

Michael Anthony Milton



Through the Open Door

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Mississippi-Louisiana Line
The Mountain, the Desert, and the Sea
Down, Down
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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 shred 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
trumpet 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 Forevermore
Now and Forevermore

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

Claim this land
"With a mind for truth and
a heart for God"
We claim this land
We 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

ÉCLOGUE 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 women
in my life.

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And now unto Him who alone receives glory and honor, our Lord Jesus Christ.

SDG

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