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Who were the people who wrote so many of hymns that have stood the test of time? Why did they write? How do they help us to 'sing the faith' still? Mark Woods goes in search of the stories behind the names. I've sung hymns as long as I can remember. I'm a cradle Christian, and the old songs of the Church burned themselves into my brain long
before I was able to understand them. I loved the precision of the rhymes, the regular beat of the words and the oddities of expression. I was fascinated, too, by the names and dates at the bottom of each song. Who were these people? Some of the names were familiar from books of poetry and odd references in sermons, but I knew nothing about them
So over the years I found out what I could, and discovered that knowing something about the writing. And there are so many stories. Take Martin Rinkart for instance, the author of Now thank we all our God (StF 81). He ministered in the shadow of Germany's ruinous Thirty Years War, during which 30 per cent of the population
died; in some areas it was as high as 75 per cent. Towards the end of the war his town was flooded with refugees, and famine and plague carried off thousands. Rinkart found himself conducting 50 funerals a day. The besieging Swedish army demanded a huge ransom to leave the city alone; Rinkart went out to plead with them for mercy and,
impressed by his courage, they withdrew. The hymn - after all that blood and horror - was a thanksgiving for deliverance. Singing it in that light lifts it far above the routine. The Communist manifesto - inspiration for revolution and strife Or there's that lovely carol, It came upon the midnight clear (StF 205). It was written by Edmund Hamilton Sears.
An American, he was an oddity in being a Unitarian minister who believed in the divinity of Christ, but it's the date of the hymn that strikes us. It was written in 1849, the year after the Communist Manifesto was published and revolutions swept the old order from power in many European countries. America had just fought a war with Mexico that
Sears believed was unjust, and he foresaw with dread the Civil War that lay just ahead. So he writes of the 'two thousand years of wrong' and the 'men of strife' with his eyes open and his heart sore, but he still believes. Then there's the lovely Just as I am, without one plea (StF 556), a great evangelistic hymn that's probably accompanied more souls to
salvation than any other because of its use in Billy Graham campaigns. It was written by Charlotte Elliott in 1834 or '35. She was an invalid who struggled with depression and became a Christian through a conversation with a minister named Cesar Malan. He asked her at dinner if she were a Christian and she brushed him off irritably, but later said,
"I want to come to Jesus but I don't know how." "Why not come just as you are?" he said. Later her brother, a minister, was organising a bazaar and she wrote 'Just as I am' - "poor, wretched, blind", "tossed about with many a conflict" - and the hypnotic, repeated
last line: "O Lamb of God, I come!" The repeated last line is hypnotic. The stories are wonderful, but they have survived because of the quality of the work, and because these hymns have fed us for decades and even centuries. They were written by people like us, but facing different issues in different worlds. The fact that they still speak is testimony to
their own skill, but also to the power of God's Spirit and the communion of saints across the ages. Mark Woods is a Baptist minister and journalist. His book Salvation Songs: 70 great hymns and their stories is published by Verité at £9.99. Sacred music history is filled with hymns that have touched the hearts and souls of believers for generations.
These hymns are more than just melodic expressions of faith; they carry stories of inspiration, reflection, and triumph. In this article, we will delve into the rich tapestry of sacred music history and explore the stories behind 10 inspiring hymns. From Martin Luther's stirring "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" to Joseph M. Scriven's heartfelt "What A
Friend," each hymn has a unique story to tell. Join us on this musical journey as we unravel the threads of history and discover the timeless messages within these beloved hymns. The Significance of Hymns play a crucial role in worship, acting as a powerful means of expressing faith, praise, and devotion. Through their rich lyrics messages within these beloved hymns in Worship acting as a powerful means of expressing faith, praise, and devotion. Through their rich lyrics messages within these beloved hymns in Worship acting as a powerful means of expressing faith, praise, and devotion.
and melodious tunes, hymns create a sacred atmosphere, inviting worshippers to connect with the divine. One of the significant aspects of hymns is their ability to convey deep theological truths in a poetic and accessible manner. The timeless messages woven within the verses provide a framework for believers to reflect on their faith, contemplate
spiritual truths, and find comfort in the presence of God. As hymns are sung congregationally, they foster a sense of unity and collective worship, allowing us to express our deepest emotions and desires to God," says Reverend John Davidson, a worship
leader with over 20 years of experience. "They serve as a means of communication between the worshipper and the divine, offering a way to express gratitude, seek solace, or surrender in worship." Hymns also have a historical significance, carrying with them the stories and legacies of the composers who penned them. Each hymn weaves together
personal experiences, biblical truths, and cultural influences, creating a tapestry of worship but also link us to the wider Christian tradition and the faithful who have gone before us. The Impact of Hymns in Worship Practices Within the context of
worship practices, hymns serve several crucial purposes. First and foremost, they provide a vehicle for congregation sings hymns together, it becomes a collective declaration of faith and a shared expression of devotion. Hymns also create a sense of
familiarity and continuity, particularly within established worship traditions. Many hymns have become beloved treasures that have been passed down from one generation to another. As a result, they evoke feelings of nostalgia, evoke memories, and create a deep connection between the present and the past.
Furthermore, hymns can help to reinforce and teach theological concepts. The lyrics often contain deep theological truths and biblical references that can deepen understanding and faith. Through the repetition of key phrases and themes, hymns serve as a form of spiritual formation, shaping individuals' beliefs and perspectives. Overall, hymns hold a
special place in the hearts and worship practices of believers, providing a means to express adoration, find solace, and deepen one's relationship with God. Whether through traditional hymns or contemporary worship songs inspired by hymnody, these musical expressions continue to play a vital role in the worship experiences of believers worldwide.
Martin Luther's Impact: "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God." This hymn, written in the early 16th century, became a rallying cry for Protestant Christians during a time of religious upheaval and theological change.
Its powerful lyrics and majestic melody continue to inspire and resonate with believers around the world. The Story Behind the Hymn "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" was born out of the tumultuous environment of the Protestant Reformation, as Martin Luther sought to communicate his theological beliefs and provide comfort to his fellow believers.
Inspired by Psalm 46, Luther crafted lyrics that declared God's steadfastness and protection in the face of adversity. The hymn's bold expression of faith and confidence in God's sovereignty struck a chord with many, becoming a cornerstone of Protestant hymnody." Luther's impact on sacred music extended beyond the composition of "A Mighty struck a chord with many, becoming a cornerstone of Protestant hymnody."
