



# SUPER SIXTIES

## ***I WISH*** by Ed Ringer

*I wish I could have been there  
When they couldn't find a bed,  
So I could hold this child from heaven  
And kiss His little head.*

*I'd thank His mother, Mary,  
For giving me this time  
To cradle her sweet baby  
And sing for Him in rhyme.*

*I wish I could have been there  
When He stood upon the hill,  
Teaching all the people  
How to do His Father's will*

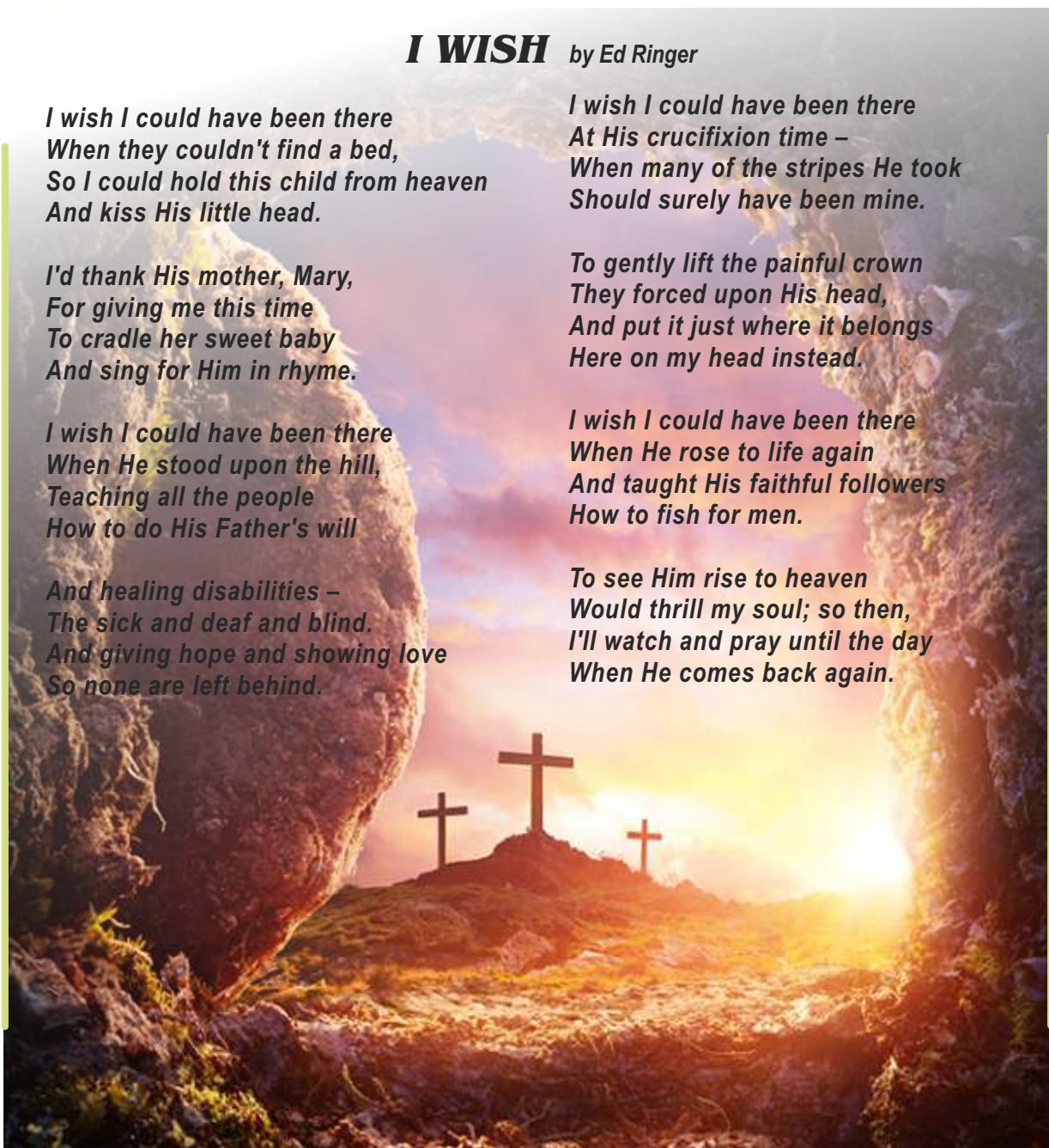
*And healing disabilities –  
The sick and deaf and blind.  
And giving hope and showing love  
So none are left behind.*

