

# EVERYMAN

*Compiled by the  
Canadian Young Men's  
Christian Association  
(Overseas) for members  
of His Majesty's Forces*



*AT THE GATE  
OF THE YEAR*

I said to the man who stood at the gate of  
the year :

" Give me a light that I may tread safely into  
the unknown,"

And he replied :

" Go out into the darkness and put your  
hand into the hand of God.

" That shall be to you better than light and  
safer than a known way."

*M. L. Haskins.*

*Quoted by His Majesty the King in an Empire  
broadcast.*

*EVERYMAN*

To EVERYMAN there openeth

A Way, and Ways, and a Way.

And the High Soul climbs the High Way,

And the Low Soul gropes the Low,

And in between on the misty flats

The rest drift to and fro,

But to EVERYMAN there openeth

A High Way and a Low,

And EVERYMAN decideth

The Way his soul shall go.

*John Oxenham.*



## FOLKS

I like those folks who always try  
To look you squarely in the eye,  
Whose hand-clasp always seems to say,  
"I'm mighty glad I passed your way."

I like those folks who play the game,  
And win or lose, it's just the same,  
Who always smile, and say, "Well done !  
It really was a lot of fun."

I like those folks who always grin,  
And take their troubles on the chin,  
Then, when you're down, they understand,  
And come and lend a helping hand.

*Thomas Grant*

It takes ambition, courage, faith and strenuous effort to win in life's battles, and these will God supply to those who trust in Him and go forward.

The most indispensable condition for moral progress is that you should know which way to go.

Watch your tongue ; it is set in a wet place and may easily slip.

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If you your lips would save from slips,  
Five things observe with care,  
Of WHOM you speak, to WHOM you speak,  
And HOW, and WHEN, and WHERE.

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Of Courtesy it is much less  
Than Courage of heart and Holiness  
Yet in my walks it seems to me  
That the grace of God is in Courtesy.

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Who blesses others in his daily deeds,  
Will find the healing that his spirit needs.

*Whittier.*

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Boys flying kites draw in their white-winged birds,  
You can't do that when you are flying words.  
Thoughts unexpressed will sometimes fall back  
dead,  
But God Himself can't kill them when they're  
said.

*Will Carleton.*

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Life is a mirror of king and of slave,  
It is just what you are and do,  
Then give to the world the best that you have,  
And the best will come back to you.



The tragic ordeal through which the Western world is passing, was prepared in the long period of easy liberty during which men forgot the elementary truths of human existence. They forgot that their freedom was achieved by heroic sacrifice ; they became so accustomed to freedom that they thought it was as normal as the air they breathe, and they came to believe that the heroic virtues were antiquated, and that sacrifice was a bore and bother. They forgot that their rights were founded on their duties, and they thought that to get while the getting was good, whether by private smartness or collective pressure, was the normal and natural thing to do. They forgot that unless they bear themselves so that the eternal values of truth, justice and righteousness are perpetually revealed to them, they will not know how to resist the corrosion of their virtue or how to face the trials that life will bring to them upon this earth. They had become too comfortable and too safe and too sophisticated to believe the first things and the last things which men have been inspired to understand through generations of suffering, and they thought it clever to be cynical, and enlightened to be unbelieving, and sensible to be soft.

And so, through suffering, they must re-discover these first and last things again, and be purified once more by repentance.

*Walter Lippman.*

## A PRAYER

Remind us that every path down which benediction has come to our souls has a cross at its beginning, and is marked with the footprints of those who have laboured there.

Save us from our petulant and irritable demands for personal recognition. Send us forth with greater unselfishness to leave this world a sweeter, more decent and brotherly place.

Grant to discouraged souls the vision of high aims worth living for. May this world be lifted to finer living in family and business life, to nobler statesmanship, to better dreams of world peace and human brotherhood.

Lo ! how we stand here before Christ and say, "Lord." Now may we go out to do what He said ! We pray in His Name. Amen.