Fortress Is Our God." He also played a vital role in establishing congregational singing in the vernacular language, as opposed to the traditional Latin used in Catholic worship, fostering a deep sense of community and shared faith. The
Enduring Influence Centuries later, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" continues to be sung and cherished by Christians worldwide. Its message of trust in God's strength and protection resonates in times of uncertainty and struggle. The hymn serves as a reminder of the unchanging nature of God and His faithfulness to His people. Through his hymnody
and theological contributions, Martin Luther left an indelible mark on sacred music, shaping the way we worship and express our faith. "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" stands as a testament to Luther's enduring influence and the power of music to unite believers in praise and worship. Robert Robinson's Reflection: "Come Thou Fount Of Every
Blessing" Robert Robinson's heartfelt composition, "Come Thou Fount Of Every Blessing," continues to resonate with believers, reflecting on the abundance of God's blessings in their lives. The hymn, written in the 18th century, showcases Robinson's deep gratitude for the grace and mercy he received from God. The hymn's powerful lyrics, such as
 "Tune my heart to sing Thy grace" and "Streams of mercy, never ceasing," remind believers of their unwavering faith in God's love and provide a heartfelt plea for His continuous guidance and strength. Through these words, Robinson's
composition has left a lasting impact, inspiring generations of believers to seek a deeper connection with their faith. The hymn's timeless message serves as a reminder of the infinite blessings that God bestows upon His people and encourages them to acknowledge His constant presence in their lives. Ruminating on the Lyrics: "Come Thou Fount Of
Every Blessing" Tune my heart to sing Thy grace; Streams of mercy, never ceasing, Call for songs of loudest praise. Teach me some melodious sonnet Sung by flaming tongues above. Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, Mount of Thy redeeming love. In these verses, Robinson's poetic mastery shines through. His use of vivid imagery, such as "streams
of mercy" and "mount of Thy redeeming love," paints a beautiful picture of the abundant blessings and redemptive power of God. Through his lyrics, Robinson invites believers to join in the joyous praise of God's grace and mercy. "Come Thou Fount Of Every Blessing" serves as a timeless reminder for believers to reflect on the countless blessings
they have received and to express their thankfulness and love to God. Its enduring popularity is a testament to the profound impact that Robinson's composition has had on the spiritual journeys of believers throughout history. Conclusion The hymn "Come Thou Fount Of Every Blessing" by Robert Robinson continues to be a cherished piece of sacredom that Robinson's composition has had on the spiritual journeys of believers throughout history.
music, inspiring believers to recognize and celebrate the abundant blessings they receive from God. With its heartfelt lyrics and timeless message, this hymn serves as a reminder of the unending grace and mercy that believers can find in their relationship with God. As we continue to explore sacred music history, we will delve into more inspiring
hymns and their stories, uncovering the power and beauty of these timeless compositions. Finding Comfort in Lina Sandell's "Day By Day" Lina Sandell's timeless hymn, "Day By Day," offers a comforting reminder of God's unwavering presence and sufficiency in the midst of life's challenges. This beloved hymn, written in the 19th century by the
Swedish poet and hymn writer, continues to resonate with believers around the world, providing solace and assurance in times of uncertainty. With its heartfelt lyrics and gentle melody, "Day by day, and with each
passing moment, strength I find, to meet my trials here," remind us that God's grace is sufficient to carry us through every trial we face. As we sing the verses of "Day By Day," we are reminded of the eternal truth that our Heavenly Father is always with us, guiding us through life's ups and downs. The hymn's chorus, "Every day, every step I take,
every moment, Lord, keep me near," serves as a prayerful plea for God's presence and guidance in our daily lives. Through these powerful words, we are encouraged to find comfort and strength in knowing that we are never alone on our journey. Embracing God's Sufficiency Lina Sandell's "Day By Day" beautifully encapsulates the essence of
embracing God's sufficiency in all circumstances. It serves as a reminder that even in the darkest moments, we can find reassurance and peace in His unwavering love. Through its timeless message and soothing melody, this hymn continues to bring comfort and hope to countless hearts, allowing believers to trust in God's provision and grace each
day. Thomas Chisholm's Proclamation: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness," Through the hymn "Great Is Thy Faithfulness," Through the hymn femind us of God's constancy and goodness, even in the midst of life's
challenges. Chisholm writes, "Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father / There is no shadow of turning with thee." These words reinforce the idea that God never changes; His faithfulness, towards His people remains steadfast, never wavering. It serves as a powerful reminder that we can rely on Him in all circumstances, knowing that He will never
leave us or forsake us. In addition to its lyrical beauty, "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" is also characterized by a simple yet powerful melody creates an atmosphere of trust and assurance, allowing believers to find solace and peace in God's faithful presence. This hymn has stood
the test of time and continues to be sung in churches and gatherings around the world. Its enduring popularity speaks to its ability to connect with the hearts of believers, reminding them of God's faithfulness throughout history and in their personal lives. Katherine Hankey's Testimony: "I Love To Tell The Story" Katherine Hankey's hymn, "I Love To
Tell The Story," serves as a heartfelt expression of gratitude for the redemptive story of Jesus and His love that transcends time. Through her words, Hankey beautifully captures the essence of the Gospel and its impact on believers. The hymn begins with the line, "I love to tell the story, of unseen things above," emphasizing the joy and eagerness to
