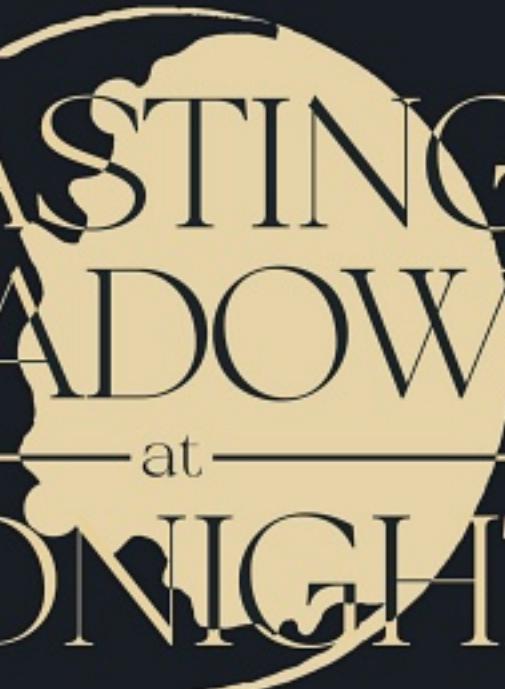


*Humor, poetry, theology, and personal notes are included. I know enough to write about topics that interest readers. Some of the writing is deeply emotional and personal; the poetry will be heartfelt.*

## **Casting Shadows at Midnight: Poems, Musings, and Writings of a Crisis Chaplain**

By Dr. Rickey Hargrave

**Order the book from the publisher Booklocker.com  
<https://www.booklocker.com/p/books/13486.html?s=pdf>  
or from your favorite neighborhood  
or online bookstore.**



# CASTING SHADOWS at MIDNIGHT



Poems, Musings, and Writings  
of a Crisis Chaplain



DR. RICKY HARGRAVE

© 2024 by Dr. Rickey Hargrave

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reprinted, reproduced, or utilized in any form or by any electronic, mechanical, or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval systems, without written permission from the publisher, except by a reviewer who may quote passages in a review.

Print ISBN: 978-1-959620-37-2

Ebook ISBN: 979-8-88531-785-6

Hargrave, Dr. Rickey

*Casting Shadows at Midnight: Poems, Musings, and Writings of a Crisis Chaplain* by Dr. Rickey Hargrave

Library of Congress Control Number: 2024914124

Unless otherwise marked, scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®). ESV® Text Edition: 2016. Copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. The ESV® text has been reproduced in cooperation with and by permission of Good News Publishers. Unauthorized reproduction of this publication is prohibited. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked KJV are from the King James Version.

Scripture quotations marked CEB are from the Common English Bible. All rights reserved. No part of these materials may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying and recording, or by any information storage or retrieval system, except as may be expressly permitted by the 1976 Copyright Act, the 1998 Digital Millennium Copyright Act, or in writing from the publisher.

Scripture quotations marked NKJV are from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked NIV are from THE HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®, NIV® Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Scripture quotations marked NASB1995 are from the New American Standard Bible®, Copyright © 1960, 1971, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. All rights reserved.

# **Contents**

---

Foreword.....	ix
Section One: Poetry .....	1
Bethlehem Moonlight Serenade.....	3
Drama in Bethlehem.....	4
A Christmas Prayer.....	6
Holiday Greetings .....	8
Passover 2013 .....	9
Coming Home.....	10
A Look at the Cross .....	11
Anniversary 49.....	13
Covenant of Three.....	14
Listen to the Bells .....	16
How Can God Bless America? .....	18
Safe at Home.....	19
Section Two: Writings and Thoughts.....	21
Shadows, Pt. 1 .....	23
Shadows, Pt. 2.....	26
Dark Night of the Soul.....	28
Tribute to My Uncle, Dr. Jerry Hargrave.....	34
Forever Frozen in Time .....	35
Tribute to the Fallen .....	38
Port Authority .....	40
Where and When .....	42
Goodbyes.....	44
Retirement from Pastoral Duties in McKinney .....	46
Musings from Scotland.....	48
Section Three: Chaplain's Notes .....	51

*Dr. Rickey Hargrave*

God's Plan.....	53
Stress Humor .....	56
Weddings.....	59
September .....	63
Cookies .....	65
Labor Days .....	67
Anniversaries .....	69
Jumping to Conclusions .....	73
Sugar, Sugar .....	75
Social Media Pre-Internet.....	77
Are You Kidding Me? .....	80
A Police Officer's Heart.....	82
A Nurse's Heart.....	84
Oohs and Aahs .....	86
Liberty's Post.....	88
Before I Was Yours, I Belonged to Him .....	90
Thanksgiving .....	93
Thanks Again.....	95
Homecoming.....	97
'Tis the Season.....	99
Insomnia .....	101
Chaplain's Remembered.....	106
Work as a Chaplain .....	108
Anxiety.....	110
Called to Preach .....	113
Gospel Integrity.....	115
Note to Self .....	117
Forever King.....	118
I Am Loved, and You Are Loved.....	120
Breakfast.....	122
Refuge.....	124
Acknowledgments .....	125

## Bethlehem Moonlight Serenade<sup>1</sup>

---

In the moonlight they could see him  
Wrapped in cloths to keep him warm.  
    Newborn babe, the son of Mary  
    Messiah, Jesus, had just been born.

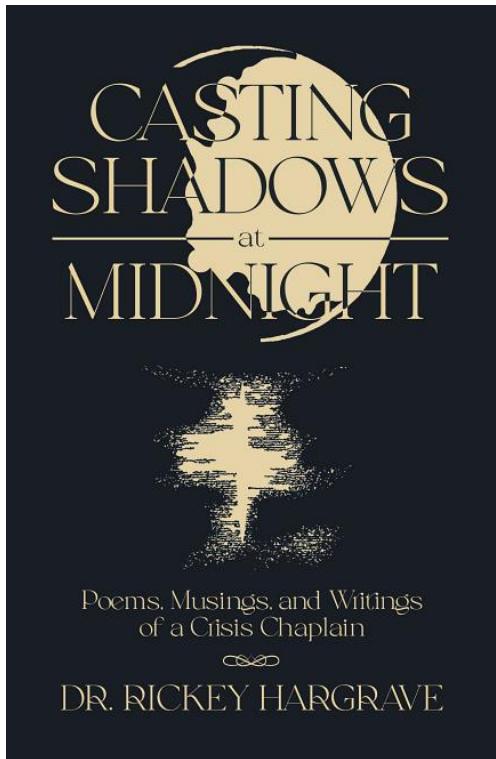
With great awe, the shepherds sought him.  
    Angels told how he could be found.  
    In a manger, with loving parents  
    Newborn babe in Bethlehem town.

Oh, how rich the incarnate story  
Filled with wonder, awe, and grace.  
    Heaven's chorus told the story.  
    Heaven's glory beams on his face.

Eternal Savior, Majestic King  
Humbly born, so now we sing.  
'Tis a part of redemption's story  
True salvation to men doth bring.

---

<sup>1</sup> Written in 2004 as a Christmas card for the police officers of our department.



*Humor, poetry, theology, and personal notes are included. I know enough to write about topics that interest readers. Some of the writing is deeply emotional and personal; the poetry will be heartfelt.*

## **Casting Shadows at Midnight: Poems, Musings, and Writings of a Crisis Chaplain**

By Dr. Rickey Hargrave

**Order the book from the publisher Booklocker.com**  
<https://www.booklocker.com/p/books/13486.html?s=pdf>  
**or from your favorite neighborhood  
or online bookstore.**