

*In the name of God who makes us, loves us, and keeps us. Amen*

Ambitious plans the Son of Man  
Shared with us in those days.  
A tour, my friends, did he intend  
throughout the land and ways.

And we, you see, were meant to be  
Advance-men for his tour  
Go on ahead was what he said  
and we, of course, said Sure!

But really though, how would we know  
just what we were to do?  
Some awkwardness one might sure guess  
feared those without a clue.

Oh, do not dread, he smiled and said  
as he unrolled a map  
and pointed out the walkabout  
as he his thoughts unwrapped

You may have heard those famous words  
that we would fish for men,  
But now our toil was 'prep the soil'  
and all be gardeners then.

For soon he'd come with his green thumb  
Expecting seeds to plant  
In field and town and all around  
And everywhere we went.

And on these trips relationships  
were we to cultivate,  
for when he came it was his aim  
to have them on his plate

So he could share his presence there  
with ones he could call friends,  
with friends *we'd* made, with whom *we'd* stayed,  
and 'welcome' him extend.

With what, thought we, what could it be  
such ground to fertilize?  
Our thoughts he read and then he said  
But don't you realize

the soil around in every town  
needs peace for love to grow?  
So spread my peace and so increase  
relationships, y' know?!

And when we asked, 'Lord, for this task  
what ought we take along?'  
He said quite clear, for each to hear,  
'nothing that you belongs.

Take them my peace, but no valise,  
No toothbrush, soap, or comb;  
Let them see hospitality  
indeed begins at home.'

So we were sent; and off we went  
in barefoot pairs of two,  
to knock on doors and sleep on floors  
proclaiming what was true:

God was for real, that was our spiel,  
God's love can conquer fear.  
God's Christ brings news that here for you  
God's Kingdom has come near.

And I must say, we on such days  
were pleasantly surprised,  
and were relieved to be received.  
Our faith was energized.

In fact, we found there all around  
that we could help the ill  
by saying prayer and giving care  
and strengthening their will.

It brought us joy, there to employ  
Such skill in Jesus' Name;  
I can recall, no one at all  
tried seeking his own fame.

And even though, when I felt low,  
the mission seemed quite hard,  
From those we met, I even yet  
still get a Christmas card!

Yes, most who heard what we offered  
were pleased to know his peace;  
by what we shared they were prepared  
to meet him face to face.

I reminisce and tell all this  
not just for memory's sake,  
but that instead what Jesus said  
might yet a difference make.

When we set out upon that route  
he told us something true  
about the dust of our mistrust  
which now I share with you:

Just shake it loose and so produce  
a clarity of heart.

Just let it go so he can show  
His presence for a start.

All drama and those things you planned  
which matter just to you.

All useless pride, set it aside,  
just shake it from your shoe,

All discontent, embarrassment,  
and all that can distract,  
resentment and predicament,  
'tis all but dust, in fact.

All anger and indignant stand  
anxiety and fear;  
Just let it be so you can see  
God's kingdom has come near.

And when we pray in such a way,  
with conscience clear and free,  
His presence fair will greet us there,  
or so it seems to me.

So when you've found some holy ground  
where miracles might grow,  
don't let the soil be sadly spoiled  
by evil from below.

For pilgrim trips, relationships  
are best for heart and soul;  
so tend them well and in them dwell  
and by them be made whole.