



Bridge to the Future

by Mitch and Jan Todd

Joy just turned eleven, and she was feeling kind of blue
 With summer fast approaching, and nothing much to do
 One day she was playing with her friend in their grade school gym
 Who invited her to church camp to ride horses and learn to swim
 So Joy packed off to Chippewa where she learned to shoot a bow
 Learning songs about Jesus and hummin' them everywhere she'd go
 And when the week was over, she wiped away a tiny tear
 As she hugged her friends and said, "I'll be back next year"

Chorus:

**Because I (we) want to build a bridge to the future
 Because the love of Jesus – called me (us) to this place
 Where we learn to build a bridge of hope together
 That spans across every heart, every time and space
 Where heaven and earth meet for a while
 You can see it on each face
 So I'm (we're) gonna build a bridge,
 And I'm (we're) gonna build it strong on Jesus' grace**

The years fly by so quickly, like laps around a pool
 One autumn found her all grown up and she headed off to school
 She loved her newfound freedom and how much she had grown
 But sometimes in the dead of night, poor Joy felt all alone
 One day a poster caught her eye with a tiny cross and flame
 She invited a friend to tag along and they were both so glad they came
 They joined that campus ministry makin' friends they'll never lose
 Takin' mission trips and praisin' God and sharin' the Good News

Chorus:

Time passes, seasons change and the weather wears hard on the ties
 But the Church builds anew, Building bridges from me to you
 Growing stronger from the Love that never dies

Today Joy's in her thirties and on that glorious night
 With winter winds a'blowing and the candles burning bright
 Joy bows her head I'll in a thankful prayer, with a strange warmth in her heart
 She prays for every soul who's helped her grow in truth and grace
 And she prays for her friends she's brought to this amazing place
 She's right back where she started, standing in her grade school gym
 And as the band takes the stage they lead a Joyful hymn

Joyful, joyful we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
 Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee, opening to the sun above.
 Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away;
 Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!

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