

# IN THE GARDEN

*Charles Austin Miles, 1912*

"*In the Garden*", was written by Charles Austin Miles, an employee of the Hall-Mack Music Company of Philadelphia. Miles (1868-1946), originally trained as a pharmacist, decided song writing and publishing would be a more personally rewarding occupation. It was in 1912 that his editor, Dr. Adam Geibel, asked C. Austin Miles to write a hymn text that would be *"sympathetic in tone, breathing tenderness in every line; one that would bring hope to the hopeless, rest for the weary, and downy pillows to dying beds."*



It was the spring of 1912, shortly before Easter, and Miles had been reading the Biblical story of Mary Magdalene's meeting with Jesus in the garden outside the tomb following His crucifixion and resurrection (John 20:1-18). The words to the poem came



upon him suddenly, which he quickly scribbled down on the back of an old envelope. The melody came to him later that evening as he read over the words he had written.

The hymn was first published by Hall-Mack later that same year in "*The Gospel Message #2*". Next to "*The Old Rugged Cross*", this hymn has been one of the most popular gospel hymns ever written, beginning with the days when Homer Rodeheaver, music evangelist and gospel singer, led singing for the great Rev. Billy Sunday campaigns and used the hymn extensively. He was the most prolific recorder of sacred songs in the acoustical recording era, singing before the recording horn of most major companies.

~ Tull