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And let us not be weary in well doing, for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

*(Paul, Galatians 6 : 9).*

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If God is to remain a reality in our life, we must maintain a constant response to what He is and what He asks.



*" I SAW THE MORNING BREAK."*

The following poem by the late Sir Owen Seaman, which formed the close of the first speech made by the late Marquess of Lothian after taking up duties as Ambassador in Washington, was sung at the memorial service to Lord Lothian at Westminster Abbey. It was set to music by Dr. Ernest Bullock.

You that have faith to look with fearless eyes  
Beyond the tragedy of a world at strife  
And trust that out of night and death shall rise  
The dawn of ampler life ;

Rejoice, whatever anguish rend your heart,  
That God has given you, for a priceless dower,  
To live in these great times and have your part  
In Freedom's crowning hour ;

That you may tell your sons who see the light  
High in the heaven, their heritage to take :  
" I saw the powers of darkness put to flight !  
I saw the morning break !"

Remember that the faith that moves mountains  
always carries a pick.

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One may do a great deal of good in the world if  
one does not care who gets the credit for it.

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To joke about sex is to treat with lightness some-  
thing that deserves reverence.

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Respect for people is the first essential to success-  
ful living with them.

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It is one thing to give advice, and quite another to  
influence conduct.

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He that will not reason is a bigot, he that cannot  
reason is a fool, and he that dares not reason is a  
slave.

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Not all the waters of the seven seas can sink a  
ship unless the water gets inside.

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A pint can't hold a quart. If it holds a pint it is  
doing all that can be expected of it.

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The final test of religion is its ability to make men  
morally whole.

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Even if you are on the right track you will be run  
over if you sit there.

## BUILDERS

Isn't it strange that princes and kings,  
And clowns that caper in sawdust rings,  
And common folk like you and me  
Are builders for eternity.  
To each is given a bag of tools,  
A shapeless mass and a book of rules,  
And each must make, e'er life is flown,  
A stumbling-block or a stepping-stone.

---

We are evidently in the midst of a process, and the slowness of God's processes in the material world prepares us, or ought to prepare us, for something analogous in the moral world ; so that at least we may be allowed to trust that He who has taken untold ages for the formation of a bit of old red sandstone may not be limited to threescore years and ten for the perfecting of a human spirit.

*Thomas Erskine.*

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For like a child sent with a fluttering light,  
To feel his way across a gusty night,  
Man walks the world. Again and yet again  
The lamp may be by fits of passion slain ;  
But shall not He who sent him from the door,  
Re-light the lamp once more, and yet once more ?

*Edward Fitzgerald.*

BE SO PROUD OF THE RACE TO WHICH  
YOU BELONG that you will be as jealous of its  
honour as you are of its safety, and that you will  
fight for both with equal determination.

The struggle will be arduous, it may be long,  
and it will certainly demand of our nation that it  
should withhold nothing that may contribute to our  
strength.

In front of the Viceroy's house in New Delhi  
stands a column on which are inscribed the words

IN THOUGHT FAITH  
IN WORD WISDOM  
IN DEED COURAGE  
IN LIFE SERVICE.

No one of us could offer for our country and our  
Commonwealth any better prayer to-day.

*(Lord Halifax, at Oxford, 29th February, 1940)*

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Except the Lord build the house, they labour in  
vain that build it ; except the Lord keep the city,  
the watchman waketh but in vain.—*Psalm 127 : 1.*



## FOR SUPPORT AND WISDOM

May the power of the Father govern me,  
May the wisdom of the Son enlighten me,  
May the operation of the Holy Spirit quicken  
me—

O God I beseech Thee

Guard my soul,  
Sustain my body,  
Exalt my senses,  
Direct my course,  
Regulate my manners,  
Bless my undertakings,  
Fulfil my petitions,  
Inspire me with holy thoughts,  
Pardon what is past,  
Rectify what is present,  
Order what is to come. Amen.

