

A collection of scripture, photographs, and some original poetry
by Mike Secondino

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Comments to the author or requests for copies of this anthology may be made by e-mail to mike@secondino.com.

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For God

in whom I rejoice

My Mother

who never really lived

And My Children

who have chosen to do just that

D Am - An Anthology

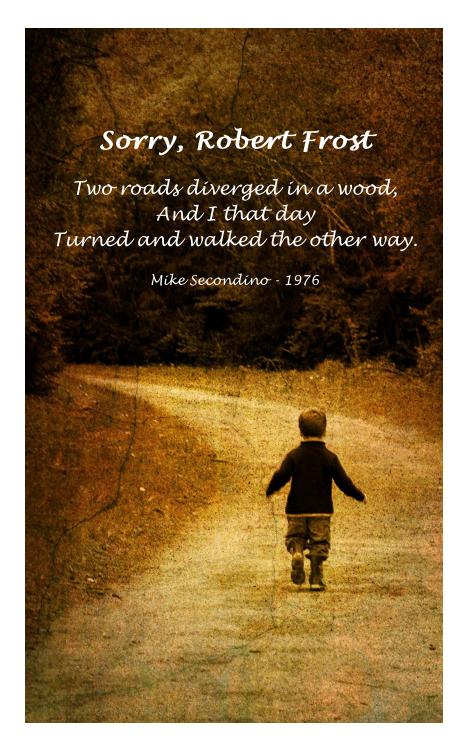
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a collection of scripture, photographs, and some original poetry

Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it," Whenever you turn to the right hand Or whenever you turn to the left.

Isaiah 30:21 NKJV



Alive!

I wonder who could live at peace With mind and self?
Needn't there be something there Distraught, if nothing else??

And who are you, who dares still live Where better men have died? "Indeed!" you say, and so I laugh, "Indeed, then, who am I?"

If you can't see just why I laugh, I'll tell it to you then.
The life I live is not my own I've gone and come again.

Míke Secondíno - 1975



Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 18:3-4 NKJV

Blessed be God, Who has not turned away my prayer, nor His mercy from me! Psalm 66:20 NKJV

...who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

Philippians 3:21 NKJV

Transitions

We are who we think we are, For we are what we strive to be. In wanting and trying (not settling for crying) We spin a cocoon, Much like a caterpillar.



He emerges a butterfly Without really knowing why. Yet we have the power In these thoughts of ours To emerge...

As we want us to be!

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. 2 Timothy 1:7 NKJV



All the Right Reasons

When you hold something in an open hand You see it for what it is.
If it's alive, it, too, must breathe
And know what freedom is.

As you would have it, you must give, And carefully provide An atmosphere where trust can grow And lovingly abide.

I hold your love in open hands, That you might come to be. Endure the journey to new lands, Godspeed, then, back to me.

I had lost perspective, gained it back, Now stand on solid ground. I'd like to share with all who lack The friendship that I've found.

Love starts, it grows, then wanes and ends, Completing all its seasons.
I love you much more than that, my friend, For all the right reasons.



The Meaning of Life

While the best part of sunrise is risen, And the point of the giving is given, We may talk about hope And deliberate scope, But the meaning of life is in living.

Míke Secondino - 2002



Heaven

On divergent paths
We each travail.
We will both arrive
At the same destination
If you trust God.
If you don't,
We won't.

In a Smile

I've wandered lonely many thousand days;
 I've reveled in the shelter of a smile
 Only to find the falseness that it plays.
 I lie awake at night a sleepless while
 And ask myself, "Where is the love I need?"
 Those that know the word will all confess
It's not brought forth like some white magic steed,
 Yet we all think we know it, nonetheless.
I've found now, since my wanderings have ceased
 (I think they've ceased at least a little while),
 Love is quite an evasive little beast Not easily obtained, as is a smile...
Though those that smile falsely do in vain,
 I give them back a smile just the same.

Mike Secondino - 1976

But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you...

