

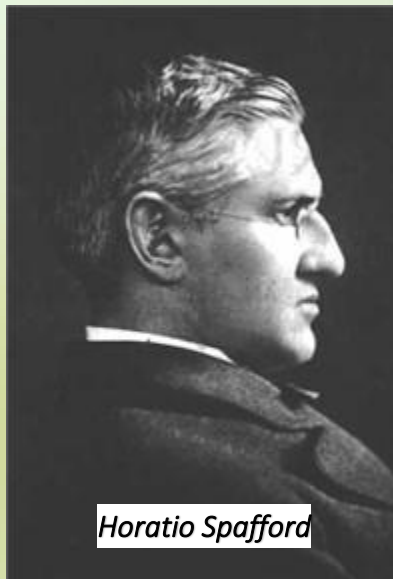
SETTING THE STAGE

Dear Readers,

Before you begin reading the inspiring accounts of the elderly people in this collection, it is critical to prepare yourself, or the individual to whom you are reading, by focusing your entire being on what will be transpiring. Given the fact that the world in which we live has so many distractions that interfere with our ability to concentrate, it has been found that music is a wonderful tool for assisting us in this process; especially given the fact that it works on several areas of the brain. Since it impacts each individual differently, it has been determined that not only does it support focus, but also allows us to receive tremendous emotional benefits, as well.

Therefore, the writer has carefully chosen the beautiful old cherished hymn, "It Is Well with My Soul" in order to enhance the impact for all that read or listen to these inspiring accounts of each saint.

Ladies and gentlemen, prior to listening to the video of this beautiful hymn performed by a group called "Noteworthy", through becoming familiar with the history behind the song, the beautiful strains of the piece will take on even more meaning; one that will be a symbol of faith in the Creator that is unequaled. Here now that story.



Horatio Spafford

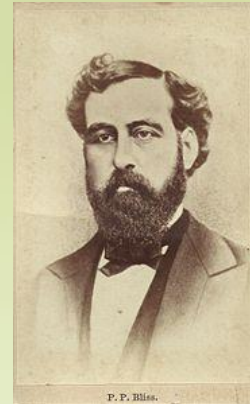
This hymn was written after traumatic events in Horatio Spafford's life. The first was the death of his son at the age of two and the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, which ruined him financially (he had been a successful lawyer and had invested significantly in property in the area of Chicago that was extensively damaged by the great fire). His business interests were further hit by the economic downturn of 1873, at which time he had planned to travel to Europe with his family on the SS Ville du Havre. In a late change of plans, he sent the family ahead while he was delayed on business concerning zoning problems following the Great Chicago Fire. While crossing the Atlantic Ocean, the ship sank rapidly after a collision with a sea vessel, the Loch Earn, and all four of Spafford's daughters died. His wife Anna survived and sent him the now famous telegram, "Saved alone ...". Shortly afterwards, as Spafford traveled to meet his grieving wife, he was inspired to write these words as his ship passed near where his daughters had died. Philip Bliss, composer, called his tune Ville du Havre, from the name of the stricken vessel.

Spafford's Words

***When peace like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to know^a
It is well, it is well, with my soul.***

Refrain

***It is well, (it is well),
With my soul, (with my soul)
It is well, it is well, with my soul.***



***Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
And hath shed His own blood for my soul.***

**Composer
Philip Bliss**

***My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!
My sin, not in part but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!***

***For me, be it Christ, be it Christ hence to live:
If Jordan above me shall roll,
No pang shall be mine, for in death as in life,
Thou wilt whisper Thy peace to my soul.***

***But Lord, 'tis for Thee, for Thy coming we wait,
The sky, not the grave, is our goal;
Oh, trump of the angel! Oh, voice of the Lord!
Blessed hope, blessed rest of my soul.***

***And Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend,
A song in the night, oh my soul***

(Wikipedia)