

LIFE LIFTER LINES

BY Laura E. Kelsey

Inner Cover

"Laura's poems give one
The feeling of
the value of life,
and the importance of
a working faith in God."

Mrs. Ferdinand Fretag—1961 (Retired teacher of English and Dramatics)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

LLL3

Grateful thanks are hereby extended to dear ones, who—over the years—since the mid 1930's helped me by typing poems for me, and/or by useful suggestions and encouragement.

This includes our late Brother Anthony Latina, who proposed that copies of my poems be made, also to sister Helen Fuller and Brother Vincent Kowalewski for publishing these poems.

But, especially, I thank our Heavenly Father for having given me, in various ways, thoughts which have been helpful to me, and which—with His help—I am sharing with you, in this way.

Your Sister in Christ,
Laura E. Kelsey

GOD'S LOVING PLAN

LLL4

The time of earth's trouble has come
And the darkness 'round us grows deeper,
But our faith is sure
And our hope secure
In God, our Guide and Keeper.
So we'll hold the Truth
Be we man or youth,
And reproaches gladly we'll bear;
For this light that's ours
With its many powers,
Will brighten and lighten care.
We know that our God has a plan
That will bring rich blessings to all,
For the thing they need
Is the promised "Seed"
To rescue them from Adam's fall,
Then the wars will cease
Through a reign of peace
And the Truth will be learned by all men;
For the Word of God
Will be spread abroad
And will fill the whole earth then.

LLL5

We know that the Lord's plan will be
More complete than man can devise,
And each heart will sing
Of the joy 'twill bring
When those who "sleep" will all arise
As a gift from One
Who is God's dear Son,
And they'll learn His love for all men;
For the way will be
Very plain to see
So they'll not need stumble then.
As God has now opened our eyes
To perceive His wonderful plan,
In our gratitude
For this hope embued,
We'll let our light shine as we can,
In the hope that some
May desire to come
And to seek the light that is true;
Then an honest heart
May be set apart
To love Him and serve Him, too!

(May be sung to tune of "In The Garden")

AN OPENING HYMN

LLL8

When we meet together
May we come with prayer
That God's spirit, ruling,
Will dispel our care.
Then with hearts united,
Filled with holy love,
May we seek a blessing
Coming from above.
O, how good to gather
At the throne of God;
By His eye be guided,
Rather than by rod.
May we help each other
By each word and deed;
May we lift a burden
Where there is a need.
Then with hearts more zealous,
Let us run the race;
That we, being faithful,
Soon may see His face.

Tune: "Now The Day is Over"

FROM CROSS TO CROWN

LLL9

The cross, we know, is but the means
By which the promised crown is won;
And God is able to perform
What He in us has well begun.
So let us trust Him with our lives,
Through joy or pain,
through gain or loss,
While resting in our Father's love,
As here we gladly
Bear the cross.
Throughout our earthly years ahead
We'll seek to live
and speak and do
According to our Father's will;
O may we each to Him prove true!

SERVE WITH GLADNESS

LLL10

When upon your heart the Lord has placed some thought
Of a work for Him that may by you be wrought,
Do not hesitate to see that work begin;
Count it as a privilege and start right in!

CHORUS:

Work for Jesus—toil with joyful song.
Work for Jesus—you to Him belong.
Work for Jesus—toil with joyful song.
Work with love for Jesus—you to Him belong!

Do you find it hard to sacrifice your all?
Will you fail to heed and answer to His call?
Will you leave some opportunity unused?
Or will thought of serving Him make you enthused?
Do your house and worldly goods engross your time?
Have you no provision for the things sublime?
Are the many cares of life now keeping you
From the blessed work that God would have you do?
Lay away all weights that hinder work for Him;
This will help to keep your love from growing dim.
Show Him that your zeal for Him surmounts all things;
And your growing faith, to Him forever clings!

(Tune—"Count Your Blessings")

BECAUSE I'M A CHRISTIAN
LLL11

Though the world may ban me
From its rank and file,
Still I'm pleased to bear it
For this little while;
For I'm as a "stranger"
In a foreign land,
But I know that later
They'll understand—
They'll each one understand.

