

My Loved Ones:

God says in Psalm 40:3 - "He has put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God."

Luther Bridgers began preaching at age seventeen, while still student at Asbury College in Wilmore, KY right outside Lexington. After college, he became a Methodist pastor and became widely known for his sincerity and evangelistic zeal. In 1910, he was 26 years old with a lovely wife, three energetic young boys, and a growing demand for his preaching services. Then tragedy struck.

The Bridgers were visiting Mrs. Bridgers' parents at Harrodsburg, KY. It was a happy time together, and they all went to bed pretty late. The late hour and the rigors of the trip in 1910 over the rough Kentucky roads that day, assured them that they would have no trouble getting to sleep. Within minutes after falling asleep, like a thief in the night, the tragedy began. A neighbor, spending a restless night, glanced out the window and saw that the home was on fire. As quickly as the neighbor could, he ran to give the alarm; but by the time he got there, it was an inferno. The neighbor was able to arouse Mrs. Bridgers' parents and Luther, but Mrs. Bridgers was sleeping with the boys that evening to help them rest easy in a new house. Mrs. Bridgers and the boys had already been engulfed in the flames, with beams and timbers beginning to fall. As Luther stood outside with the house falling down, the reality of his young wife and three boys dead hit him. What had started as a joyous reunion, had turned into a tragedy of tears. What would the young preacher do? In the days that followed, as the deep waters of sorrow were flooding over him and the darkness of night surrounded him, he remembered the Lord had promised "songs in the Night" and that He also would never leave nor forsake him.

It was during this period of heart-searching and sorrow that he wrote: "There's within my heart a melody, / Jesus whispers sweet and low: / "Fear not, I am with thee; peace be still / In all of life's ebb and flow."

The fourth stanza says "Though sometimes He leads through waters deep, Trials fall across the way..."

Loved ones, our situation is not as bad as Luther Bridgers. May we have grace to face every day with the song in the night that the Lord gives us. Keep trusting Him!

We love you and are praying for you today.