

Uncommon
Mercy

*Songs from a
Dozen Lands*

Rusty
Edwards



Printed on recycled and acid-free paper

Uncommon Mercy: Songs from a Dozen Lands
Copyright © 2013 Selah Publishing Co., Inc., Pittsburgh, Pa. 15227
www.selahpub.com

All rights reserved.

All pieces in this collection are under copyright protection of the copyright holder listed with each hymn. Permission must be obtained from the copyright holder to reproduce—in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, or otherwise—what is included in this book. All of the hymns included may be used by congregations enrolled in the C.C.L.I., Licensing, or OneLicense.net programs.

Typeset and printed in the United States of America.

First edition
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 09 08 07 06

Catalog no. 125-415

Uncommon
Mercy

*Songs from a
Dozen Lands*

Rusty
Edwards



Selah Publishing Co.

To the memory of George H. Shorney, FHS

Foreword

When a sacred poet shares a creation with a wider audience, it is risky business. First of all, it is risky for the poet. They have chosen to share a personal spiritual revelation with the world. Such a sharing reflects a level of vulnerability that those who have not done it cannot appreciate. Depending on the perspective of those who encounter the poem, it may be rejected on one of many grounds including theological justification, artistic merit, or personal experience—they simply cannot identify with the revelations of the poet.

Assuming that the poem passes the initial text, it is still risky—this time for the singer. What if the poet articulates a feeling that has been buried in the singer's soul so deeply that they do not want to uncover it? What if encountering this feeling causes a sensation that is unexpected, even to the point of losing control? What if the poet gives voice to a person or group that has been silenced by history or society and now demands our attention? What if the poet's challenge is a prophetic word of God that makes us uncomfortable? What if the poem conveys a yearning dangled in front of the singer by God that calls for change in one's life?

On the other hand, what if the singing the poet's creation offers delight, purpose, release, hope, peace or community? Can you afford not to risk taking the song into your being and waiting to see what will happen?

What does this collection say about Rusty Edwards—his faith, his spiritual journey, his hopes for the Christian community? I can only mention a few in this space, but perhaps they will encourage you to open your spirit to the Spirit as reflected in these songs of faith.

These songs ring with authenticity. By this I mean you will find no hint of pomp or pretension. The language is simple, but never simplistic, accessible, but not banal, unconventional, but not contrived.

These songs are the result of collaboration— collaboration with some whose relationships have been a blessing to the poet, collaboration with other writers, and with musicians. Rusty Edwards is more than capable of composing both tunes and texts, but he relishes the possibilities of collaborating with a wide variety of co-writers. These collaborators come from fifteen different countries, making this collection a unique contribution to global hymnody.

These songs come from a pastor's heart. They reflect postures of worship, seasons of the Christian year, and pastoral concerns—the stuff of day-in-day-out ministry.

Many moments of revelation came to me in savoring these hymns, but one poem captured the essence of the collection and its purpose:

*Sing your song loudly, with love as your lyric.
Limitless love: one can never run out.
All in each one, and for all the same answer:
Love. Then love more. That's what life is about.*

So, I invite you to risk community and that God may speak to you through these songs.

–C. Michael Hawn
University Distinguished Professor of Church Music
Perkins School of Theology
Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas

Acknowledgments

First and foremost, thanks be to God, from whom all blessings flow.

Thanks also to

My family, Benjamin, Ian, and especially Lori, for all the love and support you have given me during the making of this project

Christ Lutheran Church of Marietta, Georgia, and especially the choir

David and Ginnie Schaap and Selah Publishing Co., for making this project a reality

Thomas Troeger, The Yale Institute of Sacred Music, Yale Divinity School; Mark Miller and the Yale Divinity School Gospel Choir; Pam Huffman and the Overseas Ministry Study Center, of New Haven, Connecticut; Tendekai Kutare and the Africa University Choir; Singapore Methodist School of Music.