share the message of salvation. Hankey's words remind us of the importance of sharing our faith and proclaiming the good news, as it has the power to transform lives. In the chorus, Hankey writes, "I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory, to tell the old, old story of Jesus and His love." This powerful refrain emphasizes the eternal
significance of the story of Jesus and the love He has for each and every one of us. It reminds us that His story is not just a story of the past, but a story that continues to shape our lives today. Katherine Hankey's hymn, "I Love To Tell The Story," stands as a testament to the enduring power of the Gospel message. Its timeless lyrics inspire believers to
share the story of Jesus and His love with the world, spreading hope, joy, and redemption to all who listen. Horatio G. Spafford's Journey: "It Is Well With My Soul," stands as a testament to the unwavering faith and peace that can be found in the midst of profound loss and grief. Spafford, a
successful lawyer and devout Christian, experienced unimaginable tragedy when his four daughters perished in a shipwreck. Devastated by this heartbreaking loss, he penned the lyrics to this hymn as a reflection of his unshakeable trust in God's sovereign plan. In the face of such immense sorrow, Spafford's hymn offers a remarkable message of
hope and resilience. The opening lines, "When peace like a river, attendeth my way, / When sorrows like sea billows roll," vividly capture the tumultuous emotions he must have felt. Yet, within those very same verses, he declares, "It is well, it is well, with my soul." These powerful words demonstrate Spafford's profound belief that even in the midst of
immense pain, his soul could find serenity and peace through God's grace. "It Is Well With My Soul" has resonated with countless individuals over the years, offering solace and strength in times of personal tragedy. The hymn's enduring popularity can be attributed to the universal nature of loss and the universal need for hope. Its poignant
affirmation of faith reminds us that even in our darkest moments, we can find comfort in the unwavering love of God. Through the haunting beauty of its lyrics, "It Is Well With My Soul" serves as a gentle yet powerful reminder that no matter the trials we face, God's peace can transcend all earthly
understanding. This hymn continues to touch the hearts and souls of believers, inspiring them to persevere and find solace in the unwavering presence of the Divine. Sarah Flower Adams' Inspiration: "Nearer My God To Thee" Sarah Flower Adams' Inspiration: "Nearer My God To Thee" Sarah Flower Adams' Inspiration: "Nearer My God To Thee" Sarah Flower Adams' Inspiration: "Nearer My God To Thee" Sarah Flower Adams' Inspiration: "Nearer My God To Thee" Sarah Flower Adams' Inspiration: "Nearer My God To Thee" Sarah Flower Adams' Inspiration: "Nearer My God To Thee" Sarah Flower Adams' Inspiration: "Nearer My God To Thee" Sarah Flower Adams' Inspiration: "Nearer My God To Thee" Sarah Flower Adams' Inspiration: "Nearer My God To Thee" Sarah Flower Adams' Inspiration: "Nearer My God To Thee" Sarah Flower Adams' Inspiration: "Nearer My God To Thee" Sarah Flower Adams' Inspiration: "Nearer My God To Thee" Sarah Flower Adams' Inspiration: "Nearer My God To Thee" Sarah Flower Adams' Inspiration: "Nearer My God To Thee" Sarah Flower Adams' Inspiration: "Nearer My God To Thee" Sarah Flower Adams' Inspiration: "Nearer My God To Thee" Sarah Flower Adams' Inspiration: "Nearer My God To Thee" Sarah Flower Adams' Inspiration: "Nearer My God To Thee" Sarah Flower Adams' Inspiration: "Nearer My God To Thee" Sarah Flower Adams' Inspiration: "Nearer My God To Thee" Sarah Flower Adams' Inspiration: "Nearer My God To Thee" Sarah Flower Adams' Inspiration: "Nearer My God To Thee" Sarah Flower Adams' Inspiration: "Nearer My God To Thee" Sarah Flower Adams' Inspiration: "Nearer My God To Thee" Sarah Flower Adams' Inspiration: "Nearer My God To Thee" Sarah Flower Adams' Inspiration: "Nearer My God To Thee" Sarah Flower Adams' Inspiration: "Nearer My God To Thee" Sarah Flower Adams' Inspiration: "Nearer My God To Thee" Sarah Flower Adams' Inspiration: "Nearer My God To Thee" Sarah Flower Adams' Inspiration: "Nearer My God To Thee" Sarah Flower Adams' Inspiration: "Nearer My God To Thee" Sarah Flower Adams' Inspiration: "Nearer My God To Thee" 
"Nearer My God To Thee," which invites believers to draw closer to God in every circumstance. The hymn's poignant lyrics paint a picture of unwavering faith and trust in God's presence. As the story of Jacob's dream unfolds, we are reminded of the ladder connecting heaven and earth, symbolizing the connection between God and His people. In the
face of challenges and trials, "Nearer My God To Thee" serves as a heartfelt plea to be near God, seeking solace, guidance, and strength in His presence. "Nearer My God To Thee" resonates with believers across generations, offering comfort and reassurance. The hymn's timeless melody and powerful lyrics serve as a reminder that no matter the
circumstance, we can always draw closer to God and find comfort in His unfailing love and grace. Today, as we sing the words of "Nearer My God To Thee," we join with countless others who have found solace in its message throughout history. This hymn reminds us that our journey of faith is not one we navigate alone; rather, it is an invitation to
draw nearer to God, finding strength, hope, and peace in His presence. George Bennard's Celebration: "The Old Rugged Cross," joyfully celebrates the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross as the ultimate symbol of redemption and salvation. With its powerful lyrics and heartfelt melody, this hymn
has become a beloved anthem of faith for generations of believers. The lyrics of "The Old Rugged Cross" vividly portray the profound love and sacrifice of Jesus, reminding us of the significance of His death and resurrection. Through verses such as "So I'll cherish the old rugged cross, Till my trophies at last I lay down," the hymn invites us to reflect
on the immeasurable value of the cross and the eternal hope it represents. As George Bennard beautifully encapsulates in the hymn's chorus, "I will cling to the old rugged cross, And exchange it some day for a crown," we are reminded of the assurance of salvation that Jesus' sacrifice offers. The hymn's melody, simple yet stirring, further enhances
the emotional impact of its message, drawing worshippers into a deep sense of gratitude and adoration. "The Old Rugged Cross" has stood the test of time and continues to inspire Christians around the world, reminding them of the timeless truth that their sins were borne on the cross by Jesus, and through Him, they find forgiveness and eternal life.
