

10/2/20

Anna Bartlett Warner (1827-1915)



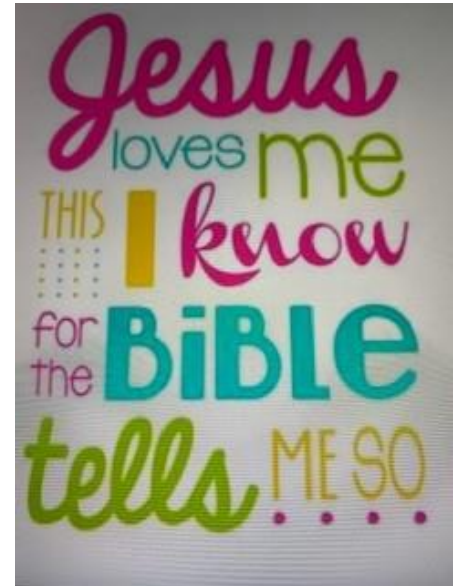
What song do you most remember from church school??? Chances are that it might be “Jesus Loves Me This I Know!” When Anna Warner’s sister Susan wrote a novel in 1860 called SAY AND SEAL, Anna included the words to the now-famous hymn as a three-verse poem which was spoken as a comfort to a dying child.

Two years later in 1862, a church school teacher sent composer William Bradbury the poem, with a note:

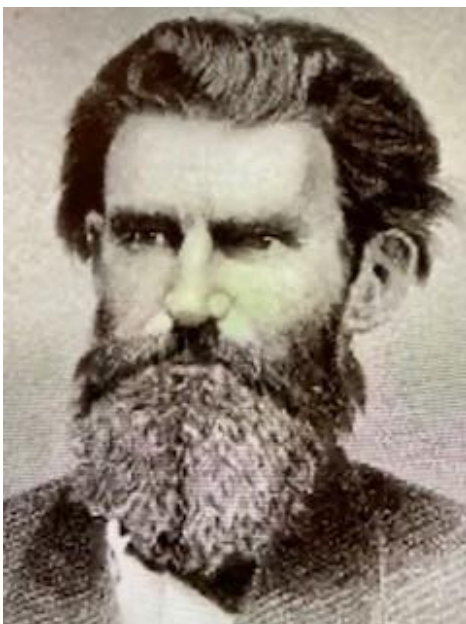
“Boys who at first did everything they could to break up our evening meetings cannot help joining us when we sing these precious words ‘Jesus loves me, this I know...’ there is but one thing wanting; give us a

good tune and we will make everything ring with its music and the echo of that song will be felt in many hearts when you and I can no longer lead them.”

He then wrote the familiar tune that we know and after its publication it Instantly became popular and spread to other countries. Missionaries told stories of its universal appeal to children everywhere!



William Batchelder Bradbury (1816-1868)



One of the most remarkable stories about this song, however, comes from Karl Barth. A Swiss Reformed theologian, Barth wrote dozens of books on theology and ethics including an elaborate 5-volume set entitled CHURCH DOGMATICS. After one of his deeply detailed lectures in Chicago he was asked an interesting question: “If you could summarize all that you believe into one statement, what would it be?” After brief consideration, his answer?....

“Jesus loves me, this I know... for the Bible tells me so.”