



*Serve the Lord with gladness; Come before His presence with singing.*

Psalm 100:2

No, This is not a repeat from last week. This week's words shall be on a more positive note (no pun intended). This week I would like to look at some hymns and authors.

The first hymn in the Morning Worship, "I am Thine, O Lord," was written by Fannie J. Crosby. It is not much of a coincidence that one of the four hymns is one of hers - she wrote over 9000 of them!

This is a photograph of Frances Jane "Fanny" Crosby, (1820-1915) obtained from <http://www.nyise.org/fanny/> The reason for the dark glasses is given below.



*Known as an American hymn writer and poetess, Fanny Crosby wrote over 9,000 hymns during her life. Many stories have been told about her. She entered what was then known as the New York Institution for the Blind at the age of fifteen and afterward taught English and history (1847-58).*

*As a pupil and as a teacher, Fanny spent 35 years at the school. She was often asked to entertain visitors with her poems and she frequently met with presidents, generals and other dignitaries. She was asked to play at President Grant's Funeral. Her first book of poems was published in 1844 was called *The Blind Girl and Other Poems*.*

*After leaving the school, she dedicated her life to serving the poorest and the neediest. Supporting herself by her writing, she quickly gained fame for her hymns. It is said that publishers had so much of her work, that they took to using them under pseudonyms. Her usual fee was a mere \$2 which frequently went to her work with the poor. Her mission work is*

*legendary, as is her devotion to serving others above herself.*

I have an old hymnal at home (actually, I have a whole lot of them). It was printed in 1922 and, out of the 286 hymns in it, 19 (nearly 7%) of them were written by Fannie. For the record, they are: *He Hideth My Soul; Praise Him! Praise Him!; To God Be the Glory; Will Jesus Find Us Watching?; Saved By Grace; Nearer the Cross; Behold Me at the Door; Though Your Sins Be as Scarlet; Never Give Up; Jesus Is Calling; I Am Thine, O Lord; All the Way My Savior Leads Me; Jesus Will Give You Rest; Pass Me Not; Near the Cross; Blessed Assurance; Rescue the Perishing; Safe in the Arms of Jesus; Savior, More than Life.*

Twelve of these same nineteen hymns are in a 1972 hymnal and nine of them are in our hymnals today (there may be others but they are not listed by author).

The last hymn for the morning is by Bill and Gloria Gaither whom most of you have heard about. They have written a lot of good contemporary music. I like some, but by no means all, of the contemporary music. What saddens me is the great wealth of older music that has passed off the scene. Below, is a simple yet worshipful hymn found in an 1895 hymnal.

Arranged by John Richardson, 1863



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The real problem with some of the newer hymns and choruses is that they are too self-centered and not centered enough on our omnipotent Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Wayne

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