

The Power of a Song

God works in mysterious ways, His wonders to perform. No doubt you have heard that old saying numbers of times. It is true, and proven often. Consider this ...

William McKinley Jr. (1843 – 1901) was the 25th president of the United States, from 1897 to 1901. He is best known for winning intensely competitive elections by fighting for gold and high tariffs, for leading the nation to victory in 90 days in the Spanish American War, and for forging a Republican coalition that, with one interruption, dominated national politics until the 1930s. He was assassinated by anarchist Leon Czolgosz in 1901, and succeeded by his vice president, Theodore Roosevelt.

At one point during his presidency, McKinley received word that his mother was dying, and he left by special train to visit her. Before boarding, he sent a telegram that probably did more for the Kingdom of God than any other single act of his life. The message read: **Tell Mother I'll Be There.**

A preacher, the Rev. Charles M. Fillmore, read about that message, took the phrase and wrote his world-famous hymn, *Tell Mother I'll Be There.*

Charles McCallon Alexander (1867 – 1920), a popular gospel singer who worked the revival circuit for many years, took the song with him on his evangelistic tours around the world, and whenever he sang it, hearts were touched.

Evan Roberts (1878 – 1951) was a minister who played a leading role in the 1904 – 1905 Welsh Revival, the largest full-scale Christian revival of Wales of the 20th century. Roberts said, "In the great Welsh Revival, this song won more souls than any other song that was sung. Many have been converted through it."

Here is a portion of it (the first verse and refrain):

*When I was but a little child, how well I recollect
How I would grieve my mother with my folly and neglect;
And now that she has gone to Heav'n I miss her tender care:
O Savior, tell my mother I'll be there!*

*Tell mother I'll be there, in answer to her prayer:
This message, blessed Savior, to her bear!
Tell mother I'll be there, Heav'n's joys with her to share;
Yes, tell my darling mother I'll be there.*

Throughout our lifetimes, and particularly in the careers we have chosen, we encounter people weary from their long years of journey upon this earth, and from the heartache and adversity often encountered. It is not unusual to hear them express their yearning to go home to that golden strand, to be reunited with all their loved ones.

It is the hope that springs eternal in the human heart.