**The Stakes of Life**

Pains of life; sorrows and sin, leave their marks deep within.

Our soul is burdened both heart and mind, by sin and sorrow of every kind.

Pain and anguish; heartaches given; deep into our heart are driven.

Anger, hatred – sinful stains, our heart remembers and retains.

Mallets of malice drive them deep and rob our souls of peace and sleep.

Like stakes driven deep into dirt they penetrate our heart with hurt.

For redeeming love there is no room – filled instead with despair and gloom.

Down so deep there is no light, no longer can we see what’s right.

Our soul abhors the way we feel and begs us before the Lord to kneel.

With tears of sorrow, we bring our pleas and come to Him upon our knees.

Bedside our stake He lays his own to let us know we’re not alone.

Each hurt we feel, each sin as well, each pain and sorrow no words can tell,

He suffered all that we can know, and drives His stake far below,

What mortal man can ever feel or even know such pain is real.

He drank the dregs of the bitter cup so from below He can lift us up.

We must let his love go deep inside – deeper than our hurt or pride.

Only then can we be free to become the soul we long to be.

His love brings light into the dark and reveals in us the Heavenly spark

Which He placed there before this life, so we’d turn to Him amid our strife.

He lifts our stake that left us dead and fills us with His love instead