

C. O God Do Thou Sustain Me – 1500's AD

- i. A Spiritual Song
- ii. Focus: The Suffering of the Saint
- iii. Author: Leonhart Sommer, Unknown – 1573
- iv. Translated by: John J. Overholt, 1918-2000
- v. Notes on the Author: Leonhart Sommer, an Anabaptist martyr, died in prison on December 25, 1573.
- vi. Notes on the Translator: John J. Overholt was born to an Amish family of limited means in the state of Ohio in 1918. As a child he was soon introduced to his father's personal collection of gospel songs and hymns, which was to have a marked influence on his later life. With his twin brother Joe, he early was exposed to the Amish-Mennonite tradition of hymn singing and praising worship.

An early career in Christian service led to a two-year period of relief work in the country of Poland following World War II. During that interim he began to gather many European songs and hymns as a personal hobby, not realizing that these selections would become invaluable to *The Christian Hymnary* which was begun in 1960 and completed twelve years later in 1972, with a compilation of 1000 songs, hymns and chorales.

– Letter from Hannah Joanna Overholt to Mary Louise VanDyke, 10 October 1990

1. Vera Overholt (John Overholt's wife), was an accomplished soprano, who also compiled a hymnal of 156 selections entitled *Be Glad and Sing*, directed to children and youth, first printed in 1986. – Letter from Hannah J. Overholt to Mary L. VanDyke, 10 Oct. 1990.
 2. Mr. Overholt died in 2000, his wife Vera died late summer, 2018.
- vii. Translated by John J. Overholt in his hymnal *the Christian Hymnary, 1972* [see below]

1. O God do thou sustain me, In grief and sore duress;
Pride counter which disdains thee,
And comfort my distress; O Lord, let me find mercy
In bonds and prison bed; Men would seek to devour me,
With guile and controversy; Save me from danger dread!
2. Thou wilt never forsake me, This firmly I believe;
Thy blood thou hast shed freely,
And with it washed me: There in my trust is resting,
In Christ, God's only Son; On him I am now building,

In tribulation trusting, God will me not disown!

3. Thy word to us was given To bring salvation nigh;
Who doth from evil hasten,
His flesh will then deny; For we see not our failing
Until God's word, so clear, Through grace this is revealing,
Our sins removes, and healing, Redeems from want and fear.
4. My heart is overjoying With suff'ring's scorn and pain;
May God me mercy deploying,
Find worthy for his train, My cross to carry with him,
'Till life shall consummate; From him's no separation
Through plague or tribulation; Lord, patient I thee wait.
5. With joy I would be moving In suff'ring here and there;
With Abraham removing
In lands both far and near, Until I shall have gained
The mark of the high prize; Therewith the crown is waited,
When suff'rings have abated, And we great joy apprise.
6. To die and be living, Until my end I see,
To thee my trust I'm giving,
Thou wilt my helper be; Soul, body, child, companion
Herewith commit I thee; Come soon, Lord, come and take me
From ruthless men do save me; Be honour e'er to thee. Amen.

viii. The Doctrinal and Biblical Significance

1. First stanza – “O God, do thou sustain me...” – (2 Corinthians 12:9)
2. First stanza – “And comfort my distress” – (2 Corinthians 1:3-6)
3. First stanza – “In bonds and prison bed” – (John 15:20)
4. First stanza – “Save me from danger dread!” – (Psalm 7:1)
5. Second stanza – “Thou wilt never forsake me,” – (Hebrews 13:5)
6. Second stanza – “Thy blood thou hast shed” – (Revelation 1:5)
7. Second stanza – “On him I am now building” – (1 Corinthians 3:9-11)
8. Second stanza – “God will not me disown” – (John 10:28)
9. Third stanza – “to bring salvation nigh” – (Romans 10:8-11)
10. Third stanza – “For we see not our failing” – (Romans 7:7)
11. Third stanza – “Until God's word, so clear,” – (Romans 7:12-14)
12. Third stanza – “Redeems from want and fear” – (2 Timothy 1:9)

13. Fourth stanza – “My heart is overjoying with suffering’s scorn and pain” – (James 1:2-3)
14. Fourth stanza – “My cross to carry with him” – (Acts 5:41)
15. Fourth stanza – “From him’s no separation” – (Romans 8:35-39)
16. Fourth stanza – “Through plague or tribulation” – (Hebrews 12:1-2)
17. Fifth stanza – “In suffering here and there” – (1 Peter 3:14)
18. Fifth stanza – “With Abraham removing in lands both far and near” – (Hebrews 11:8-9)
19. Fifth stanza – “The mark of the high prize” – (Philippians 3:13-14)
20. Fifth stanza – “And we great joy apprise” – (Romans 8:17-19)
21. Sixth stanza – “To die and to be living” – (Philippians 1:21)
22. Sixth stanza – “Thou wilt my helper be” – (Hebrews 13:6)
23. Sixth stanza – “Come soon, Lord, come and take me” – (Psalm 40:13)
24. Sixth stanza – “Be honour e’er to thee” – (1 Timothy 1:17)

D. The Father We Will Ever Praise – 1500’s AD

- i. A Spiritual Song
- ii. Focus: The Suffering of the Saint
- iii. Author: Georg Wagner, Unknown – 1527
- iv. Translated by: John J. Overholt, 1918-2000
- v. Notes on the Author: Georg Wagner was apprehended at Munich, in Bavaria, on account of four articles of the faith. 1) The priest cannot forgive sins. 2) That a man cannot bring God down from heaven. 3) That he did not believe in transubstantiation (bread and wine turned into the body and blood of Christ). 4) Saving power of water baptism. [See *Martyrs Mirror*, pg. 416 for further information]
Georg Wagner was burned at the stake for his beliefs on February 8, 1527.
- vi. Translated by John J. Overholt in his hymnal *the Christian Hymnary, 1972* [see below]
 1. The Father we will ever praise, Who us redemption brought;
In heaven high our thanks we’ll raise, Through Christ’s death we are bought,
Whom God hath us in mercy giv’n From sin to reconcile;
That we by faith should live in him, As his obedient child.

