WONDERFUL PEACE

Warren D. Cornell, Lyrics; William G. Cooper, Music; 1889

Warren D Cornell (1858-1921) was a Methodist Episcopal pastor. Born in Michigan, he received most of his religious training in Texas. He was



appointed to a church in Wisconsin 1881, and soon started conducting a series of revival meetings around the state. He was often joined in these events by William Cooper, a pastor, organist and choir director, who was also a hymn writer and composer. One day in 1889 while they were conducting a revival in West Bend, Wisconsin, Cornell was sitting in the meeting tent, meditating. As he reflected on his message for that night about the peace of God, he jotted down some ideas that came to him on a piece of paper. When he got up to leave, he inadvertently dropped his notes on the ground, where they were discovered a few hours later by Cooper was captivated by some of the phrases and imagery he found in

Cornell's notes, and began to flesh out the poetry of the words, and turn them into verses. When he had finished, he found they matched amazingly well to a tune he had been composing in his mind recently. He quickly organized an impromptu rehearsal of the local choir, and they sang it as part of the services that night.

~ Tull