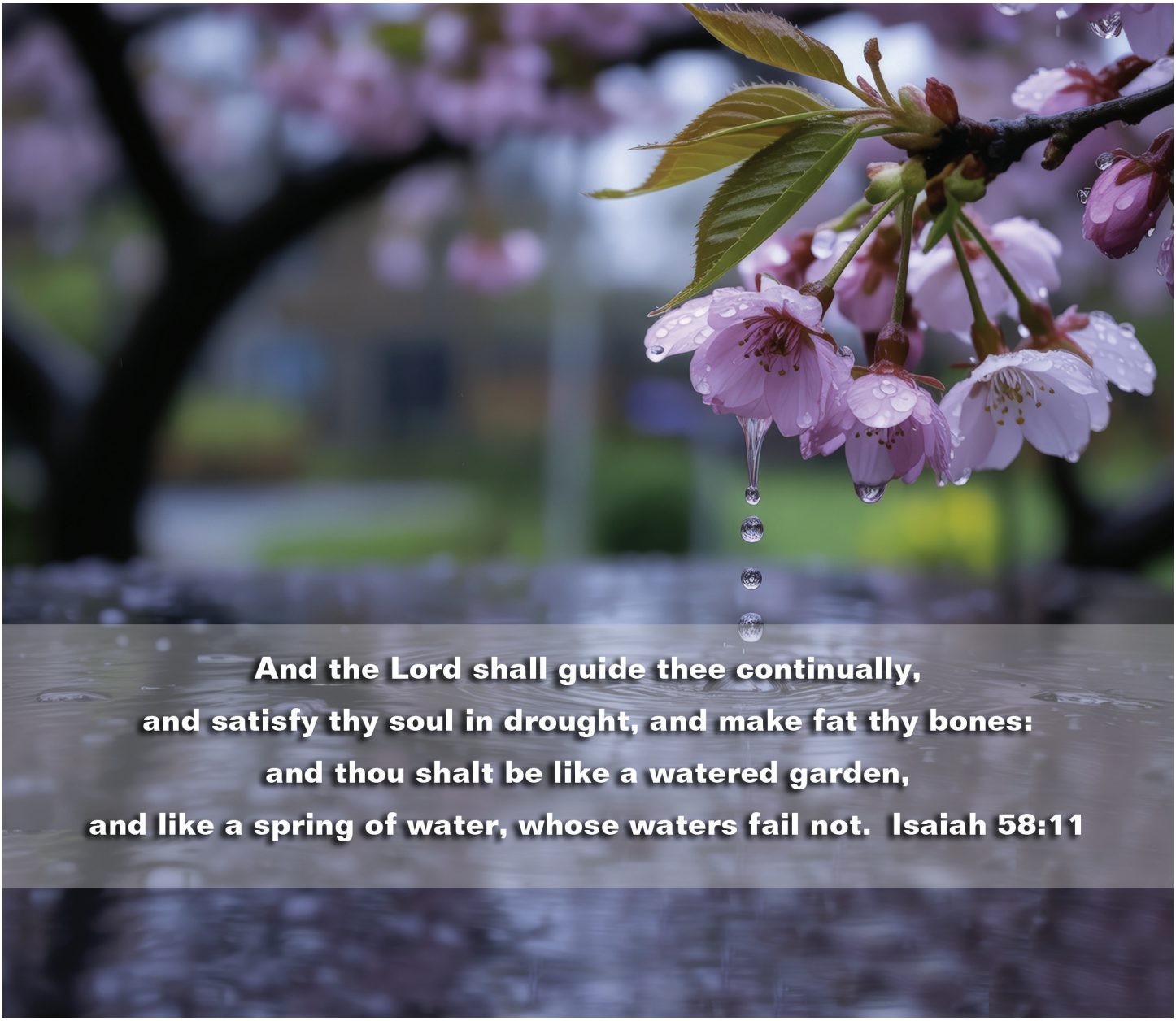

And the Lord shall guide thee continually,
and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones:
and thou shalt be like a watered garden,
and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not. Isaiah 58:11

In The Garden
Hymn History

Compiled by Brooks Strickland
Hoboken, Georgia

"In The Garden" was written in 1912 by C. Austin Miles. Miles had been to school for pharmacy but after moderate success with songwriting, went to work as a music editor for Hall-Mack Publishing Company in 1898. One day, some sources say, Miles was approached by his employer and asked to write a song that would bring rest to the weary and hope to the hopeless. He agreed to do so and shortly thereafter while sitting in his dark room (a room for developing photography) he had a very intimate experience with the Lord to which he described in depth.

"One day in March, 1912, I was seated in the dark-room, where I kept my photographic equipment and organ. I drew my Bible toward me; it opened at my favorite chapter, John 20—whether by chance or inspiration let each reader decide. That meeting of Jesus and Mary had lost none of its power to charm. As I read it that day, I seemed to be part of the scene. I became a silent witness to that dramatic moment in Mary's life, when she knelt before her Lord, and cried, "Rabboni!"

My hands were resting on the Bible while I stared at the light blue wall. As 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. It was Mary. As she came to the tomb, upon which she placed her hand, she bent over to look in, and hurried away.

John, in flowing robe, appeared, looking at the tomb; then came Peter, who entered the tomb, followed slowly by John. As they departed, Mary reappeared, leaning her head upon her arm at the tomb, she wept. Turning herself, she saw Jesus standing, so did I. I knew it was He. She knelt before Him, with arms outstretched and looking into His face 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."

This song has become one of the most popular hymns of the last 100 years. It paints a beautiful picture and is a reminder of the fellowship that we can have with Jesus everyday while we live here in this world. Though we look forward to greater intimacy with Christ after we die and go to the eternal heaven, let us always remember the blessings that are available to us everyday of our lives if and when we 'walk' with Him and 'talk' with Him as obedient children of God.

For the Lord shall comfort Zion: he will comfort all her waste places;
and he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the Lord;
joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody. Isaiah 51:3