

**King James Bible Study Correspondence Course**

An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries  
5311 Windridge lane ~ Lockhart, Florida 32810 ~ USA

Women Heroes of the Faith  
Lesson 2 B  
**FRANCIS JANE CROSBY**

return pages 5 & 6

This lesson is a continuation of Lesson 2A, which is a must read to fully understand the whole story of Francis Jane Crosby.

One day in 1868 William Doane dropped by saying, "Miss Fanny, I have but a few minutes before my train leaves for Cincinnati but first, will you do me a favor before boarding that train? I want a new hymn which I can introduce for the first time at a convention that will capture the hearts and imaginations of the young people and children. There is to be a great state-wide Sunday School Convention in Cincinnati next month and in addition to the large delegations of adults, many young people and children are expected to be present. We really need this new hymn."

Having the tune already composed, he said, "Listen closely," turning to the piano, he sat down played his new tune in a rousing and stirring manner. Fanny said, "Your music says, **Safe In The Arms Of Jesus.**" Going to her desk, she took out a piece of paper, found her pen, sat down, and began to write. As he played, she continued to write. She folded the paper, placed it in an envelope, and handed it to her friend. Because his train was leaving in thirty-five minutes, she exclaimed, "Read it on the train and hurry, you do not want to be late!"

On the train, he read the words that Sankey later made famous and hearts have been singing ever since. The stories connected with this hymn are breath-taking. Once a hackman (one who separated the course part of flax with a heckle an instrument with teeth used in the linen industry), learning that his passenger was Fanny Crosby, took off his hat and wept. He called a policeman and asked him to see her safely to the train, adding, "We sang **Safe In The Arms Of Jesus** at my little girl's funeral last week."

When Bishop James Hannington was brutally murdered by savages in Uganda, Africa, his diary was recovered. In it he tells of being dragged away to be murdered while singing **Safe In The Arms Of Jesus**. He was even laughing at the very agony of his situation.

A strange story is told in connection with the war in 1918. A Finnish engineer tells of besieging a town and taking a number of Red prisoners. Seven of them were to be shot at dawn the following Monday. One of the doomed men began to sing this lovely song, **Safe In The Arms Of Jesus** that he had learned only three weeks previously from the Salvation Army. One after another of the comrades fell to their knees and began to pray. The

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seven asked to be allowed to die with uncovered faces. With hands raised to Heaven, they sang this song as they were ushered into eternity. The Finnish engineer, Nordenberg a former Army Officer who tells the story, met Christ himself that very hour as a result of this witness.

**Rescue The Perishing** was written on a hot July night in 1869. At a Mission Fanny was addressing a large company of men in one of the worst sections of New York City, The Bowery. During the service she felt impressed that some mother's boy must be rescued that night or not at all. She made the plea for salvation, the boy of eighteen came forward crying, "*I promised to meet my mother in heaven but as I am now living that will be impossible.*" Fanny prayed with this precious soul, he was joyously repented and confessed Jesus as Lord. He rose from his knees with a new light in his eyes saying, "*Now I can meet my mother in heaven, for I have found her God!*" A friend remarked, "Isn't it wonderful what these rescue missions are doing?"

While riding between the Bowery and Brooklyn in a hired horse-drawn carriage Fanny started writing because she could not wait until she arrived home. In her room she completed the lines of the hymn before retiring. The next morning, the words were copied and forwarded to her friend, Mr. Doane, who immediately composed the tune to which it has been sung ever since. **Blessed Assurance** is her most famous hymn according to a hymn poll taken some time back by *The Christian Herald*. It placed twelfth in the poll. Of favorite hymns, **The Old Rugged Cross** was number one.

**To God Be The Glory** was not really discovered until 1954 when it was introduced to Bev Shea in London. It was first sung by Shea at the Billy Graham Crusade Choir in Toronto in 1955. Since then, it has become a beloved hymn of the faith. Sankey did include it in his first hymnbook, published in England in 1873 but not in later subsequent editions published in America.

**All The Way My Saviour Leads Me** was written in 1874. Fanny needed five dollars one day and she just knelt down and told the Lord about it. Soon after a stranger knocked at her door as he just wanted to meet her. As he left, he pressed a five dollar bill into her hand. Her first thought was what a wonderful way the Lord has helped me. Immediately, she composed this song.

**Close to Thee** was written in 1874 as S.J. Vail brought one of his newly composed tunes to her, asking that she write words for it. As he played it for her on the piano, she suddenly exclaimed, "That chorus says, Close To Thee!" Immediately, she wrote the poem.

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**Saved By Grace** was written in 1891. At age 71 she attended a prayer meeting at which Dr. Howard Crosby (a relative of Fanny's) spoke. He talked on the 23rd Psalm using "Grace" as his subject.

That very same week he died suddenly and Fanny said to herself, "I wonder what my first impression of heaven will be?" A moment later she suddenly answered her own question, "Why, my eyes will be opened and I will see my Saviour face to face." A few days later, her publisher-friend, L.H. Bigelow, asked her to write a hymn on 'Grace.' She wrote the four stanzas and chorus of *Saved By Grace* in less than an hour. This poem was put away in a safe. In 1894, while visiting friends in Sankey's home in Northfield, Massachusetts, she was prevailed upon to speak. Concluding her talk, she read this poem that she had written three years earlier. A reporter from *The London Christian* took her poem with him to England and published it. When Sankey found this out, he prevailed upon George Stebbins (Gospel song writer) to compose some music for it.

