

## It is Well

**Mike Moore**

There are thousands of hymns and contemporary Christian songs. We sing them, often not knowing how they came to be written. Some have dramatic stories behind their writing.

Many believers love the song, *It is Well With My Soul*. The song was written in 1873 and continues to be used in worship.

Horatio Spafford was a Christian attorney living in Chicago. He owned several pieces of land and buildings. The great fire swept through Chicago in 1871, destroying much of the property owned by Spafford. The economy took a downturn in 1873 further diminishing his assets.

Since many schools in the area had not been rebuilt by 1873, Spafford decided to take his children to England where they could attend school. He sent his wife and four daughters ahead and planned to take another vessel.

The ship carrying his family suffered a mid-Atlantic collision with an English vessel. All four of Spafford's daughters were lost. Spafford's wife sent him a message saying, "Saved, alone."

When he learned of the tragedy, Spafford headed for England and went to the spot where the ship with his family had gone down. He then wrote the words of this great song. Spafford took the words to a friend, composer Phillip P. Bliss, who penned the music. The song began to be used by many churches.

The Spaffords continued to know heartache. They lost two sons, one who was two and the other was four years old. Their church decided that the loss of their children was a punishment for some wrongdoing. They moved to Jerusalem and began working with the needy people there.

It is well.

