



Rise, Shine, You People!

Just because a hymn has been printed in a hymnal, sometimes people think that the author of the words and the composer of the music lived long ago. That is certainly not true in the case of “Rise, Shine, You People!” This hymn was first published in 1973. The author, Ronald Allan Klug, is a teacher at an American school in Madagascar. He is also the writer of a book for children called *Strange Young Man in the Desert*.

The composer, Dale Wood, lives in California and writes a lot of music which boys and girls enjoy singing. He has given the name, WOJTKIEWIECZ, to this tune, because that was his family’s name in Europe before they came to America and changed it to Wood.

Look at this hymn and at some of the hymns in your hymnal. Under the title at the top of the page is some very important information. On the left side is the name of the author of the text, or words, to the hymn. In some hymnals this information is printed *beneath* the hymn. Which way does your hymnal give the information about the author and composer?

At the top of the page? _____

At the bottom of the page? _____

(Check one.)

What is the message or meaning of “Rise, Shine, You People!?” Look up Matthew 5:16 in your Bible. What do you think Jesus means by telling us to let our light shine? Reading the words to the hymn may help you decide what you believe he is telling us to do. Write your own answer below:

The hymn “Rise, Shine, You People!” has another way of stating the words Jesus gave us in Matthew 5:16. You have written your way of saying those words above. Perhaps you would like to find another Bible verse and try re-writing it in your own words sometime. This is often the way a hymn text is written.

Hymn Study by Carolyn Livingston