



LILLIE KNAULS

Matthew 6:26 says, “Look at the birds of the air. They don’t sow or reap or store away in barns, but your Heavenly Father feeds them... and you are much more valuable than the little bird.”

After working 22 years for the telephone company (my being part of the Edwin Hawkins Singers had opened many doors for me, so “working” did not allow me to sing all the places I was being invited to) God let me know that he had good plans for me. So, with my heart beating fast, I signed the resignation papers in August, 1978 and I left the telephone company.

My first assignment from God was a move to beautiful Hawaii to work with the Waikiki Beach chaplaincy ministry. Each Sunday we would set up speakers around the tourists/sunbathers on the beach and have a church service. I called it the most beautiful church in the world! Hawaii is my favorite and most beautiful place I have ever visited—I am always captivated even when I see paintings of the ocean, beaches, mountains, beautiful local people, the lovely island flowers—whether a single flower for my hair or one of those absolutely huge floral arrangements in the luxury hotel lobbies!

When I am in Waikiki, I have a special place I frequent in the elegant Halekalani Hotel. This popular restaurant is just feet from the ocean and I can view and enjoy God’s creation.

One day sitting there, God allowed me to witness something wonderful—a sparrow flew to my table. I had just finished eating when he landed there. He began to eat, so I just leaned forward and said, “Hey little sparrow, aren’t you glad you didn’t have to struggle to pull a worm from the ground? No, all you had to do



was come to my table and eat all you want from my plate!” He seemed totally unafraid that I would shoo him away and I didn’t! The popular song, “His Eye is on the Sparrow,” was one I sang when I was growing up—and has become my most requested song as I have traveled these 34 years.

I feel God gave me the scripture Matthew 6:26 at my retirement luncheon in 1978 to remind me of his provision for me, His child. So... “I sing because I’m happy, I sing because I’m free. His eye is on the sparrow and I know He watches me.” I have proclaimed this message in song around the world. I must. Because... “God gave the song.”