

## LIVING STONES

1 Peter 2:4-10 (NIV)

*As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*

While returning from a late-night meeting with Lutheran Hour volunteers some years ago, I was getting sleepy, so I turned on the radio to help me stay awake. I found a Christian radio station playing hymns that were familiar to me. I was able to be more alert by singing along. The announcer shared the story about a woman by the name of Fanny Crosby. Recently she was also mentioned in Grace Moments. She was blinded by an error with eye drops at 6 months old.



This living stone is credited with writing 8,000 hymns and gospel songs. She was also known for her teaching and her rescue mission work. Some of the hymns that are being sung in most congregations in America, with most hymnals containing her work. “Pass Me Not”, “O Gentle Savior”, “Blessed Assurance”, “Jesus is Tenderly Calling You Home”, “Praise Him, Praise Him”, “Rescue the Pershing”, and “To God Be the Glory”.

This picture of Fanny was taken in 1872. She was born in 1820 and died in 1915. She also wrote more than 1,000 secular poems and had four books published. She was committed to Christian rescue missions and was known for her public speaking.

It is exciting to be surrounded by living stones where ever you go. We see this when a father takes his son or daughter on his knee and teaches them about the love of Jesus. Or when we find out that a mother has given up things for herself just to be sure that her children have what they need. When you see a pastor praying with someone who has just lost a loved one or a teacher that takes an hour to help a student who is falling behind on his studies.

When members of a congregation welcome visitors and get to know some of the other members a little better. When a living stone takes a meal to a neighbor to help them in a difficult trial. You see this too when a younger man helps out an older lady next door by shoveling out her driveway and sidewalk. I’ll bet you can think of a dozen other ways where you observe a fellow believer in Christ helping or caring for another person.

We are surrounded by living stones...believers in Christ who are on the move to help and pray for others. This continues to be the most exciting part of being part of this fellowship.

Everyone who believes in Jesus as their Savior from sin is a living stone in the house of God whether they realize it or not. And a congregation full of living stones who love to serve their Lord is a beautiful thing.

Dearest Jesus, I praise You, thank-you and glorify You. I know that I as a living stone have some chips and a few minor cracks because of sin. Through repentance and studying scripture I know too that one day You will polish out all of the deformities. I pray that You would allow me to be a better servant in your kingdom, man, husband, friend and brother in my family.

