

The Old Rugged Cross by Warren F Kenney

"On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross, The emblem of suffering and shame; And I love that old cross where the dearest and best For a world of lost sinners was slain."

So begins what could be described as the favorite hymn of many a person. It is the favorite because the tune so perfectly fits the words or because the words so effectively pierce our hearts. Whichever is true, it is equally true that the hymn's popularity never seems to fade.

Some mystery surrounds this old song that was written (words and music) by George Bennard. Charles Gabriel, a well-known gospel song composer, assisted Mr. Bennard with the harmonies. We are not positive if it was written in 1912 or 1913 as both dates are suggested. Mr. Bennard claimed the year was 1913. That would be conclusive evidence to me if I did not get my years mixed up. We are not certain whether it was written in Albion, Michigan, Pokagon, Michigan, or Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin. Each town claims to be the place of the hymn's nativity. The one thing we can be sure of is that the beautiful words and melody vibrate the deepest chords of the human heart. There is a museum dedicated to Mr. Bennard in Reed City, Michigan. Bennard was born in Youngstown, Ohio. A memorial was created there at Lake Park Cemetery.

The list of singers that have recorded the song is truly impressive: Anne Murray, Brad Paisley, Elvis Presley, and Johnny Cash – to name just a few.

There are so many things swirling through my mind that I would like to say about the cross. I think, however, that I will go through the song, line-by-line, and mention appropriate scriptures from the King James Version of the Bible.

"On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross." This brings to my mind the fact that Isaiah pictured that cross 700 years before it stood (Isaiah 53:8).

"The emblem of suffering and shame." The cross was not a place of honor for the Son of God. It was something to be endured while despising the shame (Hebrews 12:2).

"And I love that old cross where the dearest and best." This helps me remember that when God gave His Son, He gave heaven's best (John 3:16).

"For a world of lost sinners was slain." Christ died for what we would call the dregs of humanity, the sinners (Romans 5:8). Much to our amazement, that even included the very ones who put Him to death (Acts 2:23).

"Oh that old rugged cross, so despised by the world." Love the cross! No, no, a thousand times no. The world does not love the cross. To them it is foolishness (1 Corinthians 1:18).

"Has a wondrous attraction for me." Do not misunderstand this. There was nothing attractive about the cross. The picture of a man being nailed to a cross on a well-traveled road where everyone could see is not a pretty picture. It is an ugly scene. The attraction it holds for me, and for every saved person, is the redemption it offers (1 Peter 1:18).

"For the dear Lamb of God left His glory above." To picture him who "took upon Him the form of a servant" (Philippians 2:7) overflows me with gratitude.

"To bear it to dark Calvary." While the scriptures are silent as to the proposal that He fell beneath its weight, they do mention Him bearing His cross to the place of the skull (John 19:17), with the assistance of a Cyrenian named Simon.

"In the old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine." This brings to my mind a Roman spear being thrust into my Lord's side (John 19:34).

"A wondrous beauty I see, For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died, to pardon and sanctify me." I join these three lines together because they so wonderfully explain the beauty of the cross. This fills me with an emotion not unlike what Paul must have felt when he wrote, "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief" (1 Timothy 1:15).

All of these things lead me to the only logical conclusion expressed in the final stanza and refrain: *"To the old rugged cross, I will ever be true, Its shame and reproach gladly bear; Then He'll call me some day to my home far away, Where His glory forever I'll share."*

ATTENDANCE

LAST SUNDAY 114
RECORD 134

CONTRIBUTION

LAST WEEK 3566
WEEK BUDGET 2750
2011 AVERAGE 2835

Anniversaries



Birthdays

7/1 Susan Crowder
7/17 John Glover
7/26 Dave Harris
7/26 Ava Hutson
7/30 Briley Thompson

We never intend to leave anyone out. If you notice an omission or error, please let Jennifer know so that we can update our calendar! Thanks.

Shut-Ins

Wibbie Denham
Mickey Ledger
Sheryl Pyles
Chris Reitz



Weekly Bible Study Plan

Sunday	2 Kings 5-8
Monday	2 Kings 9-11
Tuesday	2 Kings 12-13; 2 Chronicles 24
Wednesday	2 Kings 14; 2 Chronicles 25
Thursday	Jonah
Friday	2 Kings 15; 2 Chronicles 26
Saturday	Isaiah 1-4

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN 2011!

Missionary Work & Benevolence

MISSIONARY OF THE QUARTER

Daniel Hamm is the missionary of the quarter. Please take some time this quarter to send notes of encouragement to Daniel.

BENEVOLENCE REQUEST

We will be sending financial aid to a local congregation under the oversight of an eldership in Joplin, Missouri. This will go towards the recovery from the recent tornadoes. If you would like to contribute to this effort, please see Scott Bond or give what you would like to go towards this work to Scott Bond or John Glass.

