

You are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit. Ephesians 2:19-22

This is a story of survival. A story of making it through the challenges that the World throws at all of us. It is a human interest story, but in this case, the main character is a church.

Built sometime before the American Revolutionary War, this church is destroyed and rebuilt a number of times. Along the way, lessons are learned, faith is strengthened, and nails are hammered.

## The Little Church Upon the Hill

by Jeffrey Robert Smith

**VERSE 1:** There is a little church upon the hill,  
That has stood for many centuries, and proudly stands there still.  
It was built of hand-sawn sticks and logs; of stone; and even tin;  
Held together by the faith of those within.

They prayed in its walls for the courage to worship free;  
As a war raged around them, the great War for Liberty.

But the war destroyed the church upon the hill;  
A cannonball took down the walls, and broke the people's will.

**REFRAIN 1:** But something in their hearts said it's story could not end...  
Putting harder times behind them, they built that church again.  
It had left a little void that, in their lives, they had to fill;  
They rebuilt the little church upon the hill.

**VERSE 2:** The church stood proud again for many years.  
Through the prayers of many families; their laughter; and their tears.  
But the people soon divided over differences and fears,  
As a bloody Civil War came ever near.

Some prayed for, and some prayed against all men living free;  
A church so divided could not stand through times like these.

A burning hatred raged throughout the town;  
The little church could not escape, they burned it to the ground.

**REFRAIN 2:** But something in their hearts said it's story could not end...  
Putting harder times behind them, they built that church again.  
It had left a little void that, in their lives, they had to fill;  
They rebuilt the little church upon the hill.

**VERSE 3:** The little church stood proudly on the hill;  
Through the prayers of generations, it had served the people's will.  
And the Lord must have been proud to see His house was well and strong;  
But the day of certain change would not be long.

With the clouds growing black, and the dust blowing on the ground,  
The wells all ran dry, and a paycheck could not be found.

The Depression found the church in disrepair;  
The people who could find their way, could not afford to care.

**REFRAIN 3:** But the people of the town said it was time to let go;

Though its seed was often planted, it was never meant to grow.  
If the Lord had been more merciful, that church might be there still;  
They would not rebuild the church upon the hill.

**VERSE 4:** An old man threw his voice into the fray;  
He said: "It's not the way of God, and surely, it won't be our way...  
A church is not a building, it's the people found within.  
And the people need a place to worship in.  
Maybe God has a plan, and perhaps it was meant to be...  
In rebuilding a church, we are building community.  
When people come together in His Name,  
Their lives are ever richer, and we all have more to gain."

**REFRAIN 4:** So somewhere in their hearts, they knew this story could not end...  
Putting harder times behind them, they built that church again.  
And for the glory of the Lord, and to the purpose of His will,  
They rebuilt the little church upon the hill.

**"The Little Church Upon the Hill" – words and music © 2004 by Jeffrey Robert Smith**

Remember the teakettle: when it's up to its neck in hot water; it sings.

The God that made the world and  
all things therein, He, being Lord of  
heaven and earth, dwelleth not in  
temples made with hands. Acts 17:24