

*POEMS OF HOPE*  
*VOLUME I*



*by: JOHN A. MCKEE*

# **Poems of Hope**

## **Volume I**

**by: John A. McKee**

© 2008 by John A. McKee. All rights reserved  
Printed in the United States of America

Packaged by Selah Publishing Group, Bristol, TN. The views expressed or implied in this work do not necessarily reflect those of Selah Publishing. Ultimate design, content, and editorial accuracy of this work are the responsibilities of the author.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any way by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of the publisher except as provided by USA copyright law.

ISBN 978-1-58930-224-2

Library of Congress Control Number: 2008908718

## **Foreword**

I have written these poems out of a deep, abiding love for my GOD and King to whom I give all thanks and praise. I am grateful that He has blessed me with the time, energy and the inspiration to write this book, and my earnest prayer is that you will feel blessed and comforted in finding inspiration and enjoyment through the reading of them.

I dedicate this book of poems with all my love to the memory of my dear brother, Myron Richard (Dick) McKee...who passed on into the awaiting arms of Lord Jesus Christ March 18, 2008... To the mother of my wife, Debbie, Genevieve Betty Shreffler, who went home to her reward May 1, 2008...lastly, to my dear friend, Valerie Tate, who died unexpectedly at a young age July 22, 2008. They will all be greatly missed by their many family and friends...until we meet again in GOD's Holy Kingdom.

*Poems of Hope*



*Pisgah Presbyterian Church – Versailles, KY – est. 1784*

*Volume I*

## Poems of Hope...Volume I

I give all my thanks and praise to the Three in One...the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Without whose inspiration this book would not have been possible.

### Table of Contents:

Miracle from GOD	6	Archangels	56
“By Their Fruit Ye		Only Believe	58
“Shall Know Them”	8	The Savior’s Sweet	
“I Have Come as		Call	60
“Light”	10	It’s Later than You	
The Pharisee Within	12	Think	62
The Living Bread	14	Simon of Cyrene	64
Were You There?	16	Our Awesome GOD	66
The Good Shepherd	18	Temptation	68
This Race Called Life	20	The Hand of GOD	70
The Slippery Slope	22	Picture Perfect	72
In the Presence of		Saint Joseph	74
GOD	24	Wisdom of Solomon	76
Seasons of Time	26	Friends of Job	78
Welcome Home	28	“...Ye Must Be Born	
The Reformation	30	“Again”	80
The Beatitudes	32	The Prelude	82
The Prophet, Isaiah	34	Inner Voices	84
Heaven Bound	36	“...Thy Will be Done.”	86
GOD’s Creation	38	I Believe...	88
Team Player	40	“Go...and Make	
Grandfather	42	“Disciples...”	90
Our lord and Savior	44	The Wedding Feast	92
GOD’s Creatures	46	An Estate in the	
Are You Making A		Kingdom	94
Difference?	48	Tribute to a Great	
The Triumph of Faith	50	Christian	96
Good News!	52	Wedding Day Advice	98
Decisions...Decisions!	54	A Farewell to Betty	100



**Back row: Mother, baby Sue, Dad,  
Grandad McKee  
Front row: Jane, Marilyn, John (peeking),  
Dick and Grandmother McKee...  
(Picture taken in 1939 at Granddad's  
home in Spencer, Indiana).**



*Myron Richard (Dick) McKee*  
*March 21, 1932 – March 18, 2008*

### **Miracle from GOD**

We pray every day  
For a miraculous healing,  
A healing to come from above

For our brother, Dick,  
Who suffers from cancer...  
A brother whom we dearly love.

We will give GOD the glory  
For his full recovery  
Knowing He alone can make him well.

And we petition Him daily  
To grant our fervent prayer.  
Will He do so? Time only will tell.

If GOD's answer is 'NO'  
Of course, we will accept it...  
Not our will, but *His* will be done.

And if He takes him home  
To live forever in Heaven,  
Then praise God... Dick's battle is won.

John A. McKee  
February 22, 2008

*The Sermon on the Mount*  
by: *Gustave Doré*



THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin;  
And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one  
of these... (Matthew 6: 28, 29)

***“By Their Fruit Ye Shall Know Them”***

People flocked to hear Jesus  
As He preached the Gospel...  
They were eager to hear His ‘*Good News*’.

For the teachings of Jesus  
Were unlike other rabbis  
Heard in synagogues by devout Jews.

