

Behind the Hymn: Not I, but Christ

I want to breath this prayer every moment, with every fiber of my being. What greater privilege and pleasure could there be than glorifying Christ with every thought, word, and action! I want to tell and show everyone just how good and great and personally present He is.

The original text was by Ada Anne Whiddington and was first published in 1891. My first response to the hymn was that it needed a better musical setting, so I placed it in the appropriate "to do" file. But when I came across it again on March 15, 2000, I felt that the text was part of the problem and needed a rewrite. I started it that same day and completed it on April 4, 2000, after returning from the Holy Land.

On June 12-14 of that year, I completed my work on this hymn by providing it with a tune. I named the tune BOWERS in honor of Curt Bowers, head of Chaplaincy Ministries at the International Headquarters for the Church of the Nazarene. He had played a key role in reaching chaplains with our line of pocket-size books.

--Ken Bible

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