

= Homesick (MercyMe song) =

" Homesick " is a song by Christian rock band MercyMe . Written by Bart Millard , the song is an expression of grief and longing that was written after the band experienced the deaths of nine people they were connected to in a short period of time . " Homesick " was included on MercyMe 's third studio album Undone and was released as the second single from that album .

" Homesick " received positive critical reception , with some critics considering the song one of the best off of Undone . " Homesick " was successful on both Christian and mainstream radio , peaking at the top on the Radio & Records Christian AC Indicator and Soft AC / INSCO charts , number 3 on the Billboard Hot Christian Songs and Hot Christian AC charts and the Radio & Records Christian AC chart , as well as peaking at number 9 on the Billboard Adult Contemporary chart . It was ranked at number 13 on the Billboard 2005 year @-@ end Hot Christian Songs and Hot Christian AC charts , and at number 20 on the year @-@ end Adult Contemporary chart .

= = Background = =

" Homesick " was written during a time of hardship for the band ? nine people close to MercyMe 's band members had died in a short span of time . Lead singer Bart Millard initially wrote the chorus to " Homesick " following a funeral service for two infants that died in pregnancy , but did not finish the song , as didn't want to fake his way through writing the song . However , following the death of Millard 's brother @-@ in @-@ law , Chris , in a car accident , Millard finished the song so as to play it at Chris 's funeral . Millard and the rest of MercyMe intended the song only to be played once ? at Chris 's funeral ? but Millard 's mother @-@ in @-@ law encouraged them to record it . Although the record they were going to release , Undone , was essentially complete , the band returned to the studio to record " Homesick " for inclusion on the project .

= = Composition = =

" Homesick " is a ballad with a length of three minutes and forty @-@ one seconds . Lyrically , the song is an expression of grief , pondering Heaven and the time it takes to get there , as well as anger , confusion , and brokenness . The song is set in the key of F major and has a moderate tempo of 72 beats per minute . Millard 's vocal range in the song spans from C4 ? A5 .

Some comparisons have been made between the lyrical content of " Homesick " and MercyMe 's 2001 single " I Can Only Imagine . " David Jenison of CCM Magazine referred to the song as the ' sequel ' to " I Can Only Imagine . " Regarding these comparisons , Millard said " ? I Can Only Imagine ? took the focus off of what you are going through and was comforting because it put the focus on where they were going ... ? Homesick ? is the opposite because it completely addresses us that are left here . I don't think as a Christian that it ? s right for me to say , ? I wish you could ? ve stayed here , ? because truthfully , we ? re getting the raw end of the deal if we really believe what we say that heaven is as great as we want it to be . The whole idea is that we ? re the ones who have to wait . ? Millard has also noted , " The difference with ? Homesick ? [as compared to " I Can Only Imagine "] is that it talks about those who are stuck around here after someone passes away . When you lose somebody , you learn what being homesick is really about . "

= = Reception = =

= = Critical reception = = =

Critical reception to " Homesick " was generally positive . Allmusic reviewer Johnny Loftus selected the song as a track pick on his review of Undone , commenting that " [Homesick] is a delicate ballad about being apart . " Russ Breimeier of The Fish noted , " The beautiful ballad ' Homesick ' is both similar to and an improvement on ' Imagine ' , the difference in how it focuses on persevering

on earth in anticipation of heaven " . Kim Jones of About.com commented , " ' Homesick ' is the true gem on this release , " also opining , " Should it be a radio release , I won 't be a bit surprised to see it in the number one spot for many , many weeks " .

= = = Chart performance = = =

" Homesick " debuted at number 35 on the Billboard Hot Christian Songs chart for the chart week of November 13 , 2004 , advancing to number 6 four weeks later . The song held that spot for three weeks before advancing to its peak position of number 3 for the chart week of January 1 , 2005 . " Homesick " dropped to number 11 the next week , but returned to the top ten and , after spending two weeks at number 5 and number 7 , respectively , " Homesick " spent ten consecutive weeks in the top five of the chart . After dropping out of the top five , the song spent nine more weeks on the chart before dropping out . In all , the song spent a total of thirty weeks on the chart .

On the Billboard Adult Contemporary chart , " Homesick " debuted at number 32 for the chart week of February 12 , 2005 . The song spent seventeen more weeks on the chart before reaching its peak of number 9 for the chart week of June 18 , 2005 . In all , the song spent twenty @-@ six weeks on the chart .

" Homesick " also peaked at number 3 on the Billboard Hot Christian AC and the R & R Christian AC charts , spending twenty @-@ eight weeks on both . On the R & R Christian AC Indicator chart the song peaked at number 1 , spending a total of five weeks at the top spot and 25 weeks on the chart in total . On the R & R Soft AC / INSPO chart , " Homesick " spent one week at the top spot and twenty weeks on it total . " Homesick " also spent four weeks on Christian CHR chart , peaking at number 27 .

= = Uses = =

" Homesick " is also featured by the compilation album WOW Hits 2006 and the 2009 compilation album 10 .

= = Charts = =

= = = Weekly charts = = =

= = = Year @-@ end charts = = =

= = = Decade @-@ end charts = = =