SING)*

blessing to me. Recently, I woke up singing, “Blessed Redeemer! Precious Redeemer! Seems now I see Him on Calvary’s tree. Wounded and bleeding, for sinners pleading – Blind and unheeding – dying for me!”<sup>1,2</sup> This song so captured my heart and mind that I sang it over and over again. What a wonderful message for us in this season when we emphasize Jesus’ death and Resurrection.

Sometime later, I was praying when I remembered the refrain from another song filled with the message of Resurrection. “Up from the grave He arose, with a mighty TRIUMPH o’re His foes. He arose a victor from the dark domain, and he lives forever with his saints to reign.”<sup>3</sup> Did you notice the word “triumph”? Historically, a “triumph” was a celebration of victory – a parade through the city with all the prisoners on display. This is the picture given to us by the apostle Paul in Colossians. He wrote that Jesus disarmed and paralyzed Satan and his cohorts, making a public display of them.<sup>4</sup>

This songwriter also notes that “Christ lives forever with his saints to reign.” What magnificent words from our hymnist! The apostle Paul teaches us this glorious truth in Ephesians 2:6. Here, we read, that “[God] has raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.” In Christ, we are victorious, ruling and reigning with Him.

One song that celebrates this victory says, “O, victory in Jesus, my Savior, forever. He sought me and bo’t me with his redeeming blood. He loved me ere I knew him, and all my love is due him, He plunged me to victory beneath the cleansing flood.”<sup>1,5</sup> I love this reminder of Jesus’ sacrifice. His precious blood purchased our victory. But this song also magnifies our commitment to our Savior with the phrase, “all my love is due him.” This agrees with First John 4:19, “We love him, because he first loved us.” Perhaps, this verse was in the mind of the hymnist as he wrote the hymn.

It is easy to learn God’s words of truth through music. In old songs and in new songs, valuable

lessons are taught to us. But, beyond the magnificent truths projected in song, we are strengthened and encouraged as we sing. When our heart is filled with song, we are empowered to navigate life’s difficulties. His joy becomes our strength.

So, today we sing! We sing the old and we sing the new! We lift up our voices and sing praises to His Name. Sing and make a joyful sound.

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<sup>1</sup>“Baptist Hymnal” ©1975 CONVENTION PRESS <sup>2</sup>“Blessed Redeemer” Avis B. Christiansen <sup>3</sup>“Low In The Grave He Lay” Robert Lowry <sup>4</sup>Col 2:15 <sup>5</sup>“Victory In Jesus” E.M. Bartlett

*(Continued from JESUS, SUPERHERO)*

Jesus 2.0.

Jesus, the Enhanced Version.

## **Jesus, Superhero.**

Stronger than disease, illness, deformity, or mental distress. Greater than fear or dread or guilt or regret. Able to clean souls with a single word. Passing out forgiveness to anyone who’ll ask and believe for it.

But He didn’t stop there. He shared that power with us, those who didn’t deserve it. He said, “You go and do what I did ... and do greater things!”<sup>5</sup>

Greater than raising Lazarus from the dead? Greater than walking on water? Healing the lame? Cleansing a leper? Greater than taking on the worst of the worst of the worst of mankind and exchanging your life for theirs?

**We’re not living up to our full potential, folks.** We’re settling for half-baked, half-best, half-as-good lives, worrying about the news, the government, the food supply when the God we serve already took care of all that. He was there at the beginning, and He planned the ending.

No namby-pamby ending either. Oh, no. He’s going to do it right, come back in spectacular style and every eye’s going to see him and know.<sup>6</sup>

**God wins.**

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<sup>1</sup>Mt 5:15; Mk 4:21; Lk 8:16; Lk 11:33; Jn 3:19; Jn 8:12; Rm 3:12 <sup>2</sup>Mt 2:19-21 <sup>3</sup>Lk 4:30 <sup>4</sup>Jn 10:15,17 <sup>5</sup>Jn 14:12 <sup>6</sup>Rev 1:7