Matthew 5:44 NKJV

Sittin' on a Sunrise

I'm sittin' on a sunrise,
All hope and promise and what's to come?
While things are not that rosy yet,
The recent sun has long since set,
A new one's soon to rise.

While somewhere else the sun is shining, And my life may seem dark, To make of life a funeral shroud Is like living in a rain cloud Without looking for the silver lining.

So what if the mess I'm in is no prize?
I shouldn't wonder what's to come!
We receive that which we try to get,
And while others look back on the sun that's set,
I'm sittin' on a sunrise!

Míke Secondino - 1988

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Jeremiah 29:11 NKJV

But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath. But let your "Yes" be "Yes," and your "No," "No," lest you fall into judgment.

James 5:12 NKJV

I Won't

Look me in the eye, if you will.
Are you afraid I may see you?
Are you ashamed at what you meant?
Are you trying to get me to believe
Something you don't?
I won't.



Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:20 NKJV

Joy in His Blessings

God showers us with blessings,
Even in our "darkest" times.
We should always look for
The "silver lining" in the "rain clouds",
Counting His blessings and thanking Him.
As we look for them,
We will find them,
Because He has assured us
That they are there.
If we don't look for them,
We won't see them!
If we don't see them,
Then the enemy
Has certainly stolen our joy.



Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

2 Corinthians 5:17 NKJV

Life is Life

Life is life, both bitter and sweet, Reflected in all of the people you meet. To waste it on worry, and dwell on intent, Is not, I am certain, what the Good Lord meant.

However you got here, whatever you've done (It may not have all been laughter and fun), When you look at yourself (and like what you see) Say, "It took all the places I've been to be me."

If you must dwell on something, dwell on the good. It helps you to be the person you should. If I had it to do all over again, There's nothing I'd change, not now or then.



"Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil. Ephesians $4:26-27\ NKJV$

Peace

Would you be so sure you're right If I could prove you wrong? And if I couldn't prove it quite, Were you right all along?

And does it matter who is "right"? And do you really care? Whenever we should say good night, Shouldn't peace be there?



Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.

Galatians 5:1 NKJV



America's Best

One day, perched on the edge of my nest, I was intrigued by a noteworthy guest. A Canadian Girl (traveling the world) Had stopped, on my threshold, to rest.

I could see (from a place of esteem)
She was after the American Dream Where the ages of boys are discerned by their toys.
My path never crosses that stream.

I loved her unmitigated zest As she traveled from the place of her rest. Thinking "Catch and Release" I sent her in peace, And showed her America's best!



O God, You know my foolishness; And my sins are not hidden from You.

Psalm 69:5 NKJV

Immortality or Bust

Immortal words I pen in ink, I think, Are all too soon forgotten. Immortality of thought involved absolved So many poems from being rotten.

As much as the love I learned of late can date My work it surely will.
The triteness of an early thought was bought And painted as a still.

The love I wrote of then had been As looked on from afar.
The feelings I write of now somehow Seem fully up to par.

The catchiness of rhyme sometimes Immortalizes words.
Be wary words that you retell don't sell You out as quite absurd.

And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.

Matthew 11:12 NKJV

Metamorphosi

We've meta-morphed the moment, Used it for transition.
We reach back as though we were.
We're not! We seem surprised.
We've outgrown yesterday,
And stepping into today
Take tomorrow by storm.





Here to Praise You

Half our families are in shambles Pushing children into sin... Our homeland's not secure If we are burning from within!

God, You are the healer of this long forsaken land... Lord, I hear your Word, I'm here To seek Your face again!

I'm here to praise You!
I'm here to take Your hand.
I'm here to praise You!
I'm here to take a stand
In the darkness that surrounds me
When the evil's all around
I'm here to Praise! Here to praise You.

We need to watch what we teach our children, Take heed what we see and hear. We must guard our hearts and minds As we secure what we hold dear!

God, You are the healer of This long forsaken land... Lord, we hear Your Word, we're here To turn to You again!