*Bishop Andrewes, 1555-1626.*

When we think of prayer, we think as a rule instinctively of its limitations. The mind of Christ seemed always occupied with its possibilities.

Small minds are too sensitive to small hurts.  
Great minds see things whole, and feel no pain.

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Let this be a comfort to your soul,  
In the midst of life's worries and frets,  
A football never could score a goal  
Were it not for the kicks that it gets.

---

It is not what happens to me that really matters,  
but how I behave while it is happening.

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Life is mostly froth and bubble,  
Two things stand like stone,  
Kindness in another's trouble,  
Courage in your own.

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Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of  
incorruptible.—1 *Peter* 1 : 23.

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Yes, I quite believe that the purpose of the Christian revelation is to develop the incorruptible seed's life in the heart, not to clothe mankind from without in a religious or fancied Christ-like garb. The great thing is to be true. Only such a one is Christ-like, and O how hard it is to be true ; but the Spirit of Truth WILL guide us into all truth.

Men really believe a thing when they behave as if it were true.

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Part of our difficulty in religion is our attempt to find it apart from instead of in and through the processes of life.—*George Eliot.*

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Religion is the first and the last thing, and until a man has found God and been found by God, he begins at no beginning and works to no end.

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Though Christ a thousand times in Bethlehem be born,

And not in thee, thy soul remains eternally forlorn.

The cross on Calvary can never save thee from thy sin

Until it is upraised again thy very soul within.

Our Lord is risen from the dead ! What help is that to thee

So long as thou remainest dead in sin and misery.

---

I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.—*The words of Jesus, St. John 10 : 10.*

Life is good with the friends we have made,  
And the joys which in common we share.  
We want to live on, not because of ourselves,  
But because of the people who care.  
It's living and doing for somebody else,  
On this all life's splendour depends,  
And the joys of the world  
When you've summed it all up,  
Are found in the keeping of friends.

---

The night has a thousand eyes,  
And the day but one,  
Yet the light of the bright world dies  
With the setting sun.

The mind has a thousand eyes,  
And the heart but one ;  
Yet the light of a whole life dies  
When love is done.

---

Confide ye aye in Providence, for Providence is kind.

And bear ye a' life's changes wi' a calm and tranquil mind.

Though press'd and hemm'd on ev'ry side,

Ha'e faith and ye'll win through,  
For ilka blade o' grass keeps its ain drap o' dew.

*James Ballantine.*



## THE WAY THROUGH

If we bravely resolve to do our part,  
Greeting each day with a trustful heart  
And free from all repining,  
We shall be led to a higher way,  
To a better work than we have to-day,  
And find love's sunlight shining.

For truth of spirit and strength of soul  
Will make the darkest cloud unroll  
And show its silver lining.

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True worth is in being, not seeming,  
In doing each day that goes by  
Some little good, not in dreaming  
Of great things to do by and by.

For whatever men say in their blindness,  
And in spite of the follies of youth,  
There is nothing so kingly as kindness,  
And nothing so royal as truth.

---

Religion is not a thing of noise and spasm, but of  
silent sacrifice and quiet growth.

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Faith does not rest on feelings, but on convictions  
which grow stronger as we live by them and rest  
on them.

## MY PRAYER.

This is my prayer, to Thee, my Lord—  
Strike, strike at the root of penury in my heart,  
Give me the strength lightly to bear my joys and  
sorrows,  
Give me the strength to make my love fruitful in  
service,  
Give me the strength never to disown the poor or  
bend my knees before insolent might.  
Give me the strength to raise my mind above  
daily trifles,  
And give me the strength to surrender my  
strength to Thy will with love.

Tagore.

---

I know not where His islands lift  
Their fronded palms in air,  
I only know I cannot drift  
Beyond His love and care.

And so beside the silent sea,  
I wait the muffled oar,  
No harm from Him can come to me  
On ocean or on shore.

