

I Must Tell Jesus- January's Hymn of the Month 2024  
By  
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Reverend Elisha A. Hoffman was a pastor, evangelist and a hymn writer. Interestingly enough is that he is remembered most for his writing. He gave us songs entitled: *What a Wonderful Savior, Down at the Cross, Are you Washed in the Blood?, Leaning on the Everlasting Arms* and a song inspired by a lady burdened with troubles, *I Must Tell Jesus*.

During a pastorate at Lebanon, Pennsylvania, Pastor Hoffman had a lady in his church who seemed to have a black cloud hanging over her life. Because of this, he made a special effort to visit her to try to lift her spirits with scripture and prayer. Arriving at her house one afternoon, the good Pastor discovered a new calamity had just overtaken the poor lady. For the next few minutes, she poured out her heart to the pastor, all of her cares and sorrows, finally ending with the question, "Oh Brother Hoffman, what shall I do?" The pastor responded with Bible verses of assurance, trust and the faithfulness of God. He then added his own words of encouragement. "You see, my dear sister, God wants to bear all these sorrows whether great or small. The thing we can do is to take them to Jesus. We must tell Jesus!"

Pastor Hoffman left that afternoon with the phrase, "I must tell Jesus," burning in his heart; and before the day was over, the words to a new hymn were on paper. Pastor, evangelist, writer—but remembered most for his pen and the truths set to melody. In this hymn, we are reminded of our Savior's words, "Come unto me all who are heavy laden and I will give you rest."

I must tell Jesus all of my trials  
I cannot bear these burdens alone  
In my distress He kindly will help me  
He ever loves and cares for His own.