

GOING HOME

Going' home. Going' home. I'm a-going' home.
Quiet-like some still day, I'm just going' home.
It's not far, just close by, through an open door.
Work all done, cares laid by, going' to roam no more;
Mother's there 'expecting me, father's waiting, too,
Lots of folks gathered there, all the friends I knew.

Morning star lights the way, restless dream all done.
Shadows gone, break of day, real life just begun.
There's no break, there's no end, just a-living on;
Wide awake, with a smile, going on and on.
Going home. Going home, I'm just going home.
It's not far, just close by, through an open door.

Over the years there have been many songs and melodies performed about going home. Probably the most familiar is sung around Christmas time, "I'll be home for Christmas". For people who are overseas in the Military, when it's time for them to be deployed, that means they are going home. Again, for someone who has been in confinement for a long time and is able to go home, this is a very happy moment for them and the folks waiting at home.

This hymn or song that reminds me that I am going home came on the scene in the late 1800's and always gives a warm feeling that one day we will be going to our heavenly home to be with our Father in heaven. Here is the hymn and a little background.

William Arms Fisher was a pupil of famed composer Antonin Dvorak, studying under Dvorak in New York City. A native of Prague, in 1893, Dvorak composed his most famous symphony, the Symphony No. 9 in E Minor "From the New World". It was commissioned by the New York Philharmonic and was an homage to the United States, which had just passed its 100th anniversary of being a country.

The symphony was met with immediate success at its premier on December 16, 1893 at Carnegie Hall.

William Arms Fisher took up the challenge, starting by penning words to the Largo melody of the second movement of Dvorak's symphony. He also published a volume of called "Seventy Negro Spirituals" in 1926. Today, many people assume that the tune was always an African American spiritual that was adapted to the symphony, but in fact the opposite is true in this case.

The work has gained popularity, and has been played at state funerals from President Franklin Roosevelt's funeral to President Gerald Ford's.

Hebrews 11:13-16 - All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth. People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. Instead, they were longing for a better country-a heavenly one.

