

# LEGACY

## The Music and Lyrics of HUGH BROOKS

*Forward by Jay Muller, President, Re-Creation USA, Inc.*

As legend tells, one night, on a car ride back home from an event, Hugh Brooks, his wife, Carolyn and their daughter, Katie...discussed the lack of positive, professional entertainment available to institutions—prisons, state centers, nursing homes, and the like. They decided they would try to meet that need! With a grand step of determination, they formed Re-Creation in 1976!

Mr. Brooks had been a Pastor for 20 years, and the family felt that, with the right cast, an organization that would benefit those institutions could be designed to also present the Gospel in Christian churches.

At that time, Mr. Brooks was an Instructor at The Pennsylvania State University. He drew his initial cast members from the student body. The 'kids' would go to school and perform at the same time!

Shows began immediately with stalwart concern for America and Her people. Re-Creation was soon asked by the USO to present shows in VA Medical Centers, and that's how those facilities first appeared on the schedule...all the way back in 1977!

The nation-wide USO VA program was to be dropped in 1982...no more shows would be provided for our recovering veterans. Washington D.C. called Hugh and asked if Re-Creation would be willing to make the program work. And of course by 'make it work,' they meant, 'pay for it.'

Hugh and Carolyn made the decision to leave their full-time teaching posts...and all the security those positions afforded... and step out full-time in mission to America's veterans and churches!

And not just any mission. This was a mission no one else wanted to undertake. This was a mission of daunting travails and obstacles. After all, powers and presences much larger had been forced to abandon the idea.

But this was also a mission of urgency and necessity!

Re-Creation and the Brooks' went 'full-time' in 1982, picking up the responsibility for the entire national program of therapeutic entertainment to our nation's hospitalized veterans, and testifying to their faith in churches everywhere.!

Hugh and Carolyn led Re-Creation around the country from 1976 through 1993! Their work affected countless lives, including mine.

Every 'kid' who has ever come through Re-Creation will openly share that this organization changed his or her life. Re-Creation challenged us in every way possible...spiritually, emotionally and physically. What held us altogether...and all together...was the foundation. The Brooks' foundation of faith, hard-work and security. They made sure everyone was safe, equipped and yes, challenged, to grow into bright, accomplished young adults who would then take that very stability to a world so desperately in need of it.

Mr. Brooks' lyrics, his words, formed the bedrock of that foundation. He is a dynamic preacher, a gifted teacher and an inspiring speaker! Whether one-on-one or in command of a large crowd, he has the ability, born through sincerity, to illuminate, educate, encourage and uplift. Indeed, I have heard more than a few times over the years people say, "Mr. Brooks just made me feel like the most important person in the room!" That's his gift.

And that ability to focus, to really hone in on a person or a situation or a problem, is, in my opinion, what gives the 'heft' to Mr. Brooks' lyric writing. He's concise, to the point and unwavering. He wrote some songs for the secular show, but the ones we reproduce here were written for the group's sacred performances. They are a testimony to his faith and concern.

I have learned more in a Hugh Brooks' 4-minute song than I have in many of the much-longer sermons I've heard most of my life! Truth! I remember discussing with him, back when I was a singer in RC 12, the theology behind "Right Under Jesus" or "Church With the Red Door."

And, I suppose, that's the purpose of my commissioning this book. I want YOU to share in the experience, the joy, of Hugh's writing. Many of his experiences as a pastor, a teacher, and a leader are available here.

Use the stories, insights and lyrics as devotionals! Listen along to Re-Creation groups from 40 years of history as they enliven these marvelous words for you...and for His glory!

The word "legacy" gets thrown around a little too casually these days. But without drama, I can heartfully say that Mr. Brooks' LEGACY is, indeed, what we have the privilege to share.

A legacy of service, started by Hugh and Carolyn in 1976...and continuing today!

A legacy of mission, to the veterans who have given us our freedom and secured our nation!

A legacy of salvation, in these dynamic words, gorgeous melodies and faithful promises!

One quick aside...much will be said about Hugh and his work in this book...and after all, his work is the focal point. But I must enthusiastically celebrate Carolyn Brooks, whose ingenuity and creativity enlivened these songs for the stage and church platforms. She is a vibrant, joyous muse who continues to inspire everyone who knows her with her grace, propriety and laughter! Love ya' Ma'am!

Hugh, You've never been one to live in the past, but as we together chronicled your musical offerings to Re-Creation...and to the world...I became overwhelmed! Everyone, everywhere, should have the privilege of hearing these amazing works. And in some small way, I hope this book captures in time, for everyone...and for you too, Sir, the blessing you have been to us all!

Love ya'

Jay

## BOOK INTRODUCTION

### Hugh Brooks

When Jay Muller first approached me about this project, I was astounded. I've always been grateful that I had the privilege of writing songs for Re-Creation. I didn't dream that those songs would someday be gathered into a collection, would allow me to record some of my thoughts about them, and would preserve on CDs their vocal performance by our talented young people. That was Jay's vision, and this book is mostly his work. I'm so grateful for it.

Jay asked me to write something about each of the 41 songs included here. He said to include settings of all kinds—as they came to mind. Time. Place. Inspiration. Scripture. Incidents. People.

I've tried to do that. There are some anecdotes here that are “inside stories,” and that will be perfectly clear, perhaps, only to long-time Re-Creation supporters. There are others that I hope will be commonly understood—and will offer meaningful insights into the songs and the situations under which they were written. The writings and the songs are heavily infused with Scripture—which was my principal inspiration.

These are not “my” songs. They are “our” songs. In addition to what I believe was the inspiration of the Holy Spirit of God, they are forever tied to friends and supporters whose prayers and gifts and love were used by God to help embolden the writing.

I will not be able to name all those people here. There are living pillars of this building that I never met. And there are others whose names and deeds, regretfully, I have forgotten. But, as God uses Re-Creation to spread His truth—and to minister to institutionalized and forgotten people—their names are recorded in His archive of champions. They have my gratitude here. They will be properly honored on the day they see God. A few have been honored already...

But I must at least name some—whose contribution to the existence of Re-Creation and to these songs is foundational.

First, my wife, Carolyn. She has been my crucial source of inspiration and help from the very first day. She never let up or pulled back, but stayed with every task until it was developed as far as God's direction and the resources He provided would allow. And she was our primary choreographer and costumer for the group's early years.

Next, our daughter, Katie. The group was formed around Katie's talents and her Christian commitment to help other people. She assisted Carolyn with choreography, and introduced the incredible energy and artistic flamboyance to the stage that marked, and marks, Re-Creation.

Next, our son, David. David's quiet faith in God, his appointment to West Point just before we began Re-Creation, and his stellar Army career, kept me attentive to the needs of our military personnel. Our work with veterans has, in large part, been the inspirational result of his dedication to God and Country.

Next, Joani Patterson. Joani was integral to the development of the group from the very beginning, the manager of its scheduling, and the keeper of all its records. She was the gentle embodiment of faithfulness, of consistency, and of love and dedication to God that are evocative of the very nature of Re-Creation's establishment, growth, and service to others.

Next, Sam Patterson. He kept us on the road. Nothing went wrong that Sam couldn't repair. He was the staunch and unassuming rock on which we leaned. He provided the stability so necessary to the maintenance of a home base and a traveling group of “all thumbs” young people (whose Director led the way in fumbleitis talent).

Next, the young people who have sung, danced, and ministered through these nearly 40 years. They are the “face” of Re-Creation. And the organization's heart and soul. Every group lifts the lives of hundreds of

thousands of people by fostering spiritual blessing and emotional care. They are God's emissaries in a needy world.

Next, Jay and Mary Muller. The incredibly talented couple who took over the leadership of Re-Creation when Carolyn and I retired. They brought a sense of calling, dedication, caring, and innovation that has daily re-shaped and strengthened the cords that bind it to God's will and the people's need. Re-Creation remains, and will remain, a servant organization, because Jay and Mary are God's chosen servants.

Next, David Kazee. My co-writer and friend, and a dedicated, joyous Christian whose remarkable musical abilities he consecrated to the Living God. We worked together in the composition of nearly all the songs in this book. I'll call him "Kazee" in these pages—because that's how I knew him in our personal relationship. He's in Glory now. Writing music for some of King David's Psalms. We'll hear more of his work one day...

Finally, you. And all the veterans and the people from our audiences who have listened and participated in our shows and Gospel services. Like a stone that lands in the water and causes ripples that continue outward to the edges of the lake, our audiences have spread the word about Re-Creation...

And the word is good. As God is good.

*Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling,  
and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory  
with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Savior  
be glory and majesty, dominion and power,  
both now and ever. Amen. Jude 24-25*

# EVERY DAY

“Every Day” was the first general public performance song I wrote for Re-Creation. Earlier, I wrote “Thank You Father,” a prayer for use at mealtime when the group was together. It honestly didn’t occur to me that I might write a song for the group to sing in its religious program.

The notion changed. It was 1981. I had just resigned from my teaching post at Penn State to work full-time with Re-Creation, and I found myself with a block of almost-free time.

It was Re-Creation’s sixth edition. Most of our friends will remember that we actually had two editions in the first year—one for the summer of 1976, and another for the school year following. From the beginning, until 1981, the group had been singing other people’s songs—and happily so. When I thought I might write something for the sacred program (I considered only the sacred program for a number of years), I was a bit timid about what I was capable of doing. So I jotted down what was a very elementary poem, hummed a tune to myself that, with the poem, was later to become the song, and asked one of our music majors, Jan Esterline, to write a vocal chart for the group.

He did. And he did some remarkable work with the entire music arrangement, especially with the last few measures of the song—an approach that left church congregations sighing audibly. I always looked forward to that moment in our worship services.

Jay asked me what I thought when I heard Re-Creation sing my first song in the recording studio—or what I felt when they first sang it in church. I can’t remember exactly, but I think it was like a basketball player watching his shot for a victory in the tournament dropping through the net at the buzzer. I didn’t think I had won anything, but I thought the games could go on...

I thanked God for the swish. And for that same feeling with the songs that followed. I still do...

Every day.



The cast of RC 6 in worship near Beaver Springs, PA, 1980

# EVERY DAY

© 1980 Hugh Brooks

Every day I learn something new about Jesus  
Since He came into my heart  
He's by my side whenever I need Him  
We'll never be apart

He gives me strength to face all my troubles  
Worry's a thing of the past  
No need to search for comfort and shelter  
I've found a haven at last

*Every day, every day, Jesus is on my mind  
Every day, every day, more and more lately I find  
He's my Lord, He's my Lord, He'll never leave me alone  
Trust Him now, trust Him now  
Make the Redeemer your own*

How'd you like to live a life filled with sunshine  
Walk in the warmth of God's love  
Know with assurance your sins are forgiven  
And home is in heaven above

Then let go of self and reach out to Jesus  
There is no time for delay  
He'll make your life a fountain of blessing  
Trust Him as Savior today



**EVERY DAY:**

**Original recording:** RC 6

**Featured audio version:** RC 6

**Notes:** "Every Day" first appeared on the *Re-Creation* album (yes, album!) that also featured the original version of "Thunder & Lightning."

# FREE TO BE

Bob and Linda Vest were “Double Diamonds” in the Amway organization. I met them when they came to Morehead, Kentucky, where I was Pastor of the First Baptist Church. Jim Spears, one of my members, had begun his own Amway business, and invited the Vests to speak to his group at a weekend meeting.

Later, when Re-Creation came to be, I called Bob and Linda and asked if they were still having meetings, and if they would consider using Re-Creation for their entertainment. They were. And they would.

So, for about three years we sang for the Bob and Linda Vest Amway group. They were gracious—and generous—with us. Then, when we were planning our trip to be with them in 1982, Bob told me that the theme of their meeting that year was “Free To Be.” I asked if he would let me write a theme song. He agreed. And I started. And wrote the words.

That was before I met Kazee, so I contacted a musician from Bill Gaither’s studio in Alexandria, Indiana (we had recorded our first secular album there), and asked if he could put together a song for me. He could.

That was the only song I wrote by singing the melody, all the words, all the orchestra parts\*, and all the pauses, on the telephone. We talked for about 3 hours (expensive in those days), and I told him exactly what I wanted. He produced.

We sang it for Amway. They did the Amway applause thing, and nearly demolished the building. Bob and Linda adopted it for the group. I treasure the words.

RC 7 recorded it late in that group’s year. Because of its dynamic, and because we wanted to keep it, we put it on the secular recording of RC 8. I would have been more than content if we had decided to put it on the sacred album.

This was the shortest song I wrote for Re-Creation. And, every year I treasure it more.

\*I sneezed on the phone when trying to produce a flute sound. Luckily, my musician was getting himself a cup of coffee...



The members of Re-Creation’s 8<sup>th</sup> Edition “Free To Be” 1983

# FREE TO BE

© 1982 Hugh Brooks

Free to be  
Free to be  
I'm free to be

Free to be  
All that I want to be  
Nothing can hinder me  
Oh I'm free to be

Oh free to be  
Free to be  
Free to be  
I'm free to be  
Free to be  
Free to be

All that I need to be  
Others depend on me  
I'm free to be  
Oh I'm free to be

Free to be  
All God expects of me  
He is my liberty  
Oh I'm free to be

Oh I'm free to be  
Free to be  
Free to be  
I'm free to be



## FREE TO BE:

**Original recording:** RC 8

**Featured audio version:** RC 8 / Narrator: Hugh Brooks

**Notes:** Convention crowds, like those at Amway functions, could get riotous! On one occasion, Karen DesChamps, our sound tech, was doing everything she could to keep ahead of crowd response. When Brooks realized he couldn't hear RC over the noise, he moved to the sound board and yelled at Karen, "Crank it!" That was all she could take. She yelled back, "It is cranked! And you're louder than they are!"



# GOD WILL SEE YOU THROUGH

Children who attend a Bible-teaching church often have Biblical Characters as their heroes. Among those champions are Noah, Jonah, Daniel, and the three Hebrew Children—all of whom overcame great obstacles to become lifetime role models for growing youngsters.

I was one of those youngsters. I can't remember when I didn't know about the ark, the huge fish (whale), the lion's den, and the fiery furnace. The people in those stories have been family to me nearly all of my life.

One night, returning late to State College from a Re-Creation trip, I started thinking about Jonah. I wondered—if he had lived during our time, would he have been swallowed up by a large van, as I was. The thought process turned to the other stories, and I started “getting down” with a finger-snapping whoop-de-do on Old Testament heroes. Some rhyming words crept in, and by the time we reached home I had the whole chorus and tune of “God Will See You Through” in mind. I hurried into the house, grabbed a pencil and a yellow pad, and stood at the kitchen table to write down the words. In the next couple of weeks, I wrote the verses.

Carolyn remarked that the new song would be great for children. I agreed. Then she thought of adding puppets. I agreed. And she choreographed the song much as it has been presented since 1981.

Paul Vanderbeck and Jan Esterline did the arrangement that GlorySound published, and that has been sung so delightfully by Re-Creation in countless churches.

One morning, when RC 10 was in church singing “God Will See You Through,” at the place where the whale spit up Jonah, there was a loud belch over the sound system. I thought, “My goodness. Who in the world did that?” After the church service ended, I couldn't find Greg Shirk. Yep.

I let him run scared for a few days. Then I told him how funny I thought that was. And we kept it in the service. He was relieved. And congregations everywhere have since delighted in the continuing uncouth kind of moment that Greg first unabashedly introduced.

And through all those years, from Old Testament heroes right down to the present time, the joyful message keeps coming to us from God's word and God's people: “No matter what the worry or the work may be, our God will see you through.”

Thank you, Lord.



