

Spiritual Care Message:

Streams In The Desert was written by Mrs. Charles (Lottie) Chapman during the years she cared for her husband who was dying from heart disease. It was published in 1924. This married couple had returned from a missionary life in Japan due to his health issues. These years of writing cover their personal seeking for God to heal him, comfort them, and give victory in their trust of Him...God did not heal him, giving that victory of answered prayers although they fully sought Him, as she gathered from everywhere all that went into the book, reading these to him often in the darkness of night in his suffering hours. I began using this book in 1958, as a new follower of Christ, and have been blessed by it most of the years since then.

This morning, November 7, I read the page that includes the wonderful song written by our dear blind scholar, George Matheson, so awesome is his life of faith that books are written about it, encouraging us all. It is said to have been written during one of his greatest years of personal suffering. The words from his heart are these:

**O love that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
That in thine ocean depths its flow
 May richer, fuller be.**

**O Light that follows all my way,
I yield my flick'ring torch to thee;
My heart restores its borrowed ray,
That in thy sunshine's blaze its day
 May brighter, fairer be.**

**O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain
And feel the promise is not vain
 That morn shall tearless be.**

**O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
And from the ground there blossoms red
 Life that shall endless be.**

Spiritual Care Message With Prayer

These are words from a heart of trust. They speak of following the Light, Jesus Christ, the Light of the world. They give the song of joy in the heart found in His loving presence alone, and bring us to His Cross with deep reflection, and to recognize our cross, because we have heard and obeyed what Jesus says to us, “Follow me”. These words portray 'life in Christ' for His followers. His drawing love draws our hearts to Him.

O LOVE THAT NEVER LETS US GO!

With prayer:

Father, how can we ever thank you for your hold that is more powerful than our lack of trust, stronger than any human love we have ever seen or known, greater than we can imagine love to be, even Divine love. Our hearts and minds are in a pitiful state. In our human frame of knowing; forgive us for turning away when you are trying to make all things new for us; our hearts can only cling, but this we do, Father, in the darkness when you light our pathway for us, we hear you calling our name as we look for you. O Love that will not let us go. Jesus!

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