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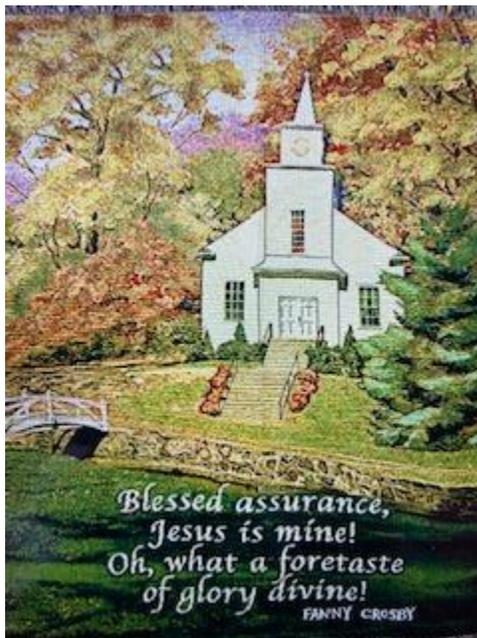
The fact that Fanny Crosby had been blind since infancy didn't stop her from becoming one of the most famous women in the 19th century. Although she really preferred to be known for her work in rescue missions, it was her HYMN WRITING that made her a household word in Victorian households and before she died (at age 94!) she had written almost 9000 (yes — that's NINE THOUSAND) of them. Her capacity for work was incredible and she was known to write as many as six or seven in a day.

Because some publishers of hymnals were hesitant to include too many hymns written by one person, she used nearly 200 different pseudonyms in her career!



Fanny Crosby (1820 - 1915)

A bright and intelligent student, when she was 10 she started memorizing FIVE CHAPTERS of the Bible every week and by age 12 she entered the New York Institute for the Blind, going on to teach there for 23 years. After graduating, she became a Washington lobbyist, arguing for the support of education for the blind; she was the FIRST WOMAN to speak before the U.S. Senate.



One afternoon when she was visiting her friend Phoebe Knapp, Phoebe played a few notes on her piano, asking Fanny "What do you think the tune says?" Without missing a beat, she replied "Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine..." After working on it together for a while longer, one of the world's best-known hymns was born.

Known as the "mother of modern congregational singing in America" as well as the "queen of gospel song writers," she set a goal for herself of bringing a MILLION souls to Jesus through her hymns! By modern standards, her work is often considered "too sentimental" but the Victorians welcomed her simple, homey words as a change from the formality of many hymns of that time.