Jennifer Eshelman (RC 6), Mandy Daggett (RC 10) and Karen Godissart (RC 24) all leading “God Will See You Through”

# GOD WILL SEE YOU THROUGH

(c) 1980 Hugh Brooks

Once upon a time when the earth was new, the people wouldn't listen to God  
So God said to Noah, "Hurry up and build an ark, 'cause pretty soon there's gonna be a flood"  
So because he believed, Noah built a mighty ark, and gathered in the animals, too  
And they all stayed dry in the bottom of the boat, when the storms and the hurricanes blew  
And they all stayed dry in the bottom of the boat, when the storms and the hurricanes blew  
And you can stay dry, too

*Like Noah in the ark, Jonah in the whale, Daniel in the lions' den  
Like the Hebrew Children in the fiery furnace  
He'll keep you safe and then  
He'll set your feet on the solid rock, and give you a job to do  
No matter what the worry or the work may be our God will see you through*

One day the mighty God said "Jonah, get up and preach to the people in town"  
But Jonah said "no!" and went out to sea, then a big fish swallowed him down  
So Jonah called out from the belly of the fish, "Please help me, Lord!" he cried  
Then the fish jumped up and spit him on the shore, and God was satisfied  
Then the fish jumped up and spit him on the shore, and God was satisfied  
When God calls, you can't hide

Now the prophet Daniel lived in a land far away, where people worshipped idols in sin  
So Daniel said, "Listen, there is only one God!", and they threw him in the lions' den  
It was dark down there and the cats were mean, but their jaws were all shut tight  
'Cause God came down and protected his man, and Daniel didn't suffer a bite  
'Cause God came down and protected his man, and Daniel didn't suffer a bite  
Our God makes all things right

When the Hebrew Children had to choose man or God, they set us an example to admire  
They were faithful to God even though they paid a price, when they landed in a furnace of fire  
But the flames didn't burn, for the Son of God took the heat out of the fuel  
He blew in the wind of eternal love, and the Hebrew Children stayed cool  
He blew in the wind of eternal love, and the Hebrew Children stayed cool  
We all must let God rule

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## **GOD WILL SEE YOU THROUGH:**

**Original recording: RC 6**

**Featured audio version:** *Re-Union Choir / Soloists: Judy Fitch (RC 11,12) Linda Smith (RC 9,10) Brenda Neiman (RC 8,9)  
Rachel Plakos (RC 12,13)*

**Notes:** "God Will See You Through" was sung in Re-Creation by two future Miss Pennsylvanias! Jennifer Eshelman sang the song in RC 6 and

Judy Fitch sang it in RC 12! Each young lady went on to represent PA in the Miss America Pageant!



# THUNDER AND LIGHTNING

When I was a church Pastor, I preached a series of sermons on “The Seven Last Words of Christ.” I was overwhelmed with the majesty of those words, and their comprehensiveness with regard to His Mission and to human need. They held my spirit captive.

I often considered using the main thoughts from those seven sermons in one colossal, enormous, epic, monumental preaching expression of God’s love for mankind (I think I honestly believed that all of my sermons could be described that way), but was restrained by the possibility of watching church members leave early in groups.

Then one day, I have no remembrance of mood, or events, or mental triggers, it occurred to me that it might be possible to present all seven last words in a song. That song became “Thunder And Lightning.”

It took me about 2 weeks to write T&L. I was traveling with Re-Creation, and most of the writing was done in the back seat of our car, or in the front passenger seat of the Re-Creation van. I remember that I wept as I finished nearly every verse. The song was managing for my spirit what the words of Scripture had earlier ingrained.

My heart soared in praise and thanksgiving, and tears rolled down my face when my hand wrote, “It is finished.”

Paul Vanderbeck developed the music, Jan Esterline wrote the original vocal charts, and RC 6 sang it. Later, I asked Dan Wolgemuth to re-do the entire song and give it a different dramatic “feel.” We liked Dan’s version, and actually recorded it in 1987 with RC 12, but over time the original version seemed to us to be more appropriate.

However, one major development came from working with Dan. He told me that T&L was incomplete—that it needed a resurrection section. I wrote the resurrection event words, gave them to Kazee, and he put music to “Everlasting Song.” We added it to T&L, then later made it the last verse of “In Remembrance Of Me.” It appears with both of those works in this collection.

“Thunder And Lightning” is the story of the day time ended...and eternity began...

# THUNDER AND LIGHTNING

© 1984 Hugh Brooks

It was early Friday morning, at the dawning of the day  
As the sunlight broke across the eastern sky  
That a weary Pontius Pilate yielded to the mob's demands  
And Jesus was delivered up to die

There had been no plea for pardon, nor request for leniency  
As the victim was abused from place to place  
And there was no hint of anguish or the sorrow that He felt  
Save the shadows deepening upon His face

He had spent the night in shackles, forced to do as He was told  
No friend remained behind to give Him aid  
Then they scourged Him, and they placed upon His back a rugged cross  
Fashioned from a tree that He, Himself, had made

Standing slowly with His burden, He began the dreary march  
That would take Him to His place of death that day  
But the cross became so heavy, He collapsed beneath the load  
Exhausted in the street along the way

From the crowd, a man named Simon, was compelled to lift the cross  
And to bear it to a place outside the wall  
There the long procession halted and the gruesome work began  
Execution, on a hill shaped like a skull

Nine o'clock on Friday morning, hammer blows began to ring  
Nails were driven deep through hands and feet and tree  
As a lamb before his shearers, so He opened not His mouth  
Though the wounds left Him in pain and agony

Then He spoke, and oh the majesty of what He had to say.  
The first sentence that He uttered was a prayer  
Forgive them Father, for they know not what they do  
These words covered men and women everywhere

Then two thieves were nailed beside Him, each in terror and distress  
Screaming out, they railed on Him to set them free  
'Till at last their sin o're leaped itself, and one repenting cried  
"Master, when your Kingdom comes, remember me

The thief could not have realized—the answer to his prayer  
Would come so fast in such a perfect way  
But the Master said, "In Paradise I'll take you there today  
Come to my Father's house, I am the way

Lightning flickered in the distance, as the crosses all were raised  
And dropped into the holes where they would stand  
Thunder rumbled oh, so softly, though the day was bright and clear  
And an eerie wind blew strangely o'er the land

In the crowd beneath the cross, the eyes of Jesus sought the face  
Of the woman God entrusted with His care  
When at last He saw His mother, He committed her to John  
They would spend unending hours in praise and prayer

With the needs of others settled, Jesus soon became aware  
That His throbbing made it difficult to think  
Then He turned to those who nailed Him, and called out for help, "I thirst"  
And a soldier raised a sponge for Him to drink

As the cool, refreshing liquid soothed His parched and aching lips  
Jesus turned His thoughts to what was just ahead  
He must pay the price of sin for all the ages of mankind  
And by three o'clock that day—He would be dead

He could take that, He was ready, for this purpose He had come  
And He would not flinch from what He had to do  
But the conflict that He faced and the loss of life itself  
Were as nothing, for now God would leave Him too

It was noon, but darkness settled on the face of all the earth  
The sun was blotted out from human sight  
Like the rising roar of cannon thunder shook the universe  
Lightning pierced the sullen sky with stabbing light

Then above the wind and thunder, cutting through the earthquake's roar  
Came the voice of Jesus in His agony  
Oh, my Father, oh, my Father, hear me when I cry to thee  
Oh my God, why have you forsaken me

Thunder and lightning, darkness and rain  
All of creation shook with the strain  
Nature exploded the dead came awake  
Rocks split asunder, earth started to quake

Hell loosed its fury, terror and dread  
Sin had it's vict'ry  
Sin had it's vict'ry  
Jesus was dead!

It is finished!

Thunder and lightning  
Danger was past  
Christ the Redeemer  
Triumphed at last  
Death could not keep Him  
He rose from the grave  
Lord of creation, mighty to save

Thunder and lightning  
Danger was past  
Christ the Redeemer  
Triumphed at last

Father, Father, into your hands I commit my spirit

Death could not keep Him  
He rose from the grave  
Lord of creation  
And mighty, He's mighty to save!

Mighty to save!



"Thunder And Lightning" through the years! RC 6, RC 11, RC 30!



**THUNDER AND LIGHTNING:**

**Original recording:** RC 6

**Featured audio version:** RC 30 / Soloist: Chris Wilder (RC 25, 26, 28-30)

**Notes:** For the special 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Dave Kazee traveled to Tennessee to orchestrate the new T&L tracks with the Nashville Strings! Many of the top-notch musicians remarked how much they enjoyed the arrangement, the drama and the lyrics of T&L!

# GET READY FOR THAT RIDE

I grew up in the middle of Southern Gospel music. Literally. In Eastern Kentucky it was all around me. There were quartets singing in every church, in all the high school assembly halls and gymnasiums, and on almost every street corner.

As soon as my voice changed (people derisively tell me that when it was changing, I used to sing duets), I formed a high school quartet that sang mostly Gospel music. And after that time I always had a quartet—right up until my 80<sup>th</sup> birthday, when I pulled together a group I had formed in college (now old codgers), and we toured VA Medical Centers, singing to our hospitalized veterans.

But even though I lived and breathed the music, I didn't try to write a quartet song until RC 9 (we had done a quartet song, but not one I wrote). And the young men in that group inspired me.

As most of the songs I wrote, "Get Ready For That Ride" was based on Scripture, specifically on the miracle of Elijah's transport to Heaven (2 Kings 2:11)—a miracle that had captured my dreams as a child. Most of my life, in my imagination, I have seen that chariot of fire swooping down and whisking Elijah home to Glory—and taking me next!

I intended the song as a men's quartet. Wrote the chorus first. Then the verses. And when I heard Kazee play the song, I was like a kid at Christmas. I liked it from the beginning. If I'd had it in high school, my high school quartet would have sung it.

Probably not as well as the guys of RC 9. But with as much enthusiasm.

Oh...

You remember that Elijah was walking with Elisha when that chariot of fire blasted between them. I'd LOVE to have seen Elisha's face...

# GET READY FOR THAT RIDE

© 1983 Hugh Brooks

The Bible has a lot to say about the final end  
Division of the sheep and goats when Jesus comes again  
It talks about a great white throne and God the judge of all  
And the nations gathered at His feet when they hear the trumpet call  
Hear the trumpet call

Then bursting from the clouds above  
A blazing light will come  
When Jesus brings a coach of fire  
To take His children home

*Get ready for that ride  
When Jesus comes again  
There's no place you can hide  
If you remain in sin  
His chariot will speed you  
To the other side  
Faith will be your ticket  
Get ready for that ride*

That chariot of fire will be as big as all outdoors  
And from the corners of the earth come passengers by scores  
Their happy songs will fill the air as all of heaven rings  
And voices of a million saints will praise the king of kings  
Praise the king of kings

Let your voice be joined with theirs  
Lay earthly things aside  
Put your faith in Christ the Lord  
Get ready for that ride



## **GET READY FOR THAT RIDE:**

**Original recording:** RC 9

**Featured audio version:** RC 9

**Notes:** *The infectious spirit of "Get Ready For That Ride" made it a crowd favorite...and not just for church-goers. The song was so catchy and the presentation so engaging, that Brooks often had the guys feature the song in fairs, conventions and other secular venues!*



# HYMN OF PRAISE

There is an absolute mixture of Old Testament and New Testament in “Hymn Of Praise.” I started out with just one primary notion—praising God. And I felt that if I tried to do that in a song, it should include both the Old and the New Testaments. I wrote the chorus first, then the two verses—one from the Old Testament that concentrates on God the Creator, and the other from the New Testament that concentrates on Christ the Redeemer.

I asked Kazee to give me a distinctive “feel” for each verse, and to blend them together. He did a remarkable job. The music mirrors the words—one style for the Old Testament verse, and a more contemporary style for the New Testament verse.

The mixture of verses and melodies made it challenging for both RC and the audiences. There are actually three songs involved—the hymn, and the songs about the Old Testament and about the New Testament. When I first heard it put together by Re-Creation, I was bouncing up and down in my seat, and I clapped my hands out of sheer delight. But it’s impossible to follow everything that’s happening if you hear it only once. (I liked that a lot—it might have sold some CDs for us.) RC 10 and RC 18 both sang it.

It kept our sound tech busy. And while I’m here, let me take a moment to recognize our sound techs and our lighting techs—who stayed busy all the time. I hear coaches praise their quarterbacks and their point guards as being “coaches on the field, or the court.” The techs are Re-Creation’s coaches in the theatre. From the downbeat to the final chord, those young men and women had control of the show’s pulse and flow. They operated multiple dials and buttons and sliders—on intricate control boards—with sensitivity and skill and dedication.

Thanks...from all of us!



RC 10, 1984, central PA / RC 18 Members Matt Dean and Beth Imhoff (with Brooks in foreground) beginning outside worship service with “Hymn of Praise” 1992

# HYMN OF PRAISE

© 1984 Hugh Brooks

Make a joyful noise, sing unto the Lord  
Gladly serve the king, hearts in one accord  
God has made us all, we are not our own  
Bow the knee to Him, He is on His throne

Come into His gates, with your souls ablaze  
Thankful for His love, voices strong in praise  
His mercy and His truth, from age to age remain  
The Lord our God is good, bless His holy name

All glory praise and honor, be to Him who rules on high  
Who made the earth and heaven, and gave man the breath of life  
Who sent the quail and water, and the manna from the sky  
And who opened up the sea, to let His people walk through dry

All glory praise and honor, to the God who by His grace  
Sent His blessed Son the Savior, to the mountain of disgrace  
Where He gave himself a sacrifice, for all the human race  
And ascended back to heaven, where He pleads the sinner's case

Make a joyful noise, sing unto the Lord  
Gladly serve the king, hearts in one accord  
God has made us all, we are not our own  
Bow the knee to Him, He is on His throne



## HYMN OF PRAISE:

**Original recording:** RC 10

**Featured audio version:** RC 18

**Notes:** "Hymn Of Praise" really marked the advent of Brooks' writing taking a contemporary turn to meet the evolving musical flavor of Christian music. And this season 'opened the gates' as it were, for Brooks' and Kazee's partnership to flourish. The two would be prolific in the next few years, creating some of Re-Creation's most unforgettable classics!

# COME ON DOWN TO THE RIVER

Since the time of Jesus, Christian converts have been baptized in rivers. Even some churches with baptisteries in their buildings sometimes hold baptismal services in nearby flowing waters. Imagery is the reason. The Bible attaches salvation to the blood of Christ, and that blood flows symbolically like a regenerating river, offering new life to anyone who will be covered by it.

There is a place on the Susquehanna River, just below Port Trevorton, where the water cascades over large stones, forming what is called “McKee’s Half Falls.” It’s easy to sit there, in stunningly beautiful surroundings (drinking a Pepsi and munching a large turkey sandwich from Hilsher’s), and comfortably reflect on most anything that comes to mind.

I was there many times. And one of the things I thought about as I looked at that magnificent river was the Biblical imagery of the flowing blood of Christ. I wanted everyone in the world to be there and think about that with me. One day, I wrote an invitation, “Come On Down To The River.” As I considered a melody, I drum-beated my leg with my open palm to the gushing sounds of the water.

(Cut me a break. I know “drum-beated” isn’t grammatically correct. But it felt right, so I used it. Deal with it.)

When we needed a picture of RC 10 for their religious album cover, I told them to get “gussied up” and to load in the van. They had already recorded the song, and were well familiar with its lyrics. We drove to McKee’s Half Falls, and they posed standing on the rocks beside the image of a “rushing, scarlet river.” They sang the song acapella...

Re-Creation recorded “Come On Down To The River” five times, and Katie recorded it once.

The invitation lives. The Pepsi and the turkey sandwich from Hilsher’s are history...



RC 10, 11, 19 & 22 performing “Come On Down To The River”

# COME ON DOWN TO THE RIVER

© 1984 Hugh Brooks

Have you spent your whole life searching  
For a way out of your sin  
Do you feel the sheer frustration  
Of the awful mess you're in  
Have you thought there must be something  
You can do to save your skin  
Then sit up and pay attention  
This is how you can begin

*Come on down to the river  
Dip your garments in the flow  
Come on down to the river  
Rinse away the debt you owe  
Let the rushing, scarlet river  
Cleanse your weary, troubled soul  
And the precious blood of Jesus  
Wash your sins as white as snow*

Now the nicest thing about the story  
We have shared with you  
Is that when you reach the river  
You begin and finish, too  
For when your sins are washed away  
Beneath the cleansing flood  
Jesus gives you life eternal  
By the power of His blood



## **COME ON DOWN TO THE RIVER:**

**Original recording:** RC 10

**Featured audio versions:** Katie Brooks (RC 1-5) and RC 22

**Notes:** Brooks and Kazee were out of town when the group recorded the original version of "River." The singers actually recorded the song incorrectly...coming in too early and holding on to phrases too long. Brooks and Kazee returned home ready to put the project to tape, heard the mistakes and asked, "What did you do?" But time was of the essence and that version appears on the cassette (and 8-track!) of RC 10.

