

5) **One Christmas Eve** David M Regen © 1995

One Christmas ¹eve the ⁴lights were ¹glowing

The fire was ⁵burning bright and ¹warm

We sat a ¹round our ⁴Christmas ¹table

Free from ⁵hunger free from ¹harm

Then at our ⁴door we heard a ¹tapping

There were two ²children faces ⁵sad

& May we get ¹warm sir ⁴at your ¹fireside

The night is ⁵cold were thinly ¹clad

We bade them ¹come and ⁴join our ¹supper

For they were ⁵hungry plain to ¹see

And as they ¹ate we ⁴heard a ¹story

Of how their ⁵hard time came to ¹be

Our own two ⁴children came and ¹whispered

In my ²ear that these two ⁵guests

& Might better ¹need the ⁴winter ¹clothing

They had re ⁵ceived as Christmas ¹gifts

We dressed them ¹warm and ⁴filled a ¹basket

For their dear ⁵mother sick in ¹bed

And then they ¹seemed like ⁴Christmas ¹angels

They looked in ⁵to our eyes and ¹said

And now we ⁴thank you for your ¹kindness

A Christmas ²eve we won't for ⁵get

But we must ¹set out ⁴on our ¹way now

They left a ⁵blessing with us ¹yet

For it was ¹grace came ⁴in that ¹Christmas eve

And it is ⁵grace that lingers ¹still

5) *One Christmas Eve* records an act of unexpected generosity at a homeless shelter (St Patrick's) where I was volunteer for about eight years.