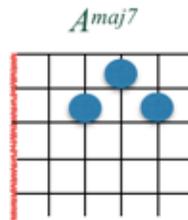


# Will the Circle Be Unbroken

Words by Ada Ruth Habershon, 1908, Music by Charles Hutchinson Gabriel © 1907 all rights reserved

*E* *E7*  
 There are loved ones in the glory,  
*E7* *A* *E*  
 Whose dear forms you often miss;  
*E* *G#m7 C#m/G#*  
 When you close your earthly sto- - ry,  
*A* *Amaj7* *B7* *E*  
 Will you join them in their bliss?

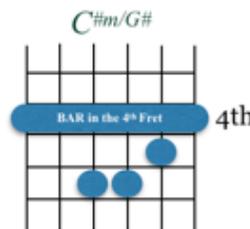


## CHORUS

*E* *E7*  
 Will the circle be unbroken  
*E7* *A* *E*  
 By and by Lord, by and by?  
*E* *G#m7 C#m/G#*  
 In a better home wai- - ting  
*A* *Amaj7* *B7* *E*  
 In the sky Lord, in the sky?



*E* *E7*  
 In the joyous days of childhood,  
*E7* *A* *E*  
 Oft they told of wondrous love,  
*E* *G#m7 C#m/G#*  
 Pointed to the dying Sav- - ior  
*A* *Amaj7* *B7* *E*  
 Now they dwell with Him above.



## CHORUS

*E* *E7*  
 You can picture happy gatherings  
*E7* *A* *E*  
 Round the fireside long ago,  
*E* *G#m7 C#m/G#*  
 And you think of tearful par- - tings,  
*A* *Amaj7* *B7* *E*  
 When they left you here below.

*E* *E7*  
 One by one their seats were emptied,  
*E7* *A* *E*  
 One by one they went away;  
*E* *G#m7 C#m/G#*  
 Here the circle has been bro- - ken.  
*A* *Amaj7* *B7* *E*  
 Will it be complete one day?

## CHORUS

## History

Ada R. Habershon wrote "**Will the Circle Be Unbroken?**" in 1907 with music by Charles H. Gabriel. The song is often recorded unattributed and, because of its age, has lapsed into the public domain.

**Ada Ruth Habershon** (1861-1918) was an English Christian hymnodist born in Marylebone, England, on 8 January 1861. Her father, Dr. Samuel Osborne



Habershon, was a noted physician; her mother was Grace Habershon. She was raised in Chelsea, London, in a Christian home. In her twenties, she was a member of the circle surrounding Charles Spurgeon. She met Dwight L. Moody and Ira D. Sankey in 1884 during their preaching tour of England. At their urging, she visited the US, delivering a series of lectures on the Old Testament that were later published.

Habershon's first foray into hymn writing came in 1899, when she wrote several hymns in German. She wrote her first hymn in English in 1901, while ill. In 1905, Charles M. Alexander and R. A. Torrey toured the United Kingdom, and Alexander asked Habershon to write hymns for use during this evangelistic tour. Habershon ultimately sent Alexander over 200 hymns.

**Charles Hutchinson Gabriel** (August 18, 1856 – September 14, 1932) was a writer of gospel songs and composer of gospel tunes. He is said to have written and / or composed between 7,000 and 8,000 songs, many of which are available in 21st century hymnals. He used several pseudonyms, including Charlotte G. Homer, H. A. Henry, and S. B. Jackson.

He was born in Wilton, Muscatine County, Iowa, and raised on a farm. His father led singing schools in their home, and young Charles developed an interest in music. It is said that he taught himself to play the family's reed organ. Even though he never had any formal training in music, he began to travel and lead his own singing schools in various locations around the age of 17.

His musical talent was well recognized in his boyhood home of Wilton. There is one folklore story, that Pastor Pollock or McAulay of the First Presbyterian Church of Wilton once saw Gabriel walking in town early in the week. He asked Gabriel if he knew a good song to go along with his sermon. The pastor shared the sermon topic and by the end of the week the boy had written a song for that Sunday, words and music. Gabriel eventually served as music director at Grace Methodist Episcopal Church, San Francisco, California (1890-2). While working at Grace Church, he was asked to write a song for a mission celebration. He wrote "Send the Light," which became his first commercial song. He moved to Chicago, Illinois, and in 1912 began working with Homer Rodeheaver's publishing company.



Gabriel was married twice, first to Fannie Woodhouse, which ended in divorce, and later to Amelia Moore. One child was born to each marriage.

He died in Hollywood, California. Gabriel wrote an autobiography titled *Sixty Years of Gospel Song* (Chicago, Illinois: Hope Publishing Company, undated).

*Wikipedia*