Sir, you've been one of the most influential figures in my life. A rare embodiment of teacher, boss, pastor & friend. You and Carolyn were my parents to the world; imparting wisdom for everything from responsibility and duty to which fork to use for the salad! And you've been a business mentor, instilling ethics and accountability that I continue to call upon today in my own business. From the moment that I first heard "Lazarus," I knew it was special. I love this song. It is inspiring to hear, and an even bigger inspiration to sing. I am honored to have the opportunity to interpret this Re-Creation classic.

Todd Murray (RC 9,10)

Hugh,

What a privilege and honor it has been and continues to be to work and serve with you through these countless musical and life projects! Your vision, creativity and ability to communicate through words and music have been a source of amazement for me. I have watched closely as we have persevered on these and many other songs and have garnered an education I would have never dreamed just watching you work. All the late nights and long days of rewrites, drafts and changes in the arrangements and how you parlay your vision into something tangible for people to comprehend has profoundly influenced me. If folks could only see the early drafts of songs you have thrown away...! You possess a unique ability to have people understand simple things on a deeper scale ("Ya' Gotta Be Born Again"), then make more complicated issues seem simple and clear ("Right Under Jesus"). I remember the tears in my eyes when you first showed me the beginning draft of "Lazarus." Your love of God is evident in everything you do and your commitment to His service is influential to everyone around you. I see your vast knowledge of the Bible and what the Lord has to say and am astounded at how you communicate that knowledge. Thank you for including me. You have graciously given me far too much credit for our endeavors together over the years. I am not nearly an equal...I have just merely been trying to keep up. I love you.

David Kazee

# LAZARUS

Like the Lazarus of the Bible, this song had a re-birth. The addition, two years later, of a third verse. I originally wrote it to be recorded by Re-Creation 10, and I wrote only two verses. Sometime in the two years between RC 10 and the time I began considering music for RC 12, I re-visited “Lazarus” with the idea that we might use it again.

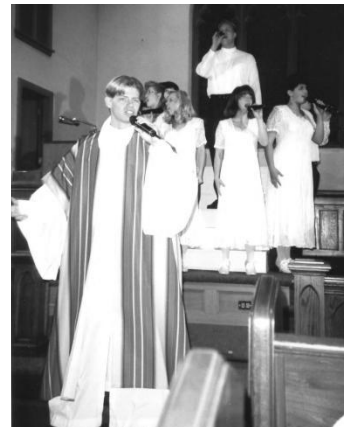
But as I re-read and thought about it, it seemed to end too soon. It did not come down to a personal application to me, and, I felt, to other listeners. There were no names. I wanted a verse to say that He would call MY name. And, I wanted the song to ring with certainty and joy for other believers—knowing that they each would be included.

In John 10:13, the Bible says, “He calls his own sheep by name...”

Listen...

We'll hear Him call us individually...

“Come forth from the tomb!”



Mark Stoddard (RC9-11) Andrew Reich (RC 32-35, 38,39)  
Tirus Twyne (RC 37-40) and Dustin Wheeler (RC 20-23) have all portrayed Lazarus!

# LAZARUS

© 1984 Hugh Brooks

I've been thinking today of how strange it all seems  
That I should still be here on earth  
And how not long ago, in the depths of the grave  
Jesus gave, as it were, a new birth

For I died, don't you see, and was buried by friends  
Who were shrouded in sorrow and gloom  
But the darkness exploded with radiant light  
When He thundered, come forth from the tomb

*Come forth from the tomb  
And the stone rolled away  
Come forth from the tomb  
He put life in the clay  
For the keeper of time holds the keys to the grave  
And He spoke as its Master and Lord  
And the earth opened up when He called out to me  
Come forth from the tomb, come forth*

Now the master has gone, and left me behind  
And I'm finding it hard to be brave  
For the day will come soon when I must die again  
And be carried once more to the grave

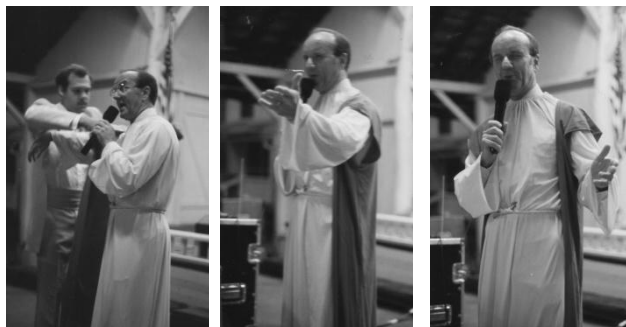
But the one thing that keeps me from utter despair  
And drives away sorrow and gloom  
Is that all men will rise on that great judgment day  
When He thunders "Come forth from the tomb"

*Come forth from the tomb  
Let the stones roll away  
Come forth from the tomb  
Come out of the clay  
And the God of the ages swings open the gates  
To eternity's peace and reward  
As he calls to believers who wait for his voice  
Come forth from the tomb, come forth*

What a day that will be when the trumpet shall sound  
And the Master comes down from the throne  
When He speaks once again at the door of the tomb  
And the name that I hear is my own

I will rise with the ransomed millions He calls  
Released from the sorrow and gloom  
For the bars of the prison of death will be gone  
When He thunders come forth from the tomb

*Come forth from the tomb  
And the saints will ascend  
Come forth from the tomb  
Heaven's wonder begins  
For the eye has not seen and the ear has not heard  
All the blessings that God has in store  
He will give them that day when He gathers us home  
Come forth from the tomb, come forth*



With assistance from RC 12 technician and good friend, Jack Helm, Mr. Brooks preaches on "Lazarus" as he transforms himself into the title character. 1985



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**LAZARUS:**

**Original recording:** RC 10, 1984

**Featured audio version:** Re-Union Choir / soloist: Todd Murray (RC 9,10)

**Notes:** While Brooks has, since his retirement, sung a number of his songs for local churches, his singing of "Lazarus", in 1985, for a worship service in central PA, marked the first time the author sang one of his own compositions in a Re-Creation program.



# PRINCE OF PEACE

In the fall of 1984, Carolyn and I were watching the nightly news on television. There were reports of conflict and fighting. Among many other things, the Iran-Iraq war that had begun in 1980 was continuing, and there didn't seem to be an end in sight.

Carolyn got up to leave the room. "I'm so tired of war," she said.

The whole world was weary of war. And still is. Jesus had said (Matthew 24:6) that we would continually hear of wars and rumors of wars. But, He said, "...see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come."

The Scripture I read that night was from Isaiah 9. The 6<sup>th</sup> verse stayed with me until I finally went to sleep. "For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given. And the government will be on his shoulders, and he will be called Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

The next morning when I awakened, I went to our living room, gathered writing materials, put a lap desk over me (across the arms of my favorite chair), and quickly wrote the words God gave me during the night—the words of this song.

We will not escape war. Not until the end...when the Prince of Peace returns. However, there is available even now a personal peace that passes understanding. Jesus said in John 14:27, "My peace I give you...Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not be afraid." And He offered a direct invitation to every troubled heart in Matthew 11:28, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

Re-Creation 11 repeated "Prince of Peace" in a Christmas album. So appropriate. For the world, and for the individual. "Heaven offers the hope of the star..."

Jesus is the Prince of Peace.

# PRINCE OF PEACE

© 1984 Hugh Brooks

Jesus is the Prince of peace

To a world that is weary of war  
Longing for conflict to cease  
Heaven offers the hope of the star  
Jesus is the Prince of peace

*Prince of peace*  
*Prince of peace*  
*Jesus is the Prince of peace*  
*Prince of peace*  
*Prince of peace*  
*Jesus is the Prince of peace*

To the heart that is troubled by sin  
The soul crying out for release  
The redeemer invites you to Him  
Jesus is the Prince of peace

Faithful and true, pardon anew  
Waiting for you  
His pardon is waiting  
Waiting for you



RC 10, presenting "Prince of Peace" in Hershey PA, December, 1984



## PRINCE OF PEACE:

**Original recording:** RC 10

**Featured audio version:** RC 10

**Notes:** RC 10 member Todd Murray remembers just how difficult the vocal arrangement was for "Prince Of Peace." "With the lyrics set to provide the emphasis, the challenge remained to recall, when performing live, which musical progressions came next!"

# GLORY

We were heading West. Taking Re-Creation to sing for hospitalized veterans in California. It's a long way to California, and the RC young'uns were getting restless. I must have heard the question, "How much farther?" a dozen times. Or more.

I was sitting in the front passenger seat of the van, trying to catch a nap. I was almost gone, when someone asked the question again. I looked ahead at the Rocky Mountains on the horizon—pointed my finger and said, probably a little impatiently—"Look. Just one more hill to get over." The same voice that had awakened me said, "OK. I won't ask again." I thought of what my mother often said when there was finally a resolution to a problem she was having with me, "Well, glory!" I said that out loud, then went back to my nap.

That night I thought of Paul's words when he described the Lordship of Christ over all things: "The last enemy to be destroyed is death."

Just one more hill to get over.

Actually, we probably had to get over a bunch of hills as we drove through the Rockies. But the phrase stayed on my mind until, about two days later, I wrote it down and followed up with the similar phrases that became the song.

"Glory" didn't seem to involve very much theology—and since we had a sort of a fun bunch of guys in the group (Jim, Greg, Mark, and Todd), I thought of it as a happy, upbeat quartet number for them. Kazee agreed—and played it that way.

I never did find out which of those guys kept disturbing my nap.

# GLORY

© 1984 Hugh Brooks

Glory, Glory, Glory  
Glory by and by

Just one more hill to get over  
One more river to cross  
One more valley to conquer  
One more burden to toss

Then we're gonna be in Heaven  
Sittin' at the Savior's knee  
Singin' songs of peace and love  
By the crystal sea

*We'll be singin'  
Glory Glory  
Glory to the King  
Glory Glory  
Hear those voices ring  
Glory Glory  
To the King on high  
Glory Glory  
Glory by and by*

Just one more worry to hurdle  
One more trouble to pass  
One more problem to settle  
One more foe to surpass

Then we're gonna be up yonder  
Playin' in the heavenly band  
Sharin' harmony and joy  
Holdin' Jesus' hand



**GLORY:**

**Original recording:** RC 10 1984

**Featured audio version:** RC 10 Quartet

**Notes:** *Glory* was later re-worked into a feature song for the entire group for RC 23 and was even used as the theme for the entire sacred program that year.

*Who'd have thought – back in '76 when we started – that a motley gang of choreography challenged individuals in slime-green leisure suits with tangled mic chords was the start of something so fine, so professional and so valuable a service as Re-Creation USA has become today! I've had few true mentors in my life, but I'm glad to say that you've been one of those special people. What I learned from you – and with you – while a member of the original group has served me well in both my professional and personal life. I'm grateful for the lasting and profound impact you've made, and for your continuing influence, even now, over three decades later. Thank ya!*

- Tim Herd, Re-Creation 1, 2

*Dear Sir,*

*It's hard to express in a few words what you and your music mean to me. While I was still in the group you wrote about all the wonderful blessings which God gave us in many wonderful ways. Being a young Christian at the time, it was both comforting and awe inspiring. Now that I'm settling into family life it has become important to establish a church home. Singing "Church With The Red Door" has brought comfort again by providing a road map to follow when we go to church each Sunday. It's not the activities, the building, or the door, but the blessed sacrifice of Jesus that leads me there. I find it truly amazing that your songs are able to reach through 18 years of life. They are as meaningful today with a house, family and church as they were then with 9 other teenagers in college and on the road. Just imagine how many churches, people, and veterans have been blessed by your message of Christ's love...with much love.*

- Carol Glenn Jones, Re-Creation 7, 8, 9, 10, 14, 15

# CHURCH WITH THE RED DOOR

It was a beautiful spring day when I asked RC 11 to dress in their Sunday costumes and load in the van—so we could look for a spot to make their publicity picture. We wandered around the Port Trevorton area for a while, then saw a beautiful church that seemed one good choice. The group unloaded, fussed with clothing wrinkles and makeup, and posed in front of the church.

When all the pictures we took that day came back from the processor, the church picture caught my eye immediately. I thought, “The church doors are red!” I had already been astute enough to realize that the building was white, but in the picture-taking process, I hadn’t noticed much else. Observant little rascal that I am.

Oh, there were also beautiful flowers.

For many years I had preached that there is a crimson thread running through the entire Bible—the thread that represents the sacrifice of the blood of Christ. That phrase came to mind the night I became aware of the red doors, and the two things linked for me immediately. There wasn’t a direct Biblical connection, just my imaginings, but they soared.

The “setting” of the story is mostly accurate. We didn’t actually go into the church—that was an imagining. But the theology, like most of my religious writing, gushed out of a rushing stream from a Kentucky conservative background.

I thought I was finished with the song, and then the tag verse (beginning “But there is a final word that should be said”) just whimsicality dawned on me. It was too delicious and appealing not to use.

And it could well be true...

# CHURCH WITH THE RED DOOR

© 1985 Hugh Brooks

I was walkin' in the country on a Sunday afternoon  
When I saw a church around the bend ahead  
It was neatly kept and spotless white with flowers in the yard  
And I noticed that the door was painted red

It was such a pretty picture, but the focus was the door  
For it made me want to take a closer look  
So I stepped inside and noticed on a table near at hand  
A carefully marked passage in a book

It was the Holy Bible, Hebrews 9 verse 22  
And I recognized the promise that it said  
That forgiveness is in Jesus, through the shedding of His blood  
I understand now why the door was red

*I understand, I understand  
I understand now why the door was red  
It was an offer of redemption through the precious blood He shed  
I understand now why the door was red*

Anywhere you turn today a church is very near  
And you must be careful not to be misled  
Whatever be the color of the building and the door  
The message always has to be in red



Re-Creation 11 and the original picture that sparked "Church With The Red Door"  
RC 11 performing "Church With The Red Door" 1986  
RC 33 in their version of the song in 2008

You may talk of all the other things a church is meant to do  
Of poverty and war and social need  
But unless it tells the story of how Jesus gave His life  
It denies the very meaning of its creed

For the pages of the Bible weave a fabric of God's love  
And there runs from front to back a scarlet thread  
So the church is always faithful when she points the way to Christ  
Even though the door may not be red

*I understand, I understand.  
Even though the door may not be red  
The church proclaims redemption through the precious blood He shed  
Even though the door may not be red*

I understand, I understand  
But there is a final word that should be said...  
That when we end our journey and see Heaven just ahead  
Those Pearly Gates may possibly be red

Those Pearly Gates will probably be red



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**CHURCH WITH THE RED DOOR:**

**Original recording:** RC 11

**Featured audio version:** Re-Union / Soloist: Carol Glenn Jones (RC 7 – 10, 14,15)

**Notes:** Carol Glenn Jones was the cast member who stayed with RC the longest, until Andrew Reich (RC 32-35, 38,39) matched her 6-year commitment! An extra special note...Joani Patterson, General Manager of RC from day one through RC 19, and great friend of the Brooks', is a backup singer on this cut!



# WE SHALL SEE HIS FACE

As far as I can remember, “We Shall See His Face” was the only song I wrote for Re-Creation that I finished a verse before I wrote the chorus, and RC 12 recorded the song with only that verse. I wrote the second verse a little later, and RC 16 recorded the song with both verses.

Early in 1987 my devotional readings were from the book of Revelation. I was (and am) amazed at all the new and fascinating images about Heaven that were revealed to John while he was exiled on the Isle of Patmos. Precious stones in the foundation. The wall of Jasper. The gates of pearl. The streets of gold.