*I wish I could have been there  
At His crucifixion time –  
When many of the stripes He took  
Should surely have been mine.*

*To gently lift the painful crown  
They forced upon His head,  
And put it just where it belongs  
Here on my head instead.*

*I wish I could have been there  
When He rose to life again  
And taught His faithful followers  
How to fish for men.*

*To see Him rise to heaven  
Would thrill my soul; so then,  
I'll watch and pray until the day  
When He comes back again.*





## *THE LAMB OF GOD*

John the Baptist had a unique ministry of preparing the way for the ministry of Jesus Christ on earth. John's mother Elisabeth was a cousin of Mary, and the two women shared messages from the angels concerning their sons.

When John began his forceful preaching of repentance, many wondered if he was the promised Messiah. John described himself as a voice exhorting the nation to "make straight the way of the Lord" (John 1:23). John noted that he was not worthy to untie the shoestrings of Gods promised One.

Rather than comparing Jesus to some big, powerful animal, this prophet saw him as "the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1:29).

This use of the word Lamb to describe our Lord Jesus is indeed significant. In the Old Testament that word is used 142 times, mostly in reference to a person's offering for sin. The sacrifice of a lamb without blemish as a sin offering is repeatedly explained.

In the new Testament the word is used 33 times with all but three referring to Jesus.

Jesus came to this earth in physical form for the sole purpose of being the Lamb that would be sacrificed for our sins. He was "the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." (Revelation 13:8)

Easter is our celebration of that event. Jesus was sacrificed on a cross, giving His life that we might have eternal life.

In the Book of Revelation, Jesus is seen as The Lamb 26 times, not as a meek animal, but as the powerful, glorified Savior and the Lamb who will defeat Satan and the powers of darkness! The Lamb will be praised and glorified forever!

"Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing" (Revelation 5:12).

*Have a blessed Easter,  
John & Shirley Campbell*

## *WHEN SIN CREEPS IN*

While taking a morning stroll, I watched as a construction company put the finishing touches to a new concrete parking lot. It looked perfect. There was not a crack anywhere in sight.

A few days later I crossed the lot during my daily walk. Sprigs of grass grew from a tiny crack in the concrete. Within a week, the opening had grown, and more weeds and grass appeared. What once appeared flawless now contained imperfection.

Our lives may also become imperfect. This can happen when we allow other things to interfere with our relationship with God. Little by little sin creeps in. It grows until we are overcome. However, when we ask God to forgive our sins and enter our lives, He forgives our transgressions.

Psalms 32:1 says, "Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered."

~Ann Ross

## *GO TELL*

At the close of a Jewish Sabbath,  
Breaking dawn of the first Lord's day,  
Came three women, sad and tearful,  
To the tomb where Jesus lay.  
Lo! an angel keeping vigil  
Clad in raiment white as snow,  
With His countenance like lightning;  
Bade them see and quickly go!  
On this morn of Easter Sabbath  
As upon that first Lord's day,  
He is pleading His commission  
"Go and tell it-go, I pray!"

-Ruth P. Wilson

**FATHER ABRAHAM'S  
APRIL QUIZ  
"THREE DAYS  
THAT CHANGED THE WORLD"**

1. When did Jesus say that his blood was poured out for the forgiveness of sins?
2. Where did Judas fling the money he had been given to betray Jesus?
3. Who picked up the money Judas returned?
4. What did the soldiers say to Jesus as they knelt in front of him and ridiculed him?
5. What came over all the land from the sixth hour to ninth hour?
6. Who helped Joseph of Arimathea take Jesus' body from the cross?
7. True or false? According to Mark's gospel, the women went to the tomb just after sunrise?
8. Who said, when he met the risen Jesus, "My Lord and my God"?
9. When Mary of Magdalene first saw the risen Jesus, who did she think he was?
10. What did Jesus do to prove to his disciples that he was not a ghost?

