**Boats**

Carefully I crafted my boat according to His command – tight like unto a dish.

My obedience had made the boat fully able to keep out the waves of the world around me.

Admiring the wonderfulness of my work, I stepped proudly into my boat.

Suddenly I realized that the boat lacked air to breathe and light to see.

I cried in anguish to the Architect of the boat, “How can this be?”

“I have followed your commands with exactness!”

“Why hast thou commanded me to construct a vessel in which

I must travel in darkness and perish in my journey?”

Quietly a whisper within my soul speaks.

“Lest thou forget that it is not thy work that saves,

I have commanded you to construct a boat that reveals your weakness and reminds you –

It is I who am mighty to save. Air and life I will provide you, but you must seek for light.”

Searching for sources of light, I ascend a mountain.

Sparkling crystals shine forth from within the cliffs.

Determinedly I molten the stones from the mountainside.

After endless polishing, still they have no internal radiance, shining only in the presence of the Son.

I come again to the Architect, seeking His help to bring light to the stones.

Humbly I acknowledge my own weakness and reliance upon His power.

One by one He touches the stones, causing each to shine brilliantly with His light.

In this process of illumination, my eyes are open to see His tender touch.

I fall in fear before Him, aware of my unworthiness of such a witness.

With love and kindness in His voice, He bids me arise.

He invites me to view beyond the veil of my unbelief and see the fullness of His glory.

Humbly and gratefully I marvel at the magnificence of His light and majesty.

More fully aware now of my need for Him to overcome death and my lack of light,

I board my boat of serene security and make my journey through life.

The waves of persecution, trial, and challenges blow me ever closer to becoming like Him.

In the fourth watch of my journey, He quietly comes to me upon the tempestuous seas.

My son! Get out of the boat and Come, Follow Me!