Then, after he described those things, John wrote this sentence... “The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp.”

I thought, “Amazing. No more need of the sun and the moon...” The first verse of “We Shall See His Face” almost wrote itself. Understanding that the Lamb is the lamp was the key thought. There will be nothing blocking our vision or diffusing the light. We will see Him in all His glory.

Later, when I was reading Paul’s description of love as being greater than faith and hope (I Corinthians 13), it occurred to me that—like the sun and the moon—faith and hope are transitory. They sustain us now, yet in Heaven we will have no need for them. But Heaven will be filled with love. And we will finally know it perfectly when we see the face of our Lord. Then the second verse almost wrote itself.

Kazee wove the second verse into the song, and his work, as always, was seamless. The non-verbal expressions of his great faith in God—in all the things we wrote together—still give me chills.

When RC 12 sang in churches, Jack Helm designed and opened the services with a magnificent, reverent, multi-light prelude to “We Shall See His Face.” The next year, Glenn Jones continued the practice with innovative lighting praise for “Promise.” As the lighting and sound techs leaned into their own expression of devotion...

Worship began.



*RC 12 in worship with “We Shall See His Face” 1986*

# WE SHALL SEE HIS FACE

© 1986 Hugh Brooks

*We shall see His face  
We shall see His face  
Some glad morning through His grace  
We shall see His face*

We have walked in a world  
Where the light of His love  
Has illumined each step of our way  
But we long for the time  
When we enter that place  
Where His presence is brighter than day

There will be no more need  
Of the sun and the moon  
They are only reflections of grace  
All the light we will need  
For the ages to come  
Will be there when we look on His face

While we wait for the time  
When we look on His face  
Faith and hope keep us sheltered and warm  
But when that morning comes  
And He gathers us home  
They will vanish and ever be gone

Standing in that Holy place  
Sheltered by His warm embrace  
Some glad morning through His grace  
We shall see His face



## **WE SHALL SEE HIS FACE:**

**Original recording:** RC 12

**Featured audio version:** Re-Union Choir

**Notes:** Out of the 8 singers in Re-Creation 12, 5 had sung with each other in college choir, outside show groups and other commercial functions. As a matter of fact, most people who join the organization have had a close connection with someone who has traveled with RC, rather than blindly auditioning through an ad or solicitation.

# TALK ABOUT HEAVEN

David Kazee and I wrote two songs with extensive melody and lyric overlaps... “Hymn Of Praise,” and this one. We both relished the process, and we hoped the RC audiences would enjoy the musical sensation and skill of the young people as they dealt with vocal intricacies in performance.

And, to tell the truth, we wrote both songs with a little bit of wide-grin attitude. This put a bounce in the orchestration and encouraged tongue-in-cheek lyrics.

We never compromised, though. Kazee’s melody is pure genius, and the lyrics are all scriptural or scripture interpretation.

There is a scene in the movie, “Brigadoon,” where “Tommy,” who has been exposed to a mystic world, is back among his home crowd. The scene features his friends talking on and on about nothing of any significance. To him, their voices are in the background, while in his mind his remembrances of another world override everything they are saying. I thought of that when I wrote this song. And, I thought of lots of conversations where I’ve been painfully aware that I’m hearing, but I’m not present. (Carolyn says this is constant.)

Now and then, in parties and other gatherings, there is an opportunity to break into a conversation with something meaningful. Usually, the break is brief. And often, it’s treated with disdain. But sometimes, there is an opening...

In those times, a mention of Heaven lights a spark. Often, the first question that arises is, “Do you really believe in Heaven?” Some people just don’t know what they’re igniting when they ask a preacher that question. A glorious explosion!

With any good luck, talk turns to both the Old Testament and the New Testament. Let me rephrase that—with LOTS of good luck. And when it does, what magnificent new conceptual ideas appear! The crowd just doesn’t seem the same. There are wonderful, sometimes ferocious arguments.

But I’m convinced that something good comes from every situation when that happens. I wrote in the song that when someone makes a conversational intrusion necessary to talk about Heaven, he or she should be prepared to take abuse. So?

Can you imagine the kind of buzz that would erupt at dinner parties? Sometimes, I interject a heaven-type idea just to see the reaction. It either starts the drums rolling—or it gives me a chance to mumble to myself while standing in the corner.

So, just for fun...

And for real conversational value...

“Why don’t you talk about Heaven today?”



*Brooks and RC 12, 1987, St. Pius Church., Selinsgrove, PA*

# TALK ABOUT HEAVEN

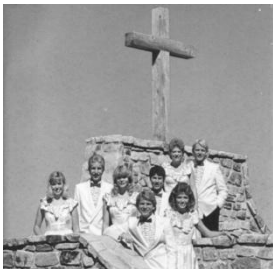
© 1986 Hugh Brooks

You have a lot of conversations  
Where nothing much is said  
They leave you feeling empty deep inside  
You'd like to add a bit of meaning  
Which will do some good instead  
Here's a topic you can introduce with pride

*Why don't you talk about Heaven today  
Tell someone else about that city above  
You'll be surprised how many people  
Will be thrilled by what you say  
Why don't you talk about Heaven today*

When you decide to try this  
Be prepared to take abuse  
For some will think you've finally come undone  
Stay with the truth regardless  
You don't have to make excuse  
Heaven's glory must be shared with everyone

Why don't you speak about the great white throne  
And the Father over all  
Mention all the saints up there  
Like Peter, James, and Paul  
Tell of golden streets so fair  
And the pearly gates so tall  
Name the name of Christ the Lord  
Who redeems us when we call



## **TALK ABOUT HEAVEN:**

Original recording: *RC 12*

Featured audio version: *RC 12*

Notes: *Brooks was quite taken with the instrumental tracks for this song and once or twice in church had the congregation listen to the bridge section with no singers, just so folks could appreciate the whimsy...and talent...of the band players!*

# RIGHT UNDER JESUS

I was sitting in a large armchair, backstage in a Shrine auditorium, waiting for a lead-on act to finish, and for the time to pass until Re-Creation's performance.

A recent show there had featured angels. The costumes were tossed across some broken props. I was scootched down, with the back of my head against the chair, looking over the top of my glasses at the costumes (if you don't know the word "scootched," ask a Kentuckian).

Among the props were an angel costume and a scepter. I wondered, "Did they use those in the show? There are angels, of course. But is there a king of the angels? Who?" Of course. "It has to be St. Peter." (I took a bit of Biblical interpretation license here. Peter is not an angel. Ask me about that sometime!)

My imagination was on a roll. Peter, whom I just made king of the angels, should be at the gate, waiting for God's children to come home. "I'll get to shake Peter's hand," I thought. "But what if I get there and Peter is away somewhere...maybe gone fishing? And what if his stand-in doesn't know me? How will I get to the streets of gold?"

I got out of the chair, draped one of the angel costumes over my shoulders for effect and inspiration, and wandered around the backstage area (ignoring the stares of some stagehands) until I found a used envelope. I had a pen in my pocket. I sat back down and began to write...

The writing drew on my love of the Bible, and was pure fun! I could see the scene. I wrote as fast as I could think—extracting metaphors from the New Testament to shape a drama about getting into Heaven.

I have to explain the main metaphor. Most of the people I talk to think that when salvation is accomplished, the new convert's name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life. No. The Bible indicates that ALL names are written there from the beginning of time (2 Peter 3:9, 2 Timothy 1:9). God is not willing that any should perish but if salvation is not accomplished through faith in Jesus, the name is removed (Revelation 3:5). Nothing we have done will bring us enough credit to be admitted into Heaven. The accepted names will remain in the book under HIS name. Covered by His blood!

I thought it only appropriate that those names be written on crimson pages.

As the spectacle unfolded in my mind, it helped that I had enjoyed the talent and high energy of Jay Muller for a year in RC. I didn't know it at the time, but God was preparing him, even then, to one day take over the responsibility of continuing to stage the drama of redemption through Re-Creation.

I don't think I ever expected to lay down the Re-Creation mantle. Actually, up until that time, I never thought about it. But God did.

Jay sings "Right Under Jesus" on the enclosed recording. Magnificent...

# RIGHT UNDER JESUS

(c) 1986 Hugh Brooks

I dreamed I died and went to Heaven  
And came upon the Pearly Gate  
I rang the bell and someone answered  
It was an angel, tall and straight

I was surprised, I thought St. Peter  
Would be the one at heaven's door  
He'll be back soon, he's just gone fishin'  
He left me here to mind the store

Then open up and let me enter  
My race is run, I've fought the fight  
Just check the book, I'm listed in it  
I want that robe of spotless white

Your name's not here, the angel muttered  
What can we do to prove your claim  
Look in the front, the crimson pages  
I'm listed under Jesus' name

It's here, he said, right under Jesus  
This Book of Life confuses me  
But hang on tight for just a minute  
I'll see if I can find the key

*My name is in the book eternal  
That book will open heaven's door  
God wrote it here, right under Jesus  
And I'm secure for evermore*

Then in my dream I saw St. Peter  
And Heaven's gate swung open wide  
He took my hand in friendly greeting  
Why howdy son, come on inside

So I marched in and all of Heaven  
Resounded with the wondrous news  
And yet I could not help but wonder  
Just why the angel was confused

The angels know, said the Apostle  
The judgment God demands for sin  
But they know nothing of salvation  
Or how you could be born again

You see, my son, they are but servants  
And when they fall they lose their place  
But when you fell, you found redemption  
Because of God's amazing grace

And grace demanded crimson pages  
I mentioned them the day I came  
They got the book to look for Peter  
And found me under Jesus' name

*So when I die  
I'll go to Heaven  
They'll let me in that holy place  
I'll reign with Christ  
Through endless ages  
I'm covered by His saving grace*

No deed of mine  
Has brought me credit  
My only hope is in His care  
They'll check the book  
Right under Jesus  
And find my name--it's written there



**RIGHT UNDER JESUS:**

Original recording: RC 12

Featured audio version: Jay Muller, 2014

Notes: Brooks' gift for packing heavy theology in a palatable and educational package is featured extremely well in this song! "Right Under Jesus" prompted many after-service conversations about the nature of angels and the gift of salvation for mankind. Most folks had never pondered the role of angels in the heavenly realm and welcomed the chance to learn something new about the Bible and God's gift to man!

# PROMISE

When I was writing songs for Re-Creation, I was constantly aware that I was trying to deal with some of the many, many questions I have about God that will probably go unanswered until I see Him. But unanswered questions are not a real problem. The cross of Jesus Christ, and the promise God makes to me because of that cross, are enough for me to know that God loves me. And He demonstrates that love by caring for me day by day.

But therein is one of those questions. How does God have time to concern himself about me? To hear my prayers? There are millions of people who want His attention at any given moment. How does He have time to tend to them all?

The key issue in attempting to answer that question is time! If God is God, then He must be totally possessed of himself. That is, He cannot be confined to time. If He were, then He would lose part of himself to the past, and there is part of himself He could not control—for that would be in the future. But He is not in time. He sits above it.

How does that work? Well, consider a man reading the comics. The strip on a given Sunday has, in the first frame, Dagwood arising in the morning. The last frame has him going to bed that night. And in between, the comic strip follows him through the day—showing him running into the postman and arguing with his neighbor and eating a monster sandwich. For Dagwood, those things have to happen in sequence, because he is confined to comics' time. But the reader sits above comics' time. And the reader can have each and every event of Dagwood's day in front of him *all the time, throughout all the day, and for weeks if he wishes.*

So God sits above our time. He can listen to my prayers and give me the attention I need all the time, and at any moment—while dealing simultaneously with the needs of others.

For God, all of history is present in the same moment. Right now, in the present and before God, Adam and Eve are in the Garden. And right now, in the present and before God, Jesus is returning and time is ending.

But most importantly, right now, in the present and before God, the cross towers above the center of mankind's history, and is present in all generations. Jesus is dying there for our sins—today!

Look closely. With a little faith, you can see through the window of the cross into the heart of God.

And there is written there a promise to those who will reach out...



RC 13 members John Godissart, Rachel Plakos, John Wilson and Suzi Slease presenting "Promise"



# PROMISE

© 1987 Hugh Brooks

Rising out of the mist on the landscape of time  
Is an awesome and wonderful sight  
On a hill far above all the others of earth  
Glows a cross fired with Heaven's pure light

Nothing exists which cannot feel its warmth  
It radiates hope to all men  
For it promises those who will reach for new life  
A chance to be born again

*Born again, born again  
A chance to be born again  
To throw off the shackles and the burdens of sin  
A chance to be born again*

That cross is a window into the heart  
Of almighty God on His Throne  
For there hangs upon it a lamb without spot  
His only begotten Son

From age unto age He remains in that place  
A sacrifice offered for sin  
Promising those who will reach for new life  
A chance to be born again



## **PROMISE:**

Original recording: RC 13

Featured audio version: RC 13

Notes: *The first few lines of "Promise" were also used in the Ephesians Cantata that Brooks would write 10 years later! Knowing the pieces would be directed toward totally different audiences, Brooks had no trouble 'borrowing' from himself!*

# YA' GOTTA BE BORN AGAIN

A Sunday sermon surprised me...

At one point, the Preacher said, "There is no such thing as a second birth." "Say what," I thought. "What about Nicodemus?" I considered asking that question of the Preacher on my way out the door, then thought better of it (I've never been bounced out of a church, although my occasional thought processes, if acted out, would probably have attained that distinction for me). But I didn't quit thinking of Nicodemus. When I got home, I opened my Bible to the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter of John and read the story once more. I was relieved to read again that Nicodemus was sure—enough born again.

I'm happy to report that we both survived it. Nicodemus got his second birth, and luckily, I had mine before I heard that there was no such thing.

That afternoon I wrote, "Ya Gotta Be Born Again."

I recognize the differences among brands of churches with regard to this marvel. But, try as I may to see the other side, I'm unable to discard the very clear teaching of Jesus when he said, "...no one can see the Kingdom of God unless he is born again."

I understood the consternation of Nicodemus, "...surely (a man) cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born." Jesus replied that that isn't necessary. There is a natural birth, and there is a spiritual birth. You need 'em both...

It's hard to understand how a man can go from being a stranger and foreigner to being an aborigine—which is defined as "a member of any of the indigenous peoples who have lived in an area from the earliest known times." But I heard a clear explanation from a little boy, who had attended Sunday school, as he explained to a classmate on the playground—"Our Preacher said you can be born-ded into Heaven."

(That was another preacher, by the way...)

But that one got it right. "Born-ded" gets you full natural-born privileges—and makes you a Kingdom aborigine.

You should be like Nicodemus when you hear "born again." Be sure you catch the meaning thereof...

Eternal life is in the balance.



RC 13 members John Wilson and Laurie DeWire singing "Ya' Gotta Be Born Again"

# YA' GOTTA BE BORN AGAIN

© 1987 Hugh Brooks

I was readin' in the Bible from the book of John  
Nicodemus came to Jesus by night  
Eager to be told about eternal life...dignified, rich, and polite

He said there's really not too much that's wrong with me  
I'd like to get it done without a fuss, you see  
So tell me, what's the price of Heaven gonna be

*Ya' gotta be born again, Ya' gotta be born again  
If you want a way out of your sin, Ya' gotta be born again*

Are you tellin' me to get back in my mother's womb  
And start out as a baby once more  
Consider that I've gained a hundred forty pounds, that 'ud be a nifty encore

He said my friend you're talkin' to a Pharisee  
A man with education and a pedigree  
But I don't understand your new biology

You should be like Nicodemus when you hear those words  
Be sure you catch the meaning thereof  
You're already born of water but to make it home  
Ya' gotta be born from above

You don't want to have to face catastrophe  
Only faith in Jesus gives a guarantee  
You can be a Kingdom aborigine

This is what the price of Heaven has to be  
It's rooted deep in Biblical biology  
Come and be a Kingdom aborigine

Just get born again  
Ya' gotta be born again



## **YA' GOTTA BE BORN AGAIN:**

Original recording: *RC 13*

Featured audio version: *Re-Union Choir*

Notes: *The apostrophe (') in the "Ya" wreaked havoc on folks who printed church programs for RC, much to the delight of the cast. The song has been listed as "Ya! Gotta Be Born Again," "Y'all Gotta Be Born Again," and "You Gotta Be Born Again."*

# BRIDGE OF LOVE

The time in and around RC 10-14 was a productive time for me with regard to songwriting. I don't know how to explain that, but I'm grateful for it.