(May be sung to tune of: "Love's Old Sweet song")

1 Peter 2:11, " ... as strangers and pilgrims ..."

1 Peter 2:9, " ...ye are ...an holy nation..."

John 15:18,19, "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated Me (Jesus) before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own, but ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you."

2 Corinthians 5:6, "... While we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord."

THE NEW YEAR

LLL12

Now dawns the first bright day of this new year,
Night past, the sun is up; and thus
The old year fades, the new becomes more clear;
But how it's used depends on us.
That which is not worthwhile, may we discard;
Absorbed be only what is true;
A wholesome life be held in high regard;
And righteous be each deed we do!
In this past year, mistakes we all have made,
And God forgave us day by day
For debts which humbly at His feet were laid,
And helped us on the narrow way!
If we will closely follow Christ as guide,
He'll make this year to far transcend
Our fondest hope; and we'll find Him at our side
When we most need our truest Friend!

———

"IF we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." — [John 15:15](#)

PLAY FAIR!

LLL15

All things together work for good
To them who truly love their Lord,
But all attempts to live aright
Will fail when God is not adored.
If we love God, then we will seek
To please Him by each word and deed;
We'll learn what pleases Him the best
When to His Word we give due heed.
And when we've learned to ask aright,
We then may hope for answered prayer;
For God will do His part, it's true,
If we do ours, and thus play fair!

———

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called, according to His purpose." — [Romans 8:28](#)

SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM

LLL16

Seek first, seek first God's Kingdom
If we have His elect;
With all our hearts now serve Him
In ways He will select.
From service unto service
Our love for Him reveal,
As thus we seek to please Him
By works of faith and zeal.
Seek first, seek first God's Kingdom
If we for Him would live;
Whatever things are needful,
To us, he'll surely give.
Delighting in His promise
To give us needed grace,
Continue in our striving
To fill the chosen place.
Seek first, seek first God's Kingdom
What else can matter now?
The things of earth are fading
As we before Him bow.
Confide in Him and trust Him
Though plagues are on the way;
Since we are His completely,
We're not on earth to stay!

(May be sung to tune of: "Stand up
For Jesus")

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you." — [Matthew 6:33](#)

GOD CAN USE A SINGLE ENCOUNTER

LLL17

(Acts 8:26-39)

(R2964-R2966)

"Arise,
Philip and go
To'ard the south, to the way
That goes from Jerusalem to
Gaza."
And he
arose and went,
And behold, an eunuch,
A man of Ethiopia,
Rode by,
Reading
From Isaiah,
The fifty-third chapter,
Then the Spirit said to Philip,
"Go near,
"And join
This chariot."
Philip ran to it and
Heard him, of great authority,
Reading.
"Do you
Understand it?"
Inquired Philip of him,
"How can I, except some man should
Guide me?
(continued)
LLL18

"Come up
And sit with me,
And tell me who it is
Of whom the prophet speaks in this
Scripture."
Philip
"Opened his mouth"
And told him of Jesus,
Who was "brought as a lamb to the
Slaughter."
As they
Went on their way,
They came to some water—
And the eunuch asked, "Can't I be
Baptized?"
"You may
If you believe

On Him with all your heart."
"I believe that Jesus Christ is
God's Son.
"Stand still!"
He commanded
His chariot; and he
Went with Philip down into the
Water.
Philip
Immersed him, and
Having finished this work
The spirit of the Lord caught him
Away.
(continued)
LLL19

With joy,
The eunuch went
Back to his chariot
And his journey, and saw Philip
No more.
May we
Never despise
A chance to witness to
One inquiring person,
Though it's
Just once!
(Most of the conversational parts
are paraphrases, rather than
exact quotations from the Bible.)

