

Master of the He❤️rt

**Christian Poetry and Prose
to Give You Hope and
Peace in Troubled Times**

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BIG-HEARTED PE❤️PLE® LLC
Publishing

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As a sophomore in high school, I was asked to contribute some of my poetry for our literary magazine. Upon graduation, my literature teacher signed my yearbook and started out by using this phrase, “To Randy; poet, man of words...” I never forgot this and it inspired me to continue my creative poetry aspirations for the next 5 decades. But, as with any skill or talent in which we excel, we often follow a mentor or master with greater talents who acts as our muse and inspiration. As Christians, we all follow a Master who’s our ultimate motivation and the Source of all our creativity—the Lord Jesus Christ—the one, true Master of our hearts.

Sonnet 1

Master of the Heart

Poet, man of words, Master of the heart.
Write upon my mind as if on a scroll
Sonnets like music; to my life impart
Your living verses deep within my soul.
In night seasons you hear the muse's voice,
And follow after words that charm the ear;
Words that seem to spring forth from earthly joys,
As if dictated from heavenly spheres.
No haughty pride your thoughts should entertain,
To think this poet's gift is for yourself
to please, or think to use for selfish gain;
But for noble virtue above all else.

Now, inspiration speaks through your pen's art
As poet, and true Master of the heart.

PREFACE

*I*t was June 1972, and Doug, a colleague at the factory where I worked, shared the Good News of Jesus Christ to me. Although I was raised in a Christian denomination, I was never told—that I could have my past, present and future sins forgiven—and enter into a personal relationship with Jesus. Right there in the factory, I prayed with Doug and received Jesus Christ into my life as Lord and Savior. A few months later, I met a lovely young woman named Ruth, who eventually became my wife. Around that same time, I received an unexpected promotion at my job which acted as a springboard for my career of almost 40 years. Needless to say, everything completely changed for the better since committing my life to the Lord on that day; and thankfully, blessings followed me ever since. That doesn't mean everything became perfect after that; but God's faithfulness has seen my family through both the wonderful and difficult times. Together, Ruth and I now have 3 children and 8 grandchildren.

The specially selected poems that you will read are a compilation of almost 50 years of inspiration related to my relationship with the Lord. Many of these poems were “born” from personal life events over the decades. To me that's significant, because poems that deeply touch the soul, are not merely written but are born from experience. Some poems are comprised of lyrics from my originally composed songs of worship. I've included a few of these music scores in the APPENDIX section for my readers who are musically inclined.

This book may initially be read all the way through for you to become familiar with all the poetry and prose. But also, to use as a go-to reference guide for inspiration and encouragement as



needed from time to time. As a professional calligrapher, I've created many Bible verses in calligraphy. I want to share a few of these with you. So, I've included some of my favorite Calligraphy Prints in the APPENDIX section. You may remove these from the book and display them as you desire.

Some poems come with commentary to expound upon their inspiring message. Others are meant to be read as-is and meditated upon for a deeper revelation of their meaning. Please read this book prayerfully. I believe that our gracious Lord will reveal His will to you in ways that you may never have imagined. And as you follow His leading, you are certain to bring forth abundant fruit for His glory.

INTRODUCTION

*L*iving in our rapidly changing world is not only stressful and challenging at times, but perilous and troubling as well. I believe Sonnet 3 ('Redemption') in Part 1 of this book accurately describes the current state of the world today. The present humanistic worldview seeks to draw our focus away from the Lord and eternal things; and onto ourselves and merely temporal things.

The subtitle of this book, '...to give you Hope and Peace in Troubled Times,' reflects my deepest desire for my readers. So, writing a book that inspires you to abound in hope and know God's abundant peace is not just a good intention; but absolutely necessary in this modern age.

You will notice that this book is divided into three parts. I have done so to categorize the selection of poetry into themes that highlight a specific focus. Part 1, 'To the Only Wise God and Savior' reflects the awesome wonder of our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ who alone is worthy of our praise and worship. You see, worship is not only for our Lord, but for our sakes as well. As we worship, our thoughts turn away from ourselves and exclusively onto Him. This should be foremost in our relationship with the Lord. He responds by blessing us with His love, peace, hope and comfort.

Part 2, 'Stir Up the Gift' reveals how we can become willing and faithful to accomplish God's divine plan for our lives. We are called by the Lord to use the unique-to-us gifts and talents that He gave to each of us; so we may serve Him by sharing the Good News to a lost and dying world. We accomplish His will as we respond to the Holy Spirit's leading. "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." — Romans 8:14.



The truth is, that it doesn't take a college education, great wisdom, or even extraordinary abilities to be used by God. It only takes a willingness on our part to become a "vessel of honor made holy and useful to the Master and prepared for every good work."

— 2 Timothy 2:21

Let's ask ourselves, "how can I look at others with a heart of compassion, or how can I show kindness today?" Sometimes all we need to do is change our mind-set to a "heart-set"—making it move from our heads to our hearts. Horace Mann, nineteenth-century educator and politician, wrote these words of exhortation: "Doing nothing for others is the undoing of one's self. We must be purposely kind and generous, or we miss the best part of existence. The heart that goes out of itself, gets large and full of joy. This is the great secret of the inner life. We do ourselves the most good doing something for others." ¹

Part 3, 'This is My Father's World' displays the awesome wonder of God's creation; and the part we play by enjoying and responding to what He brought forth by His Word. I base much of the poetry on my memories of personal observations and experiences from years ago. May these poems speak to your heart and perhaps bring back fond memories of experiences in your life as well.

My sincere desire is that this book and all it contains, will edify, encourage and inspire you in your walk with the Lord. Read the poems with an expectation that the Holy Spirit will speak to you though them. During these troubled times in which we live, I pray that you may receive an abundance of hope and peace as the day of our Lord's return soon approaches.