



"Cross Connection"

Radio Ministry of Hope Wesleyan Church and Wells of Salvation Ministries
Ultimate Oldies Radio – FM 97.7 and 101.1, Huber Heights, Ohio



Series: Christian Messages In Secular Music

7/1/09

Program 87 "But For The Grace Of God"

© Keith Urban, Charlotte Caffey, Jane Wiedlin



The Song ¹

- Performed / recorded by Australian country musician Keith Urban
- 3rd single release from Urban's album *Keith Urban*
- Urban's first #1 single on *Billboard's* Hot Country Singles & Tracks chart, Feb '01
 - Reached #37 on U.S. *Billboard* Hot 100 chart
- Featured in video, aired on Country Music Television and Great American Country
- When it reached #1 -- marked 1st time non-American artists had back-to-back chart-topping songs; replacing "There Is No Arizona" by Jamie O'Neal, another Aussie
- Credits the grace of God for sparing him the trials and problems he sees around him

The Artist – Keith Urban (1967-) ²

- Australian country music singer / songwriter / guitarist born in New Zealand
- Has achieved commercial success primarily in the U.S. and Australia
- Began winning singing contests at age eight
- Moved to U.S. in '92; worked as session guitarist before starting a band, The Ranch
 - Also plays ganjo, bass guitar, mandolin, piano, and bouzouki
- Struggled with cocaine and heroin use
 - Entered rehab centers in Nashville ('98) and in California in ('06)
- His '99 self-titled American debut album, featuring this song, was certified platinum
- On guitar, has backed up such groups as Brooks and Dunn, Charlie Daniels, Garth Brooks, and the Dixie Chicks
- Numerous awards and honors; 8 studio albums; married to Aussie Nicole Kidman
- Other hits include: "Once In A Lifetime" (highest country chart debut in history, entering at #17), "You Look Good In My Shirt", "Making Memories Of Us", "Somebody Like You", "You'll Think Of Me", "Better Life", and "Tonight I Wanna Cry"

I can hear the neighbors
They're arguin' again
And there hasn't been peace on our street
Since who knows when
I don't mean to listen in
But the shoutin' is so loud
I turn up the radio to drown it out
And silently I say a little prayer

Can you relate to this? In one place I lived, who needed fireworks on the 4th of July? All we had to do was sit on the back patio and listen to the neighbors!

*"Peace, peace, ' they say,
when there is no peace"* – Jeremiah 6:14b

Peace is elusive. Psalm 34:14 instructs us to *"...seek peace and pursue it."* How do you think we can or should do that?

¹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/But_for_the_Grace_of_God

² http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Keith_Urban

But for the grace of God go I
 I must've been born a lucky guy
 Heaven only knows how I've been blessed
 With the gift of YOUR love
 And I look around and all I see
 Is your happiness embracing me
 Oh Lord I'd be lost
 But for the grace of God

Here, the writer credits God with the blessing of love from his / her mate

"A man who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the LORD." – Proverbs 18:22

"For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost." – Luke 19:10

I can see that old man
 He's walking past our door
 And I've been told that he's rich
 But he seems so poor
 'Cause no one comes to call on him
 And his phone it never rings
 He wanders through his empty home
 Surrounded by his things
 And silently I say a little prayer, yes I do

The poorest people in the United States are blessed in relation to third-world conditions

- What do you consider blessings?
- By what measure?
- Do you thank God? How?
- Do you pray for those in need?

But for the grace of God go I
 I must've been born a lucky guy
 Heaven only knows how I've been blessed
 With the gift of YOUR love
 And I look around and all I see
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 Oh Lord I'd be lost
 But for the grace of God

Do you attribute your blessings to "luck"?
 Dolly Parton wrote, sang "I Will Always Love You"

- What kind of love is temporal? Why?
- What kind of love is eternal? Why?

"Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; His faithful love endures forever." – Psalm 106:1

I look around and all I see
 Is your happiness embracing me
 Oh Lord I'd be lost
 But for the grace of God

"For by grace you are saved through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift— not from works, so that no one can boast" – Eph. 2:8-9

Oh Lord I'd be lost
 But for the grace of God

Jesus told the Apostle Paul -- *"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."* – 2 Corinthians 12:9a

Final Thoughts:

Some years ago the pop group *Bread* sang a song with the following lyrics... and although they speak of love between two people, they could just as readily apply to our relationship with God...

*Lost and all alone
 I always thought that I could make it on my own...
 ... I'm lost without your love
 Life without you isn't worth the trouble of
 I'm as helpless as a ship without a wheel
 A touch without a feel...*

No one need remain lost. The Bible assures us that *"...God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."* – Romans 5:8. By His grace we can be saved!

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³ from "Lost Without Your Love", © 1977 David Gates, recorded by *Bread*