MAY WE BE 'DEAF' AT TIMES
When words for hurt are heard,
May "self" stay "dead";
As though no wronging words
To us were said!
"Who is blind, but my servant? Or
deaf as My Messenger that I sent?..."
(Isaiah 42:19) 4th R3176

GOD CHOOSES WELL

LLL20

For one whole year I tried in vain
To open the eyes of one I chose—
That wondrous truth might be made plain.
And then there came another one
Who listened with a ready ear
And thanked me for what she thought I'd done.
But I could gladly let her know;
'Twas God—not I—whose power and
 love
Had won her heart and blessed her so!
Oh, yes, it is as Jesus said:
Unless the Father draw a man,
He will not come and so be led.
Our human wisdom fails to tell
Who would the Father's will perform;
But God knows all and chooses well.

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the
truth and the life; no man cometh unto
the Father, but by me." — # Joh 14:6

"No man can come to Me, except the Father,
which hath sent Me, draw him; and I will
raise him up at the last day." — # Joh 6:44

WHEN STRUGGLES CEASE

LLL21

"Oh, help me! Help me!" called the voice
Of a boy in pitiful tones,
As drowning, he strove to save himself;
But someone had heard his moans.
And just before the guard dived in
To save that struggling one,
He shouted loud to him and said,
"I'll be right there, my son!"
The failing form that seemed relaxed;
It fought in fright no more,
And soon the guard had brought the boy
To safety on the shore.
Just so, will God, our gracious Guard,
Best work in us His will
When we stop striving to save ourselves,
And rest in faith. "Be still!"

"Be still and know that I am God." # Ps 46:10

"Deliver us from evil." # Mt 6:13

Also # Ps 7:10 and Hymn 128 (verse 2)

AS A CITIZEN OF HEAVEN
LLL22

(Acts 4:13, 18-20; 5:29, 38, 39)

I do

Obey earth's laws,

And will if conscience lets:

"We ought to obey God, rather
Than men."

I, a (Vol. 6, page 594)

Subject of Christ

Must be loyal to Him;

Nor would a real alien fight

His King.

The Father "hath delivered us from
the power of darkness, and hath translated
us into the kingdom of His dear
Son." (Colossians 1:12, 13)

"For our conversation (citizenship) is
in heaven." (Philippians 3:20) (See Strong's
Conc.) "We are citizens of heaven."

(Philips)

"We are ambassadors for Christ."

(1 Corinthians 5:17-20)

John 17:14-16; Matthew 10:16-22, and Mannas for August 13,14; December 7

MANKIND AWAITS THE KINGDOM
LLL23

All men would like right now to have the blessings
Which God's promised Kingdom will bring;
And many hearts which have by sin been broken
Will rejoice when Christ is King.
We see the signs of that glad day approaching
and we love to tell this good news;
With heart and voice, we publish these glad tidings,
Though but few this work would choose.
And now while we are cheerfully enduring,
Though reproached by friends and by foes,
Our thanks will rise to God in praise unceasing
For the blessings He bestows.
Some day mankind will have this blessed knowledge,
And their hearts will then understand
Why we forsook the passing earthly pleasures
To proclaim this message grand.
(May be sung to the chorus tune of: "The world is
Waiting for the Sunrise.")

ALONE OR TOGETHER

LLL24

If by myself
There's not a thing that I can do;
But God with me,
Makes all things possible and true!
Within myself
No life, no strength, no good doth dwell;
But God with me,
Means life that's full, and all is well!
If by myself
Then "fate" can deal a heavy hand.
But God with me,
The trials are what I can stand.

If by myself,
I live in fear and loneliness;
But God with me,
Turns darkened clouds to loveliness!
So for myself,
I pray especially for this:
That God's with me
To give His power, peace and bliss!

Romans 8:28

Mark 9:23

John 15:5

Philippians 4:13

Philippians 2:13

2 Timothy 1:7

THE GARDENER'S CARE LLL25

(Matthew 6:28)

Lilies
Are beautiful—
They neither toil nor spin;
But they faithfully use what is
Given.
Their food
And warmth and light
Are provided for them—
Their vitamins, and refreshing
Water.
This is
According to
Their Gardener's knowledge
(What each individually
Requires):
More light
Is given to
The spindly, scrawny ones
Until firmness of leaf and stock
Obtains.
Some need
The cooling shade
When too long in the sun;
They then may attain what they lack
In height.
Others
May be thought of
As stunted, slow-growers;
To help them, more vitamins are
added.
:PAGE 26

(continued)

Our God,
As Gardener,
Will care for all "lilies"
As He cared for the first beloved,
His Son.
This Chief
Of all "lilies"
Will rejoice with God in
His own hundred and forty-four
Thousand.