We're here to praise You!
We're here to take Your hand.
We're here to praise You!
We're here to take a stand
In the darkness that surrounds us
When the evil's all around
We're here to Praise! Here to praise You.



And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions

Joel 2:28 NKJV

Boys to Men?

I sought understanding and got advice. I didn't think the matter twice And knowing partially the price, Went ahead with my own fool life.

Sometimes little boys never grow up. Sometimes they grow up to be big men. Sometimes they just grow up To grow down again.



No one, when he has lit a lamp, puts it in a secret place or under a basket, but on a lampstand, that those who come in may see the light.

Luke 11:33 NKJV

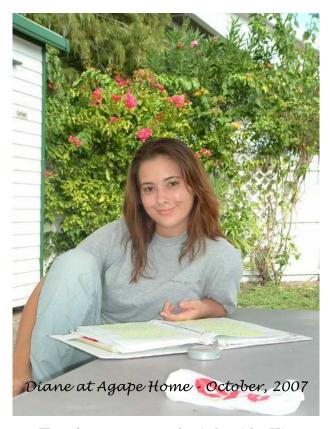
Beacons in the Rain

I had never met you before. Never squeezed your hands, Never heard you laugh Nor watched your face as you talked.

I was never part of your life before. Never shared your plans, Never heard you cry Nor whisper with me as we walked.

We had lived our lives on different shores, Seen happiness and pain, Had felt love start and watched it end, Completing all its seasons.

We knew somehow, when we said hello, We were beacons in the rain. We accepted each other as trusted friends, For all the right reasons.



Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Romans 6:4 NKJV

Play the Tape Forward

I don't trust the very things I used to understand. If you play the old tapes forward, I've dug a big hole again.

The peace that God gives me is Not like the world can give, Agape love is a saving grace That teaches me, "I can live!"

I can see where my will gets me Even with the help of my "friends". When you play those old tapes forward, There's that big hole again!

When the cravings drive me crazy, Lord, 'Til there's nothing I can do...
I've learned to play the tape forward
And fully rely on You!

Mike Secondino - 2008 (from a conversation with Diane)

I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live;

Deuteronomy 30:19 NKJV

No Surprise

"I place before you a choice," He said, "Life or death, Blessings or curses."

"I choose life," I said,
"Over mere existence.
To love, and be touched deeper
Than anything I've ever known."

"Then don't be surprised," He said, "That you should see Me, And I should bless you."



And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

2 Corinthians 12:9 NKJV

Quietly Growing

The wasted living a damnable life. I'm pleased that this seems so. I've heard it often in my life, You're not the first to crow.

Did you believe me that unsound, That unfit for knowing? I won't bother to tell you what you've found While you yourself are glowing.

Here I am, as I always am, Allowing you to crow. I may not be a quiet man, But I do quietly grow.



...that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

Matthew 5:45 NKJV

Right as Rain

I sometimes wonder why I talk When I am feeling down.
I'd like to explain now that I'm fine That my life has come around.
I'm no longer feeling down.

I look at the world through different eyes When I am not quite right. Discovering that I am wrong Could come on any night. My down self then takes flight.

I'm a rhymester when I'm feeling great, A poet when I'm down. I read it all back and laugh at me! Who is this penciled clown? It's a funny feeling, down.

I suppose I'm down when my ego's up And I do what my self sees right. But when no one else agrees with me, It's a cold and lonesome plight. It's awful not being right!

I'm as giving as the weather is nice But there's days when it must rain.
That's just nice weather tired of giving And taking for his own gain...
But this analogy's insane.

It's a balanced art, that rain and shine. You'll notice the sun shines more After it's rained for a day or so, And you've been tucked away indoors. But sometimes when it rains, it pours.

And pour it must, 'til the weather's right And sunny one more time.
So I sit and attempt to write
To tell you that I'm fine And hoping the sun sticks around this time.



And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

Ephesians 6:4 NKJV

Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

Colossians 3:21 NKJV



Father's Day

Nothing prepared me For the birth of my first daughter. I fell in love.