Other hymns had interesting beginnings. **I Am Thine O Lord** was a result of an earnest conversation on the nearness of God with Mr. Doane of Cincinnati; **Jesus Is Calling** was sent to Stebbins for music upon his return from an evangelistic tour in Scotland in 1883; **Near The Cross** was the result of Doane stating, "I want a new song to sing tonight in the evangelistic service." **Saviour More Than Life To Me** came as a result of a tune which Doane sent Fanny requesting a song on the theme of Every Day and Hour. The hymn-poems came ...with many composers adding the music. One time Phillip Phillips (UK Composer in 1855) brought her forty subjects for hymns. He returned several days later and surprisingly, discovered that she had completed them all. She dictated all of them to him entirely from memory.

The years that saw her more famous songs first published were as follows:

1867 <i>More Like Jesus;</i>	1868 <i>Safe In The Arms Of Jesus;</i>
1869 <i>Near The Cross,</i>	1869 <i>Praise Him;</i>
1870 <i>Pass Me Not,</i>	1870 <i>Rescue The Perishing;</i>
1871 <i>To The Work;</i>	1873 <i>Blessed Assurance,</i>
1873 <i>To God Be The Glory;</i>	1874 <i>Close To Thee;</i>
1875 <i>I Am Thine O Lord,</i>	1875 <i>All The Way My Saviour</i>
<i>Leads Me,</i>	1876 <i>Tho Your Sins Be As Scarlet,</i>
1875 <i>Saviour More Than Life To Me;</i>	1876 <i>Will Jesus Find Us Watching;</i>
1880 <i>Tis The Blessed Hour Of Prayer;</i>	1882 <i>Redeemer</i>
1883 <i>Jesus Is Calling;</i>	1887 <i>He Is Coming</i>
1887 <i>Man Of Sorrows</i> (Alice Monteith assumed name;	
1890 <i>He Hideth My Soul;</i>	1894 <i>Saved By Grace,</i>
1894 <i>I Shall Know Him.</i>	

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For a long period of time she was under contract to write three hymns a week for a New York Publishing Firm, Biglow and Main. They purchased 5,900 poems from her and in her declining years provided a regular allowance for her.

Her books of poems published were in addition to her 1st book of 1844 mentioned previously were **Monterey And Other Poems (1849); A Wreath Of Columbia's Flowers (1859); Bells At Evening And Other Poems (1898);** and **Memories Of Eighty Years (1907).**

Sankey did more than any other single individual to popularize and immortalize Fanny Crosby's songs. The great crowds, who thronged the Moody-Sankey revivals, sang her songs until they became part of the heritage of that generation.

At 90 she declared, "**My love for the Holy Bible and its sacred truth is stronger and more precious to me at ninety than at nineteen.**" Asked about her long years, she said her secret was that she guarded her taste, her temper and her tongue. A famous saying through the years was, "**Don't waste any sympathy on me. I am the happiest person living.**"

Fanny remained active until her death. At age 92, she enjoyed her first visit to Harvard. Her latter days were spent in Bridgeport, Connecticut, with a Mrs. Booth, who cared for her. Shortly before her death, she penned her last lines..."**you will reach the river brink, some sweet day, bye and bye.**" On her last night, she dictated a letter of comfort to a sorrowing friend, whose daughter had recently died. At 3am the next morning, Mrs. Booth found Fanny unconscious. She slipped away to the loving Saviour just short of her 95th birthday.

Her funeral filled the church with friends. The choir sang her favorite song ...**Faith Of Our Fathers** ...then, her own...**Safe In The Arms Of Jesus** ...and, **Saved By Grace**. Her minister, George M. Brown, of the Methodist church said it well: "*There must have been a royal welcome when this queen of sacred song burst the bonds of death and passed into the glories of heaven.*" At her funeral was read words from Eliza Edmunds Hewitt (she was born with a painful disease in her spinal cord that was with her till she died,) the last verse of a poem freshly written said:

*Good-bye, dearest Fanny, good-bye for a while;  
You walk in the shadows no more;  
Around you, the sunbeams of glory will smile;  
The Lamb is the light of that Shore.*

You will find a casual quote, on Fanny's grave in Bridgeport, Connecticut..."she hath done what she could!" Buried close by is P.T. Barnum, the Circus-tycoon, who laid up treasures on earth while Fanny's treasures were laid up in heaven.

### Notes

KJV

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**Women Heroes of the Faith**

**Lesson 2 B**

**FRANCIS JANE CROSBY**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

1. Who did more than any other single individual to popularize and immortalize Fanny Crosby's songs.
2. What was so unusual about the Finnish engineer's story?
3. Francis wrote her poems under many names that were not her own, name one of them mentioned in the lesson and the song it was assigned too?
4. Who was Ira D. Sankey?
5. What is your favorite Fanny Crosby song? Please tell us why.
6. What is the difference between the songs written by Fanny Crosby and the Christian songs written in the 21<sup>st</sup>. century?
7. Tell us the story of the Hackman.

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8. What happen at the Mission in the Bowery?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. Which one of Fanny's songs was first discovered after being sung at a Billy Graham Crusade?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. What was Fanny's famous saying through the years?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
11. Using your answer from question 10, what verse in Luke 23 does it remind you of?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
12. Now that you have read about Francis Jane Crosby? Why do you think complaining angers God? (see Numbers 11)

**True/false**

- Fanny's treasures were laid up in heaven.
- Fanny dictated 40 poems from memory.
- Fanny said 90 years old that her love for the Holy Bible was stronger now that it was when she was nineteen.



Scripture memorization, write out these verses on the back on this page:

Psalm 119:19; Matthew 6:21; 2 Timothy 4:2; Romans 10:9

(Must be in KJV)

Any questions?