OUR PRAYER LIST

ADDITIONS

Stephen Tolliver—Stephen is not doing well

Julia Zarate—3 year old niece of John and Janie Glass—going through tests at Children's Hospital

Cindy Paxton—Breast cancer

Brody Guinn— 5 year old from Florence who has leukemia

ONGOING REQUESTS

Steve Asche - (V Bailey

brother in law) retinopathy

Alisha Atha— gall bladder

John Begley (Jesse's brother) - heart problems

Meggie Chance (Dooley friend)

Lois Clarkston —Loss of Ray

Clioretta Criss (Frank's mother) -Alzheimers

Frank Criss—Health

Jim Crowder (Susan's brother in law)- cancer

Wayne Fornash—(Donna Stewart's brother) skin graft on foot

Pam Gasparec (Buddy's coworker's wife) - Stage 4 Pancreatic Cancer

Frank Glover— broken ankle

Mary Griffin - (Reeves neighbor) - stroke

Josh Hampton (Cindy Ochs son) - personal problems

Tina Hampton (Cindy Ochs daughter) - pregnancy & tumors

Liz Jenkins (Melissa's cousin) - Cancer

Samantha Jeremy - (Sebastian family) personally assaulted

Shannon King's grandmother—heart problems

James Knox—knee surgery

Jennifer Leas—pregnancy

Mickey Ledger—sick, loss of daughter

Carol Link—surgery

Anna Martin—10-yr old with leukemia

Drew McAlpin-Military

Kathy Metz —Cancer

Angela Miller—(M Denham sister) - car accident/ankle

Jean Nelson-(Betty Kelley's sister) compressed fracture of vertebrae

Dan Powell (Hazel's son) - heart problems

David Pugh —(Jennifer Leas' father) heart problems

Chris Reitz—Lewey Body dementia

Gerrie Saville— Burn accident

Wayne Sebastian-(Steve's dad) - Alzheimer's

Meghan Sebastian— Crohn's

Cheryl Spear—(Jamie McAlpin's sister) recurrent cancer

Lillie Stewart—cancer

Judy Tenover— job situation

Rick Thompson-(Donna Stewart brother) - heart attack

Stephen Tolliver—Medical problems

Sharlene (Begley) —Cancer

Gary Vaught (Minister at Ypsilani Church of Christ) - brain tumor

Bill Womacks (Allen's father) knee replacement

The Old Rugged Cross, continued

Refrain:

"So I'll cherish the old rugged cross, Till my trophies at last I lay down; I will cling to the old rugged cross, And exchange it some day for a crown."

Mr. Bennard said he was preaching on Galatians 6:14-15. He said his motivation to write the song grew out of that study. I would hope that the thoughts in this article will cause us to grow more in our personal appreciation for the cross. That is important because the way of the cross really does lead home.

Heaven Bound..
ARE YOU READY?
Matthew 24:44
AMOS 4:12

**A WARM WELCOME TO
OUR VISITORS!**

Point Pleasant Church of Christ
3259 Point Pleasant Road
Hebron, KY 41048
Phone: 859-283-1075

TO:

**We're on the
web! Find us at
www.ppcofc.org**

What One Must Do To Be Saved

HEAR THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST *John 20:30; Rom 10:17*

BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD
Rom 10:16; Acts 18:8; Heb 11:6

REPENT OF SINS *Luke 13:3; 24:47; Acts 3:19; 17:30*

CONFESS FAITH IN CHRIST AS GOD'S
SON *Matt 10:32; Acts 8:37; Rom 10:10*

BE BAPTIZED (IMMERSED) IN WATER *Matt 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 10:47-48; 22:16; Rom 6:1-6; Gal 3:27; Col 2:12; 1 Peter 3:21*

CONTINUE FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH *Matt 25:21, 34; 2 Peter 1:1-11; Rev 2:10; 1 John 1:6-9*

Scheduled to Serve - July 3, 2011

SUNDAY AM WORSHIP

Announcements	Trenton McMillan
Song Leader	Jeff Reeves
Opening Prayer	Al Rohner
Presiding @ Lord's Table	David Lawson
Assist:	Terry Turner
Assist	Daryl Denham
Assist	John Glass
Scripture Reading	Larry Beckley
Message	Tim Dooley
Closing Prayer	Gerry Leas
Usher/Greeter	Steve Sebastian

ALL MEN SERVING IN THE AM SERVICE ARE REQUESTED TO MEET IN THE OFFICE AT 10:25.

SUNDAY PM WORSHIP

Announcements	Trenton McMillan
Song Leader	Jeff Reeves
Opening Prayer	Steve Sebastian
Preside at Lord's Table	David Lawson
Message	Tim Dooley
Closing Prayer	Letcher Vanderpool

WEDNESDAY EVENING

Announcements	Trenton McMillan
Song Leader	Buddy Baker
Opening Prayer	Ron Stewart
Invitation	Scott Bond
Closing Prayer	Steve Sebastian

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO SERVE, PLEASE CALL STEVE SEBASTIAN AT 859-620-6222.



Point Pleasant
Church of Christ
Meeting Times

Sunday Morning

Bible Study	9:30 am
Worship	10:30 am

Sunday Evening

Worship	6:00 pm
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Wednesday Evening

Bible Study	7:00 PM
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GOT ANNOUNCEMENTS?

Contact Jennifer Leas

Phone: 859-586-4332

E-mail: gwleas@fuse.net