**Answers:** 1. At his institution of the Lord's supper. 2. In the Temple. 3. The chief priests. 4. "Hail, King of the Jews." 5. Darkness. 6. Nicodemus. 7. True (Mark 16:2). 8. Thomas. 9. The gardener. 10. He ate a piece of cooked fish.

**REMEMBER WHEN WE...**

- Would walk a mile any day to get to ride around the block in a car?
- Called a mirror a looking glass?
- Churned all week to sell the butter on Saturday to get money to buy margarine to cook with and spread on our hot biscuits all the following week?
- Planted a peanut patch, harvested them, and sold them in town to get enough money to buy peanut butter?
- Made sure that Mom bought Mrs. Tucker's shortening, so we would have a new lunch pail to carry to school? ~Mable House

The Super  
60's



Cracker  
Barrel

I'm all ready for April showers,  
With the power umbrella I chose;  
With the push of a button it opens,  
But when getting in the car, it won't close.

When spring comes bursting out,  
Nature's sights are always awesome.  
I see our Creator's workmanship  
In every bud and blossom.

**An apple a day may keep the doctor away.  
But at these prices, I can only afford slices.**

I didn't recognize an old classmate.  
Her age I couldn't gauge.  
Rather sad, because I knew her well.  
When she was my age.

In the winter I cry, "I'm freezing!"  
In the summer, I moan, "I'm hot."  
In the fall I gripe, "I'm chilly."  
In the spring, I smile a lot.

**I'm confused by all the doctors listed in the yellow pages.  
Do I call an orthodontist or a podiatrist when I've put my  
foot in my month?**

A person who recounts her aches and pains is often just giving an organ recital.

I try to keep my mind  
As sharp as a tack,  
So I don't let it wander  
Cause it's slow coming back!

**Where else but in America can a person drive on  
a parkway, park on a driveway, and pay a fortune for gas  
to drive on the freeway?**

I was excited about the high rate  
Of return on my savings,  
But when the rate fell,  
I lost interest.

Why are some doctors a bit grouchy?  
Well, they're certainly not saints  
But first think how you would feel  
If all you heard all day were complaints.

## QUOTES WORTH REMEMBERING

Your days at the most cannot be very long, so use them to the best of your ability for the glory of God and the benefit of your generation.  
~ William Both

Show me a child well-disciplined, perfectly governed at home, and I will show you a child who never breaks the rules of school. A silken thread will bind that child,  
~Clara Barton

Our Lord has written the promise of the resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf of spring-time.  
~Martin Luther

I wish no explanation made to our enemies. What they want is a squabble and a fuss; and that they can have if we explain, and they cannot have if we don't.  
~Abraham Lincoln

If I think I am sowing good seed and it happens to be bad, I shall have a bad harvest. Therefore, it becomes me to see what kind of seed I am sowing.  
~D. L. Moody

Words cannot break bones, but they sure can hurt hearts.

Make all you can; save all you can; give away all you can.  
~John Wesley

I have more trouble with myself than with anyone I know.  
~D. L. Moody

"The providence of God may not be what we expect, but we can count on the grace of God."  
~George W. Bush

If we cannot control our temper, what has grace done for us.  
~Charles Spurgeon

We live and die, Christ died and lived!  
~John R. W. Stott

"But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive."

1 Corinthians 15:20-22

## CULTIVATING THANKFULNESS

"I'm 94 years old. I'm not sick, and I don't hurt. I take care of myself. I make my bed, take my bath, and put on my clothes." She was a not-so-little old lady attending a worship service at the nursing home where she lived. She certainly was not complaining, and she really was not bragging she was just being thankful for the measure of health that was hers. She wore glasses and a hearing aid and walked with the aid of a walker. Some, less thoughtful of God's goodness in her situation, might have found cause for complaining, but not this lady. She obviously had learned to enjoy what she had and not to complain about what she lacked. In this life, in which no one's path is a solid bed of roses, learning to be content with our state is itself a great blessing.



## **SPRINGTIME**

I love to sit outside in spring  
And breathe the cool, fresh air,  
Knowing that God has put forth  
His beauty everywhere.

The cold, cold days are over;  
Snowy ones have passed.  
Doors are open behind me;  
I'm out in the air at last.

Green sprouts are bursting forth;  
Birds come in on the wing.  
I hear beautiful music  
In every song they sing.