This hymn serves as a powerful reminder of the central message of the gospel and the hope that it brings to all who believe. Augustus M. Toplady's Reflection: "Rock Of Ages" Augustus M. Toplady's hymn, "Rock Of Ages," invites believers to find solace and security in Christ, the unshakeable foundation of their faith. With its powerful lyrics and
timeless melody, this hymn has resonated with generations of worshippers, reminding them of God's steadfast love and grace. The words of "Rock Of Ages" paint a vivid picture of the Christian's reliance on Jesus as their refuge and source of strength. As believers sing the opening lines, "Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee," they
express their desire to find shelter in the rock-solid foundation that Christ provides. This hymn beautifully encapsulates the Christian's need for redemption and the assurance that Jesus, the solid rock, offers. "Rock of Ages," the hymn continues to affirm the sufficiency
of Christ's sacrifice on the cross. The words remind believers that only through His blood can sin be washed away and the soul be made whole. It is a hymn of surrender, acknowledging our utter dependence on the grace of God and His power to save. "Rock Of Ages" remains a cherished hymn, reminding us that when the storms of life rage and the
foundations tremble, we can find steadfastness and peace in Christ alone. As we sing these timeless words, we are reminded of the unchanging and unwavering nature of our Savior, who is the rock upon which our faith is built. Joseph M. Scriven's Reminder: "What A Friend," serves as a powerful
reminder of the unwavering friendship and love of Jesus, who is always there for us. With lyrics that touch the depths of the soul, this hymn carries a message of comfort, solace, and hope in times of distress and despair. The words of "What A Friend" express the profound truth that Jesus is not only our Savior but also our constant companion, guiding
us through life's trials and offering His support every step of the way. As we sing these heartfelt lyrics, we are reminded that no matter the circumstances or challenges we may face, Jesus is our ever-present friend, ready to lend a listening ear and extend His love and grace. "What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear. What a
privilege to carry everything to God in prayer." These lines from the hymn encapsulate the essence of the Christian faith - the assurance that we have a friend in Jesus who is willing to carry our burdens and offer us peace and rest. The comforting melody and timeless lyrics of "What A Friend" continue to resonate with believers, reminding us of the
unchanging love and faithfulness of our Savior. The Enduring Legacy of Inspirational Hymns The enduring legacy of inspirational Hymns The enduring legacy of inspirational hymn lies in their ability to transcend time, inspiring and uplifting believers from one generation to the next. These hymns hold a special place in the hearts of Christians worldwide, as they connect individuals to their faith
and provide solace, strength, and hope in times of joy and sorrow. The hymns and their stories are a testament to the profound impact music has on the human spirit. From Martin Luther's powerful hymn "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God," which carried the spirit of the Reformation, to Joseph M. Scriven's gentle reminder in "What A Friend," each hymn
carries a unique message that resonates with believers across centuries. Through their powerful lyrics and melodies, these hymns invite us to reflect on our relationship with God and find comfort and guidance amidst the challenges of life. As we sing these hymns, we join a long and rich tradition, connecting with the believers who came before us and
those who will come after. The enduring legacy of inspirational hymns is a reminder of the timeless Messages of Faith, Hope, and Trust These 10 inspiring hymns and their stories remind us of essential aspects of our Christian faith. They speak of God's faithfulness, His
redeeming love, and His constant presence in our lives. They encourage us to draw near to Him, find strength in His promises, and trust in His promises, and
become a part of the enduring legacy of inspirational music. The Power of Hymns: Their Lyrics and Melodies The power of hymns resides in their beautifully crafted lyrics and captivating melodies, which have the ability to stir the soul and evoke profound emotions. Hymns are not just mere songs; they are heartfelt expressions of faith, hope, and
reverence towards God, serving as a source of comfort, inspiration, and spiritual connection for believers. With carefully chosen words and poetic imagery, hymn lyrics convey timeless truths about God's love, grace, and redemption. They provide a rich tapestry of theological teachings, serving as a vehicle for worship, reflection, and meditation.
Hymns often incorporate biblical references and vivid metaphors, enabling listeners to engage deeply with the scriptural messages they convey. Furthermore, hymn melodies have a unique ability to transport us to a higher plane of spiritual consciousness. Whether through soothing harmonies or majestic arrangements, they create an atmosphere
conducive to worship, enabling individuals to pour out their hearts in adoration and praise. The melodies themselves can linger in our minds long after the hymns have the power to unite a congregation in a shared experience of worship
and melodies, have left an indelible mark on sacred music history. By cherishing these timeless hymns, we ensure that their messages of faith and hope continue to resonate with believers, transcending generations and bringing us closer to the divine. The Composers Behind the Hymns: Their Contributions and Legacies The hymn composers have
have used their talents to create hymns that touch the hearts of millions. Their works are not mere songs but expressions of praise, gratitude, and devotion." Each composer brings their unique perspective and experiences, infusing their works are not mere songs but expressions of praise, gratitude, and devotion." Each composer brings their unique perspective and experiences, infusing their works are not mere songs but expressions of praise, gratitude, and devotion."
in hymns that stand the test of time, transcending generations and cultural boundaries. Their Contributions: Martin Luther, with "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God," sparked a hymn-writing movement during the Reformation and empowered believers with a renewed sense of God's strength and protection. Robert Robinson's "Come Thou Fount Of Every
Blessing" invites us to reflect on the abundant grace and mercy of God. Lina Sandell's "Day By Day" offers solace and hope, reminding us to trust in God's unwavering faithfulness in every season of life. Their Legacies: The legacies of these composers extend
far beyond their lifetimes. Their hymns continue to be sung in churches around the world, weaving a tapestry of worship and praise. Through their compositions, they have left a lasting impact on the Christian faith, connecting believers across time and space. "The hymns written by these composers transcend boundaries, denominations, and cultures
They unite believers in a shared language of worship and serve as a reminder of our common faith." As we sing these hymns, we join in a timeless tradition of praising God, celebrating His love, and finding solace in His presence. The hymn composers have gifted us with melodies that resonate deep within our hearts, inspiring us to worship, reflect,
worshippers across generations. Through their timeless messages of faith, hope, and trust in God, these hymns offer a profound sense of comfort and inspiration. The beauty of hymns lies in their ability to speak to the depths of the soul. Whether it's the triumphant declaration of God's faithfulness in "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" or the contemplative
reflection on Christ as the rock of salvation in "Rock Of Ages," each hymn offers a unique perspective on the journey of faith. From Martin Luther's impactful hymn during the Reformation to Horatio G. Spafford's poignant composition following the tragedy in his life, these hymns bear witness to the personal stories and experiences of their
in times of weakness, and hope in times of despair. The enduring legacy of these hymns and their stories? A: Here are 10 inspiring hymns and their stories that explore sacred music history: Q: Who wrote these hymns is a testament to their stories? A: Here are 10 inspiring hymns and their stories? A: Here are 10 inspiring hymns and their stories? A: Here are 10 inspiring hymns and their stories? A: Here are 10 inspiring hymns and their stories? A: Here are 10 inspiring hymns and their stories? A: Here are 10 inspiring hymns and their stories? A: Here are 10 inspiring hymns and their stories? A: Here are 10 inspiring hymns and their stories? A: Here are 10 inspiring hymns and their stories? A: Here are 10 inspiring hymns and their stories? A: Here are 10 inspiring hymns and their stories? A: Here are 10 inspiring hymns and their stories? A: Here are 10 inspiring hymns and their stories? A: Here are 10 inspiring hymns and their stories?
