

Devotion



A Christian's Singing Heart



On October 3rd, 1832 a baby girl was born to a pastor in Sweden. She was named Carolina Sandell, but everyone called her Lina. At the age of 12 she came down with a mysterious illness that left her paralyzed. While the family was off to church, she prayed one Sunday for the Lord to help her walk to church – and he did. In awe of the Lord's great compassion and power, she dressed herself and walked slowly across the room.

At an early age Lina started journaling. She was a sensitive and strong believer in Jesus' great love. As she wrote down her thoughts she realized they often sounded like poetry. At the age of 16 Lina published a small book of her poems.

When she was 26, she left with her father on a trip to Gothenberg that changed her life. As they crossed Lake Vattern, the small boat tipped over and horrified she watched her father drown.

During the next three years she battled with depression and soul searching as she doubted the Lord's love and promise. She found comfort in writing hymns to her Savior that flowed from her broken heart. Within a year of her father's death 14 of her hymns were published. And the most famous of them is one of my favorites as well, "Children of the Heavenly Father."

At the age of 71 Lina entered paradise and was reunited with her father. At her funeral the choir sang "Children of the Heavenly Father" and the congregation erupted in joyful singing along with the choir totally unplanned.

Out of the most terrible trials, the Lord gives us the most beautiful blessings. In our small mind we tend to think that that happy Christians are blessed with material blessings, spared the troubles of this sinful world and the temptations of the evil one. In fact the Christian sings the loudest and the most beautiful in the face of the world's worst problems. We know as children of God's family through Jesus Christ, nothing in all creation will be able to separate us from God's love. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord in every trouble.

*"Children of the heavenly Father, Safely in his bosom gather;
Nestling bird nor star in heaven, Such a refuge e'er was given."*

*"God his own does tend and nourish; In his holy courts they flourish;
From all evil things he spares them; In his mighty arm he bears them."*