

## Stand Up for Jesus

By ROBERT D. KALIS

THE TRIUMPHANT, militant hymn, *Stand Up for Jesus*, was inspired by dramatic and tragic events in the city of Philadelphia just before the Civil War. A young clergyman named Dudley A. Tyng spoke out in his fashionable church in Philadelphia against slavery. Many of the influential parishioners owned slaves and were offended by his strong stand. So violent was the opposition that the outspoken minister was forced to resign. Undaunted, the young preacher with some of the sympathetic members rented a small hall and began a new church.

Several likeminded clergymen of the city were attracted to Dudley A. Tyng as a result of the publicity surrounding the split church. Among them was George Duffield, a Presbyterian, who was to become the author of *Stand Up for Jesus*. Together, these ministers of various denominations began to work for Christ in cooperation with the Young Men's Christian Association. The revival that was sweeping America at that time reached Philadelphia through the efforts of these young men. So mighty was the move of God in the city that it has been remembered ever since as *The Work of God in Philadelphia*. Noon-hour meetings, sponsored by the Y.M.C.A., were held daily.

On the Lord's Day, March 30, 1858, five thousand men crowded into Jayne's Hall to hear Dudley Tyng challenge them from the scripture, "Ye that are men now serve Him" (Exodus 10:11). In response to the invitation, at least one thousand gave themselves to Christ that day, making that meeting one of the most fruitful in the history of American evangelism.

Several days later, while at his country home near Conshocken, Pennsylvania, Mr. Tyng went to the barn where a corn-shelling machine, powered by a mule, was in operation. As he reached to pat the animal on the neck, his sleeve caught in the machinery. His arm was drawn into the gears and horribly mangled. In spite of the valiant efforts to save his life, it was soon evident that his time was short. Several prominent ministers were called to the bedside, one of whom asked if there was any message that he would like to send to his co-workers in the Philadelphia revival. He replied immediately, "Tell them to stand up for Jesus."

The dying warrior then requested that they sing. He himself began to quote: *Rock of ages, cleft for me*. Shortly thereafter on April 19, 1858, Dudley A. Tyng, thirty-three years of age, was absent from the body, present with the Lord. The announcement of his death at the next noon-hour Y.M.C.A. meeting brought a flood of tears and sorrow, but the last courageous message: "Tell them to stand up for Jesus," inspired all present to do just that.

George Duffield returned from the large and moving funeral service several days later to write a memorial sermon to be given in his own church the following Sunday morning. For a text he took "Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness" (Ephesians 6:14). He closed with an original poem of six verses, built around the last words of his departed friend. Verses 2 and 5, usually deleted from the hymn, are as follows:

*Stand up, stand up for Jesus!  
The solemn watchword hear;  
If while ye sleep he suffers,  
Away with shame and fear;  
Where'er ye meet with evil,  
Within you or without,  
Charge for the God of Battles,  
And put the foe to rout!*

*Stand up, stand up for Jesus!  
Each soldier to his post;  
Close up the broken column,  
And shout through all the host:  
Make good the loss so heavy,  
In those that still remain,  
And prove to all around you,  
That death itself is gain.*

Thus was born the hymn that we know as *Stand up for Jesus*, though Mr. Duffield had no thought of writing a hymn for use in public worship. The poem, however, was printed by his own Sunday school superintendent, Benedict B. Stewart, for distribution to the children. Later it found its way into a Baptist newspaper. In a short time the hymn was published in nearly every new hymnal. Translations by missionaries have taken the hymn to the ends of the earth. (Continued on page 16)

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September 12th marks the 150th anniversary of the birth of the author, George Duffield (1818-1888). It was the author's expressed desire that the hymn should stand without change "until the soldiers of the Cross should replace it by something better." In respect of this request, note that the author wrote in the third stanza: *Put on the gospel armour, Each piece put on with prayer; (not: And watching unto prayer;)*.

Although the hymn has been sung to several tunes, it is most effective when sung to the tune known as *Webb*, composed by George James Webb (1803-1887), a friend and associate of Dr. Lowell Mason, the great composer of hymn tunes.

*Stand Up for Jesus* has not suffered by reason of age. Its imagery is clearly understood by every boy and girl. Still more important, its call for courageous witnessing is still inspiring boys and girls, men and women, ministers and laymen to "stand up for Jesus."