hymn "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"? A: "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" was written by Martin Luther. O: What is the meaning behind "Come Thou Fount Of Every Blessing"? A: "Come Thou Fount Of Every Blessing"? A: "Day By Day"? A:
was written by Lina Sandell and finds comfort in God's sufficiency amidst trials. Q: Who wrote the hymn "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" A: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" and highlights God's faithfulness" and highlights God's faithfulness was written by Thomas Chisholm and highlights God's faithfulness are the hymn "Great Is Thy Faithfulness".
Katherine Hankey and praises Jesus and His sacrifice. Q: What is the story behind "It Is Well With My Soul"? A: "It Is Well With My Soul" was written by Horatio G. Spafford after the tragic death of his daughters. Q: What inspired the hymn "Nearer My God To Thee" was written by Sarah Flower Adams and draws
inspiration from Jacob's dream in Genesis, O: Who composed "The Old Rugged Cross"? A: "The Old Rugged Cross" was written by George Bennard and celebrates the work of Jesus on the cross. O: What is the significance of "Rock Of Ages"? A: "Rock Of Ages" was written by Augustus M. Toplady and reflects on Christ as the rock of salvation. O: Who
wrote the hymn "What A Friend"? A: "What A Friend" was written by Joseph M. Scriven and reminds us that Jesus is always there for us. Source Links Be Thou My Vision (1912) An Irish poem first translated into English in 1905 by Mary Bryne, in Dublin, Ireland. In 1912, Eleanor Hull, a writer of English history and literature, penned the prose into
verse form. The melody for this hymn is a traditional Irish tune. Great Is Thy Faithfulness (1923) While many hymns are born out of a particular dramatic experience, this hymn was simply the result of the author's morning by morning realization of God's personal faithfulness. Thomas Obadiah Chisholm was born in a log cabin in Kentucky never had
the benefit of high school or advanced training. He began his career as a school teacher at the age of sixteen, in the same country schoolhouse where he had received his elementary training five years later became the associate editor of his home town weekly newspaper, and at twenty-seven years old, accepted Christ as his personal Savior during a
revival meeting. Later, Chisholm was ordained to the Methodist ministry but was forced to resign after a brief pastorate, due to poor health. Chisholm retired in 1953 and spent his remaining years at the Methodist Home for the Aged in Ocean Grove, New Jersey. Come Thou Fount Of Every Blessing (1757) Additional lyrics (2nd verse) by Thomas
Miller (2005) Robert Robinson penned this at age twenty-two. Though a Methodist minister at the time, he left the Methodist church when he moved to Cambridge and became a Baptist pastor. The Baptists invited him to document the history of their branch of the church, and after nine years of labor, he published History of Baptism and Baptists in
He responded, "Madam, I am the poor, unhappy man who wrote that hymn many years ago. I would give a thousand worlds, if I had them, to feel what I did back then." It is unknown whether Robinson ever regained the beliefs he once had, but another version suggests that the lady in the stagecoach gently replied, "Sir, the 'streams of mercy' are still
flowing."—and that he was deeply touched by her words: eventually restored through the ministry of his own hymn. How Deep the Father's Love For Us (1995) Stuart Townend is a British Christian worship leader and significant writer of modern hymns and contemporary worship music. Stuart's songs include: "In Christ Alone" (2002, co-written with
Keith Getty), "Beautiful Saviour" and "The King Of Love." Townend, son of a Church of England vicar in Halifax, West Yorkshire, was the youngest of four children. He studied literature at the University of Sussex. Townend started learning to play the piano at age seven. At the age of thirteen, he made a Christian commitment and began songwriting
at age twenty-two. Fairest Lord Jesus (1677) There is little information on the origin of this Christian hymn. There are some accounts that say it was called "Crusader's Hymn;" that it was sung by German Crusaders as they made their way to the Holy Land. The lyrics to this beloved hymn among English speaking Christians first appeared in 1677,
where it was published as "first of three selected hymns." In the Garden (1912) According to C. Austin Miles' great-granddaughter, Miles wrote this song "in a cold, dreary and leaky basement in New Jersey that didn't even have a window, let alone a view of a garden." In March, 1912, while reading the twentieth chapter of John, Miles had a vision of
being part of the scene when Mary knelt before her Lord and cried, "Rabboni!" He writes: My hands were resting on the Bible while I stared at the light faded, I seemed to be standing at the entrance of a garden, looking down a gently winding path, shaded by olive branches. A woman in white, with head bowed—hand clasping
her throat as if to choke back her sobs—walked slowly into the shadows. As she came to the tomb, she bent over to look in and hurried away. John, in flowing robe, appeared; then came Peter, who entered the tomb, she wept. Turning
herself, she saw Jesus standing; so did I. I knew it was He. She knelt before Him, and with arms outstretched and looking into His face, she cried 'Rabboni!' I awakened in full light, gripping the Bible with muscles tense and nerves vibrating. Under the inspiration of this vision, I wrote—as quickly as the words could be formed—the poem exactly as it
has since appeared; that same evening, I wrote the music. The Love of God. The Love of God (1917) In Pasadena, California, Frederick M. Lehman penciled the first two stanzas and chorus of The Love of God. The lyrics are based on the Jewish poem Haddamut, written in Aramaic in 1050 by Meir Ben Isaac Nehorai, a cantor in Germany. The third (and breathtakingly
beautiful) stanza from the Jewish poem had been found penciled on the wall of a patient's room in an insane asylum after he had been carried to his grave. It is said that he had written the epic during a brief moment of sanity. Pass Me Not O Gentle Savior (1868) Fanny Crosby, blind since infancy, wrote over 8,000 hymns. One evening in 1868, Crosby
was visiting a prison, walking down a long aisle between cells, reciting the Bible verses she knew by heart, when she heard a man call out, "Remember me! O Lord, please don't pass me by." I Need Thee Every Hour (1872) / I'd Rather Have Jesus (1922) Before Annie Sherwood Hawks' death in 1918, she gave the full background story to "I Need Thee
