

Douglas, J. D., Comfort, P. W., & Mitchell, D. (1997, c1992). *Who's Who in Christian History*.

**BLISS, PHILIP PAUL** (1838–1876)

*American hymn writer and gospel singer*

Born in Pennsylvania, Bliss entered the Normal Academy of Music (New York City) in 1860. At the urging of Dwight L. Moody, Bliss put his musical talents to work in evangelism. A Baptist, he participated in the revival campaigns of D. W. Whittle as song leader and children's worker. Many of his songs became standard gospel hymns in evangelistic meetings throughout the United States. His songs speak of the individual's desire for God and express deep personal commitment. Bliss published four collections of his works from 1871 to 1874. His most popular songs include "Let the Lower Lights Be Burning," "Hallelujah! What a Savior!" "Almost Persuaded," and "Wonderful Words of Life." At age thirty-eight Bliss was killed with his wife in a train wreck.

**NOTE:** At the age of 38, at the very height of his fruitful music ministry, Bliss' life was ended in a tragic train accident (Pacific Express train). He had visited his mother at his childhood home in Rome, PA during the Christmas season of 1876 and was returning by train to Chicago on December 29 with his wife Lucy (Young) when a railroad bridge near Ashtabula, OH collapsed. The train plunged into a ravine sixty feet below and caught fire. About one hundred passengers perished in this accident. Bliss survived the fall and escaped through a window, but frantically returned to the wreckage in an attempt to rescue his wife. As a result, he perished with her in the fire. Neither body was ever recovered.

See: Philip Bliss. In *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*.

[Philip Bliss](#)