

## "Cross Connection"

Radio Ministry of Hope Wesleyan Church and Wells of Salvation Ministries  
Ultimate Oldies Radio – FM 97.7 and 101.5, Huber Heights, Ohio



Series: Christian Messages In Secular Music

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Program 41 "Whenever God Shines His Light On Me" © Van Morrison

Like many artists in this program series, Van Morrison's life and music reflects a quest for spiritual truth – a journey that has taken him through such teachings as Jehovah's Witnesses, New Age, Scientology, and the fundamental Christian principles reflected in this featured song. As noted below, he released this song in 1989 as a duet with professing Christian, Cliff Richard, who participated in several Billy Graham Crusades, and whose recordings have accrued more aggregate time on the British record chart than the Beatles.<sup>1</sup> The lyrics to "Whenever God Shines His Light On Me" could easily be packaged to appear in a Christian hymnal. As you review them, consider the trust, faith and hope in our Lord that they reflect.

### The Song<sup>2</sup> –

- Released on Van Morrison's 1989 album *Avalon Sunset* as a duet with Cliff Richard
  - Considered Morrison's most spiritual album
- Released as a single in November 1989 for the Christmas sales market
- Reached #20 on the U.K. Top 20 Chart

### The Artist – Van Morrison<sup>3</sup> –

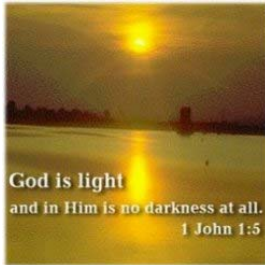
- **George Ivan Morrison** -- a Grammy Award-winning Northern Irish singer, songwriter, author, poet and multi-instrumentalist
  - Plays guitar, harmonica, keyboards, drums, and saxophone
- Lead singer for Northern Irish band Them, penning their seminal 1964 hit "Gloria"
- A long and highly prolific solo career featured hits such as -- "Brown Eyed Girl", "Moondance", "Into the Mystic", "Domino", "Wild Night" and "Tupelo Honey"
- Inducted into Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in '93, and Songwriters Hall of Fame in '03
- Ranked 42nd on Rolling Stone's *The Immortals: 100 Greatest Artists of All Time*
- Began experiencing stage-fright in 1972 when performing for audiences of thousands, as opposed to the hundreds that he had experienced in his early career
- His 1978 song "Kingdom Hall" dealt with Morrison's childhood experience around Jehovah's Witnesses and foreshadowed a religious turn in Morrison's works
- His music throughout the 1980s often focused on themes of spirituality and faith, leaning toward New Age religions such as Scientology
- Continues to record and perform into his sixth decade as a songwriter / artist

<sup>1</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cliff\\_Richard](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cliff_Richard)

<sup>2</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Whenever\\_God\\_Shines\\_His\\_Light](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Whenever_God_Shines_His_Light)

<sup>3</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Van\\_Morrison](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Van_Morrison)

Whenever God shines His light on me  
 Opens up my eyes so I can see  
 When I look up in the darkest night  
 I know everything's going to be alright  
 In deep confusion, in great despair  
 When I reach out for Him he is there  
 When I am lonely as I can be  
 I know that God shines His light on me



*"God is light; in him there is no darkness at all."*  
 – 1 John 1:5, NIV

*"Let him who walks in the dark, who has no light, trust in the name of the LORD and rely on his God" -- Isaiah 50:10b, NIV*

*"Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?" ...Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." Hebrews 13:5-6; and verse 8, NIV*

The "life you love" can't be on your own terms. It must be focused upon and directed by God

*"Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart" – Psalm 37:4*

Reach out for Him, He'll be there  
 With Him your troubles you can share  
 If you live the life you love  
 You get the blessing from above  
 He heals the sick and heals the lame  
 Says you can do it too in Jesus name

*"And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will...place their hands on sick people, and they will get well."*  
 – Mark 16:17-18, NIV

- Verses preceded by the Great Commission

He'll lift you up and turn you around  
 And put your feet back on higher ground

Reach out for Him, He'll be there  
 With Him your troubles you can share  
 You can use His higher power  
 In every day and any hour  
 He heals the sick and heals the lame  
 Says you can do it too in Jesus name

*"Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray" -- James 5:13, NIV*  
*"Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you" – 1 Peter 5:7, NIV*

He'll lift you up and turn you around  
 And put your feet back on higher ground

Similar to the refrain of an old hymn –

*Lord, lift me up and let me stand,  
 By faith, on Heaven's tableland,  
 A higher plane than I have found;  
 Lord, plant my feet on higher ground<sup>4</sup>*

### **Final thoughts:**

Finding the Cross Connection in these lyrics is not much of a challenge. Van Morrison is known for his songwriting and performing abilities – not as some prominent theologian. Yet, he has captured several fundamental truths from God's Word in these lyrics. Perhaps you have been a searcher, like Van Morrison. You may have looked into a number of spiritual teachings. But keep this in mind... Jesus said, *"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away"* (Luke 21:33, NIV).

*"Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night" – Psalm 1:1-2, NIV*

<sup>4</sup> From "Higher Ground", words by Rev. Johnson Oatman, music by Charles Gabriel