Early spring showers fall,  
Splashing on the ground;  
And I relish as I listen  
At such a glorious sound.

In the happy days of spring,  
I hear the bird's song;  
And I rejoice in basking  
In God's love all day long.  
~Velma A. Windham

## **MESSENGERS OF SPRING**

The dogwood and the primrose  
Are climbing up the hill;  
The birds are singing praises  
Upon my windowsill.  
The daffodils are nodding  
To every passing breeze;  
And butterflies are resting  
In leafy arms of trees.  
One child looks up in wonder  
And then they look in crowds  
To see reflected promise  
Of rainbows in the clouds.  
These messengers of springtime  
Must think it's very odd  
That people could see such glory  
And doubt the power of God.

~June Masters Bacher

## ***Let the Lord Lead You***

Don't walk so fast that you can't see  
The blossoms on the apple tree.  
Don't move so fast that you can't hear  
The call of one who needs you near.

Don't live so fast that you can't feel  
The simple joys your rush could steal.  
Just lessen your pace and look around  
At lovely flowers to be found.

Stop to chat with some people, too,  
And see if there's something you should do.  
Pause for guidance throughout the day  
Let the Lord lead you in His way.  
~Lois Anne Williams

## ***Consider the Tulips...***

Last fall I picked out the nicest, healthiest tulip bulbs I could find and bought them. Then I brought them home and stored them in the refrigerator for the prescribed length of time before planting.

When planting time came I prepared the soil and planted the bulbs the right depth.

Then I waited.

Weeks passed. No sign of bulbs coming up. Did I do something wrong? Still more weeks passed with no sign of new life.

Then came a series of family crises that kept me concerned with other things.

One day, I walked out to my little garden spot. Every bulb was up and flourishing.

God was working all along in His own way and time. I only needed to wait and trust.

When we plant the seeds of God's word, he gives the increase in His own time and way. "Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow..." (Matt. 6:28).

~Evelyn S. Wilharm

## ***GOD IS REAL***

I know that God speaks to me  
Even though His face I cannot see.  
I feel Him in my inmost part  
And know He dwells within my heart.

I hear His voice loud and clear  
Each time I read His Word, so dear.  
I hear His whisper in the breeze  
That rustles the leaves on the trees.

I see Him smile with loving grace  
Each time I look into the face  
Of a trusting child, or a dear friend  
Whose suffering bears witness their lives must  
end.

But, also reminds that some sweet day,  
We'll see Him face to face, and hear Him say,  
"Well done, my child. Enter this holy place.  
It was prepared for you by the Father's loving  
grace."

~Frances V. Brindle

## ***IS THIS THE WAY IT WAS?***

As I stepped over the threshold, I was stunned by the darkness that greeted me. The thickness of the void ingested all else into itself. My feet were guided by a very subdued rail light as I circled the exercise deck of the Westerdam ship in the Pacific Ocean. At 4:00 a.m., all else seemed asleep. A commanding hush held sway.

The wonder of it kept me still. My thoughts came in fragments. Could this be as it was before creation, in the moment before God spoke light into existence? Was there complete nothingness? In awed silence I waited.

Gently, a sliver of light touched a tree trunk on a nearby island; then it appeared on the ship's rail and the black water below. Slowly, as the dew fell, light covered the ship, promising a sunrise glow. I lingered agape at the dawning of day.

As others came on deck, I wasn't alone with our Creator any longer. I whispered, "Thank You, God, for Your special gift to me today."

-Lillie Wesley

## **REAL WEALTH**

I have heard the whippoorwill's call at dusk,  
Marveled at a sunlit meadow of flowers.  
I have seen a rainbow arch the sky,  
Breathed the heady scent of April showers.  
I have seen the first steps of a newborn colt  
Going across a dew soaked, grassy lure;  
Felt the wet, licking kisses of a puppy,  
Heard the rumble of a contented kitten's purr.  
I have felt the caress of the first snowflake  
In the silence of winter's cold wind:  
Enjoyed the warmth of a crackling fire  
And a mug of hot cocoa shared by a friend.  
I have seen an ocean of daffodils  
Wind tossed like a golden clipper,  
Smelled the heavy scent of the honeysuckle,  
Awed by the perfection of a lady's slipper.  
I have known the love of family and neighbors  
Those trusting smiles that have no end;  
The pride and glow in a happy parent's eye,  
And the pat and touch of a concerned friend:  
I have stood on a silent, mountain path.  
By some men's standards, I am poor,  
But I heard the still, small voice of God,  
And that is what real wealth is, forevermore.