Sociedade Evangelical de Musica Sacra; Internationale Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Hymnologie; The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada; The Hymn Society of Great Britain and Ireland; American Society of Composers, Artists, and Publishers; Texas Choral Directors Association; Honorary Alumni Association of Africa University; American Himalayan Foundation; and the American Meteorological Society

Cristiane Arruda, Dorian Conger, Jocelyn Connell, Chick Corea, H. Julian Gordy, Doug Gray, Jackson Henry, Mama Louise Hudson, Loren Murphy Martin, Shakira Mubarak, Jeff Payne, Jason and Nanyana Reichert, Grace Slick, Schascle Twinkle Yochim

C. Michael Hawn, for writing the Foreword, and for sharing the spirit of global song

Julie Buehler, for the cover photo, support and encouragement

And for all the contributors to this project, from the following countries:

Argentina
Brasil
Canada
China
England
India
New Zealand
Nigeria
Russia
Singapore
South Korea
Sweden
Switzerland
United States of America
Zimbabwe

1 Blessed Morning, Jesus

Bless - ed mor - ning Je - sus, friend and way.
 French Bon - jour sieg - neur Je - sus, mon co - pain.
 Japanese Ies - sa - ma o - ha - yo Go - zai - mas(u).
 Swahili Ha - ba - ri - asa bu - hi N - du - gu.
 German Mor - gen freund und sha - fer, mein Je - sus.
 Spanish Buen di - a buen di - a A - mi - go.

Bless - ed morn - ing Je - sus.
 Bon - jour sieg - neur Je - sus.
 Ies - sa - ma o - ha - yo.
 Ha - ba - ri - asa - bu - hi.
 Mor - gen freund und sha - fer.
 Buen di - a A - mi - go.



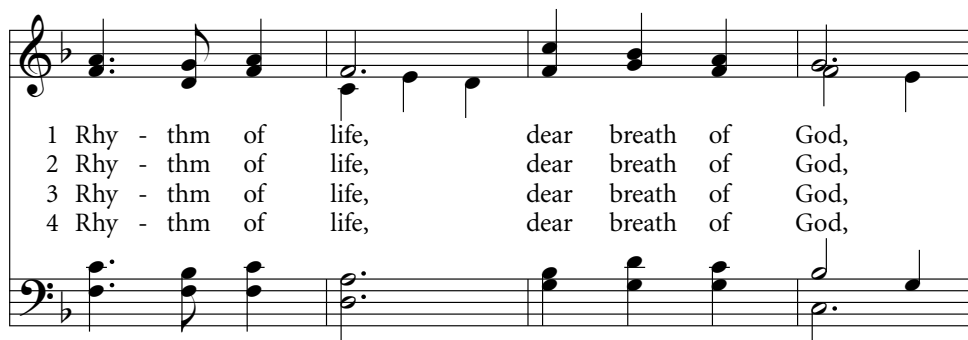
We thank you so much for giv - ing us this good new
Je te re - mer - ci tant pour cette vie et pour ce
Kyo - mo i - chi - ni - chi A ri - ga - to go - zai -
A - san - te kwa si - ku Wo - te a - san - te le -
Wir dan - ken ih - nen viel Fur die - sen tag ge - ga -
Le a - gra - de - ce - mos por dar - nos el buen di -



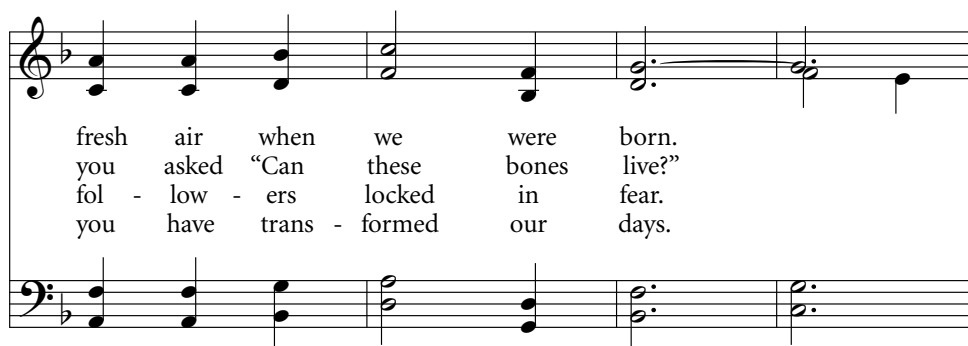
day. Bless - ed morn - ing Je - sus.
jour. Bon - jour sieg - neur Je - sus.
mas(u). Ies - sa - ma o - ha - yo.
o. Ha - ba - ri asa - bu - hi.
ben. Mor - gen freund und sha - fer.
a. Buen di - a A - mi - go.



