

A Worship Minute...

-from the *One Year Book of Hymns*

Between A.D. 500 and 700 the Irish church was synonymous with missionary fervor. One historian commented that missionary effort was “the one all-absorbing national thought and passion.” Irish missionaries labored from Scotland to Switzerland. One of these missionaries was Columba of County Donegal. His biographer says, “Certain spiritual songs, which had never been heard before, he was heard to sing.” He was known as one of the poets of the Irish church.

“Be Thou My Vision” is anonymous, but it comes from the seventh or eighth century, shortly after the time of Columba of Donegal. It is filled with various titles for God. The word *vision* is used to indicate not only what we focus on but also what we strive for. As we strive for a goal, we gain a long-range perspective that helps us see today’s as trivial when compared to the heavenly vision.

*I have said to the Lord, “You are my Lord; from you alone comes the good I enjoy
.....Lord, you are my allotted portion and my cup; you maintain my boundaries: the
lines fall for me in pleasant places; I am well content with my inheritance.”You will
Show me the path of life; in your presence is the fullness of joy, at your right hand are
pleasures for evermore. Psalm 16:2,5-6,11*