Through the Open Door

Mississippi-Louisiana Line
The Mountain, the Desert, and the Sea
Down, Down
Miracle of Marriage
God Is Calling Faithful Men
Dark Night
The Gadarene
Beneath the Deep
Let the Children Come
Now and Forevermore (Mae’s Song)
Claim This Land
Through the Open Door
Eclogue for the Church Triumphant

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MISSISSIPPI-LOUISIANA LINE
The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance. Psalms 16:6

Daddy was born to a Christian family
On the Mississippi-Louisiana line
But he wanted to be free
and set to the sea
And he left that home behind
Before he was grown to be a man
He had sailed the seven seas
But the door he closed
and the life he chose
Brought him to his knees

Wine and women and sinful living
Will take their toll in time
Thank God he had a Mamma praying for him
On the Mississippi-Louisiana line

Things got worse and he had to dry out
So they sent him to New Orleans
He met a half-breed Choctaw woman
And that’s how I came to be

I was a raised by widow on a little farm on The Mississippi-Louisiana line
But just like my daddy I was
Searching for something
And I left that land behind

Trying to get free with philosophy
Will take its toll in time
Thank God I had a Woman praying for me
On the Mississippi-Louisiana line

My daddy got saved
In a sawdust chapel
He fell down on his knees
His life was new but his days were few
And he died from his disease

Me, I can remember hearing
The Gospel of God’s amazing grace
Because of the Prayers of a godly woman
One day I’ll see my daddy’s face
One day I’ll see my daddy’s face

Your wine and women and sinful living
Will take its toll in time
I pray you have a Woman praying for you
On your Mississippi-Louisiana line

I pray you have someone Praying for you
On your Mississippi-Louisiana line
On your Louisiana-Mississippi line
On your Mississippi-Louisiana line

THE MOUNTAIN, THE DESERT AND THE SEA

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Hebrews 4:15

When the winter wind comes whipping
Through the Appalachian pass
It can cut right through your skin
And slice your soul

If you’re traveling in the mountains should That sudden storm arrive
There’s no human way
You’ll make it out alive

Then you’ll know in that hour
There is no earthly power
And desperation forces you to say
“I need to pray…”

If the scorching desert sands begin
To set your skin on fire
And your tongue is dry
And longing for a drink
If you begin to see mirages
Of a shady little place
When you lap up only more Sand in your face

Then you know in that hour
There is no other power
And desperate desert days
Can have a way
To make you pray…
Then you know in that hour
There is no human power
Your desperation presses you to say
“I’ve got to pray…”

When the raging waves of life
Begin to toss you to and fro
And you’re thrown over
The side into the sea
It can kill a proud man to say it
When he’s so self-assured
But a drowning man can
Have no other plea
Than to cry from the Depths of a watery grave
God I need You, I need You to save
I have no other hope
In such a day
I have to pray...
He is the way,
He is the truth and the life
I confess that He paid the highest price
I pray to You O Lord Jesus Christ
You who knew the mountain,
The desert and the sea
Come to me

When the winter wind comes whipping
Through the Appalachian pass
It can cut right through your skin
And slice your soul
If you’re traveling in the mountains should That sudden storm arrive
There’s no human way you’ll Make it out alive
Then you’ll know in that hour
There is no human power
And desperation forces you to say “I need to pray…”

**DOWN, DOWN**
For although they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks to Him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Romans 1:21

Down, down
Man goes down
Whenever his pride goes up I have seen the sad result
Filling a sinner’s cup
Down, down
Man goes down
Begins with unbelief
Leads to folly, leads to death
Leaves his family grief
We are without excuse
For we have eternity written on our hearts
We are without excuse
And what shall become
Of the unrepentant one?
Down, down
Man goes down
Resisting to the end
And God who calls all to repent
Finally gives him to his sin
Down, down
Man goes down
Whenever his pride goes up
I have known the sad result
That fills a sinner’s cup

**THE MIRACLE OF MARRIAGE**
Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. Matthew 19:5

In the beginning as time began
God took a rib from a sleeping man
And fashioned a Woman to make humanity
This is how it came to be
And He called for the Man to love his wife
With all of his power for all of his life
And He called for the Woman to honor her man
This much we understand
But there’s more to the song
Because something went wrong
And the good that God Made became flawed
But the miracle of marriage is God
When a man and a woman fall in love
No Cupid shoots arrows
From Hollywood
But when love becomes commitment
And commitment turns to vows
The angels begin to applaud
For the miracle of marriage is God
Don’t tell me that a marriage That began with such power
Must be thrown overboard
For The sea to devour
When there’s grace from the One Who speaks stillness to the sea
And who welcomed a sinner like me
Say, Honey, I’m beginning to see
That the elderly couple in The nursing home
Holding hands in a world That seems all their own
Must have come through Times of struggle and
Must have come through times of pain
And yet this special love remains
Because a long time ago Each of them had to let go Of their own lives to find this love
And the miracle of Marriage is from above
Yes the miracle of marriage is His love

**GOD IS CALLING FAITHFUL MEN**
And what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also, 2 Timothy 2:2

God is calling faithful men, Shepherds for His flock to tend; His the vision, He ordains, He supplies and He sustains; God is calling faithful men, Shepherds for His flock to tend.

Grounded in His Word, their light, Out they go into the night; Seeking lambs who’ve gone astray,
Leading them back to the Way; 
God is calling faithful men, 
Shepherds for His flock to tend.

Let not many teachers be, 
Greater judgments will they see, 
But, as they do heed God's call, 
Christ becomes their all in all; 
God is calling faithful men, 
Shepherds for His flock to tend.