Revelation 14:1. Ephesians 1:20-23 Song of Solomon 5:10
(And illustration used by Bro. Christian Zahnow)

CHIMNEY SMOKE

I watch the chimney smoke ascend,
In air that's cool and clear.
Soft sounds of birds with nature blend,
My heart is void of fear!
The slender smoke curls to'ard the sky,
With not a breeze to break
This symbol of the prayer I sigh,
As God my hand doth take!

"Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you."

James 4:8

REMORSE

LLL27

With aching heart and low hung head,
With eyes of downcast set,
I entre now with humbled tread
Sad portals of regret.
Why did I speak those words so gruff,
And why was I so steeled
Against the admonitions of
My conscience quite concealed?
Why did I gash and wound my friend
With cold indifference
To painful pangs which cruelly rend
A heart so stunned and tense?
Pray tell me, why was I so blind
As not to see, and try
To save from pain, this friend of mine?
Oh, God, I know not why!
I only know I now can kneel
With humble tears and pray:
"From sinful words my lips please seal!
And keep me in Your way."
"The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a
broken heart, and saveth such as be of a contrite
spirit." — [Psalms 3:18](#)
([Isaiah 57:15](#); [66:2](#); [Psalms 51:17](#))

PLEASE GOD, HELP THE EGOTIST!
LLL28

Can we
Hold discretely
And unswervingly to
What we've learned from the Bible as
God's truth?
Can we
At the same time,
With generosity
Be pleased to let all others do
The same?
Can we,
Calmly listen
While another explains—
And when verbally shot at, hold
Our fire?
Can we
Be more intent
On honoring God's truth,
Than on winning an argument?
Can we?
If not,
Let's pray for help!
God alone can aid us
When we put ourselves (with our views)
Up front.

THE COUNTRY CALLS

LLL29

Oh, let me away to those country spaces
Where there is freedom to think and breathe.
Away from hard and long-drawn faces
Of the motley crowds that swarm and seethe.
Away from grime and smoke-laden air,
I'd escape to pastures of plush green turn,
Or to woods bedecked with flowers fair,
Or to fresh aroma of salty surf!
Away from things of mechanical birth,
I could walk on new-born grass and weeds;
I would visit vast stretches of velvety earth,
Prepared and awaiting the planters' seeds.

 It might puzzle my mind
 How grows grass from old sod;
 I think then I might find
 A new contact with God!

After John the Baptist was executed by King Herod,
Jesus said to his disciples, "Come ye yourselves apart
. . . , and rest a while." Mark 6:31

REFLECTIONS

LLL30

Down by the shore, on jutting rocks,
We sat and gazed upon the view
Which stretched like rare and perfect art
In gorgeous green, dark brown, and blue.
The glassy lake reflected well:
The trees and grasses decked with dew,
The clean white house on further side
And birds which swift and quiet flew.
While gazing silently, we thought
Of how our hearts are mirrors too;
Reflecting qualities of God—
If we are trusting Him and true;
But when we fail to rest in Him,
Our fainting hearts become perturbed;
They then cannot reflect so well—
Nor could the lake, when winds disturbed.
"But we all, with open face beholding,
as in a glass,
The glory of the Lord; are changed
into the same image
From glory to glory, even as the Spirit
of the Lord.

(2 Corinthians 3:18)

"Reflections" was published in 1974 as "Poems of the Way"

ASSURANCE FOR CHRISTIANS
LLL31

God has a plan for all,
Why fear how you will fare
When God won't let you fall
But holds you up with care?
So cast on Him your fears;
And freed from all of these,
Let ne'er be seen those tears
Which once would flow with ease.
What consolation, just
To know that God is near,
In love, attending us,
To comfort, guide and cheer.
Lift up your head and smile,
Since clouds that hid your sun
Have traveled many a mile—
Just see what God has done!