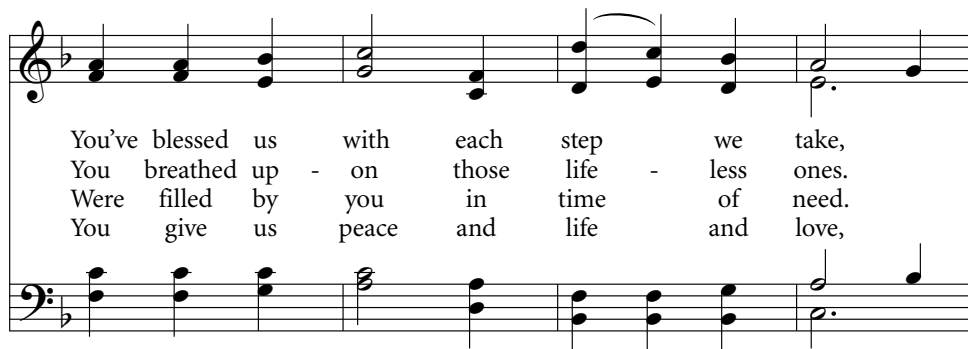
2 Rhythm of Life



1 Rhy - thm of life, dear breath of God,
2 Rhy - thm of life, dear breath of God,
3 Rhy - thm of life, dear breath of God,
4 Rhy - thm of life, dear breath of God,



fresh air when we were born.
you asked "Can these bones live?"
fol - low - ers locked in fear.
you have trans - formed our days.



You've blessed us with each step we take,
You breathed up - on those life - less ones.
Were filled by you in time of need.
You give us peace and life and love,



be with us still, this morn.
This hope for us, please give.
Please breathe on those now here.
we use this breath to praise.

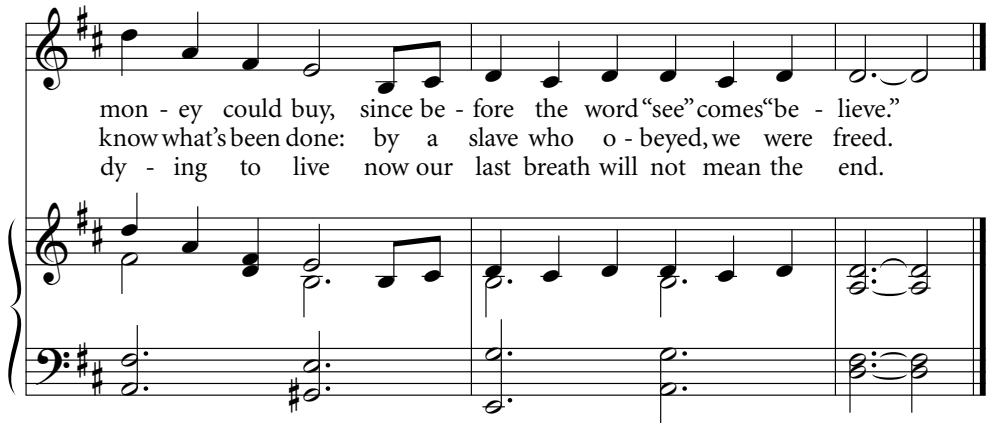
Before God Says "Go" 3



1 Be - fore God says "Go" God says "come." Be - fore the word
2 Young stu - dents will rise up to teach. And last - in - line
3 The gos - pel is old - er than law. God gave be - fore



"give" comes "re - ceive." Our faith is a trea - sure no
peo - ple shall lead. Be - fore we can do, we must
we were a friend. The cross is a mat - ter of



mon - ey could buy, since be - fore the word "see" comes "be - lieve."
know what's been done: by a slave who o - beyed, we were freed.
dy - ing to live now our last breath will not mean the end.