~Grant Lessley

## **SHOWERS OF BLESSINGS**

Is there a biblical formula for us to follow that will shower our lives with blessings? Many modern saints will reply: "Not one, but many!" And they will quote favorite Scriptures, such as Matthew 6:33 and Romans 8:28, to mention just two.

But, if by blessings, we mean freedom from the ups and downs of life, that's some thing else! In all of the precious promises found in the Bible, not one assures us that nothing painful will happen in our life. But as those whose lives are committed to the Lord, there are two promises we can definitely claim: We will never be out of God's presence (John 14:16), and his grace is sufficient (2 Cor. 12:9). A line from a gospel song reminds us that just because Jesus lives, we can face our tomorrows—whatever they may bring.

## LISTEN FOR AN ANSWER

Prayer is sometimes defined as thoughts turned Godward, or a heart-to-heart talk with our Heavenly Father. We are admonished in the Scriptures to "Pray without ceasing," (1 Thess. 5:17).

What a privilege to be able to go to God at any time of the day or night! How reassuring to know that he hears our petitions. The real question, do we listen long enough to hear his replies? Or are we too busy to listen. The art of listening is a discipline few of us accomplish. We're reminded in Psalm 46:10 to "Be still and know that I am God."

If Jesus had a need to pray, how much more needful is it for us to spend much time in prayer. We must turn aside in the busy routine and say, "Our Father, which art in heaven..." But we must also be calm in mind and spirit in order to hear God when he answers.

## GOD'S SURPRISE

*"My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from him" (Psalm. 62:5).*

What a surprise when we looked out the window early Easter morning! Six inches of snow blanketed the earth. Fluffy, white flakes clung to even the tiniest branch.

Everyone shivered in their new Easter attire on the way to church. When the choir stood to sing their anthem, some snickered, and others wore mischievous grins. In full voice they sang, "My Lord, What a Morning."

We serve a God who majors in the unexpected. This was especially true that first Easter morning. The disciples were surprised by the unexpected resurrection of Christ. The coldness of death turned into the joy of life. The dirtiness of sin disappeared under the snow-white purity of Christ's sacrifice.

Sing! "My Lord, What a Morning."

## CHUCKLES FOR APRIL

There are some people who are impossible to please. One ill-tempered husband was sullen and silent at the breakfast table. "How do you want your eggs cooked?" asked his wife gently. "One fried and one scrambled," he answered gruffly. When she placed the eggs before him, he was furious. "What's wrong?" asked his wife. "You fried the wrong egg," he snapped

### Painting Selection

At an art gallery a woman and her ten-year-old son were having a tough time choosing between two paintings. They finally chose and went with the autumn-themed one.

"I see you prefer an autumn scene as opposed to a floral one." said the gallery owner, who happened to be nearby and witnessed the mother-son interaction.

"No," said the boy "This painting is wider, so it'll cover the three holes I put in the wall."

Have you heard about the man who took a vacation to forget everything? The first night at the hotel he opened his suitcase and discovered he had forgotten everything.

## CHUCKLES FOR APRIL

Have you heard the story of the man who had occasion to telephone the legal firm of Smith, Smith, Smith, and Smith? The conversation went as follows:

"Hello. I'd like talk to Mr. Smith."

"Mr. Smith is in court arguing a case."

"Oh. Then I'll talk to Mr. Smith."

"Mr. Smith can't come to the phone. He's in conference with an important client."

"Oh, then I'll talk to Mr. Smith."

"Mr. Smith isn't in today. He's playing golf at South Hills."

"Oh. In that case, can I talk to Mr. Smith?"

"Speaking."

## WHAT "LOVINGKINDNESS" MEANS

A mother asked her six-year-old what *lovingkindness* means. "Well," he said, "when I ask you for a piece of bread and butter and you give it to me, that's kindness. But when you put jam on it, that's lovingkindness."