"Bridge Of Love" was written for RC 13. I had long thought that I'd like to write a religious song with a "country" feel, and that notion dictated the song's pulse and cadence before I began to write the words. (I don't think it turned out "country," though.)

The song was a confessional, although I did give myself credit for living "about like all the other folks I know." I admit, that was a stretch. But I figured that whoever sang it in Re-Creation would probably be closer to the norm than I.

As it turned out, I was right. That was an unusual year for RC. When we auditioned, we already had two "lights out" tenors—Eric Shafer and George Moore (we had three the year before, but Jay Muller had left us). THEN, John Wilson auditioned. What to do? In a group like Re-Creation, a director can't afford to turn loose someone who sings like any of those three guys. A revelation—keep Eric, accept John, and make George the featured Road Manager.

One of my best executive decisions.

To be fair to George, though, I needed to feature him. "Bridge Of Love" was coming together, and I felt he should sing it.

Did he ever. You'll notice that at the end, he took that song right out to the heavens. I've been asked if I planned that. No. Brilliant director that I was, I didn't even know George could do it. Kazee left some room in a remarkable arrangement, and I think when I heard George rip it the first time, my eyes glazed over. They still do.

Traveling as we did—and coming up with the money to pay the vehicle taxes and the toll road fees, I longed for a bridge crossing where those things were not required. I knew better. Except for one bridge...

The bridge home. No toll. No tax. No fee.

Christ provides free access.



*George Moore (RC 12, 13) singing "Bridge of Love" 1987*

# BRIDGE OF LOVE

© 1987 Hugh Brooks

I've lived my life about like all the other folks I know  
No better. No worse.  
Just passing time and breathing, nothing special I can show  
First forward. Then reverse.  
So I really hadn't thought that there was anything in me  
Worth attention. Worth concern.  
Till someone did something for me on a cross at Calvary  
No deposit. All return.

*Someone did something for me  
On a cross at Calvary  
He put in place a bridge of love  
That spanned eternity  
And He provides upon that bridge  
Salvation full and free  
No toll. No tax. No fee.*

I'm still not any better than those other folks I know  
No halo. No harp.  
But I'm living now with purpose, not just caught up in the flow  
Real cool. Real sharp.  
For I understand what Jesus did to give me liberty  
So clear. So plain.  
Everything about my life was changed that day at calvary  
His pain. My gain.



## **BRIDGE OF LOVE:**

Original recording: RC 13

Featured audio version: RC 13 / Soloist: George Moore (RC 12, 13)

Notes: George Moore came to Re-Creation in the last group of cast members to be drawn from the student ranks of Susquehanna University.

*The relationship with the school counted in more than 20 Re-Creation cast members through the years!*

# THE PARTY'S OVER

## THE BOSS AND THE BOYS

It is difficult to think of being separated from God. And more difficult to write about it. But failing to acknowledge it means ignoring a large part of the teaching of the New Testament. When I decided to try to write a song (or songs) about that possibility, I wanted to use words that did not make me a judge, but that presented clearly the awful reality as the Bible warns of it.

“The Party’s Over” and “The Boss and the Boys” were an attempt to do that. “Party” was “matter of fact,” straightforward resurrection. The theme of the sacred program that year was “HisPlace,” and I was writing it around Easter, when the things I wrote were influenced by thoughts of the risen Lord. We did five of my songs in that program—“Promise,” “His Place,” “Heaven Quartet,” “Talk About Heaven,” and “The Party’s Over.” “The Party’s Over” became a doorway to the presentation of the other songs—each of them about Heaven.

“The Boss and the Boys” was written a year later, again at Easter time, and I was influenced in part by almost a year’s presentation of “The Party’s Over.” I thought, “How could any person in the whole world, who hears this story, refuse to willingly and happily accept it? There must be some powerful influence in their hearts and minds to keep them from Jesus.” There is one possibility here.

In both songs, I attempted to present the Devil and his Minions almost as comic figures—but recognizing the deadly sting in their deliberations. When I finished each song, I considered whether I may have taken liberty with Biblical truth. After some careful thought, I was convinced that I did not. The party IS over, but multitudes are still hearing a message that hinders a right relation to God and His Christ, “...wait for a while to repent...”

So—what are you gonna’ do now? While choice is possible. While there is time.

You have to make that step of faith, somehow...

# THE PARTY'S OVER

(c) 1990 Hugh Brooks

They had a party down in Hell on a Saturday night  
All the demons dancin', they thought they'd won the fight  
He'll no longer bother us, they heard the devil rave  
Jesus died on Friday and we've got Him in the grave  
Jesus died on Friday and we've got Him in the grave

The party kept on cookin' in the devil's private place  
Until an awesome shakin' slowed the tempo of its pace  
Lookin' up the demons saw the tomb at dawning day  
God had sent an angel and the stone was rolled away  
God had sent an angel and the stone was rolled away

What happened to the body, cried the devil in despair  
Now what do you think happened, said the Angel with a glare  
No! He cried in anguish, tell me that it isn't so  
And the Angel gave no answer, but the grave began to glow  
And the Angel gave no answer, but the grave began to glow

Then a voice he thought he silenced filled the devil's party room  
You get to be the first to know, I've risen from the tomb  
Party time was over with the moving of the stone  
Hell has lost its power, I'm ascending to the throne  
Hell has lost its power, I'm ascending to the throne

*He 'rose again, He 'rose again  
Hell's party time was over with the moving of the stone  
He 'rose again, He 'rose again  
Hell has no more power, Jesus Christ is on His throne*



## THE PARTY'S OVER

Original recording: RC 16, 1990

Featured audio version: RC 16

Note: *The video presentation of "The Party's Over" featured a distorted 'negative' feel which added to the drama of the material. Some people mentioned 'discomfort' at something so 'creepy' on a Re-Creation video. The assertion, though, is that darkness is defeated by the power of God.*

# THE BOSS AND THE BOYS

© 1992 Hugh Brooks

The office in Hell was a shambles, behind the fireproof door  
The Boys were nursing headaches, the Boss was pacing the floor

Sunday had been a disaster, the future was clouded ahead  
What the Devil feared most had happened, Jesus was back from the dead

*What're we gonna do now  
What're we gonna do now  
We gotta come up with a plan somehow  
What're we gonna do now*

One of the demons suggested, it's something we have to deny  
We'll tell everyone its delusion, let's spread the word it's a lie

Don't be an imp, said the Devil, you know the first thing they'll assume  
That the Boss and the Boys overheated, the body is not in the tomb

Let's tell 'em hold on to your billfolds, free Grace is just a facade  
Every day they'll take a collection, Heaven will cost you a wad

Do get a grip, said the Devil , expenses have all been defrayed  
There'll be no more cost for salvation, that was the price Jesus paid

Then suddenly one of the demons, his evil glee breaking through  
Said, "I've got the answer, good buddies", let's tell 'em the whole thing is true

Every mouth in the room was wide open, the demons sat there in shock  
But think for a moment, he argued, we gotta break down a roadblock

They know He's alive, they know He can save  
They know that He died for their sins  
They know they must exercise personal faith, or we're gonna fry their skins



RC 24 ,1998 and RC 18 ,1992, "The Boss And The Boys"



But what we can do, when we tell 'em it's true, is tell 'em to put it on hold  
There'll be time tomorrow, don't panic or rush  
Just keep your emotions controlled

Then suddenly all their tomorrows are gone  
The reaper moves in and they're dead  
And with all good intentions they've waited too long  
No Heaven. We get 'em instead.

I think we've got it. I think we've got it. I think the answer just got clear  
I think we've got it I think we've got it I think we've got the plan right here  
*Here's what we gotta do now*  
*Here's what we gotta do now*  
*We gotta get 'em all to wait somehow*  
*That's what we gotta do now*

The Boss and the Boys were ecstatic, the vote was a hundred percent  
They decided to tell you to cool it, wait for a while to repent

And if that's the message you're getting, the Boss and the Boys are on track  
If you'll wait a little bit longer, you may find there's no turning back

But today is the day of salvation  
And Jesus is waiting for you  
Repent and believe and it's settled  
The Boss and the Boys will be through

*What're you gonna do now*  
*What're you gonna do now*  
*You have to make that step of faith somehow*  
*That's what you oughta do now*

*That's what you oughta do now*



**THE BOSS AND THE BOYS:**

Original recording: *RC 18*

Featured audio version: *RC 18*

Notes: *In both presentations by 18 and 24, red capes were used in church to represent the demons. The capes added a nice "double meaning" to the liberation offered by Jesus as the group "shed" them when the music changes before the final chorus!*

# HIS PLACE

As I was putting together a religious program for Re-Creation's 16th edition, I asked Kazee if he would create a Heaven gospel medley for us. He did. And it was a gem. So I actually developed the program around that medley. Earlier, we had written "We Shall See His Face," "Talk About Heaven," and "Heaven Quartet," and I wanted to use all of those again. But I didn't have a focus song.

So, "His Place" was a labor of focused love. It took me a little more time than most of the songs I wrote, and it seems to have disjointed structural "building blocks." But writing it, especially for a song that would be an overall theme for other songs, allowed me to move away slightly from the "even flow" I have tried to sustain in my writing.

I wrote it in sections—each of which might well have been a "stand alone," then put everything together. I wondered, in the process, if it might turn out to be thought of as a "song by government committee."

After it was finished, I liked it. I haven't had anyone screaming and falling down and begging for it, but I play it occasionally for myself, and to tell the truth, I still like it.

It has in it a line that, to me, is among the most precious I wrote:

"Heaven is love's home!"

I'm not expecting a mansion. But I am looking forward to a home. And love.

And that would be—His Place.

Wouldn't it?



RC 16, performing "His Place" 1991, Outdoor Vesper Service, Oil City, PA

# HIS PLACE

© 1990 Hugh Brooks

*His Place, His Majesty*  
*His Place, His Company*  
*His Place, His Harmony*  
*His Place, Our Destiny*

*Lift your eyes and see His glory*  
*Lift your eyes and see His glory*  
*Lift your eyes and see the Glory of God*

Higher than mankind can reach on its own  
Richer than ages of mercy have known  
Deeper than millions of years of His grace  
Heaven is Love's home, His Place

Waiting for us to complete its array  
Transformed to spirit from bodies of clay  
Ever to dwell in His wondrous embrace  
Heaven is Love's home, His Place

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost, but now am found  
Was blind, but now I see



## **HIS PLACE:**

Original recording: RC 16

Featured audio version: RC 16

Notes: "HisPlace" as a theme, grew out of Brooks' previous year's program, "HisWorks." Muller continued Brooks' idea with sacred themes of "His Touch, His Call, and His Name"

# HEAVEN QUARTET

Just a little while after he sang the lead in “Heaven Quartet” for Re-Creation, Eric Shafer wrote to me: “...given the possible criteria required to sing in God’s heavenly quartet, I look forward to singing with you for eternity.”

The criteria was, “If they choose those sinners He forgave the greatest debt, I’m bound to be a member of the Heaven Quartet.”

Eric had me tagged. But he put himself among the sinners with me. And I gladly accept the possibility that we’ll sing together.

God will have to alternate singers for the quartet, because, just among the people I know personally, I expect there will be a flock of well-qualified vocalists besides Eric and me.

I’ll take the baritone, Eric...

# HEAVEN QUARTET

© 1990 Hugh Brooks

They say that up in Heaven, everything is free  
And anything I wish for, will surely come to me  
Well there's a secret fancy, I'd be so pleased to get  
I want to be a member of the Heaven Quartet

*I want to sing in the Heaven Quartet  
I want my voice to rise and soar  
Until I hear the clapping hands  
Of the angels in the stands  
Jesus Christ is Lord*

*I want to sing in the Heaven Quartet  
And draw a vocal diagram  
To help the angels see the cost  
Of Redemption and the Cross  
Worthy is the Lamb*

Now I harbor no illusions, better singers will be there  
And if they hold auditions, then I won't have a prayer  
But if they choose those sinners, He forgave the greatest debt  
I'm bound to be a member of the Heaven Quartet

I want to hear the clapping hands  
Of the angels in the stands  
When I tell them of the cost  
Of Redemption and the Cross  
Worthy is the Lamb

I wanna sing bass in the Heaven Quartet  
I wanna make the Bari-moan  
I wanna lead in the singin to the cornerstone  
I wanna raise a tenor tone



## HEAVEN QUARTET:

Original recording: RC 16

Featured audio version: Re-Union Quartet / solosit: Eric Shafer (RC 13-16)

Notes: Heaven Quartet was also recorded by Dave Kazez, Re-Creation's vocal and instrumental arranger for many, many years. Dave's version would mark the first time he took lead vocals on a song on which he and Brooks had collaborated!

# IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME

The Monday after Easter in 1992 I got a telephone call from Kazeo. "Hugh, let's write an Easter cantata."  
"Sounds good to me," I said. "When do you want to do it?"

"Right now."

"Can you give me time to open my computer?"

That's the way "In Remembrance Of Me" began. We had talked casually about a project of this nature, but it didn't get underway until that morning.

The songs came in a rush. It took three days to write the words. But Kazeo did better. On Thursday morning I emailed the songs to him. He called about two o'clock that afternoon and said, "Hugh, do you have time to listen to some music?"

He played—and sang—the first seven songs. We never changed a word or a note. Earlier, we had written "Everlasting Song" for the ending to "Thunder And Lightning," and we agreed that it should also be the final song of this cantata.

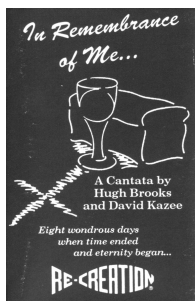
The narrations flowed like the songs.

There was no doubt for either of us that this was a priceless gift.

It is my hope and prayer that, while you listen to "In Remembrance Of Me," maybe, somehow, from far off in the distance, you'll hear unmistakable worship music as Kazeo performs it in the Throne Room.

With his piano and voice and Heaven's orchestra...

Everlasting Song.



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## IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME:

Original recording: RC 17

Featured audio version: RC 17 / Narrator: Hugh Brooks

Notes: "In Remembrance Of Me," the title, actually started as a different project entirely. Suggested passages of Scripture for reading were followed by the listener starting a cassette of Brooks' voice in a series of devotionals centered around the season of Lent. Reports to the Re-Creation office show that folks to this day listen to the devotionals every Lent to prepare their hearts for Easter!

# IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME

“Passion Week...”

The last week in the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ...

Since the events of Creation there had been no other week so filled with the activity of the living God...

With wonder and amazement we look again today at what happened during Passion Week...

At the events of Re-Creation.

It was Passover. Hundreds of thousands of pilgrims filled Jerusalem. Most of them had heard about Jesus. Many had listened to Him speak. Some had become His disciples...

They shared a whispered hope that He might be the Deliverer...

On Saturday, Jesus arrived at Bethany...near the Holy City. He spent the night with His friends...Lazarus, and Mary and Martha. On Sunday morning, He started toward Jerusalem.

His disciples brought a colt for Him to ride...and the gathering crowd spread palm branches before Him...

The excitement increased. And increased. And increased...

Then, Luke tells us, “When He came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices...”

HOSANNA!

# HOSANNA

© 1992 Hugh Brooks

*Hosanna, Hosanna  
Bondage is past  
David's Son is here to break the chains that hold us fast  
Hosanna, Hosanna  
Freedom at last*

Gentle, gentle Jesus  
Today will be your day  
This is all the earthly glory you will own  
Hold on to the moment  
Till it slip away  
Soon the darkness comes without a throne

Son of David, Son of Man  
Lamb of God is He  
Faithful witness, Truth and Way  
Light for all to see

Lion out of Judah's tribe  
Great High Priest to be  
Cornerstone, Redeemer  
King eternally



The members of Re-Creation 17 in presentation of "In Remembrance Of Me" at the home church of cast member Lee Wineholt, Bethlehem Steltz Reformed Church, Glen Rock, PA



# IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME

The excitement continued...

