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LEAVE IT THERE

Without a doubt, the renowned Dr. Charles Albert Tindley (1856-1933) was the most prolific of the Black hymn writers. He was for more than thirty years the outstanding pastor of the famous Tindley Temple United Methodist Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

In 1924, the membership of East Calvary Methodist Episcopal Church insisted that the church's name be changed to Tindley Temple in honor of its illustrious pastor and hymn writer. Dr. Tindley's productive period as a composer was 1901-1906, but his music did not become generally popular in Black churches until after World War I. Nevertheless, it was Dr. Tindley's music that inspired the famous gospel songwriter Dr. Thomas A. Dorsey (1899-1993) to forsake the vaudeville and blues circuits and write religious music exclusively.

Tindley's gospel hymns comprised an entirely new genre, and he readily admitted that they leaned heavily on the Negro spiritual. Tindley incorporated folk images, proverbs, and biblical allusions well-known to Black Christians for over a hundred years; yet his songs had profound universal appeal to the human heart, with words of hope, cheer, love, and pity.

Several examples may be cited:

- *Courage, my soul, and let us journey on,
Tho' the night is dark it won't be very long....*
Refrain:
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! The storm is passing over.
(from "the Storm Is Passing Over")

The poor and downtrodden have often found solace in a specific address to them from Tindley:

- Refrain:*
 - *Leave it there, (leave it there), leave it there,
Take your burden to the Lord and leave it there, (leave it there);
If you trust and never doubt, He will surely bring you out,
Take your burden to the Lord and leave it there. AMEN.*
~Leave It There By: Charles A. Tindley

The refrain to another Tindley hymn was easily transformed into the greatest of all freedom songs:

Original version:
*I'll overcome some day, I'll overcome some day;
If in my heart I do not yield, I'll overcome some day.*
(from "I'll Overcome Some Day")

Transformed version:
*We shall overcome, we shall overcome
We shall overcome some day;
Oh, if in our hearts, we do not yield,
We shall overcome some day. Amen*
(from freedom song "We Shall Overcome")

Source - *Songs of Zion/An Excerpt* By J. Jefferson Cleveland

"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."
Matthew 28:18 – 20

