

My Ever Living Advocate

@2013 Andy Gleiser; Arranged by Sarah Williams

Some years ago I preached a 20-week series on 1-3 John to the teens at our church. The Lord really stretched me as I wrestled through the difficult and convicting truths of John's letters. The most glorious of all the text was I John 2:1-2. It answered the question, "*What does the Christian do about all his sin?*" Simply put, when a Christian sins against God, He has a friend before God, that Friend Jesus Christ. That encouraging truth is the theme of this hymn - it has come from my meditation, study, and preaching of I John. There were many versions of this song before I was finally satisfied with the content.

When Bryn and I first came to Burge Terrace Baptist Church in 2001, Sarah Williams was in the 8th grade. She was one of our "original" teenagers, which makes our relationship with her very special. It didn't take us long to recognize her heart for God and her talent for music. I asked Sarah to be the youth group pianist during her teen years, and upon graduation from college, she came back and resumed her role during our final years of student ministry at Burge Terrace. The Lord has also been using her through the music ministry of the church as well. Sarah had arranged some hymns for piano and demonstrated a gift and desire for writing music. Late in 2013, I asked her if she would consider composing the music for *My Ever Living Advocate*. She readily agreed, and I'm grateful she did!