2. In his Son, God has left us here Example we should heed,
That in like fashion, we with fear, Should suffer patiently,
As us enjoins the word of God, To help Christ bear reproach;
In Hebrews it to us is taught, Through God, the Holy Ghost.

vii. The Doctrinal and Biblical Significance

1. First stanza – “who us redemption brought” – (Hebrews 9:12)
2. First stanza – “Through Christ’s death we are bought”
– (1 Corinthians 6:20)
3. First stanza – “Whom God hath us in mercy given” – (Hebrews 2:17)
4. First stanza – “That we by faith should live in him” – (Galatians 2:20)
5. Second stanza – “In his Son... ..Example we should heed”
– (1 Peter 2:21)
6. Second stanza – “Should suffer patiently” – (1 Peter 2:20)
7. Second stanza – “To help Christ bear reproach” – (Hebrews 13:13)
8. Second stanza – “Through God, the Holy Ghost”
– (1 Corinthians 2:13)

E. The Cross with Patience Deign – 1500’s AD

- i. A Spiritual Song
- ii. Focus: The Suffering of the Saint
- iii. Author: Michael Sattler, 1495-1527
- iv. Translated by: John J. Overholt, 1918-2000
- v. Notes on the Author: "Michael Sattler was born about 1495 at Staufen near Freiburg in Baden." Educated at the University of Freiburg, Sattler entered the cloister of St. Peter near Freiburg as a monk, advancing to the position of prior of the cloister. Through his studies of the scriptures and, no doubt, influenced by the new reformation theology in circulation, Sattler left the monastery in 1523 and was married. – From: www.anabaptists.org/history/michael-sattler
 1. Sattler joined with the Swiss Brethren in Zurich, from which he was banished on November 18, 1525. He labored in the faith in Horb and Rottenburg, later going to Strasburg. Returning to Horb and Rottenburg, "on February 24, 1527, Sattler presided over a conference of Swiss Brethren held at [Schleitheim](#) in Canton Schaffhausen. He presented to this conference a confession of faith which was approved and adopted without a dissenting voice, and was later printed under the title,

"Bruderliche Vereinigung etlicher Kinder Gottes" (Brotherly Agreement of Some Children of God), as the confession of faith of the Swiss Brethren." The confession was considered important enough to be refuted by both Zwingli and Calvin in separate works.

2. Michael Sattler was captured by the Roman Catholic authorities in Horb, tried on May 17, 1527 at Rottenburg, and was martyred on May 21, 1527. "On the morning of that day this noble man of God, in sight of horrible torture, prayed for his judges and persecutors and admonished the people to repentance. He endured the inhuman torture stipulated in the sentence. [See Martyrs Mirror, pg. 416 for further information]

vi. Translated by John J. Overholt in his hymnal *the Christian Hymnary, 1972*
[see below]

1. When Christ with his true teaching came,
He taught the band he'd gathered in,
That each the cross with patience deign
To daily carry after him.
2. Christ said: My dear disciples, hear,
You shall always be vigilant;
And in the earth love nothing dear'r,
Than me, my word obedient.
3. The world upon you will unloose
And cast revilement, insult, too,
Disperse you, saying in excuse,
That Satan dwelling has in you.
4. When men you now revile, disdain,
For my sake persecute and smite,
Be joyful, your reward and gain
At heaven's throne I will requite.
5. Behold me, I, the Son of God,
At all times have been doing good;
Most innocent these ways I trod,
And yet at last they shed my blood.
6. O Christ, thy people help alway
Who follow faithful after thee,
That through thy bitter death, they may
From all their need redeemed be.

7. Praise to thee, God, in thy great throne,
And to thine own beloved Son,
And Holy Spirit, praise, through whom
Be many to thy kingdom drawn.

vii. The Doctrinal and Biblical Significance

1. First stanza – “He taught the band he’d gathered in” – (Mark 8:34)
2. First stanza— “To daily carry after him” – (Luke 9:23)
3. Second stanza – “You shall always be vigilant” – (1 Peter 5:8-9)
4. Second stanza – “Than me, my word obedient” – (John 15:9-14)
5. Third stanza – “And cast revilement, insults, too” – (John 15:18)
6. Third stanza – “...That Satan dwelling has in you.” – (Matthew 12:24)
7. Fourth stanza – “When men you now revile disdain,” – (John 15:21)
8. Fourth stanza – “At heaven’s throne I will requite” – (Luke 6:23)
9. Fifth stanza – “At all times have been doing good” – (John 8:29)
10. Fifth stanza – “And yet at last they shed my blood” – (John 15:25)
11. Sixth stanza – “O Christ, thy people help always...” – (John 16:33)
12. Sixth stanza – “From all their need redeemed be” – (Revelation 5:9-10)
13. Seventh stanza – “And thine own beloved Son” – (1 John 5:7)
14. Seventh stanza – “And Holy Spirit, praise...” – (John 16:13)