4 If You Can Walk

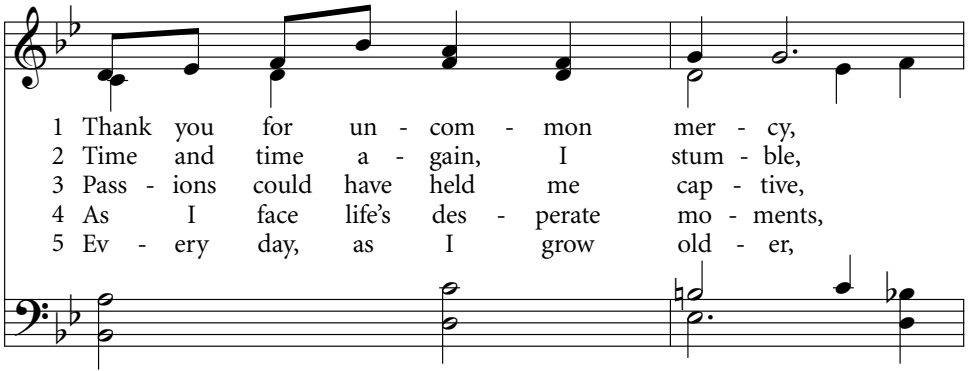
Unison

1 If you can walk, then you can dance; if you can
 2 If you can cry, then you can laugh; if you be -
 3 If you can sleep, then you can dream; if you can

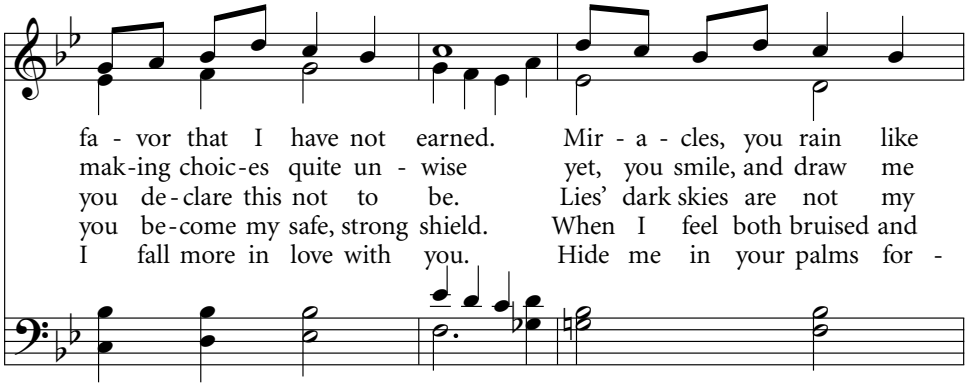
talk, then you can sing. If your heart beats, then you can
 lieve then you can pray. If you have lips, then you can
 feel, then you can care. If you can wish, then you can

love; if you can breathe, then you can live.
 smile; if you can think, then you can hope.
 be; so dance and sing, love, live, be free.

Thank You for Uncommon Mercy 5



1 Thank you for un - com - mon mer - cy,
 2 Time and time a - gain, I stum - ble,
 3 Pass - ions could have held me cap - tive,
 4 As I face life's des - perate mo - ments,
 5 Ev - ery day, as I grow old - er,



fa - vor that I have not earned. Mir - a - cles, you rain like
 mak - ing choic - es quite un - wise yet, you smile, and draw me
 you de - clare this not to be. Lies' dark skies are not my
 you be - come my safe, strong shield. When I feel both bruised and
 I fall more in love with you. Hide me in your palms for -



man - na. I sing prais - es, les - son learned.
 clos - er, say - ing "Lit - tle child, a - rise."
 por - tion. Truth will set this pris - oner free.
 bro - ken, just one touch, and I am healed.
 ev - er. Love, as on - ly you can do.