Every Hour (inspired by the Bible passage John 15: 4-5): Seating myself by the open windows, I caught up my pencil and committed the words to paper almost as they are today. A few months later Dr. Robert Lowry composed the tune and also added the refrain. For myself, the hymn, at its writing, was prophetic rather than expressive of my own
experiences, for it was wafted out to the world on the wings of love and joy, instead of under the stress of great loss, I came to understand why the hymn so greatly touched the throbbing heart of humanity. Years later, however; under the shadow of a great loss, I came to understand
something of the comforting power of the words I had been permitted to give out to others in my hours of sweet serenity and peace. "I'd Rather Have Jesus" was written in 1922 by Rhea F. Millerthe tune written by George Beverly Shea. This poem was left on a piano in the Shea home by Bev Shea, who wanted her son to find it and change the course
of his life. After he read it, the words spoke profoundly to him about his own aims and ambitions in life. He sat down at the piano and began singing it at church the next day. George's life direction did change. He was offered a popular music career
with NBC but declined later became a partner in the Billy Graham ministry for over fifty years, singing this hymn around the world. Tis So Sweet To Trust in Jesus (1882) Louisa Stead had always felt a calling to be a missionary and go to China but due to fragile health, she was kept home in the US. She married and started a family, and when her
daughter was four years old, the family went on vacation to a nearby beach. While there, they saw a young boy drowning in the ocean. Louisa's husband swam out and tried to rescue him, but he was pulled under by the boy, and both he and the boy drowned as Louisa and her daughter watched from shore. Louisa was left without any means of
financial support, and she and her daughter were in dire poverty. One day when there was no food in the house and no money, Louisa opened the front door to find that someone had left groceries and money sitting there for her. That same day, she sat down and wrote: "Tis so Sweet to Trust in Jesus." She and her daughter later became missionaries
to Africa, and she remarried. O The Deep Deep Love of Jesus (1875) Samuel Trevor Francis wrote this after experiencing the darkest night of his soul. At a point in life when his faith was wavering, Francis found himself walking across London's Hungerford Bridge. Contemplating him to end his soul. At a point in life when his faith was wavering, Francis found himself walking across London's Hungerford Bridge.
misery and jump into the churning waters below. Francis didn't heed the voice. In a profound moment, he felt God's reassuring words speak to him in the night, and on that bridge, he reaffirmed his faith and trust in Jesus Christ. This website uses cookies to improve your experience. If you continue to use this website, you consent to our use of
cookies. Accept Read MorePrivacy & Cookies Policy Chuttersnap photo | Freely The songs we sing in the darkest nights will be the songs that show the world the unwavering faithfulness of our Father who loves us so much. By Mike Harland Tragedy strikes all of us at different times in our lives. For the believer, those hardships inform our faith
through the experience of God's grace at work in our lives. Difficulty is the place we learn the greatest lessons about God's faithfulness to us. Paul and Silas found themselves wrongfully imprisoned in the jail in Philippi (Acts 16). The song they sing at midnight changes everything and demonstrates the power of the gospel to impact lives even in the
worst of circumstances. Consider these well-loved hymns—midnight songs, if you will—and the truth we find in the stories of how they were written. It was 1936 and two friends serving together at a Sunday school conference in Alabama were at lunch, sharing what God was doing in their lives. One, a missionary to Brazil home on furlough, told the
other, a hymn writer leading the music for the conference, that a health issue would keep him from returning to the country he had grown to love. The news, received just days before, had broken his heart. The hymn writer asked, "What will you do?" And through tears, the missionary, R.S. Jones, told the hymn writer, B.B. McKinney, "Wherever He
leads, I'll go." McKinney was so moved that he penned the classic hymn that afternoon and sang it that night after Jones had preached, recounts Terry C. Terry, a musicologist who wrote his doctoral dissertation about McKinney. Since then, this song has been sung at invitation times and crusades, revivals and worship services. We may not always
know where He will lead, but we do know we can choose to follow. The next time we stand at a crossroads of indecision and are asked what we will do, may we have the grace to reply like R.S. Jones and B.B. McKinney, "Wherever He leads, I'll go." In 1844 a young Irishman, Joseph Scriven, had completed his college education and returned home to
marry his sweetheart. As he was traveling to meet her on the day before the planned wedding, he came upon a horrible scene—his beautiful fiancée tragically lying under the water in a creek bed after falling off her horse. Later, Scriven moved to Canada and eventually fell in love again, only to experience devastation once more when she became ill
and died just weeks before their marriage. For the second time, this humble Christian felt the loss of the woman he loved. The following year, he wrote a poem to his mother in Ireland that described the deep friendship with Jesus he had cultivated in prayer through the hardships of his life. See also 4 Priorities We Share With the Global ChurchThe
poem was published anonymously at first under the title, "Pray Without Ceasing." Ten years later, he finally acknowledged this well-loved text to a tune and renamed it "What a Friend We Have in Jesus." Ken Osbeck tells the story in his book 101 Hymn
Stories. Instead of thinking God was punishing him, Scriven cherished God's friendship through all of this hardship—a friendship he discovered in prayer. Attorney Horatio Spafford and his wife, Anna, had a wonderful family of four daughters. Tragically, the great
Chicago fire destroyed most of his business in 1871. Then, two years later, his wife and daughters were aboard the ocean liner Ville du Havre when it was struck by another vessel. All four daughters drowned. His wife survived and nine days later was able to contact her husband by telegraph with this question: "Saved alone—what shall I do?"
