

## **My Precious Wife**

**There are many things I marvel at as I look back o'er my life  
But that which I wish to honour today is the love of my precious wife.  
Through deep and dark valleys she's walked with me, we've shared views from the mountain top,  
And as I've pressed on to God's highest places she encouraged me never to stop.**

**As a shy young wife she was willing to follow, to leave the comfort of family and home,  
For a foreign land with new language and customs, not knowing what was to come.  
She pushed herself hard to meet this new challenge, to overcome her reserve  
And blossomed into a woman of wisdom and grace, which I cannot claim to deserve.**

**Three daughters soon she gave to me to add to my treasure chest  
And t'was evident as she nurtured them that of mothers she is the best.  
She built a home where they'd feel secure, upon The Solid Rock  
And honoured me as I strove to be a shepherd to this flock.**

**With much wrestling of soul I came to the place where I knew God calling me  
From the teaching profession I knew and loved with its financial security;  
With much trepidation I told this to Anne wondering what she would say,  
"If this is the Lord speaking," she said, "you have no option but to obey."**

**It was the same response for each change we made, each less secure than the last  
From teacher to pastor to missionary and now as an itinerant cast.  
She was right beside me each step of the way as we went into the unknown  
And I shudder to think how anxious I'd have been if I'd ventured out on my own.**

**Since teenage days when I met the Lord, I've yearned to know Him more  
For a fire has been lit in my heart, a passion I cannot ignore;  
I long to hear the Shepherd's voice speaking into my life,  
But I've found that He most clearly speaks through the words of a godly wife.**

**Anne, I love you more than words can say though I have tried my best  
To show how much you mean to me; I acknowledge how much I'm blessed.  
Full 50 years you've walked with me, though it seems but yesterday  
That that blushing bride declared "I will" and we started this wonderful way.**

**So I thank the Lord each passing day that He gave you to be my wife,  
And for the bond of love that has grown so strong, the mainstay of my life.  
There is no way I can fully repay all that to you I owe  
Just a token will have to suffice – so on you I this medal bestow!**