Indeed, Christ taught of love,  
Of hope and of faith...  
And practiced the precepts He preached.

At the *Sermon on the Mount* \*  
He taught a great multitude  
And all within earshot were reached

As He spoke of GOD's Kingdom...  
'*The Golden Rule*'...  
Preached to them about '*Salt and Light*'.

He made abundantly clear  
What is expected of us...  
We are *always* to do what is right;

For good trees cannot bear  
Any fruit that is bad  
And bad trees cannot bear any good.

We're to beware of false prophets  
Who appear in sheep's clothing  
As the Savior has said that they would.

He called them ravenous wolves  
Who are known by their fruit  
Saying, "**... grapes do not grow upon thorns.**"

They shall mislead many  
With their evil doctrine  
Just as the Lord Jesus Christ warns.

Such trees bearing bad fruit  
Shall be cut down by GOD  
And be cast into eternal fires.

But the good trees He'll save...  
For they've borne the *good* fruit  
That life eternal in Heaven requires.

This will be the *Last Judgment*  
Before GOD's *Great White Throne*  
When Christ separates the goats from His sheep...

There'll be gnashing of teeth  
When the damned are cast out  
To forevermore suffer and weep.

\* **Matthew 5: - 7:**

John A. McKee  
March 31, 2008

*The Ascension*  
by: *Gustave Doré*



***“I Have Come as Light...”***

***“I have come as Light  
Into the world...” \****

To the crowd the Lord Jesus said.

But the world hides in darkness  
Shunning His Holy Light  
Preferring evil over goodness instead.

The day of reckoning is coming  
For all who refuse  
To acknowledge the Son our GOD sent...

They shall be lost forever  
Unless they accept Jesus...  
And in earnest prayer to Him repent.

For it just isn't enough  
To say, "*I believe in GOD.*"  
To usher you through Heaven's portals.

For even Satan believes that...  
As does his evil minions  
Who daily deceives willing mortals.

So then...what is required  
To *gain* the life everlasting?  
How can we be *assured* we are saved?

Daily walk in His Light  
And repent of *our* sins...  
For sin is what keeps us enslaved.

Christ said lovers of darkness  
Do not come to the Light  
Lest their dark evil deeds be exposed. \*\*

But all who walk in His Light  
Shall do what is true  
And to sin become firmly opposed.

The sun will no more  
Be your light by day,  
Nor the bright moon shine upon you,

For the LORD GOD will be  
The Light onto the path  
To illumine tasks we're meant to do.

Concentrate on the prize...  
Persevere to the end...  
Seek from Him the strength to succeed.

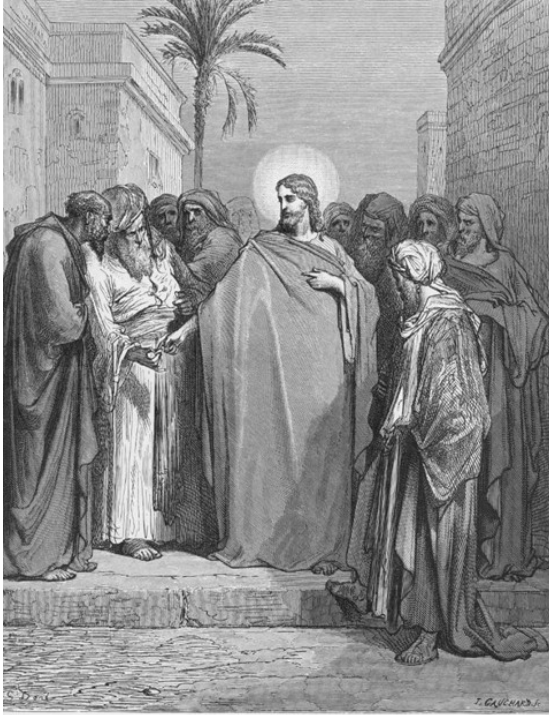
He will keep us from harm  
When we do His will  
Rest assured...He sees our every deed.

\* **John 13:46**

\*\* **John 3:20**

John A. McKee  
April 4, 2008

*Jesus Disputes With the Pharisees*  
by: *Gustave Doré*



CHRIST AND THE TRIBUTE MONEY  
Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's... (Matthew 22: 21)

**The Pharisee Within**

They taunted and laughed  
As He suffered and bled  
The day Jesus was crucified.

