

Little is Much- November's Hymn of the Month 2022

By
Bill Dagle

For over 50 years, George Beverly Shea has been a key part of the Billy Graham evangelistic team. With his marvelous voice and timeless songs, Mr. Shea has prepared the heart for the message these many years. In fact, he celebrated his 99th birthday in the spring of 2008. George Beverly Shea has made so many wonderful memories to share with us; and he does in his book, *How Sweet the Sound*. It's from this account of days gone by that I get a story behind a song, story that reaches way back to George's boyhood days.

George's father was a pastor in a church in Winchester, Ontario; and Fred Suffield had come to Christ under his preaching. Even though Mr. Suffield was a successful farmer, Fred felt the call of God upon his life to do more. Finally, one day, Fred Suffield put his hand to the plow, not to sow wheat, but souls; and he never looked back.

Shortly after this point of commitment, Rev. Shea held a week of special meetings in his Winchester Wesleyan Church. Kittie, a singer from the United States, did the special music each night for the week-long services. When it came time for Kittie to head south, aboard the Canadian Pacific, she was in for a surprise. A snowstorm overtook the train less than three miles from the station and only two hundred yards from Fred Suffield's farm. Stalled by a big snowdrift, the passengers were rescued by Fred and his horse-drawn sleigh. That night, the travelers enjoyed the warmth of Fred's farmhouse and, before leaving the following morning, the generosity of a big breakfast. Included in the list of special guests was Kittie, the soloist from church. Fred had enjoyed her singing all week long; and now, it seemed the Lord had brought them together. As she said good-bye at the backdoor, Fred knew that she was the one and that, in a short time, they would be working together for the Lord.

George Beverly Shea remembers this:

Fred and Kittie asked if they could be married in our home. The wedding took place on a Saturday evening. We children were upstairs with our hands cupped to our ears, listening to everything that was happening. In a little while, we heard them say good-bye as they rushed to the railway station for a train to Toronto.

Kittie spent the rest of her life assisting Fred in his ministry until she went home to her Lord in 1972. A singer, pianist and songwriter, Kittie never forgot the little things that God uses to direct our lives-- even a little thing such a snowstorm. Maybe, that's why she wrote these words:

In the harvest field now ripened,
There's a work for all to do;
Hark! The voice is God is calling,
To the harvest calling you.

Little is much when God is in it
Labor not for wealth or fame;
There's a crown and you can win it,
If you'll go in Jesus' name.