6 Advent People

Unison

1 Ad - vent peo - ple, watch and hope; God will not de - lay.
2 Ad - vent peo - ple, watch and hope; strive for what is just.
3 Ad - vent peo - ple, watch and hope; weep and laugh and share
4 Ad - vent peo - ple, watch and hope; Christ that day will bring
5 Ad - vent peo - ple, watch and hope; God's good gift re - ceive.

God will bring the king - dom in; mean-while, work and pray.
God will make the crook - ed straight; mean-while, work and trust.
bread with those you find in need. Till his com - ing, care.
free - dom, whole-ness, joy, and peace. Mean-while, work, and sing.
Now and Then are in God's hands; work and rest and live.

“Yes” Was the Word 7

1 “Yes” was the word that God said to the na - tions,
2 “Yes” was the word that God said to the na - tions,
3 “Yes” is the word that God says to the na - tions,

The first system of music features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line is in a single treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It contains three lines of lyrics, each with a triplet of eighth notes above it. The piano accompaniment consists of a right-hand part with a treble clef and a left-hand part with a bass clef. Both hands feature triplet markings over groups of notes.

on the day you were con - ceived. An - gels re - joiced with their
as you were cho - sen to be part of the plan, a new
as you are blessed, night and day. Op - en your hands filled with

The second system continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line has three lines of lyrics with triplet markings. The piano accompaniment continues with triplet markings in both hands.

harps in a cir - cle, when you were born and re - ceived.
page in God's sto - ry; one of God's earth fam - i - ly.
grace af - fir - ma - tion. Go, give the Trea - sure a - way.

The third system concludes the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line has three lines of lyrics with triplet markings. The piano accompaniment concludes with triplet markings in both hands.

8 In the Labored Pain of Travel

1 In the la - bored pain of trav - el
 2 When they reached their des - ti - na - tion,
 3 God de - liv - ered us from e - vil.
 4 Each time we sing of the man - ger,

on the road to Beth - le - hem,
 rooms were tak - en. Who would care?
 Christ was born, in spite of sin.
 hearts and hearths, be cleansed a - gain,

Moth - er Ma - ry had to won - der:
 Berths would ease the pangs of birth - ing,
 Thus, the cave barn was made ho - ly,
 so when we meet wea - ry stran - gers,

“Would there be a place for them?”
 if a sin - gle guest would share.
 just for them, out - side the inn.
 we will find a room for them.

May God Bless and Keep You 46

Unison

May God bless and keep you. May God smile up - on you. May

The first system of music consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef and contains a melody of quarter and eighth notes. The bottom staff is in bass clef and contains a harmonic accompaniment of chords and single notes. The lyrics are written below the top staff.

God grant un - to you the spir - it of joy.

The second system of music also consists of two staves. The top staff continues the melody from the first system. The bottom staff continues the harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the top staff.

Metrical Index

CM		87 87D	
HOLY BREATH.....	21	CRANÇA.....	36
HOUSE BLESSING.....	42	DUNCAN.....	35
LEMRADO.....	27	TALITHA CUMI.....	16
RHYTHM OF LIFE.....	2		
CM with Refrain		888 7	
GRACE HAPPENS.....	14	BOGGUSS.....	11
ONE BRIGHT FLAME.....	40		
LM		88 11 9	
O WALY, WALY.....	4	COMMENCEMENT.....	3
27 27D		9 6 10 7	
STRESS NOT.....	32	JULIE'S CAMERA.....	41
44 77 4		10 7 10 66	
S'BOGOM.....	45	JEFF.....	33
55 54D		10 9 10 7	
BY GRACE.....	10	MOSCOW MARIETTA.....	18
56 56		THERE'S A CANDLE.....	19
PITANGA.....	30	10 10 10	
WINTER ROSE.....	29	PEACE OF CHRIST.....	44
636 13 6		10 10 10 10	
DOUROUGH.....	1	RESPIRANDO.....	22
66 65		STRADTMAN'S FOURTH.....	9
SPIRIT OF JOY.....	46	10 10 10 11 with refrain	
66 77		PITNEY.....	39
OLUSHOLA.....	17	10 10 11 10	
75 75		CELESTE.....	26
ADVENT PEOPLE.....	6	11 7 11 7	
77 77		SERVANTHOOD.....	15
ROMEO & JULIET.....	38	YES.....	7
77 77 77 77 77 77		11 10 11 8	
BELOVED.....	37	SIMPLY PERFECT.....	31
87 87		15 14 15 14	
BONDED.....	28	ULTIMATE.....	12
CARRY MY BURDEN.....	23	Peculiar	
CELIWE.....	5	UNCHAIN YOUR HEART.....	24
MANY STREAMS.....	34	Copyright Holders	
OBRIGADO.....	13	GIA Publications, Inc.	
WEARY STRANGERS.....	8	7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638	
87 87 87		www.giamusic.com 800.442.1358	
HISTÓRIA.....	43	Hope Publishing Co.	
87 87 89		380 S. Main Pl., Carol Stream, IL 60118	
SOSA.....	25	www.hopepublishing.com 800.323.1049	
87 87 with refrain		Selah Publishing Co., Inc.	
MUTARE MARIETTA.....	20	P.O. Box 98066, Pittsburgh, PA 15227	
		www.selahpub.com 800.852.6172	