Throughout the day the crowds followed Jesus...

The lame and the blind came, and He healed them...

And all the people joined in a daylong chorus of praise... "Hosanna to the Son of David..."

"Teacher, rebuke your disciples..." the Pharisees demanded...

But Jesus replied, "If they keep quiet, the stones will cry out..."

And indeed it seemed as though they did.

But the day ended quietly. Jesus returned to Bethany.

The Prophet from Nazareth received no crown...

~~

Monday morning...

Jesus returned to Jerusalem...and to the Temple...

He entered the "Court of the Gentiles", the outer yard of the Temple where all nations were allowed to worship...

And where commerce had desecrated worship's design...

Moneychangers. Sellers of birds and animals. Cages. Loud bargaining. Arguments. Accusations. Noise...

Enough! Enough! This is God's house!

This is God's house.

This is my house.

It shall be called a house of prayer...

# HOUSE OF PRAYER

© 1992 Hugh Brooks

My house shall be called a house of prayer  
Where God and man in stillness meet  
Make this not a thoroughfare  
Bring no deception, no deceit

My house shall be called a house of prayer  
Enter here accordingly  
Leave your burden, leave your care  
Take my peace abundantly

Come into His presence  
Kneel at His feet  
Harmony so precious  
Fellowship complete

Come into His presence  
Worship and remain  
Meaning, hope and promise  
Purpose once again

Life is given meaning  
When you kneel in prayer  
Come into His presence  
Find your purpose there

# IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME

Tuesday...

Jesus had rested again at Bethany. And was back in the Temple...teaching...teaching...teaching...

Time was short. Calvary was only three days away. He had so much to tell His listeners...

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind,” He told them, “and love your neighbor as yourself...” “All the law and the prophets,” He said, “hang on these two commandments...”

Amazing. Astonishing. Remarkable. Wondrous...

The words of a loving Savior for all time...and for all people...

What a joy and satisfaction it must have been for Him to watch their faces as they listened. All ages. The adults. The youth. The children.

Oh, yes. The children...

Especially the children...

# BELIEVE IN ME CHILDREN

© 1992 Hugh Brooks

Can you just imagine, it was Holy Week  
Crowds of people surging through the street  
And in the temple courtyard, such a tender scene  
Jesus with the children at His feet

Can you just imagine the wonder in their eyes  
As the children listened to their friend  
Have you ever wondered what He said to them  
Listen now, and try to comprehend

*He said believe in me, children  
And things will be alright  
Call and I'll be with you  
Morning, noon, and night  
Love one another  
Walk in the light  
Believe in me, children  
And things will be alright*

Can you just imagine how the world would be  
If we had heard the things He had to say  
Well listen to me, children, they're written in the Book  
Read them for yourself without delay

Can you just imagine the changes we will see  
When God's Word is treasured once again  
And from its holy pages He speaks to us anew  
Saying one more time what He said then

Your lives will be alright



Re-Creation's 18<sup>th</sup> Edition, Easter, 1993,  
Faith United Methodist Church, Hellam, PA.

# IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME

Every day of passion week brought to Jesus an intense emotional involvement...

The adoring crowds on Sunday. The Temple desecration on Monday. The wonderful children on Tuesday...

And then Wednesday...

Judas Iscariot...

Betrayal.

And for what?

Thirty pieces of silver...

The price of a slave...

# SILVER

© 1992 Hugh Brooks

Thirty pieces of silver  
Write the receipt on a scroll  
Some thought it ransom for Jesus  
But Judas was selling his soul

Thirty pieces of silver  
Judas, it isn't too late  
You can return to the Master  
Don't make the gallows your fate

Thirty pieces of silver  
Wait, Judas don't go  
Thirty pieces of silver  
No, Judas, No

Thirty pieces of silver  
The devastation of hope  
For him who betrayed the Redeemer  
Death at the end of a rope

Judas, oh Judas, you should have known  
He would forgive you  
He would atone

Judas, oh Judas, you knew it well  
Jesus or Judas  
The choice between Heaven and Hell

Thirty pieces of silver  
Destiny in your control  
Thirty pieces of silver  
What will you take for your soul

# IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME

Thursday...

Judas had bargained away his soul on Wednesday evening. He lived in torment through one more day...

Through one more Passover meal...

When that meal was over, and when he realized that Jesus knew...he was gone. He would bring the priests and the soldiers to arrest Jesus...then slip out into the darkness of forever...

Jesus and the eleven remained in the Upper Room. With his church together, the Master offered a new Passover meal...

The bread...and the cup...

The bread was His body...broken for them...

The cup was His blood...spilled for them...

They were to eat the bread...and drink the cup...

And remember...

# REMEMBER ME

© 1992 Hugh Brooks

*Remember me, remember me  
In everything you do, remember me  
Every moment of your day, every step along the way  
Never falter, never stray  
Remember me*

Remember me at dawning  
When doubt and fear pursue  
Remember how from darkness  
Hope emerged anew

Remember me at noon-time  
When life is rushed and filled  
Remember how in conflict  
Hearts were calmed and stilled

Remember me in twilight  
When the sky is azure blue  
Remember how in silence  
Faith and vision grew

Remember me in the journey  
When holding to the vine  
Remember how the victory comes  
Your hand secure in mine

Remember me in communion  
When you think of all I said  
Remember how I loved you  
Take the cup and bread



# IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME

No more rest for Jesus...

After the Upper Room, there was Gethsemane...the soldiers...the trials...beating by the guards...Pilate...

Calvary's hill...

The Cross. The Lamb slain from the beginning of the world...

Him who knew no sin...

How are we to understand?

Perhaps...through the words of the sufferer himself...

From the pulpit of His cross, Jesus preached history's most powerful sermon...

Seven sentences...

The purpose of redemption...

The meaning of love...

The essence of God...



*RC 18, "Pulpit of the Cross,"  
Faith United Methodist Church, Hellam, PA.*

# PULPIT OF THE CROSS

© 1992 Hugh Brooks

Father forgive them, they do not know  
What they are doing...mercy bestow  
Grant them release from sin's undertow  
Father forgive them, they do not know

I tell you the truth, you will be with me  
In Paradise today  
Heaven opens, come and see  
Your faith has found the way

Dear woman, here is your son  
Here is your mother, take her John  
Dear mother, this is your son  
He will protect you...love her, John

I am thirsty, help me please  
The fever burns  
Cool my parched and aching lips  
Ease this hurt  
I have asked for little  
Now I am in need  
I must gather all my strength  
Help me please

My God, my God why have you forsaken me  
You have been my strength and shield in all adversity  
We have never been apart throughout eternity  
Now when I must suffer through my greatest agony  
Why have you forsaken me

Father, into your hands I commit my spirit  
Lift me gently  
Take me safely  
Carry me so tenderly  
Beyond this pain  
To be with you again

It is finished, I have finished  
What I came to do  
It is finished, it is finished  
Sinner, for you  
This is for you

# IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME

It was quiet...

The Disciples of Jesus were in their homes, or the homes of friends...

Jesus was dead.

His body had been taken from the cross...and buried...

And the night had seemed unending.

Now, on Saturday, there were questions...

Men and women...family and friends who had loved Him...

And given up everything to follow Him...

All felt forsaken...

And discouraged...

And empty...

# MARY

© 1992 Hugh Brooks

Mary, Mary  
Where has Jesus gone  
Mary, Mary  
Tell us of your son  
The quiet, empty Sabbath...a harbinger of doom  
The hopes of endless ages imprisoned in a tomb  
Mary, Mary  
Can you answer soon

Mary, Mary  
What will happen now  
Mary, Mary  
What will God allow  
Days consumed in torment longing for our friend  
Dreams of life eternal coming to an end  
Mary, Mary  
Is it all pretend

Mary, Mary  
Dismal is the day  
Mary, Mary  
Life in disarray  
Faith is clouded, promise gone...empty as before  
Left to wander aimlessly a timeless corridor  
Mary, Mary  
Is there nothing more

Mary, Mary  
Weary and forlorn  
Mary, Mary  
The sword has pierced and torn  
We will hold each other, striving toward the light  
Agonizing struggle in this long, repressive night  
Mary, Mary  
Will it be alright  
Will it be alright

# IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME

Will it be alright... Will it be alright...

The questions were prayers. The prayers were questions...  
Nothing like this makes sense...without God.

And when God seems out of reach...prayers are no more than a struggle without direction or form...  
A shattering of life itself...

Until at least we are willing to leave the future to Him...  
For whatever He will make of it...

Then prayer is resolution.

As the disciples prayed...may we, too, seek Him in this quiet moment...

Our Heavenly Father, in this time and place so far removed from where He suffered and died...

And in this generation where faith is so difficult...

We pray that we may learn to depend on you...To realize that we do not have to know everything...  
To open our hearts that you may speak...And to listen to your voice...

And we ask that, having heard, we may respond... By believing that you are always with us...  
By realizing that even in the darkness there is hope... And by trusting that, with your help,  
things will be alright...

For we pray in His name...

Amen

~~

It was over...

Passion week was over...

Time was over...

Tomorrow would begin eternity...

As Sunday dawned, some of the Disciples started toward the tomb...

But all of the Disciples...everywhere...were aware that the day was unusual...

The air was exhilarating...

The light was radiant...

The colors were vibrant...

And they felt alive...

# EVERLASTING SONG

© 1990 Hugh Brooks

It was early Sunday morning at the dawning of the day  
As the sunlight broke across the eastern sky  
That the whisper of the wind took on the sound of Jesus' name  
The earth began to tremble in reply

For the drama of redemption had begun in Bethlehem  
And seemed to end upon a cruel tree  
But the tomb was standing empty, God had rolled the stone away  
Death had lost its sting, the grave its victory

So the universe erupted with everlasting song  
He is risen as He said  
Every knee shall bow before Him when He comes to claim His throne  
Jesus Christ is risen from the dead

He is risen, He is risen  
Eternal cornerstone  
He is risen, He is risen  
Everlasting song

Now the King of Kings is living and the wonder lingers still  
For the splendor of that day will never end  
Every morn since resurrection echoes with the thrill  
As the dawning punctuates that grand Amen

He ascended to the Father, but the wind repeats His name  
Listen...for His promises are true  
One more bright and glorious morning...the Heavens will proclaim  
It is finished...He is coming back for you

So the universe continues its everlasting song  
Now the future holds no dread  
He will gather those who love Him to His eternal throne  
He is coming as He said.

He is coming, He is coming  
Soon to claim His own  
He is coming, He is coming  
Everlasting song

Son of Man, Lamb of God, Cornerstone

Everlasting Song!

# THEY SHALL BE FREE

My childhood home and hometown were “God and Country” bastions. I grew up believing that to properly worship God, I should constantly give thanks for His gift of Jesus Christ and for all His other gifts—and especially those of America and freedom. Whatever direction my theology has taken over the years, these concepts have endured.

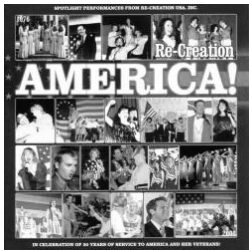
When we formed Re-Creation, it was my intention that the group be 100% sacred, AND 100% secular. Not 50/50. Each program was to be complete in its own genre. So, because of my patriotic focus, both the sacred and secular programs always had a touch of America!

Through the years I bordered on the notion of writing something for the secular program that would include both patriotic truth AND a powerful Creator influence. During that time I had the privilege of a friendship with George Cahill, President of The National Flag Foundation. George was unrelenting in his drive to preserve the great traditions related to the Flag, and he influenced me immeasurably.

So when I finally sat down to work on patriotic music, the American Flag was at the center of my thinking. “They Shall Be Free” is the result. My knowledge of the story behind it compelled me to include the flag’s history—and in that history, it’s connection to the living God.

There are four songs in the cantata. I wrote the narrations and the first three, and I’ve tried a dozen times to get credit for the fourth song, but some guy named Key claimed it first. We’ll have to give Kazee credit for the National Anthem arrangement, however. It’s one of the best I ever heard.

God bless America! Home of the Free!



## THEY SHALL BE FREE::

Original recording: RC 19

Featured audio version: RC Re-Union Choir / Narrator: Hugh Brooks

Notes: *The recording of “They Shall Be Free” features a choir of over 20 folks! All of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition, select Re-Creation alumni and some special friends joined their voices and provided technical expertise. The complete recording (pictured here) remained a best-seller for Re-Creation for more than 10 years and continues to garner requests!*

# THEY SHALL BE FREE

NARRATION 1

We are about to tell you the story of Freedom...

And Freedom's Flag...

And Freedom's Song...

Eden...

The Garden of Eden...

Mist rising slowly...

Everything in place. Light. Water. Land. Plants bearing seed. Fruit trees bearing fruit. The sun, the moon, and the stars. The birds and the fish. The animals.

It was good...

Then...



# EDEN

© 1993 Hugh Brooks

In the council of Heaven  
As time began  
The Almighty God  
Said "Let us make man!"

In our image  
Let them be  
That as God is  
They shall be free! Free!

They shall be free! They shall be free!  
As the Almighty God is, they shall be free!

They shall have dominion over land and sea  
Over all the garden, every flower every tree  
They shall rule all living creatures by God's decree

But God's greatest gift will be liberty  
They shall be free!

# THEY SHALL BE FREE

## NARRATION 2

God's greatest gift is liberty...

That was for all mankind, you know. ADAM is plural...

Male and female.

And they were free!

Freedom brought its blessings. And its responsibilities...

And its problems.

But it was still God's greatest gift...

In the time that followed the creation, mankind multiplied. Great nations were established. There was religion, and skepticism. Justice, and injustice.

Government, and anarchy. And there was leadership, and despotism.

But there was no freedom.

Oh, there was freedom in religion...freedom of the heart...and of the soul...

But there was no political freedom. No personal freedom. No freedom for all mankind...

Not for thousands of years...

Then, in 1776...in Philadelphia...

"We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal. That they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness!"

# LIFE, HAPPINESS, LIBERTY

(c) 1993 Hugh Brooks

Life...Life...Life...

Liberty...Liberty...Liberty

And the Pursuit of Happiness!

Life, the very life of the Creator  
Made in His likeness above  
Endowed with the gifts that last forever  
Faith, Hope, and Love.

Liberty, to stand among the nations  
Unfettered by chains of tyranny  
With decent respect for the rights of others  
Duty. Honor. Country.

And happiness, He gave us aspirations  
Dreams, ambitions, fantasies  
In this land that flows with milk and honey  
We can be what we want to be.

Life, Happiness, Liberty!  
We can be what we want to be!

# THEY SHALL BE FREE

## NARRATION 3

Liberty. Political liberty...

Where the people can be what they want to be...

The first time on earth.

In 1776 it was a proclamation. It would have to be implemented...and it was...

Through an announcement, on July 4, of American independence from Great Britain...and a war of revolution...and a Constitution...with a Bill of Human Rights...

So it came together. And so it is... The liberty God bestowed in Eden was realized in America...

And in all the years between, it had been only a dream...

The nation born in 1776 was a nation of political liberty...

The first time on earth...

And soon that nation had a symbol of her political liberty...

The first time on earth...

That symbol is now recognized around the world.

A flag. Created by Congress on June 14, 1777...

"Resolved that the flag of the United States be 13 stripes, alternate red and white, that the Union be 13 stars white in a blue field representing a new constellation."

# NEW CONSTELLATION

© 1993 Hugh Brooks

We had a New Constellation  
A representation  
Of God's revelation  
The people shall be free!

It was a bold proclamation  
Of staunch dedication  
To that predestination  
The people shall be free!

A New Constellation  
A New Constellation  
The banner of the Free!



RC 19 In performance of "They Shall Be Free, VA Medical Center, 1994

# THEY SHALL BE FREE

## NARRATION 4

A New Constellation...

