

All the Way My Savior Leads Me—October's Hymn of the Month 2020

By

Bill Dagle

As I have studied the hymns of Fanny Crosby, every now and then, the pieces just don't seem to fit. In researching this story, most say Fanny and her husband, Alexander Van Alstyne, lived in lower Manhattan in simple tenement houses called "flats." Even though Van Alstyne's family was quite wealthy. Bernard Ruffin, in his book, *Fanny Crosby*, states that Fanny and Alexander had taken up separate residences after moving back from their cottage on Long Island. A sad event happened to Fanny on the Island which caused the couple to return to the city. November's hymn of the month, I believe, was Fanny's way of dealing with that tragic loss.

If Fanny were living alone in that flat, then this story makes good sense. Otherwise, it becomes confusing for me. Alexander Van Alstyne had money. To me, the only way this story makes sense is that Fanny is living alone in that flat on the poor side of town.

The year was 1874, and the rent was due. Fanny did not have the rent money. Fanny, throughout her entire life, had only enough to get by. After praying about the need, there was a knock at the door. Upon opening the door, she heard a man's voice thanking her for her music. Before he left, he placed money in her hand. It turned out to be a ten dollar bill—just enough to pay the month's rent on time. Later, she would say, "I have no way of accounting for this except to believe that God put it into the heart of this good man to bring me the money." Later that same day, Fanny wrote *All the Way My Savior Leads Me*. This would be Fanny's first hymn to be set to music by her good friend, Pastor Robert Lowry.

Pastor Lowry had pastored at the Hanson Place Baptist Church in New York City from 1861-1869. During his time there, he would write *Shall We Gather at the River*, *Nothing but the Blood of Jesus* and the music for *Marching to Zion*. In 1874, he gave us the tune for *I Need Thee Every Hour* and in 1824, words and music for *Christ Arose* plus the music for Fanny's new hymn.

If you know Christ as your personal Savior, then I'm sure you want the leading of the Lord for your life. For myself, I look first to scripture, then to the spirit and finally to the situations that come my way. Our Lord will never lead us to do anything contrary to scripture. The spirit of God dwells within us to guide us through each day. The situations of life become clearer as we apply scripture and the spirit leading. In the words of Fanny Crosby, "All the Way My Savior Leads Me."

All the way my Savior leads me,
What have I to ask beside?
Can I doubt His tender mercy,
Who through life has been my Guide?
Heav'nly peace, divinest comfort,
Here by faith in Him to dwell!
For I know whate'er befall me,
Jesus doeth all things well.

All the way my Savior leads me,
Cheers each winding path I tread,
Gives me grace for every trial,
Feeds me with the living Bread.
Though my weary steps may falter
And my soul athirst may be,
Gushing from the Rock before me,
Lo! A spring of joy I see;
Gushing from the Rock before me,
Lo! A spring of joy I see.

All the way my Savior leads me,
Oh, the fullness of His love!
Perfect rest to me is promised
In my Father's house above.
When my spirit, clothed immortal,
Wings its flight to realms of day
This my song through endless ages:
Jesus led me all the way;
This my song through endless ages:
Jesus led me all the way.

"I being in the way, the Lord led me." (Genesis 24:27b)

We all need to get up, get out and get going.