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When George McGovern Spoke in Chapel at the College

Dave Schelhaas

He stood behind the lectern without a note,
eighty-six years old, tanned, a youthful grin
flashing across his face. Bu then he began to speak
the sober words on hunger, telling
about starving kids he saw when he served in WW II
and starving kids he still sees today. He talked about ways
to save kids from starvation, about the modern Food Stamp program which
he crafted with Republican Dole back in the days when Congress worked,
and school lunch programs in America and around the world.
He has always had a heart for the young, this old warrior
against war who once said he was “fed up with old men
dreaming up wars for young men to go die in.”

It was the chapel service at Northwestern College
but he read no scripture, said little about God, except this,
except these five lines which he sang in a clear tenor voice
with just a hint of an old man’s quaver:
“Jesus loves the little children,
All the children of the world,
Red and yellow, black and white
They are precious in his sight,
Jesus loves the little children of the world.”

So often, less is more.