The first one had thirteen stripes and thirteen stars....

There were adjustments. Direction of the stripes... Pattern for the stars...

And in the next few years the Flag of Freedom evolved. New states entered the Union...and for the first two of those, Vermont and Kentucky, both stars and stripes were added as Congress made a 15 star, 15 stripe flag official on May 1, 1795.

That flag was used for 23 years...

And during those 23 years the new, young, American nation was again at war. Again with Great Britain...

For thirty months...to decide almost nothing...

But that war was to give this world one more enduring symbol of liberty...

A song...

On September 13, 1814, in Chesapeake Bay, a young Washington lawyer stood prisoner on board an enemy ship and watched as British vessels shelled Fort McHenry. The onslaught was brutal, and it lasted all night...

Earlier in the war the British had burned Washington. Now, they wanted to burn Baltimore. But they had to go past Fort McHenry... And they had to bring down a flag with fifteen stripes and fifteen stars...

They never made it...

Francis Scott Key watched, sleepless throughout the night. Hoping against hope, he waited...

Until, at last, as the sun rose behind his back and the mist lifted slowly over Baltimore Harbor, he saw that flag...

That New Constellation... That Star Spangled Banner... Old Glory...

# The Star Spangled Banner

Francis Scott Key

O say can you see, by the dawn's early light;  
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming.  
Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight;  
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming.  
And the rockets red glare, the bombs bursting in air;  
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there!  
O say does that Star Spangled Banner yet wave,  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

O thus be it ever when free men shall stand,  
Between their loved homes and the war's desolation!  
Blest with victory and peace, may the heaven rescued land;  
Praise the power that hath made and preserved us a nation!  
Then conquer we must when our cause it is just;  
And this be our motto, "In God is our Trust!"  
And the Star Spangled Banner in triumph shall wave!  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.



RC19, performing "They Shall Be Free" in church and in the VA Medical Centers.

(Right) Martinsburg, VAMC, Martinsburg, WV, June 1994

(above) Cedarville U.M. Church, Pottstown, PA, Fall, 1993



# JESUS IS LORD THE WORD IN BEGINNING A NEW SONG

In the middle 1990's, I became aware of the "Contemporary Chorus (CC)" growth in church congregational singing.

I grew up with a hymnal in my hand at church services. In fact, much of the theology I learned came through the words of the verses in the hymns. And the new CC songs were primarily praise choruses. So, old foggy that I am, I resisted the new movement.

But, since so much of Re-Creation singing was in church, Jay and I discussed at great length whether or not to join the new undertaking, at least in part—to be sure the young people in church could feel they were included in the planning and presentation of RC performances. We decided to give it a go...

I had "retired" from Re-Creation on December 31, 1993. I was talking regularly to Jay, and in 1994 I wrote "Jesus Is Lord (Phil. 2:9-11)" for RC 20. In 1995 I wrote "The Word In Beginning (John 1:1-3)" for RC 21, and in 1997 I wrote "A New Song (Rev. 5:6-14)" for RC 23. Each song was an attempt to merge, at least somewhat, into the developing CC singing phase of church life.

My exposure to CC led me to believe that, to fit comfortably into the category, the songs I would need to write should use praise choruses almost exclusively, and repeat them frequently.

But old habits die hard. So, I slipped in an additional bit of theology, using a different musical pattern, and we wove the two styles together. When we finished, I was content. Hymn-type theology enhanced the contemporary choruses.

The three songs are together on these pages and on the included CDs. They have their own kind of Biblical worship dynamic. They hold up Jesus as Lord in their own fashion.

And I really liked (and still do) the choruses. In fact, after each song was finished, I sang the choruses...

Again. And again. And again...



# JESUS IS LORD

© 1994 Hugh Brooks

*Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, Jesus*

*At His name, every knee shall bow  
Every tongue confess in one accord  
To the glory, the glory of God  
Jesus is Lord, Jesus is Lord*

Come into His presence with a song in your hearts  
And praise His name...  
Come into His presence with your spirits drawn apart  
And praise His name...  
Come into His presence give your lives a brand new start  
Come into His presence...nevermore depart  
Come into His presence with a song in your hearts  
And praise His Holy Name  
Praise His Holy Name

Jesus is Lord! Jesus is Lord!



## **JESUS IS LORD:**

Original recording: RC 20

Featured audio version: RC 20

Notes: RC 20 featured the first time a RC cast member from the Brooks' era would re-join the group under the new director.

Scott Francis set the example soon followed by Gina Giunta in

RC 21 and Nathan Olweiler in RC 22 & 23! They remain the only three people who served under both directors for full tours!

# THE WORD IN BEGINNING

© 1995 Hugh Brooks

*In the beginning was the Word  
And the Word was with God  
In the beginning was the Word  
And the Word was God  
Through Him were all things made  
In Him were light and life*

He was there when the worlds were made  
He grieved with the Father  
When the sinner strayed  
And He sacrificed  
When the price was paid for sin

He is redemption's Cornerstone  
He intercedes at the Father's throne  
The sinner who repents  
Will not stand alone forever

*In the beginning was the Word  
And the Word was with God  
In the beginning was the Word  
And the Word was God  
Through Him were all things made  
In Him were light and life*

In the beginning was the Word  
And the Word was God  
The Cornerstone  
The Word was God



## **THE WORD IN BEGINNING:**

Original recording: RC 21

Featured audio version: RC 21

Notes: RC 21 marked the first year that Re-Creation made CD's!

Re-Creation programs have been featured on vinyl albums, 8-track tapes, cassette tapes, CD's, DVD's! It's only a matter of time before

Re-Creation becomes totally digital and makes downloads available from the organization's website!

# A NEW SONG

© 1987 Hugh Brooks

There is a place not made with hands  
Where the Lord God dwells  
All the ransomed praise His name  
Their mighty chorus swells

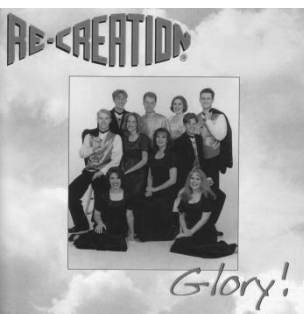
And there before the great, "I Am"  
Their voices clear and strong  
All nations honor Christ the Lamb  
And sing a new song

*Worthy is the Lamb  
Age to age the same  
He was slain and lives again  
Worthy is His name*

Soon we will stand before the throne  
And marvel at the sight  
The Lamb who became the Cornerstone  
Is clothed in power and might

And in Eternal Paradise  
With Heaven's hallowed throng  
We will claim His sacrifice  
And sing the new song

That day when the trumpets golden sound  
Opens Heaven's door  
We'll rise with the ransomed from the ground  
To sing forever more



## **A NEW SONG:**

Original recording: RC 23

Featured audio version: RC 23

Notes: "A New Song" featured a majesty that quickly brought the congregation into worship. Like the earlier 'praise and worship' works, RC printed Brooks' lyrics in a program insert so everyone could sing along. Of course, now the group uses video screens and such, but back then, Brooks' lyrics could be sung, and then taken home for further study and reflection! So moving!

# WALK ON WATER

When Carolyn and I left Port Trevorton, we lived for a short while in an Avion travel trailer. My brother, Jim, was living in Florida, and we parked at a campground across a lake from his home in Oklawaha.

One day I was stretched out in a lawn chair, under an oak tree, at the edge of the lake, planning to go to Jim's house for a cook-out—when I could get over being lazy. Looking at the mirror-like surface of the lake, I thought how much easier it would be to get to his house if, instead of driving 8 miles around, I could just walk across.

But I knew better.

I remembered that a Disciple of Jesus, named Simon Peter, with far greater incentive than a cheeseburger, had stepped out in faith on the water of the Sea of Galilee to be with Jesus, had second thoughts, and had taken a plunge. I figured I wouldn't get but a few steps in the lake without going back for a van with a V-8 engine—and a paved road.

The Disciples were in their boat, crossing the Sea, and it was “the fourth watch,”—about 3 o'clock in the morning.\* There was a terrible storm, and the Disciples were afraid. They saw Jesus—walking on the sea toward them. And in an impetuous moment, Peter asked Jesus to let him walk on the sea, also. The Lord spoke one word, “Come.” Peter started, but in the storm's turmoil, he lost his faith and began to sink.\* The Bible says that “immediately, Jesus reached out His hand and caught him.” Then He said to Peter, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?”

I wondered, if I had seen Jesus out on the lake, would I have tried what Peter did? Sadly, I'm afraid that fear would have been my primary mindset. But I'd have thought about it. And I'd have prayed about it.

I know that the storms ahead are inevitable. I want to walk above them. And I believe I can—if I keep faith in Him. He's already lifted me from stormy waters countless times. He will again.

I'll reach out...

And he'll say, “Come.”

*\*(Confessions here. When I wrote the song, I used up a ton of “literary license” and sorta fudged on the hour of the night. And I fudged on Peter's immersion, too. He probably wasn't all the way under water.)*



RC 33 and RC 20 with “Walk On Water”

# WALK ON WATER

© 1994 Hugh Brooks

It was at the midnight hour  
The disciples were afraid  
The ship they sailed was tossed and turned  
In the mighty waves  
Then they saw the Master  
Walking on the sea  
He calmed the fear within their hearts  
He said "Have faith in me"

"I believe," said Simon Peter  
"Hey Lord, I'm with you!"  
"Oh you are," he heard the Master say  
"Then walk on water, too"  
Peter stepped out from the vessel  
His spirit wild and free  
But he took his eyes from Jesus  
And became an absentee

*Let me walk on the water Lord, I pray  
Keep me safe when I step out on the waves  
And if my faith should falter, and I ever lose my place  
Let me feel your arms around me  
Let me feel your arms around me  
Let me feel your arms around me,  
let me see your loving face*

Most of us are just like Peter  
Full of faith and doubt  
We are often in above our heads  
And need to be bailed out  
Well there's one sure way to safety  
Peter would proclaim  
Don't try to stay afloat alone  
Call on Jesus' name  
Don't try to stay afloat alone  
Call on Jesus' name



## WALK ON WATER:

Original recording: RC 20

Featured audio version: RC 20

Notes: Brooks' ability to weave the Biblical account with clever references and thought provoking theology made "Walk On Water" a quick favorite!

# COMIN' UP SHOUTIN' JESUS

Something wondrous happens to me when I think about writing a song for a male quartet. It makes me think of a line from a song in Finian's Rainbow, "...It's so terrifish, magnifish, delish..." I get started on the song, and pretty soon I realize that I've used most of the words in my religious vocabulary and I'm still not finished. That's what happened when I wrote "Comin' Up Shoutin' Jesus."

I had mulled over the thought of the song for a few days, and just couldn't get anything going. Then, I was napping in a car my brother was driving. The title flashed before me! I rose up quickly, and half-shouted it. My brother's eyes began spinning, and for a few hundred yards we became one with the Florida highway berm. It took him a week or so to get over the shockwave, but I had a place to start the song.

There is a lot of marvelous truth available when considering the resurrection (read 1 Corinthians 15). Theologians differ about many facets, but the reality is not only central to the New Testament, it is entrenched in the hearts of New Testament believers.

The Bible tells us (2 Corinthians 5:8) that to be away from the body is to be at home with the Lord. And it says of the resurrection in 1 Corinthians 15:51-53, "Behold, I show 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 shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality."

And 1 Thessalonians 4:16 and 17 tells us that at the end time "...the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first, then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air, and so shall we ever be with the Lord."

So, let me interpret. "Away from the body, at home with the Lord"—our loved ones, who are dead in the Lord, are present with Him at this very moment. When God decides to end things, and Jesus returns, they will come back with Him. Graves will open, and saints will arise in their transformed, eternal bodies. They'll be joined by living believers—who also will be transformed. And we'll go home together to be with the Lord—for all the ages to come!

What an event! And what kind of reaction will we have? That's easy, we'll be comin' up shoutin' Jesus!

# COMIN' UP SHOUTIN' JESUS

© 1994 Hugh Brooks

In that great gettin' up morning', Heaven's trumpet improvise  
Will be answered by an overwhelming sound  
As the dead in Christ are brought to life and lifted to the skies  
Shoutin' praises as we come up from the ground

*We'll be comin' up shoutin' Jesus when we rise from the grave  
We'll be tellin' the story of His love and tellin' His power to save  
We'll be clappin' our hands in gladness at the wonder of His name  
We'll be comin' up shoutin' Jesus when we rise from the grave*

When the saints all come together on their way to Gloryland  
The name above all names will be adored  
We will worship Jesus Christ the Son who sits at God's right hand  
We'll be movin' up shoutin' praises to the Lord

*We'll be movin' up shoutin' Jesus when we rise to Heaven's home  
We'll be tellin' the story of His love and claimin' Him as our own  
We'll be clappin' our hands in gladness at the mention of the Son  
We'll be movin' up shoutin' Jesus when we rise to Heaven's home*



## COMIN' UP SHOUTIN' JESUS:

Original recording: RC 20

Featured audio version: RC 20 / Solo: Dustin Wheeler (RC 20-23)

Notes: *This original version of "Comin' Up Shoutin' Jesus" was the first quartet Brooks wrote for the new era... a mixture of vivacity, joy and salvation that encourgaed every congregation!*

# EPHESIANS

The Southern Baptist Convention has a January Bible Study program that chooses one book of the Bible and concentrates on its message. It's a good program. Special materials are produced, but until I inquired in 1996, there had never been a musical developed. Dr. Jim Harvey, at that time the Director of the January Bible Study program, gave me permission to write a cantata for Amos, in 1994, and the next year for Ephesians.

Although a ton of work went into the projects, neither made much of a splash. Kazee and I remained poor.

I drew together portions of the entire book of Ephesians to write the songs and the narrations, but relied on a "primary" text for each. There were five songs: "Praise Be To God (Ephesians 1:2-7)," "All By Grace (Ephesians 2:4-10)," "One Body (Ephesians 4:3-6)," "The Whole Armor Of God (Ephesians 6:10-17)," and "Unity," which reprised the first four songs.

"Praise Be To God," was recorded by Re-Creation 22. The primary Biblical text follows:

## PRAISE BE TO GOD

Ephesians 1:2-7

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight.

In love He predestined us to be adopted as His sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with His pleasure and will—

To the praise of His glorious grace, which He has freely given us in the One He loves.

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace.

WOW!



RC 11, performing "Praise Be To God" 1996



# PRAISE BE TO GOD

## From "Ephesians"

© 1996 Hugh Brooks

*Praise be to the God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ  
Who loved us with His great love  
Praise be to the God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ  
Who blessed us in heaven above*

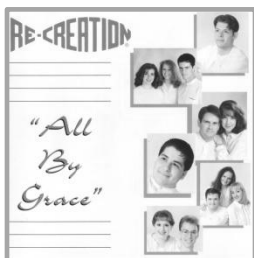
Before the world was made, He chose us as His own  
Predestined us and claimed us, redemption's seed was sown

Before the world was made, before our lives began  
Through faith in Christ He offered forgiveness from our sin

He called us back to Him when we were far away  
And He has reconciled us through His Son today

He broke the barriers, He has made us one  
We are not divided, He has made us one

Praise, all praise be to God



### **PRAISE BE TO GOD:**

Original recording: RC 22

Featured audio version: RC 22

Notes: *The title of the program for Re-Creation 22 was "All By Grace," an actual title for another song in the "Ephesians" cantata. Brooks never meant, really, for the songs to be used by Re-Creation, instead intending them for church choirs and such. But some have and will work their way into RC sacred worship services. Brooks' signature blend of revival and study is always a blessing!*

# HIS COMMAND

In the New Testament there are, including repetitions and all, about 80 references to demons. Yet we are told practically nothing about their origin, nature, characteristics, or habits. In the Gospels, stories that include demons focus on the person of Jesus, the sufferers, and the cures. However, there is one story that gives us a little more insight into demons than most of the others—that of the Gadarene (or Gerasene) demoniac. Read it in Mark 5:1-20. It's fascinating.

The Bible says this wretched man “lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him any more, not even with a chain. For he had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the irons on his feet. No one was strong enough to subdue him.”

