

The story behind the song: "JESUS DRAW ME CLOSE"  
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Jesus draw me close;  
Closer, Lord, to You.  
Let the world around me fade away.  
Jesus, draw me close;  
Closer, Lord, to You.  
For I desire to worship and obey.

You're not happy when they arrive. They are certainly NOT welcome. The sooner they're gone, the better. We all have them. No, I'm not talking about the obnoxious relative, or that certain "difficult" person at work, but the trials that seem to invade our lives at the least opportune moment... The bad day... The tough week at work... The year you'd just as soon erase from your life... Or those times of loss, which are annoying at best, and tragic at worst... when you lose your car keys... or your job... or a close friend ... or member of the family.

It was during one of "those" weeks, that the song, "JESUS DRAW ME CLOSE" was born. The flu was going around, everybody was suffering with it, and I had been blessed with a "double portion". The car had decided to self-destruct, activities at work were busier than normal, expectations were high, energy and inspiration were low... I was not having a good week. I sat in my office, in an old and ugly, but very comfortable stuffed chair. (a cherished garage sale acquisition.) Nestled in my favorite "reading space", with Alka-Seltzer fizzing in the glass nearby and my Bible, I picked up where I had left off in the Book of Psalms...

Psalm 42

"As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God? My tears have been my food day and night, while men say to me all day long, 'Where is your God?' These things I remember as I pour out my soul: how I used to go with the multitude, leading the procession to the house of God, with shouts of joy and thanksgiving among the festive throng. Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God... By day the LORD directs his love, at night his song is with me-- a prayer to the God of my life."

It was perfect. Just what I needed. The Lord, in His quiet and gentle way, was reminding me once again, that in this world of constantly changing circumstances, there is a place in the presence of the unchanging God, where I can go at any time. A little further pursuit in the short concordance at the back of my Bible, directed me to other reassurances of how close God was to me at that very moment; and the ease with which I could draw near to Him...

Psalm 145:18 "The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth."

Isaiah 55:6 "Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near."

Psalm 73:28 "But as for me, it is good to be near God. I have made the Sovereign LORD my refuge; I will tell of all your deeds."

The profound simplicity of this truth prompted a simple and honest prayer;  
"JESUS, DRAW ME CLOSE... CLOSER LORD, TO YOU. LET THE WORLD AROUND ME FADE AWAY."

... Picking up my guitar, I put the prayer to an equally simple melody, and concluded with;  
"..... FOR I DESIRE TO WORSHIP, AND OBEY."

At the Bible Study that evening, the little musical prayer seemed to strike a resonant chord in the hearts of the people. They quickly picked up the melody, and proceeded to make the prayer their own.