This was one of my first poems.
It was in a 1937 folder of poems—
"Life Lifter Lines," under title of
"Assurance." (Circulation 3,000)

NO "NESTS IN OUR HARI"

LLL32

There is
A saying that:
"We cannot prevent birds
From flying over our heads, but
We can
Prevent
Them from making
Nests in our hair." How true!
Wrong thoughts may flash through even a
Pure Mind:
At once
Our conscience sends
To us a signal and
We refuse to entertain such
Garbage!
We then
Refill the space
With thoughts that should prevail:
We recite a scripture or sing
A hymn.
And in
Our daily prayers,
We ask God to pervade
Our minds with His precious
Holy Spirit.
And what
We ask for us,
We pray also for our
Brethren, whether known to us or
Unknown.

Philippians 4:8

THE CENSER OF CIRCUMSTANCES
LLL33

Within a small corner there gloweth hot coals
With crumbled, sweet incense most fine;
And from them ascends a rich perfume to God,
According to ancient design.
Let incense of love and devotion now fall
Upon fiery trials that test;
For those who are trusting in God and obey,
Are those who are pleasing Him best.
And let us be careful to use every coal
Which God in His love doth provide;
Then each will assist in transforming our lives
To likeness of Jesus our Guide.
If we, with true patience, submit to all things
Including the ones that annoy:
Then fragrance will rise from each trial that comes,
And we shall be singing with joy.
(May be sung to tune of Hymn 105) [Romans 8:28](#)
(Brother Fred Bright wrote music for this.)

SMALL, BUT EFFICIENT
LLL34

We see signs in the dark by the side of the road
As we travel by car or by bus,
But the ones we prefer are those easy to see,
Which reflect their directions to us.
If a sign were so large it obstructed our view,
It would render a hindrance to all,
But the one by which work is efficiently done
We shall find is surprisingly small.
God, keep me humble through each day
And let me point the upward way.
It's thus I hope my life will be
A small reflector light for thee.

"Before destruction, the heart of man is haughty;
and before honor is humility."

Proverbs 18:12

THE PRIVILEGE OF SACRIFICE

LLL35

We gave Romans 12:1

Our hearts to God;

We relinquished our hope

Of ever-lasting life upon

The earth

If then Matthew 24:14

We found it hard

To tell God's great plan.

We may have helped others who could

Witness.

We have Hebrews 13:16

Also given Philippians 4:18

Of our time, strength, and means

To help our brethren in their days

Of need.

Of course R5557—par. 3

All this is good;

But do we sacrifice

Our own preferences for those of

Others?

Have we Romans 12:3

Sacrificed joys

Of soaring self-esteem—

And therefore did not criticize

Another?

Are we Hebrews 13:5

Making real sure

That we have some moments

For praise to our dear Lord, and for

Prayer?

(continued)

LLL36

(continued)

If then Matthew 3:10

One reminds us

Of sacrificing all—

and we look—we may see a point

We missed.

"The Sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;

a broken and a contrite heart, O God,

Thou wilt not despise." Psalms 51:17

A FIVE-YEAR-OLD'S PRAYER

She was
Being punished
For having run away.
That's why she stayed in a dark, closed
Closet.

Her Aunt,
Passing by, heard:

"Dear Dod, please take care of
Little L..... Here I am behind
The broom,"

When as
Children of God,
We have our "dark closets,"
May we seek His care when "behind
The broom."

"Thou God seest me . . ." said Hagar. — [Genesis 16:13](#)

" . . . He that formed the eye, shall he not see?"

[Psalms 94:8-9](#)

WILL YOU PAY THE PRICE?

Making others happy and glad
As you travel on each day,
Ever reaching a helping hand
To someone along life's way;
In their sickness, sorrow or loss,
Being steadfast in your belief
That God will give you aid
In bringing the needed relief—
Living thus from day to day,
Learning, lifting and loving all,
Being friend to the friendless ones
And aiding the weak when they fall;
God will send His rarest gifts
To His child who lives like this—
For the cost of getting, is giving,
And giving brings happiness.
"It is more blessed to give than to receive."