And Mark adds one pathetic statement: “Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and cut himself with stones.” What a tragic, pitiable figure!

But then Jesus came...

And He commanded the demon, "Come out of this man, you evil spirit!" And the demon (who had already explained to Jesus that he was “legion,”—two thousand or more) came out, and was cast into a herd of pigs, which ran into the sea and was drowned.

There are lots of other interesting and intriguing details, but that's the story. The power of Jesus Christ extends even to the world of demons, and faith in Him is strong enough to protect against any evils to which individuals may be exposed.

I was captivated with this story as a child, but in those days my fascination centered mostly on the pigs. Later, I saw this as a powerful assurance—to people who are struggling with personal demons—that there is hope in Jesus!

The demoniac “...fell on his knees in front of (Jesus).” That's what it takes. Try it—and watch your demons “sink in the water of the love of God.”

All it takes is His command!



The men of RC 25 performing “His Command.”

# HIS COMMAND

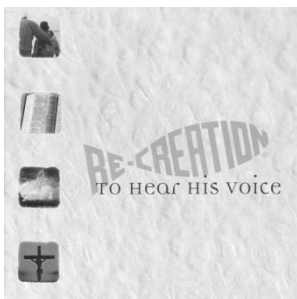
© 1997 Hugh Brooks

In the mountains by the seashore  
Lived a tortured man  
Far from home and the ones he loved  
A life on shifting sand  
For demons held him captive  
Till Jesus took a hand  
And drowned the demons in a herd of swine  
All it took was His command

*All it takes is His command  
The demons run away  
All it takes is His command  
Just one word from Him today  
You can watch the demons run  
Down the mountain to the sea  
And sink in the water of the love of God  
When Jesus sets you free*

Is your life a constant problem  
Full of pain and woe  
Has the Devil got a hold on you  
And just won't let you go?  
Well you need special treatment  
The Great Physician's hand  
Put a little faith in the power of God  
All it takes is His command.

Now please don't turn away from this  
It isn't complicated  
Believe the word, reach out in faith  
It's just the way we stated...



## **HIS COMMAND:**

Original recording: RC 25

Featured audio version: RC 25

Notes: Some of Brooks' most beloved songs have been the quartet numbers. "His Command" was no exception! It was a powerful message of enabling and victory delivered with a sound Scriptural tie and a fresh musical sound!

# BARTIMAEUS

Carolyn's mother was a saint. She lived to be 90 years old, and every year she became more and more like the Lord she loved. We called her "Mimi."

And she was funny. If I had written down the off-the-shoulder funny lines that jumped out in her casual conversations, I could put together a best-seller.

One day, when Mimi was over 80—and having a bit of trouble walking, Carolyn persuaded her to go to the shoe store and try out some sneakers. She went reluctantly, and snorted (that's the word I wanted) through the salesperson's presentation until, finally, she put on a pair of sneakers that Carolyn thought were satisfactory.

Mimi stood up, pointed down, and remarked to Carolyn, "Those don't look like Mimi's feet."

I thought of that when I first heard the melody of "Bartimaeus." It didn't sound like Hugh's melody. It wasn't.

It was the melody of Mary Muller. These were the only lyrics I've had a chance to share with Mary (I sincerely hope there'll be more), and I was delighted with the gentility, the softness, the seamless integration of word and melody, and the sound that preached a second sermon that was parallel to the song lyrics.

Of course it helped that, when I heard the melody the first time, Mary was singing it. You can hear the hope of Bartimaeus and the despair and ultimate rejoicing of his mother in the sound of Mary's voice.

The story of Bartimaeus is one of the New Testament's great examples of God's compassion, and of His power and might. I've long tried to imagine what this man felt when he opened his eyes—and could see!! I'll ask him one day!

And I've long been grateful for the promise of the Word—that all others can see too, if they'll open their eyes to God's love.

Mary sings Bartimaeus on the recording included in this book. Listen—and tell your loved ones, and your friends and neighbors...

# BARTIMAEUS

(c) 1984 Hugh Brooks

Bartimaeus was such a beautiful child  
No one could have guessed my fear  
The disease that had closed his father's eyes  
Might someday reappear

I hoped that my love might protect him from harm,  
But soon with the passing of time  
The darkness I dreaded closed in on his world,  
My precious baby was blind.

*Bartimaeus, Bartimaeus*  
*My precious baby was blind*  
*Then he raised up his hand reached out for mine*  
*Seeking my strength for his own*  
*Momma, Momma, don't leave me alone*

We were begging one day at our place by the road  
When there came an unusual crowd  
Someone told us a healer was passing that way  
Then my son started crying aloud.

Then the shadow of Jesus fell over his face  
Son, what would you have me to do?  
Oh dear sir, he began, I do so want to see  
Your request has been granted to you!

*Bartimaeus, Bartimaeus*

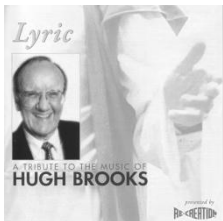
*Your request has been granted to you.  
Then he lifted his head, and opened his eyes  
And lovingly turn to me  
Momma, Momma, oh Momma, I can see!*

I can see, I can see, and the crowd was amazed  
As together we danced in the street  
And Jesus just smiled as He watched us rejoice  
For the healing was still incomplete.

Bartimaeus could see with the eyes of the flesh  
But not with the eyes of the soul  
And a life of despair had kept me blind as well  
But now we both would be whole.

As we turned back to Jesus we suddenly knew  
That He offered a greater reward  
And we fell down before Him in worship and praise  
To receive Him as Savior and Lord.

I can see, I can see for the Master has come  
To show me the light from above  
And He asked me to tell you that you can see too  
If you'll open your eyes to His love.



**BARTIMAEUS:**

Original recording: *Lyric*

Featured audio version: *Mary Muller*

Notes: "Bartimaeus" was video-taped for Re-Creation 24's program,

"His Touch." The silhouetted enacting of the meeting between Bartimaeus and Jesus was especially touching. 'Baby' Bartimaeus was played by an infant Emma Muller while 'boy Bartimaeus' was played by the nephew of former RC castmate, sound engineer and general manager Kathy Pioli Lubbers!

# THE ANIMALS GIFT

One Christmas season I was visiting the Homosassa Springs Wildlife Park at Crystal River, Florida, when I found myself talking to the animals. Good conversations. I asked them about life in Florida, and none of them said anything bad at all about it. Carolyn and I discussed this, and decided to make Florida our home.

The animals. While we talked, it occurred to me to ask their opinions of Christmas. Did they get any special gifts? Did they give any? Did they exchange gifts? Did they know the real meaning of the season? What would they like to give to the Baby Jesus?

They made noises.

And, I thought, that's what they would have given Him. Expressions of who they were. The noises each represented truly the animal. I'm convinced that God was listening.

The next day I started work on the chorus of "The Animals Gift," and I was delighted when it came together. Then I wrote the verses as "fanciful historic window dressing."

When I finished, I called Jay and asked if he could use a Christmas song. I remember that he said "Sure." I worked with Kazee, and we sent the song.

Jay clobbered it.

I had thought of the chorus as almost high-church classical. Jay made it a turn-around, jump up and down, kick up your heels joy-ride. And he did the right thing. Audiences everywhere continue to be thrilled at the song and the up-beat presentation.

A song publisher expressed some interest in this one, and I asked both Mary and Emma Muller to sing it for a CD presentation. They did. Mary gave it professional adult credibility. And Emma, singing it as a children's presentation, made it tough to believe that that young (13 year old at that time) lady wasn't straight from the Broadway stage. Emma is the one on the recording here. The publisher has the song on hold.

My wife, Carolyn, took Jay's interpretation style and wrote a drama around the song. She staged it in our church. With adults—who all wanted a part where they could bark or quack. It replaced the sermon for that service, and was a delightful success.

Our Pastor tossed in a bark or two in the next few sermons...



RC cast members through the ages performing "The Animal's Gift." Far right, 12-year old Emma Muller.

# THE ANIMALS GIFT

© 1999 Hugh Brooks

On a wondrous night in the long ago, near the town of Bethlehem  
The animals heard the people talk of a rumor going 'round

It could be, they said, that a King would come, who would bring them perfect peace  
And he would be born as a baby there where all of them could see

Well the cow and the duck and the donkey too, and the sheep and the dog and the cat  
Got together to talk and to ask themselves, what can we do about that?

For when He comes, since He is a king, we should take Him presents sure  
But we have nothing we can give, for we are very poor

It was quiet then and their heads were bowed, when they heard a strange new sound  
There were flapping wings as the angels came, softly to the ground

And the angel sounds that they heard that day, had the joy that music brings  
It was a heavenly song for a manger gift, played on angel wings

Then the animals knew what they all could do, for the baby born a King  
They could lift their voices loud in praise, they could harmonize and sing

So they all tuned up and they all turned loose, with a moo and a quack and e-how  
And they made a noise, a joyful noise, with a baa and a woof and meow

*And the cow went moo, and the duck went quack  
And the donkey said e-how  
And the sheep went baa, and the dog went woof  
And the kitty said meow  
And they sang around the manger stall, bathed in heavenly light  
And gave their present to the King, born that wondrous night*

And it seemed like the heavens opened up, and the bells of forever rang  
And the sound of the angel wings mixed in, with the song that the animals sang  
And the story goes that since that night when you hear a quack or a moo  
Or a baa or a bark or a donkey bray or a little kitty mew

That if you will listen carefully, you may hear some other things  
The bells of forever, a baby's cry, and the sound of angel wings



## THE ANIMALS GIFT:

Original recording: RC 26

Featured audio version: Re-Union Choir / Soloist: Emma Muller (age 12)

Notes: The recording for the publisher had to be finished quickly, so members of the current edition (RC 35) as well as Dave Kazee, Mary Muller and Jay Muller, were recruited to bark, meow and quack! There was much ado in the studio when Jay and Randy Robbins had to re-do their "moo" more than 10 times, because Jay kept messing it up! Apparently "mooing" on pitch is not a requisite for being an RC director!



# YOU REACHED OUT TO ME

Matthew 25:31-46 tells of the full expectation God has for mankind...

If we are to serve Him...we must do so by serving others!

Carolyn and I were living in Nashville in 1997. Jay and I had stayed in touch, and he asked if I would write a new song to be used by RC 23—coming up the next year. I had been exposed to the work of the Nashville Rescue Mission, and for a short time I read the newspaper on the radio for Nashville's vision-impaired populace. The impact of Matthew 25 was intensified, and I tried to mentally examine the work of Re-Creation with regard to our Lord's injunction, and His caution.

I was thankful then, and am now. Re-Creation is fulfilling the spirit of the conduct Jesus asked of His disciples—and would-be disciples. The young people are ministering, in a very special way, to a needy and all-but-forgotten population throughout this nation.

Not only are they standing at bedsides and comforting America's veterans, they are carrying God's message of love and expectation to church congregations everywhere.

We have no way of measuring how much good they are doing. But there is a measure—and it's controlled in Heaven. And some day we will see the eternal chart that records their accomplishments as the group moves from place to place, and from person to person, and from church to church. All those young people will be astounded. And the revelation will be gratifying beyond anything they would ever expect.

They're not in this for reward—not for money or fame. They're in this because of who they are—and whose they are. And because of a lot of people, whose prayers, and financial assistance, and encouragement, makes their continuing ministry possible. It's amazing what God is accomplishing through Re-Creation.

When the Lord called Isaiah to service, he said, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us." Re-Creation supporters reply—in their prayers and in their giving—"Send these remarkable young people."

And on their journey, Jesus speaks to both those who give and those who go...

"I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."



The members of RC 23 at Hellam, U.M. Church, 1997, presenting "You Reached Out To Me"

# YOU REACHED OUT TO ME

© 1997 Hugh Brooks

When the Son of Man comes in glory, and sits on the Great White Throne  
He will separate men as a shepherd divides the sheep and goats

Then those on His right will hear Him say, you may enter now into  
The Kingdom of My Father, the home prepared for you

For I was hungry and you gave me food, naked but you clothed me again  
I was thirsty and you brought me drink, a stranger and you took me in

You were there when I needed you, I was sick and you heard my plea  
Always there when I needed you, in prison and you came to me

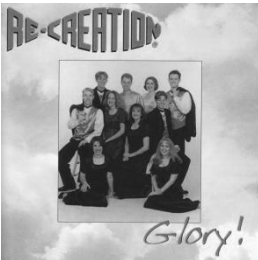
*But when, oh when did we do these things?  
Help us, Lord to see  
When you reached out to someone else  
You reached out to me*

Then those on His left will hear Him say  
Now you will be disowned  
For when I had no refuge  
You left me all alone

*But when, oh when did we do these things?  
Help us, Lord to see  
When you refused the least of these  
You turned your backs on me*

(Hymn – Make Me A Blessing)

When you reach out to someone else  
You reach out to me



## YOU REACHED OUT TO ME:

Original recording: RC 23

Featured audio version: RC 23

Notes: This song caused quite a bit of debate. Working from the track and the lyric, the group members presented what might have been an uncomfortable visual. Brooks, upon seeing the song performed for the first time, was concerned that the message might be misleading. Brooks and Muller, in a true collaborative spirit, re-worked the song so that it would offer an opportunity to congregations and individuals who heard it.

# **LEGACY ~ The Music and Lyrics of Hugh Brooks**

## **CD's and featured Re-Creation Editions**

(Re-Union) refers to choirs comprised of former cast members and special guests who have, over the course of the last 20 years, often assembled to celebrate Brooks' wonderful music and LEGACY!

### **DISC 1**

1. Everyday (6)
2. Free to Be (8)
3. God Will See You Through (Re-Union)
4. Get Ready For That Ride (9)
5. Hymn of Praise (18)
6. Come On Down To The River (Katie Brooks)
7. Come On Down To The River (22)
8. Lazarus (Lyric) Todd
9. Glory (10)
10. Prince of Peace (10)
11. The Church with the Red Door (Re-Union)
12. Right Under Jesus (new)
13. We Shall See His Face (Re-Union)
14. Promise (13)
15. Ya' Gotta Be Born Again (Re-Union)
16. Bridge of Love (13)
17. Heaven Quartet (16)

### **DISC 2**

1. His Place (16)
2. The Party's Over (16)
3. Hosanna (17)
4. House Of Prayer (17)
5. Believe in Me Children (17)
6. Silver(17)
7. Remember Me (17)
8. The Pulpit Of The Cross (17)
9. Mary (17)
10. Everlasting Song (17)
11. They Shall Be Free (Re-Union)
12. Life, Happiness, Liberty (Re-Union)
13. New Constellation (Re-Union)
14. The Star Spangled Banner (Re-Union)

### **DISC 3**

1. The Boss and the Boys (18)
2. Jesus Is Lord (20)
3. Walk On Water (20)
4. Comin' Up Shoutin' Jesus (20)
5. The Word In Beginning (21)
6. Praise Be To God (22)
7. A New Song (23)
8. You Reached Out To Me (23)
9. His Command (25)
10. The Animal's Gift (Emma Muller)
11. Bartimeaus (Mary Muller)
12. Thunder & Lightning (30)
13. Everlasting Song (30)

HUGH BROOKS hails from Corbin, KY. After earning his B.A. in History from Eastern Kentucky University, Brooks pursued graduate work at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Morehead State University, Penn State University and Newburgh Theological Seminary. Brooks also holds a Master of Divinity (M.Div.), a Masters in Higher Education (MHE) and a PHD in Creative Writing. Brooks served as AN INSTRUCTOR in Parks and Recreation at The Pennsylvania State University for 9 years.

In 1976, he and his wife, Carolyn, founded Re-Creation during Brooks' tenure at Penn State. In January of 1994, Brooks retired from Re-Creation and soon after TAUGHT PUBLIC RELATIONS WRITING at the University of Florida for 1 year. The Brooks' have continued to be dynamic advocates for America's veterans, working as directors of the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival and traveling on-tour to numerous VAMC's with "The Singing Colonels."

Hugh and Carolyn now make their home in North Port, FL.