

Fanny Crosby Saved By Grace!

Throughout her long career, Fanny Crosby wrote more than 8,500 gospel songs and hymns. “To God Be the Glory,” “Praise Him, Praise Him,” “Tell Me the Story of Jesus,” “I Am Thine O Lord”—every song a testimony of her love for Jesus. However, this gifted poet, who described her salvation experience as a “floodtide of celestial light,” could see no light. When six weeks old, her slightly inflamed eyes were mistreated and her eyesight destroyed.



She always maintained, “the good Lord...by this means consecrated me to the work I am still permitted to do.” She dressed herself, did her hair, and had impeccable table manners. Still she was a mischief, playing practical jokes, climbing trees, and riding horses. Her grandmother took Fanny on nature walks, describing every bud and leaf in meticulous detail. She exposed Fanny to great literature and poetry, and read her long passages from the Bible every day.

Before she was ten years old, Fanny had memorized most of the New Testament and more than five books of the Old Testament. One day Fanny knelt with her grandmother beside her rocker and prayed: “Dear Lord, please show me how I can learn like other children.” Soon her mother told her of an opportunity to attend the New York Institute for the Blind. Within the year, she was their best student and after graduation became a teacher.

Poetry became her passion. By twenty, she was famous throughout New York for poetry recitations and official ceremonies. She still felt something missing. A cholera epidemic in 1849 took more than half of the Institute’s students. After nursing the sick for months, she almost succumbed herself. Deep in her heart, she knew she was not ready to die.

On November 20, 1850, Fanny knelt at the altar at a local evangelistic meeting and gave her heart to Jesus. She realized she had been trying to hold the world in one hand and the Lord in the other. Finally, the God of her grandmother had become real to her. Her poetry immediately reflected this change in her heart, and songs of praise took the place of regular poems.

She met the Christian composer William Bradbury in 1864, and he furnished the tunes for many of Fanny’s hymns. She never undertook a hymn without asking the Lord to be her inspiration. In 1858 she married the blind musician, Alexander Van Alstyne. Their only child died in infancy. Whenever possible, she witnessed to people one-on-one and volunteered time at local ministries.

Fanny went peacefully to be with the Lord at Bridgeport, Connecticut, February 12, 1915, at last the foremost hope of her life realized, “I shall see Him face to face and tell the story saved by grace.”

ChristLife Inc.

1642 Michigan Ave., Niagara Falls, New York 14305

716-284-7625, 1-800-676-3172

E-mail: pastormarr@adelphia.net

Web Site: www.pastormarr.com