Index of Authors and Composers

Anderson, Ruth (U.S.A.)	
You Hear Me When I Call Your Name.....	27
Bägenfelt, Susanne (Sweden)	
BELOVED.....	37
Buehler, Julie (U.S.A.)	
Are You Weary, Poor in Spirit?	28
Donaldson, Andrew (Canada)	
WINTER ROSE.....	29
Edwards, Rusty (U.S.A.)	
ADVENT PEOPLE.....	6
All the Sleepy.....	39
Are You Weary, Poor in Spirit?	28
As a Winter Rose	29, 30
Before God Says “Go”	3
Blessed Morning, Jesus	1
BOGGUSS	11
Breathing Together.....	22
By Grace We Have Been Saved.....	14
By Grace We Gather.....	10
Carry My Burden	23
Celestial Hymns	26
CELIWE	5
COMMENCEMENT	3
Distant As the Furthest Star	38
DOROUGH.....	1
God Be with You.....	45
Hymn of Compassion.....	37
I Am Thankful.....	20
If You Can Walk.....	4
In the Labored Pain of Travel	8
Infuse Us with Your Holy Breath	21
JEFF	33
JULIE’S CAMERA	41
Let the Children Join Our Dancing	35, 36
Like the Water, Earth, and Breeze	37
Many Streams.....	34
May God Bless and Keep You.....	46
MUTARE MARIETTA.....	14
OLUSHOLA	17
ONE BRIGHT FLAME	40
Open Our Eyes	41
Peace of Christ	44
Peruse My Being, Lord.....	17
Rhythm of Life	2
S’BOGOM.....	45
SIMPLY PERFECT	31
SPIRIT OF JOY	46
Spirit of Service.....	15
STRADTMANN’S FOURTH.....	9
Stress Not	32
TALITHA CUMI	16
Thank You for Uncommon Mercy	4
Thank You, God.....	13
There’s a Candle	18, 19
Unchain Your Heart.....	24
We Go Forth with Grateful Stories	43
When We Feel the Pain Inside Us	25
Within Each Heart	40
“Yes” Was the Word	7
You Are the Ultimate.....	12
You Hear Me When I Call Your Name.....	27
You Move with Us.....	42
English folk song	
O WALY, WALY	4
Erskine, Peter (U.S.A.)	
ROMEO & JULIET	38
Faus, Robert E. (U.S.A.)	
I Am Thankful.....	20
Faustini, João Wilson (Brasil)	
BONDED	28
CRIANÇA	36
HISTÓRIA	43
HOLY BREATH.....	21
LEMBRADO	27
OBRIGADO	13
PEACE OF CHRIST	44
PITANGA	30
RESPIRANDO	22
YES	7
Fedak, Alfred V. (U.S.A.)	
CARRY MY BURDEN	23
SERVANTHOOD	15
WEARY STRANGERS	8
Garbuzova, Ludmila (Russia)	
MOSCOW MARIETTA	18
Goode, Lonnie (U.S.A.)	
RHYTHM OF LIFE	2
Grindal, Gracia (U.S.A.)	
There Was Jesus By the Water	16
Hill, Darcy (U.S.A.)	
COMMENCEMENT.....	3
ONE BRIGHT FLAME	40
Within Each Heart	40
Jouanet, Celeste (U.S.A.)	
You Move with Us.....	42
Leach, Richard (U.S.A.)	
Hope Is a Candle	31
When Our Song Says Peace	33
Lee, Geonyong (South Korea)	
ULTIMATE.....	12
Lim, Swee Hong	
GRACE HAPPENS	14