Spafford took the next available ship to join his wife. During the passage, the captain of the ship notified Spafford they were crossing the place where the Ville du Havre had sunk. After those moments of reflection and over the course of the journey, Spafford penned the words of this beloved hymn. May God teach us that "whatever our lot'
we can still say, "It is well." In all three of these stories, a circumstance of life confronts the child to trust the heart of the Father. Life will confront us too. The songs we sing in the darkest of midnight will be the very songs that show the world the unwavering faithfulness of our Father who loves
us so much. The darker it gets, the more we should sing. Related: Mike serves as the Worship Pastor of First Baptist Church Jackson, Mississippi. Previously, he was the Director of Worship at LifeWay Christian Resources. Mike is also an author and Dove Award-winning songwriter "Sing to the Lord, praise His name, proclaim His salvation day after
day" (Psalm 96:2). So declared King David, the author of most of the songs in the Old Testament hymnbook—the Psalms. From King David on, writers and composers have continued to string together words and musical notes to proclaim the truth of God through song, and some of them have amazing stories that led to their creation! Here are the
inspiring stories behind 5 of the most well-known hymns and worship songs. Photo Credit: ©Getty Images/Jantanee Rungpranomkorn Share — copy and redistribute the material in any purpose, even commercially. The licensor cannot
revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the license terms. Attribution — You must give appropriate credit, provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made. You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the license renderses you or your use. ShareAlike — If you remix, transform, or build upon the
material, you must distribute your contributions under the same license as the original. No additional restrictions — You may not apply legal terms or technological measures that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits. You do not have to comply with the license for elements of the material in the public domain or where your
use is permitted by an applicable exception or limitation . No warranties are given. The license may not give you all of the permissions necessary for your intended use. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material. Written by Martin Luther between 1527 and 1529, this hymn is based on Psalm
46. This Psalm captures the attributes of a God, who is a refuge of His people in times of adversity. It calls to attention the wonderful and mighty deeds of the Lord in defending His people who were standing up for their faith. No wonder
this hymn has been called the "Battle Hymn of the Reformation." Psalm 46 is home to the well-known verse, "Be still, and know that I am God;" (Psalm 46:10) which invites us to let go of all our self, inhibitions, and fears, and remain in Him. This is beautifully captured in Luther's lyrics. Did we in our own strength confide, Our striving would be losing
Were not the right man on our side, The man of God's own choosing. 2. Come Thou Fount Of Every Blessing This hymn was written by Robert Robinson in 1757, few years after he became a Christian and dedicated his life to ministry. The hymn is based on 1 Samuel 7:12 in which, after the Israelites defeated the Philistines, Samuel setup a stone and
called it Ebenezer, meaning "Thus far the Lord has helped us." Robert wrote it as a reflection of his spiritual journey, chronicling with thanksgiving, his wandering ways and how God's grace redeemed him. The theme of the song revolves around God's unsurmountable grace and love. This is the song of every sinner who meets God's redeeming love.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, Wand'ring from the fold of God; He, to rescue me from danger, Interposed His precious blood. Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing from derrickdrover on GodTube. 3. Day By Day This hymn was written by Lina Sandell in 1865. Lina and her dad were on their way to Gothenburg and her father fell overboard the ship
and drowned. Lina was eyewitness to the tragic death of her father. Lina composed a few hymns out of the depths of her broken heart, and "Day by Day" is one of them. In this hymn, she takes to her Heavenly Father who is sufficient to meet all her needs and care for her. This hymn depicts the cruel realities of this temporal life and the pains and
agonies that come along with it. Yet, it points to the promising help of a divine Father amidst these trials and learn to trust and rest in His promises. Every day the Lord Himself is near me With a special mercy for each hour; All my cares He fain would bear, and cheer me. He whose name is Counselor and power. 4. Great Is Thy Faithfulness This hymnesting that the company is the company of the
was originally a poem written by Thomas Obadiah Chisholm in 1923. Thomas accepted Christ as his Savior during a revival meeting and served briefly in Methodist ministry. He retired because of poor health. This hymn was born out of Thomas' day to day encounter of God's faithfulness in his life. It is based on Lamentations 3:22-23, which says that
God's mercies fail not, they are new every morning. It was penned from a believer's reflection on God's faithfulness, and it serves as a reminder to all believers even this day. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide, Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow Blessings all mine, with ten thousand
Story." The hymn revolves around Jesus Christ and His love for us, His sacrifice to redeem us, and how one day we'll see Him in glory. It orients us toward the best story ever told, while giving praise to God. I love to tell the story! 'Twill be my theme in glory- To tell the old, old story Of Jesus and His love. 6. It Is Well With My Soul Horatio G. Spafford
was a lawyer in Chicago as well as a friend and supporter of D. L. Moody. In November 1873, he made plans to visit Europe with his wife and daughters first, on the Ville du Harve, planning to join them later. Halfway across the Atlantic, the ship collided with a
vessel and sank rapidly. All four of his daughters drowned. Mrs. Spafford survived the accident. Later, while Spafford was travelling to join his grieving wife, he penned the words to this hymn as his ship passed over the spot where his daughters drowned. When peace, like a river, attendeth my way, When sorrows like sea billows roll- Whatever my lot,
Thou hast taught me to say, It is well, it is well, it is well, it is well with my soul. Often times, it is very hard, amidst trials and hardships to sing this hymn and actually mean the words "It is well with my soul." But it's only by God's help we can utter those words. He is our help, our strength, and our refuge. 7. Nearer My God To Thee This hymn was written by Sarah
Flower Adams in 1841. She wrote it based on a request by her pastor who wanted a new hymnal to close his sermon on the account of Jacob and Esau found in Genesis 28. The verses picture Jacob's dream after he escaped Esau's hands. Though like the wanderer, the sun gone down, Darkness be over me, my rest a stone; Yet in my dreams I'd be
nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer, my God, to Thee, nearer to Thee! 8. The Old Rugged Cross This hymn was written by George Bennard in 1912. The hymn took form as a result of George's deep devotion on John 3:16 and adoration of the work of Jesus Christ on the Cross. He wrote the first verse during one of his speaking events in a revival meeting
in Michigan and later completed the hymn during the speaking series in Wisconsin in 1913. So I'll cherish the old rugged cross, And exchange it someday for a crown. 'The Old Rugged Cross' - Beautiful Live Performance From Alabama from alabama on GodTube. 9. Rock Of Ages