— Acts 20:35

THE NEW SLATE

LLL39

Each "child" of God receives a brand new "slate."

The old had corners chipped, was badly marred,
Was dull and worthless, cracked
and deeply scarred.

The new, without a scratch, awaits its fate

It is your Father's special gift to you;

And since the old was all so far from right;

Behind His back He let it fall from sight;

And now He'll help you do what you should do.

Your Father is your Tutor; without doubt

He'll teach you how to live without regret;

Some problems hard to solve, He'll not forget;

Nor will examinations be left out.

For you to higher grade could never pass

Without a test to prove you are prepared;

So from these trying times you'll not be spared;

For they will help you reach the highest class.

"THOU HAST CAST ALL MY SINS BEHIND THY BACK."

Isaiah 38:17

". . . FORGETTING THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE BEHIND,
AND REACHING FORTH UNTO THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE
BEFORE"

#Philippians 3:13,14

BETWEEN THE "LINES"
LLL40

"The lines are fallen unto me
in pleasant places; yea, I have
a goodly heritage."

— Psalms 16:6

I walk
Between the "lines."
Which God has laid for me
"In pleasant places." I shall not
Wander!
I stay
Within these "lines"
Although I know they lead
To many crossing of my will—
And death!
I shall
Not try to save
The life I'm pleased to lose;
But I shall die the death that leads
To life!

THAT CERTAIN PRAYER

LLL41

When I started to pray, the world seemed near;
It hindered my prayer in its flight,
So I crept up close to God's listening ear,
And together we talked through the night.
I forgot the time, in serenity;
I was held in the power of thought
Which reached through a length of eternity
To bring me the peace I had sought.
It was then I felt very weak, and frail,
As before my God I knelt.
I asked His forgiveness for how I fail;
Then His answer was clearly felt;
For He seemed to close—'twas like "heart to heart."
The things of the world stayed dim
While peace and joy made my tears to start,
And I cried my thanks to Him.
". . . When thou prayest, enter into thy closet and
when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father
which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in
secret, shall reward thee openly." — [# Matthew 6:6](#)

FORGET YOURSELF!

LLL42

"Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame..."

— Hebrews 12:2

The one beside you in the train
May have a good and honest heart
Awaiting knowledge of the truth
Which you are able to impart.
But if with self you are beset—
That nervous heart begins to pound;
Your tongue is held between your teet
While fear-filled eyes rove down and around!
Forget that certain man called, "You,"
And turn to god for strength you seek;
Remember only joyous Truth,
And then your God through you can speak.
When once it's done, the fear will shrink,
While courage grows a healthy span;
Until at last you'll use with joy
Each chance to introduce God's plan.
(This poem was printed in the Dawn Magazine
in the 40's.)

STOP AND CONSIDER

LLL43

A deed well done, a conscience clear,
And then there comes a blow!
Our minds at first are stunned to think
That good could bring a foe.
We muster now in self defense,
Our inner forces, strong;
All set to strike right back at them
And thus to "right the wrong."
But wait! Shall we, ourselves, descend;
Or shall we merely stand
And listen for our Master's voice
To tell us what is planned?
Perchance this was for us a test
Of courage yet untried;
If so, we are glad we stopped in time
To check a wayward stride.

"Stop and Consider" was printed in a 1937 folder of poems—"Life Lifter Lines" by LEK: (3,000 copies circulated. I think this was also printed in "The Open Window" in the late 1930's.

WILL GOD FORGIVE US AS WE FORGIVE?

LLL44

(# Mt 6:12, 14, 15)

A child
Who feels unsure
That his parents love him,
Is insecure—so many behave
Badly.
If we
Are not at peace
With God and with ourselves,
We tend to blame others and get
Angry:
In wrath,
We may forget
To exercise mercy;
Though we want God to show mercy
Toward us.
Are we
Expecting God
To be nicer to us
Than we have been, even to our
Brethren?
"Oh Lord, . . . in wrath remember mercy." [Habbakuk 3:2](#)
(See also Psalm 103:8-14)

GOD'S ENGRAVING

LLL45

(Hymn Tune 115)

"Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of My Hands. — [Isaiah 49:16](#).

