

HEAVENLY SUNLIGHT

Henry J. Zellely, Lyrics; George H. Cook, Music; 1899

"Heavenly Sunlight" was written Henry Jeffreys Zellely (1859-1942), an



ordained Methodist minister for over 50 years. In his spare time, he also wrote poetry, primarily of a religious nature. He is credited with having written the words to over 1500 hymns during his lifetime, of which about 100 were published in various hymnals. Among these include, *"He Brought Me Out"*, *"When Israel Out of Bondage*

Came", *"Mountains of Faith"*, and *"He Rolled the Sea Away"*. But his most well-known work remains *"Heavenly Sunlight"*. Part of its popularity is due in no small measure to the fact that it was featured as the theme song for a weekly radio program called *"The Old Fashioned Revival Hour"*, hosted by the evangelist Charles E. Fuller from 1937 to 1968.

The music was written by George Cook, who at the time was a member of Zellely's congregation in Ocean Grove, New Jersey. He had composed a tune which he had in mind to use for a gospel hymn, but was having difficulty coming up with lyrics to match. He brought the tune to his pastor, and within a short time, Zellely had written a chorus and the first verse. Two weeks later, the choir at his church sang it in public for the first time.

~ Tull