This hymn was written by Augustus M. Toplady in 1763. One day when Toplady was traveling to a nearby village to preach, he was caught in a storm and took shelter in the nearby gorge. While he was waiting in the narrow gap in the rocks for the storm to pass, he was inspired to write this hymn. The hymn calls to attention the term rock used to
describe God in several places in the Bible. "For who is God, except the Lord? And who is a rock, except our God?" (2 Samuel 22:32). That rock was broken for us, so we could be saved from the guilt and power of sin. Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in Thee; Let the water and the blood, From Thy wounded side which flowed, Be of sin the
double cure, Save from wrath and make me pure. 10. What A Friend This hymn was originally written by preacher Joseph M Scriven in 1855 as a poem to comfort his sick mother. Earlier on in his life, he lost his fiancé. He then moved to Canada and devoted his life to serving the underprivileged. The words of this hymn help us find solace in the fact
that whatever trials and troubles come our way, we can always find a friend in Jesus. All we need is a simple prayer. Are we weak and heavy-laden, Cumbered with a passion for writing. She started the blog, Walking in the Word,
by journaling her Bible Studies. Her desire is to encourage other women in their walk with God with words that He has used to strengthen her own walk with Him. Her recent eBook An Ode to the Word is a collection of 31 poems inspired by the word of God referenced in God's word. Each poem is drawn from the verse that talks about the word of
God, sparking your curiosity and inviting you to a deeper experience with God's word. You can connect with Alice on Instagram and Pinterest. Photo Credit: Unsplash/Michael Maasen Across the world, millions of Christians sing hundreds of hymns in their church every Sunday. Singing is such an integral part of worship. The church has a massive
collection of songs, but some stand out above the rest. Some classics have captured the attention of Christians for generations. When we learn the stories behind our favorite hymns, they come to life in a new way. History adds context and meaning so that we can understand and relate to the hymns in a profound fashion. These stories will spark
emotion and passion the next time you sing them. "Amazing Grace" This would not be a complete list without one of the most well-known hymns in the world. "Amazing Grace" was created by John Newton in 1779. The author of the hymn described himself as the "wretch" in the song. He was a slave trader, rebel, blasphemer, and all-around immoral
man. He was as far from grace as anyone could ever be and lived a life full of hardship. God was able to get his attention after Newton's slave ship was nearly wrecked in a thunderstorm. As the vessel was taking on water and the crew was crying. Newton fell to his knees and started pleading for God's grace saved Newton. Newton
became a pastor in Olney, England, where he wrote the song, Today, the song still inspires the world and is sung in churches everywhere. "How Great Thou Art" This song was written in 1885 by Carl Gustav Boberg, a 26-year-old pastor from Sweden. Boberg was said to have been caught in a thunderstorm after church one Sunday afternoon. From
his place in the mountains, Boberg could see the storm rolling in and noticed the immense power and force it had. Once the storm passed, Boberg observed a beautiful big rainbow cover the walley, over the meadows and grain fields. It took his breath away. He wrote the song "O Store Gud," which was then translated into German, Russian, and
English. A stanza in the song was picked up in 1949 by an English missionary named Stuart K. Hine and changed to what we know today. Millions now sing the song of Christians in dozens of languages across the world. "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" Joseph Scriven, a young Irishman, completed his college education in 1844. He returned home to
marry his sweetheart. He came home to find his bride-to-be tragically lying dead after falling off her horse. Later on, Scriven moved to Canada and fell in love again. Unfortunately, for the second time, his bride-to-be hit a horrible fate. She became ill and died weeks before their marriage. Scriven wrote a poem to his mother in Ireland to describe the
tragedy he had faced. He spoke of how his deep friendship with Jesus, which he had cultivated through tragedy he had faced. He spoke of how his deep friendship with Jesus, which he had cultivated through tragedy he had faced. He spoke of how his deep friendship with Jesus, which he had cultivated through tragedy he had faced. He spoke of how his deep friendship with Jesus, which he had cultivated through tragedy he had faced. He spoke of how his deep friendship with Jesus, which he had cultivated through tragedy he had faced. He spoke of how his deep friendship with Jesus, which he had cultivated through tragedy he had faced. He spoke of how his deep friendship with Jesus, which he had cultivated through tragedy he had faced. He spoke of how his deep friendship with Jesus, which he had cultivated through tragedy he had faced. He spoke of how his deep friendship with Jesus, which he had cultivated through tragedy he had faced. He spoke of how his deep friendship with Jesus, which he had cultivated through tragedy he had faced. He spoke of how his deep friendship with Jesus, which he had cultivated through tragedy he had faced. He spoke of how his deep friendship with Jesus and the had cultivated through tragedy he had faced. He spoke of how his deep friendship with Jesus and the had cultivated through through the had cultivated through through the had cultivated through the ha
Charles Converse set the text to music and changed the name to what we know it as today. "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" Isaac Watts devoted much of his life to writing, including essays, sermons, and hymns, despite his frail health. He is considered the father of English hymnody crafting songs like the Christmas carol "Joy to the World". As a
teen, Watts was concerned with the crude lyrics that most English-speaking congregations used to praise God. Watts was challenged by his father to create something better, so he began to write hymns. At first, he wrote new versions of Bible verses in the book of Psalms. Then in 1707, Watts wrote, "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross," which
reflected his personal feelings. This writing style was considered controversial at the time, but the song became so popular and had a significant impact on the church. Theologian Matthew Arnold came to call it the greatest hymn in the English language. "Wherever He Leads, I'll Go" Two friends, R.S. Jones and B.B. McKinney, were having lunch at an
Alabama Sunday school conference in 1936. Jones had just returned from Brazil, where he was a missionary. Jones was heartbroken, because just days before he found out that health issues would keep him from returning to the country to do God's work. McKinney, a hymn writer, asked Jones what he was going to do. Jones replied, "Wherever He
leads, I'll go". This statement was so powerful that McKinney penned the classic hymn that afternoon, and later that night performed it after Jones had preached in the church. Since then, the song has been such in many worship services. We might know where God will lead us, but we can trust He knows what He is doing. The hymns we know and
love have much deeper meanings behind them. Knowing the history of these songs makes them that much more meaningful each time we sing them. We can honor God's hand in creating these beautiful tunes, Megan Bailey is a content producer and digital marketing specialist speciali
University where she received a degree in psychology.
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