Lim, Swee Hong (Singapore)	
GRACE HAPPENS	14
Loh, I-toh (Republic of China)	
MANY STREAMS	34
Marshall, Jane (U.S.A.)	
Advent People.....	6
Matsikenyiri, Patrick (Zimbabwe)	
JULIE'S CAMERA	41
MUTARE MARIETTA.....	20
Miller, Mark A. (U.S.A.)	
UNCHAIN YOUR HEART.....	24
Mitchell-Wallace, Sue (U.S.A.)	
DUNCAN	35
Murray, Shirley Erena (New Zealand)	
Wise Men Came Journeying.....	9
Nagarjuna (2 nd cent., India)	
Hymn of Compassion	37
Olushola, Michael (Nigeria)	
OLUSHOLA	17
Peruse My Being, Lord.....	17
Perry, Michael (England)	
Child of Gladness, Child of Sorrow	11
Plüss, David (Switzerland)	
BY GRACE	10
STRESS NOT	32
THERE'S A CANDLE.....	19
Rickard, Jeffrey (U.S.A.)	
O WALX, WALX	4
Rudat, Stephanie (U.S.A.)	
Unchain Your Heart.....	24
Samkange, Celiwe (Zimbabwe)	
Peruse My Being, Lord.....	17
Thank You for Uncommon Mercy	4
Samuelson, Debra von Fischer (U.S.A.)	
Blessed Morning, Jesus	1
In the Labored Pain of Travel	8
Open Our Eyes	41
Rhythm of Life	2
There's a Candle	18, 19
We Go Forth with Grateful Stories	43
When We Feel the Pain Inside Us	25
Samuelson, Miriam (U.S.A.)	
Many Streams.....	34
Spirit of Service.....	10
Sosa, Pablo (Argentina)	
MARIA AMELIA	25
Wold, Wayne L. (U.S.A.)	
PITNEY.....	39
Young, Carlton R. (U.S.A.)	
CELESTE.....	26
HOUSE BLESSING.....	42

First Lines

Advent People	6
All the Sleepy	39
Are You Weary, Poor in Spirit?.....	28
As a Winter Rose.....	29, 30
Before God Says "Go".....	3
Blessed Morning, Jesus	1
Breathing Together	22
By Grace We Gather	10
By Grace We Have Been Saved	14
Carry My Burden.....	23
Celestial Hymns	26
Child of Gladness, Child of Sorrow	11
Distant As the Furthest Star.....	38
God Be with You	45
Hope Is a Candle.....	31
Hymn of Compassion	37
I Am Thankful	20
If You Can Walk	4
In the Labored Pain of Travel.....	8
Infuse Us with Your Holy Breath.....	21
Let the Children Join Our Dancing.....	35, 36
Like the Water, Earth and Breeze	37
Many Streams	34
May God Bless and Keep You	46
Open Our Eyes.....	41
Peace of Christ.....	44
Peruse My Being, Lord	17
Rhythm of Life	2
Spirit of Service	15
Stress Not.....	32
Thank You for Uncommon Mercy	5
Thank You, God	13
There's a Candle.....	18, 19
There Was Jesus By the Water	16
Unchain Your Heart	24
We Go Forth with Grateful Stories.....	43
When Our Song Says Peace.....	33
When We Feel the Pain Inside Us.....	25
Wise Men Came Journeying	9
Within Each Heart.....	40
"Yes" Was the Word.....	7
You Are the Ultimate	12
You Hear Me When I Call Your Name	27
You Move with Us	42