I have engraved upon My palms,

Declares our gracious Lord,

All those who are My faithful saints

By whom My name's adored.

How precious they who think on Me,

Who strive to serve and please;

I watch their onward steps with care

And strengthen feeble knees.

Within My Palms I cover them

When testing storms assail;

And none of Satan's clever arts

Will over them prevail.

These humble ones from out the earth

Will, by My grace, be raised

To share in natures, Mine—and then

By all, I shall be praised.

"Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises; that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."

([2 Peter 1:4](#); [Malachi 3:16,17](#)).

Written June 4, 1943. Printed on page 10 of the January-February, 1972 issue of "The Harvest Message."

LEST I MURMUR

LLL46

Shall I despise my meager fare
Which would to some be bounty rare?
Shall I who sacrificed my all
From my determination fall?
If I descend to murmuring,
Can I expect the Lord will bring
Me safely through the wilderness
To enter heaven's blessedness?
If I shall long for Egypt-land,
I'll fail to faithfully withstand
When selfish tempting thoughts arise
Which might deflect me from the prize.
May God help me to murmur not
Although I lack some things I want.
May I well learn to be content
With what the Lord to me has sent.
For thus alone shall I be blest
And be prepared to enter rest.
And only if I murmur not
Shall I to Canaan-land be brought.

(Brother Fred Bright set this to music.)

"Neither murmur ye, as some of them also
murmured, and were destroyed of the
Destroyer."

"Now all these things happened unto them
for ensamples; and they are written for
yir admonition, upon whom the ends of
the world are come."

1 Corinthians 10:10,11
(Philippians 2:13-15 also)

BIGGER BARNS

LLL47

A man
Once told himself,
"My barns won't hold my goods;
What shall I do? I'll tear them down—
And build!
"When built,
I'll say to self:
"Take ease and drink and play!"
But when his barns were built, he smiled
And died!
Just so
Is he today
Who saves for self in greed.
He has in heaven's treasured wealth—
No store!
(A partial paraphrase of [Luke 12:16-21](#))

"For what is man profited if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul (life)?"

— [Matthew 16:26](#)

GIVE GOD THE CREDIT

LLL48

If a deed of value we have done
Or a helping hand we chanced to lend,
Let us not wait for thanks and praise;
For it's to God their knees should bend.
If a word of cheer we passed along
IF our talents we used faithfully
And thus could aid and life someone,
Thank God for such ability.
Thus at times, I know god works through us;
And we then are channels in which flow
Those blessings rich—yet freely sent
To gladden hearts of men below.
So if God should pass to me a thought,
And, in turn, I pass it on to you;
Please don't thank me, but thank our God.
From Him come all things good and true.

"Give God The Credit" was printed in "The Open Window" (late 1930's = ?) It was also in the "Life Lifter Lines" folder of 1937 (3,000 copies circulated).

TEACH ME HOW

LLL49

Dear Lord, please teach me how
To aid the ones
Who seek to know Thee now
And be Thy sons
Attempts of mine prove vain;
So help me, Lord
To make Thy truth seem plain,
And God adored.
I shall but speak the words
You let me say,
And hope that they like birds,
Will nest to stay.
I'll try to do my best,
And then some day
I know You'll do the rest
In Your own way!
"Not by might, nor by power, but by My spirit, saith
the LORD of Hosts."
"Be sure that nothing you do for Him is ever lost or
ever wasted." [1 Corinthians 15:58](#), in Philip's translation.

AN OPHTHALMOLOGIST
LLL50

Told me:

"We surgeons make
Just enough mistakes
To keep us humble."

Later, I thought,

How true also of us,
The consecrated!

When I consider how long it has taken
me to learn some lessons, I am comforted
as I recall that it took Moses
forty years to become humble enough,
in God's estimation, to be useable
by Him. L.E.K.

BACK COVER

Laura E. Kelsey
84 Old Nod Road
Clinton, Connecticut 06413

BACK COVER

CHRISTIAN, THINK!

THEN SMILE—
AND THANK
GOD!

L.E.K.