---

Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am  
the light of the world ; he that followeth me shall  
not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of  
life.—*St. John 8 : 12.*

Those who have faith in Christ as the true Word of God, will not at once have all their difficulties removed. But one thing they will have, and it is enough. They will have the vision of God alike in His Majesty and in His mercy, and where there is that vision all that matters most for us in life is already made quite plain.

*J. K. Mozley.*

To sin by silence when we should protest  
Makes cowards out of men. The human race  
Has climbed on protest. Had no voice been  
raised

Against injustice, ignorance, and lust,  
The inquisition yet would serve the law,  
And guillotines decide our least disputes.  
The few who dare must speak and speak again  
To right the wrongs of many.

A regenerated society can only be composed of  
regenerated men.

To expect a change in human nature may be an  
act of faith, but to expect a change in human  
society without it is an act of lunacy.

*Lord Eustace Percy.*

Be Britons still to Britain true,  
Amang yourselves united ;  
For never but by British hands  
Maun British wrongs be righted.

*Robert Burns.*

There is no solution for national problems except  
in men.

There are two kinds of fools. One says, "This  
is old, therefore it is good," the other says, "This  
is new, therefore it is better."

In things essential—UNITY.

In things doubtful—LIBERTY.

In all things—CHARITY.

Goodwill is God's cement, hatred is the devil's  
dynamite.

The greatest of all gifts is the power to estimate  
things at their true worth.

Still as of old, man by himself is priced,  
For thirty pieces Judas sold himself, not Christ.

It makes all the difference in the world whether  
we put Truth in the first place or the second place.

However deep the disgrace we have earned, it is  
almost always within our power to regain our good  
name.

To fall short of the mark is not to prove it out of  
range, it may be that the aim was not high enough.



God has never given us the pledge of an unbroken physical security.

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And I say unto you, my friends, be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do.—*The words of Jesus, Luke 12 : 4.*

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### UNCONQUERABLE

Though traitors would our country seize ;  
And evil hands have torn our treasures down :  
These are but the fabric of our dreams.  
No wrecking of our homes, or murder of our sons,  
Can reach the spirit that within them burns.  
That spark divine is held between God's hands :  
And, in our country's darkest hour,  
He breathes upon it, and it lives,  
Triumphant, and eternal as the stars.

*Michael Fearon.*

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By their fruits ye shall know them. Not every-one that saith unto me Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven ; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.—*The words of Jesus, St. Matthew 7 : 20-21.*

He hath showed thee, O man, what is good ; and what doth Jehovah require of thee, but to do justly, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with thy God.—*Micah 6 : 8.*

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Take this honey for the bitterest cup—

There is no failure save in "giving up,"  
No real defeat so long as one still tries,

For seeing set-backs makes the strong man wise.  
The feeling of defeat comes from within,

If you're not beaten there,  
You're bound to win.

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Few things are impossible in themselves. It is want of perseverance rather than of ability that generally causes failure.

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There is a profound and indissoluble connection between what a man believes and what he is.

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There is nothing noble in being superior to some other man. The true nobility is in being superior to your previous self.

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Without action thought cannot ripen into truth.

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It is not the dying for a faith that is so hard, many men of every nation have done that. 'Tis the living up to it that is so difficult.

*Thackeray.*



*COME THEN, LET US TO THE  
TASK, TO THE BATTLE  
AND THE TOIL*

Each to our part, each to our station. Fill the Armies, rule the Air, pour out the Munitions, strangle the U-boats, sweep the mines, plough the land, build the ships, guard the streets, succour the wounded, uplift the downcast and honour the brave. Let us go forward together in all parts of the Empire, in all parts of this Island. There is not a week, nor a day, nor an hour to be lost.

*Mr. Winston Churchill, The Prime Minister.*

*A PRAYER FOR DIFFICULT  
DAYS*

GIVE UNTO US, O Lord, the spirit of brightness and of courage. Help us to play the man, and so to help others to face courageously whatsoever tomorrow may bring to meet them. Let not these shadows oppress our spirits, lest our gloom should darken the light by which others have to live. AMEN.



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