Those who are led by nail-pierced hand, 
Let them pastor in our land, 
Feeding us with tender care, 
Word and Sacrament and Prayer; 
God is calling faithful men, 
Shepherds for His flock to tend.

DARK NIGHT OF THE SOUL
Why are you cast down, O my soul, 
and why are you in turmoil within me? 
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, 
my salvation and my God. Psalms 42:11

I've been down 
Lost and found 
Alone at the river 
Seeking the Giver 
Someone to help me get through 
The dark night 
Of the soul

I remember 
The crowds and splendor 
The joy of communion 
Like snow on the mountain 
But now I have fallen deep into 
The dark night of the soul

But when the night is the darkest 
That's when the stars shine brightest 
And as I reflect on this night 
I see how the Lord was my light 
And in the darkest night of my soul 
Heard a song, I heard a song 
Why are you cast down, my soul 
Your story is not yet told 
Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him 
Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him 
Hope in God, In the dark night 
Of your soul

THE GADARENE
And they came over unto the other 
side of the sea, into the country of the Gadarenes. And when He was come 
out of the ship, immediately there 
met Him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit. Mark 5:1

Where the wild wind blows 
Where no one goes 
I've shed all my clothes 
I have no home 
I'm all-alone 
Amidst the gray graveyard stones 
I weep and wail 
I hurt myself 
Yet the voices still rail 
And now I see 
Someone coming to me 
Oh could it be 
The Nazarene 
For who else would love

The Gadarene

BENEATH THE DEEP
Behold! I tell you a mystery. 
We shall not all sleep, but we shall 
all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling 
of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the 
trompet will sound, and the dead will be 
raised imperishable, and we shall be 
changed. 1 Corinthians 15:51-52

Beneath 
The deep 
Dark mines of Night 
I believe 
A flower grows in hidden light 
Beneath 
The ground 
Of frozen earth 
I believe 
A seed will soon give birth 
Behind 
The eyes 
A soldier lies 
I believe 
The lad will one day rise 
Beyond 
The stars 
So far above 
I believe 
There lives a God of love 
One day 
Some way 
The sky gives way 
To the Son 
As the soldier comes to life 
And the flower blooms in light

LET THE CHILDREN COME
But Jesus called them to Him, saying, 
“Let the children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs 
the kingdom of God.” Luke 18:16

In the world of grown ups, 
I know there is One 
Who will always listen to me. 
For the Lord of Lords and the 
King of Kings 
Once held a child on His knee, 
And He said…

“Let the children come, 
Don’t hinder them 
For such is the Kingdom of God 
Let the children come, 
Don’t hinder them 
For such is the Kingdom of God.”

But the grown ups said, 
“Child be gone, He’s much 
Too important to you” 
So the Master replied, 
“If you’d see heaven, 
Your faith must be childlike, too” 
And He said:

“Let the children come, 
Don’t hinder them 
For such is the Kingdom of God 
Let the children come, 
Don’t hinder them 
For such is the Kingdom of God”

Faith like a child 
Hope like a child
Dream like a child
Believe like a child

"Let the children come,
Don’t hinder them
For such is the Kingdom of God
Let the children come,
Don’t hinder them
For such is the Kingdom of God
Such is the Kingdom of God”

NOW AND FOREVER (MAE’S SONG)
I am my beloved’s and my beloved is mine…Song of Solomon 6:3a

Now and forever
My love is true
Though the winds of time,
May blow the sands of change
Our way
I want you to know
That I will always stay
Now and Forever
I’m devoted to you
Though the stormy seas
Of life may shake our shore
I’ll stand firm in what I know
And I will hold your hand

But, Now and Forever
Is not that long of time
When you think of just
How long I have waited to
Love you
Now and Forever
Love will abide
Certain as the sun
And sure as the
Stars on Heaven’s door
I intend to love you
Now and Evermore
Now and Evermore

CLAIM THIS LAND
But Caleb quieted the people
before Moses and said, “Let us go up at
once and occupy it, for we are well able to overcome it.” Numbers 13:30

Caleb’s courage calls us to be
People of faith who are able to see
That time or tests cannot withstand
The promise of God to claim this land

Claim this land
Claim this land
In Christ alone, we take our stand
To claim this land

Caleb’s courage was God’s design
To open the trail for His promised line
And bring a Messiah
To all who’d receive
A new heaven and earth
If they’d only believe

Claim this land
Claim this land
In Christ alone, we take our stand
To claim this land

“With a mind for truth and
a heart for God”
We claim this land

Claim this land

THROUGH THE OPEN DOOR
I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ,
for that is far better. Philippians 1:23

Through the open door
I saw you dancing free
You moved like I had dreamed
So exquisitely
I almost want to go
And learn to freely soar
But I must now remain
Beyond the open door

The photograph I found
Yellowed over time
Seemed youthful as you were
As I held your life in mine
You stood in open field
Your husband at your side
You looked down modestly
But the picture couldn’t hide
The beauty of your soul
Which touched so many more
Than ever you would know

Beyond the open door
I sometimes feel the draw
Of a home I never knew
Except in knowing love
The love that came from you
But I feel strangely drawn
A remnant in my core
And one day soon I’ll pass
Beyond the open door

One day soon I’ll walk
Through the open door
One day soon you’ll walk
Through the open door

ECLOGUE FOR THE
CHURCH TRIUMPHANT
Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first
earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new
Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned
for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold,
the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will
be His people, and God Himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe
away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there
be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed
away.” And He who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all
things new.” Also He said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy
and true.” Revelation 21:5

No more sea
No more crying
No more pain
Old things dying

Dedicated to Aunt Eva and Mae and the legacy of faithful wom-
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And now unto Him who alone receives glory and honor, our Lord Jesus Christ.

SDG

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