Two years later, When my second daughter was born, I fell in love again.

We learned about parenting. I meant to do well. I tripped and fell flat on my face.

I got up and looked around. I meant to do well. I tripped and fell flat on my face.

I got up and looked around. They had grown up anyway And I had learned to love.



Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

1 John 3:1 NKJV

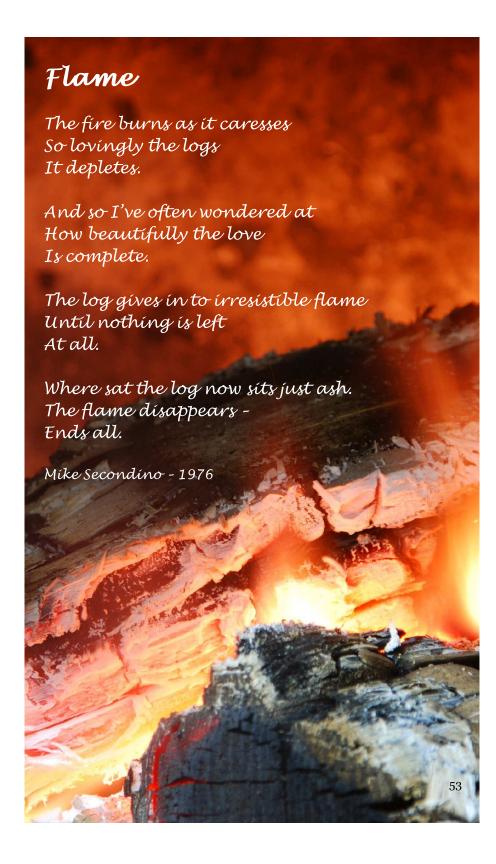
Lover Down

When we choose to love, we rise above Any circumstantial frown. I've walked away from the games you play And will not let you put me down. It isn't bliss! I'm SO done with this I needn't make a sound. With friends arrayed and fears allayed, Better luck next time around. You can't keep a lover down.

Mike Secondino - 2002 (from a conversation with Dee)

If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

John 15:19 NKJV





All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Timothy $3{:}16{\cdot}17$ NKJV

Don't Tell God

There's things that you don't and things that you do... 'Cause the devil hates Jesus and he hates you, too! There's things that I will and things that I might... But the devil walks around in broad daylight!

There's things that you don't and things that you do That help the devil out as he steals from you. With those things that you do you must not mind Helpin' out the devil as he robs you blind!

There's things that I will and things that I might... But I know I need help to run my life.

There's things that you don't and things that you do... 'Cause God loves Jesus and He loves you, too!
There's things that I will and things that I might...
But Jesus knows best what to do with my life!

There's things that you don't and things that you do That invite the Holy Spirit to walk with you. Well, I can live by the Word and make it my sword, 'Cause Jesus saved me and He is Lord!

There's things that you don't and things that you do... I hope that the Word is talking to you.
There's things that I will and things that I might...
But I don't tell God how to

Run

Му

Lífe!



When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

1 Corinthians 13:11 NKJV

One

I remember other times When we could tell our secrets. Now it seems we're older and I'm harboring my regrets... It's such a shame that you can't see I'm not so far removed From the child that I used to be -The child that you loved. It wasn't so long ago we shared The pieces of our lives... Between the two of us now, my love, I'm the only one who gives. I loved the openness we shared As though it were a precious stone. You've grown as silent as the rest, and I, I'm a minority of one.



We love Him because He first loved us.

1 John 4:19

Rejoice in the Morning

God has given morning to married people As a special gift. In addition to the beauty He shows all of His children, He uses morning to remind spouses That our imperfections are never hidden From Him, as we wake and then try To hide them from the world.



Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, saying, "If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.

Luke 19:41-42

Love Alone

A quiet August evening, She is leaving. I knew she would go -She knew I would let her.

No words, no embraces, Just her leaving.

