

Winter is finally here!!

The sun is shining, the sky is blue however, there is a real chill in the air. I've realised my wardrobe doesn't seem to have a lot of winter clothes so that means shopping. So many choices in the Shopping Centres, but what about those who don't have the opportunity to choose what to wear! I was at an Op Shop the other day and realised that there were many summer clothes but not a lot of winter items. It made me think of my Dad's overcoat – a lovely warm coat (in good condition) that has been hanging in my cupboard since he died back in 1991 – it is something I've found hard to let go of. What use is it in my cupboard when it could easily be keeping someone warm on these cold days. What else is in my wardrobe? Perhaps some clothes I've thought I should keep in case I can slim down and wear them one day. You hear the term "Spring Cleaning", but maybe it is time we all did some "Winter Clothes Clear Out".

What else are we holding onto in our lives that we need to let go of? As I look around my home there are **things** that could easily be used by others, but, what about our thoughts, feelings, regrets, and maybe even some long-held grudges. These can't be taken to an Op Shop but can be brought to our loving God, who says to us ²⁸ **"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."**

Matthew 11:28-30 NIV

God is offering to take our burdens, our long-held grudges and to give us a real sense of peace, a lightness in our souls. He is also promising to reshape us to be the people he knows we can be.

As the winter continues, let us remember those in our own towns and cities who have no warm clothes, no warm shelter and food. Let us let go of our selfishness and as Christian people be generous with our time and possessions.

I pray that we will be aware of the warmth of God's love in all we do and be willing to share that love of God with everyone we meet.

In Christian Service

Lyn

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[Not Too Far from Here - Bing video](#)

Somebody's down to their last dime
Somebody's running out of time
Not too far from here
Somebody's got nowhere else to go
Somebody needs a little hope
Not too far from here
And I may not know their name
But I'm praying just the same
That You'll use me, Lord
To wipe away the tears
'Cause somebody's crying
Not too far from here
 Somebody's troubled and confused
 Somebody's got nothing left to lose
 Not too far from here
 Somebody's forgotten how to trust
 And somebody's dying for love
 Not too far from here
 It may be a stranger's face
 But I'm praying for Your grace
 To move in me
 And take away the fear
 'Cause somebody's hurting
 Not too far from here
Help me, Lord, not to turn away from pain
Help me not to rest, while those around me weep
Give me Your strength and compassion
When somebody finds, the road of life too steep
 Somebody's troubled and confused
 Somebody's got nothing left to lose
 Not too far from here
 Somebody's forgotten how to trust
 And somebody's dying for love
 Not too far from here
 Now I'm letting down my guard
 And I'm opening my heart
 Help me speak Your love
 To every needful ear
 Someone is waiting
 Not too far from here
 Someone is waiting
 Not too far from here

Songwriters: Steve Siler, Ty Lacy. For non-commercial use only.