The Pharisees and scribes  
Were quite single-minded  
In ensuring this itinerant died.

Such cruelty begs the question,  
Just what sort of men  
Could be so callous...so evil...so mean

That they'd plot and scheme  
Against GOD's only Son...  
The best this old world's ever seen?

They were no different then  
Than we are here today...  
They believed that they had a just cause,  
But the reality is,  
These men were all driven  
By their evil personality flaws.  
Such flaws aren't uncommon...  
Indeed, we see them daily  
By egocentrics who are seeking raw power.  
Who will go to great lengths  
To have things their own way...  
So that they may above others tower.  
Such Pharisee traits lurk  
Within the hearts of so many  
Is the point here I wish to instill.  
For haughty arrogance and pride,  
Rank judgmental behavior...  
Will prevent us from doing GOD's will.  
Add jealousy to the mix,  
A self-righteous nature  
And placing oneself above others.  
Stir in some vile hatred,  
Perhaps self-centered smugness  
Plus meanness toward sisters and brothers.  
That's what it takes to be seen  
As a Pharisee of Christ's day  
Whose actions were cruel and depraved.  
We must examine our hearts  
And become more like Christ...  
For only then can we truly be saved.

by: John A. McKee  
April 6, 2008

*The Feeding of the Multitude*  
by: Gustave Doré



CHRIST FEEDING THE MULTITUDE

And they say unto him, We have here but five loaves, and two fishes. He said, Bring them hither to me... (Matthew 14: 17, 18)

**The Living Bread...\***

As Jesus spoke to a crowd  
He had compassion on them  
For He knew they all needed to eat.

*“There’s a lad here”* said Andrew,  
*“With five loaves and two fish...”*  
Jesus said, **“Have them all take a seat.”**

When they had seated the crowd  
Of five thousand men  
Jesus multiplied the loaves and the fish

After they had eaten their fill  
Disciples gathered the fragments  
To comply with the Savior’s wish.

Upon collecting twelve baskets  
Of leftover food  
Disciple's hearts as one were *aflame*...

*"This is indeed the Prophet  
"Who is come into the world!"*  
The Disciples heard people exclaim.

***"I am the living bread  
That came down from heaven.  
If anyone eats of this bread,"***

***"He will live forever..."\****  
Was the promise from Jesus  
To those eager to be spiritually fed...

Christ is the *Bread of Life*  
Who has come down from Heaven...  
He sustains all who trust and believe

That He is GOD's Beloved Son  
Sacrificed for our sins...  
Who gave all so that we may receive  
His redemptive Salvation  
From the fires of hell...  
Separation from the Lord GOD forever.

He's the Light to the path  
That He wants us to take  
Every day in an earnest endeavor

To be disciples for Him  
And witness to others...  
Proclaim worldwide unto each nation

The Good News of *redemption*  
By the Grace of Lord Jesus  
We're forgiven through His *expiation*.

**\* John 6**

by: John A. McKee  
April 16, 2008

To order additional copies of this book...

*POEMS OF HOPE VOLUME I*

Please have your credit card ready and call  
**1 800-917-BOOK (2665)**

Or order by e-mail at:  
**orders@selahbooks.com**

You may also place book orders online at:  
**www.selahbooks.com**

# Poems of Hope

## Volume I

*About the author:*

Author with Great-Niece, Riley Pelgram - June 2006



I have found poetry to be a wonderfully spiritual way for me to commune with God, and it matters not whether I am writing the poems, or simply reading them; a quiet serenity comes over me during those times that is a great comfort to my soul.

I began my writings more than thirty years ago during a time in my life when I was unable to sleep well at night because of a painful back. As a consequence, throughout the night, I would have to get up to apply a heating pad to get relief. It was during this time in my life that I began to read the Bible which subsequently led me to begin writing poetry. I have found the Holy Bible to be most effective in inspiring ideas and have also been moved to write some of my poems just by the sight of a beautiful sunrise or sunset, a mountain view...or perhaps just a word, a phrase or a scene will pop into my head at times while I'm exercising. Many ideas have come to me in my sleep and at those times I am compelled to get up and go to my computer or to get a pencil and paper to jot the idea down before it is forgotten. It is my sincere hope that you will enjoy the reading of these poems and I pray that you will be blessed by them.

In His Service,

John A. McKee