Had I been a stone wall I couldn't have kept her...
Better, then, to have been A bridge to her future.

Days of September

I was in a peaceful way, She was in a mode called Fast. I'd been observant of the day, She, just so sure life wouldn't last.

Leather eagle, ptera-tactile. Running, cunning raptor chick.

I was in a mode that bordered boring, She was living life by cunning. I came off the summer, soaring. She came out of August running.

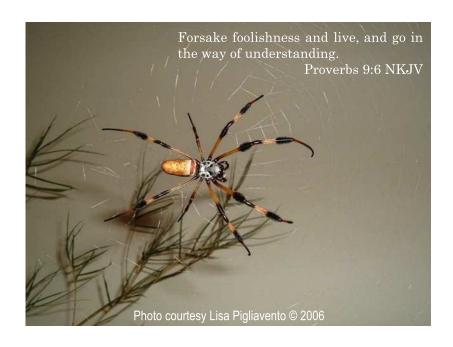
The days of September, a month in the middle, Our month in the middle of life.

As an exclamation point might end a long sentence, And signal the beginning of a new paragraph, I want to mess with your emotions, Play with your heart, Touch you deeply.

In lífe we díscover As we fly, we can hover (We're somebody's lover).

And if the month should never end, Would I godliness suspend? Could a raptor chick transcend?

In a world we only wonder at, the questions are the clue! If I write to look in on myself, why write when I look at you?

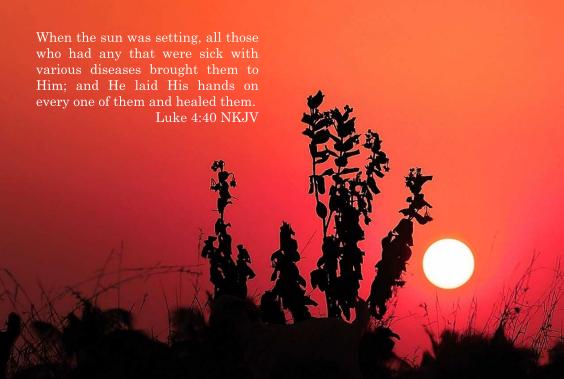


The syntax is not happening. Our language won't allow The same exclamation point to end two sentences, Much less, start two paragraphs.
Two locations.
Two lifestyles.

So, I kick the meter out of time, Try some syncopated rhyme, And though the words begin to jerk... I KNOW! This medium doesn't work.

The days of September, a month in the middle, Our month in the middle of life.





There Never Was a Sunset

There never was a sunset That wasn't meant for you, With all its fiery colors Of warm and lovely hue.

There never was a sunset When I couldn't stop and dream, And wonder what the joining of Our own two lives may mean.

There never was a sunset That didn't turn me on, And leave me thinking of our love While you were gone.

There never was a sunset That didn't make me yearn, All the while you were gone, For when you would return.

Now that you are back with me And we spend our lives together; I'm thinking back about the past And all that stormy weather.

No matter what the future holds...
Ever since we met
I've wondered how our lives would be
If there never was a sunset.



Then I looked on all the works that my hands had done And on the labor in which I had toiled; And indeed all was vanity and grasping for the wind. There was no profit under the sun.

Ecclisiastes 2:11 NKJV

Shovel That Snow

The snow was white and drifting, The air was snappy cold; The shovel heavy in my hands, I must be getting old.

I shoveled with enthusiasm, The shovelfuls flew fast, My heart was looking forward to When I'd be done at last.

I never was a quitter, So I bent into my work; But what I saw when I was done Made me feel like a jerk.

My mouth hung down as I viewed my path, The wind had done me wrong!! It filled in everything I'd cleared, As it sang its merry song.

I gave an internal cry of anguish And thought, "Enough here said." I buried my shovel in a drift And went on up to bed!!



She

She comes to me softly As a willow would; Whispering Words that hardly say What she feels.

...nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:39 NKJV



But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. Matthew $24:36~\mathrm{NKJV}$



Time On Earth

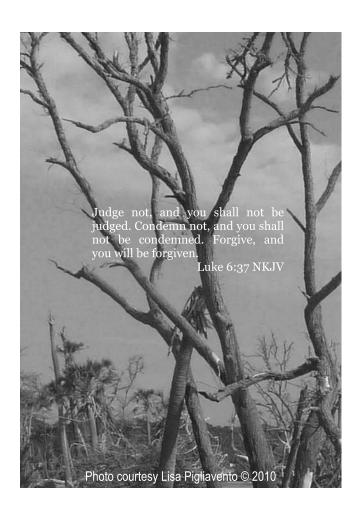
Our time on earth is very short. We'd better learn to make the most of it, Because our time on earth is very short.

No one knows how much time we have, Because no one knows how long...

Your time on earth is very short. You'd better learn to make the most of it, Because your time on earth is very short.

Just when you're into it, it's gone.

Míke Secondino - 2008



Somehow

In the darkest part of night I had a dream. You were standing in my room as I closed my eyes. When I woke up in the morning you were already gone. Somehow, we never said goodbye. Somehow, we have yet to say goodbye.

It's been said that the way in which we live
Is by choices that we make as we walk along our way.
Everything we've learned and what we think about ourselves
Makes up those choices we make.

I was afraid to be angry at you So I became angry at me. I hated myself for the chains in which I lived Not quite able to break myself free.

In the years I have lived I've seen the gifts that you gave me And at times, I've tried to walk away.
But I cannot give them back because you're not here to take them And trying to just ruins my day.

In the life that you lived there wasn't much that was happy And hopelessness crept in along the way. As I've grown and learned about it my anger turned to sadness Because I know it didn't have to be that way!

I lie awake at night as though I'm trying to catch a thief. I've kept this vigil most of my life. It makes no sense! What I'd like to keep is already gone And it's time for me to just let it go.

I've learned to love those things that you left for me to find. They make up the biggest part of who I am. As I embrace myself... and move toward new horizons I know that it's time to say goodbye.

In the darkest part of night I had a dream. You were standing in my room as I closed my eyes. When I woke up in the morning you were already gone. Somehow, we never said goodbye. So for now, this will have to be goodbye.

Míke Secondino - 2013

Honor your father and your mother, as the Lord your God has commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may be well with you in the land which the Lord your God is giving you.

Deuteronomy 5:16 NKJV

The Light of a Greater Love

In the light of a greater love I've been forgiven
For holding a lifetime's worth of anger against you.
Though in life I've learned to love, and try to be forgiving,
I still can't abide those people who treat people the way you do.

The memories of your life are all about you While mine sure seem to be about me. I don't like to talk to you about our history 'Cause it always seems the truth should be somewhere in between.

In the light of a greater love you've been forgiven And I will not file my charges against you.
The bible says to honor both my parents And I don't have to look too far to see just what to do.

It seems that I have those traits you gave me,
The good ones and the ones that weren't your best.
I worked hard to hone the ones that I wanted.
Working harder still, by the grace of God, I overcame the rest!

In the light of a greater love we've been forgiven And there's nothing left for either of us to say. I would not have wanted to be there, in your shoes, When she left you with all your children on that fateful Father's Day.

We may not have been the children that you wanted. A "fact" back then that I always seemed to "know". But we are, in fact, the children that God gave you, The best that we can be is the honor we bestow.

In the light of a greater love, I live. In the light of a greater love, I care, because I can. I've learned a lot from my eternal Father And I'm walking out my life in sync with who I am.

In the light of a greater love we've been forgiven.

Míke Secondíno - 2013



For His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for life; Weeping may endure for a night, But joy comes in the morning.

Psalm 30:5 NKJV

Líve

Go.

Do.

Be.

Míke Secondíno - 2007

Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it," Whenever you turn to the right hand Or whenever you turn to the left.

Isaiah 30:21 NKJV



