

## Poetry and Pictures

*John W. Flakes Jr.*

I dedicate this book of my inner most thoughts and prayers along with some of my favorite pictures to my lover, my joy and my life's soul mate, Linda. She is the wonderful air I breathe and my wife of over fifty years. We were so very young and now we grow old together as one. God dominates my writing as God has always been a constant in our life. There is much pain, much thought and always deep passion in what I write and who I am!



## The Promise

If I were to touch you  
Would you respond?  
I so want to touch you  
And feel your warmth,  
I desire to be a part,  
And yet a part of,  
I would like to be  
One with you.

There are no sure pathways  
In my life,  
There is no direct road to  
success  
Looking for me,  
Tomorrow is as uncertain as  
Yesterday was certain,  
There is nothing I can offer you,  
Except, me.

We could watch the moon's  
glow  
Light the earth,  
We could plant the tender seed  
Of tomorrow's future,  
We could risk all of today,  
For tomorrow,  
We could find happiness in  
being  
One human being!



Linda

The first time I saw you  
My life was changed  
I needed that change  
You brought a new energy to me  
A passion which has filled my being  
For over fifty years  
You being gives me life  
I thank you for that!

Your eyes sparkle like the stars you love  
Your breasts are more beautiful than  
The Tetons which we both love  
I am so sorry for the tears I have filled you  
with  
The pain which I placed in your heart and  
mind  
You deserve so much more than I have  
given  
And so much less than I caused you to  
bear  
I love you so much

You are the air I breathe to live,  
You are the spirit that gives me hope,  
You are the desire that burns within my  
loins  
You are the gift of Life given by God to me  
Your hair is the nest I lay my head in  
My being is filled with love for you  
Tomorrow will be a better day and  
Any day with you is the best day of all.

This is my personal favorite of everything God has allowed me to write.  
New Life

I am the little laughing child-  
Filled with wonderment at simple things,  
I am the young, restless adolescent-  
Filled with burning, driving desire,  
I am the satisfied man-  
Having known the fullness of women,  
I am the fulfilled woman-  
Rejoicing in my completeness,  
I Am Who Am!

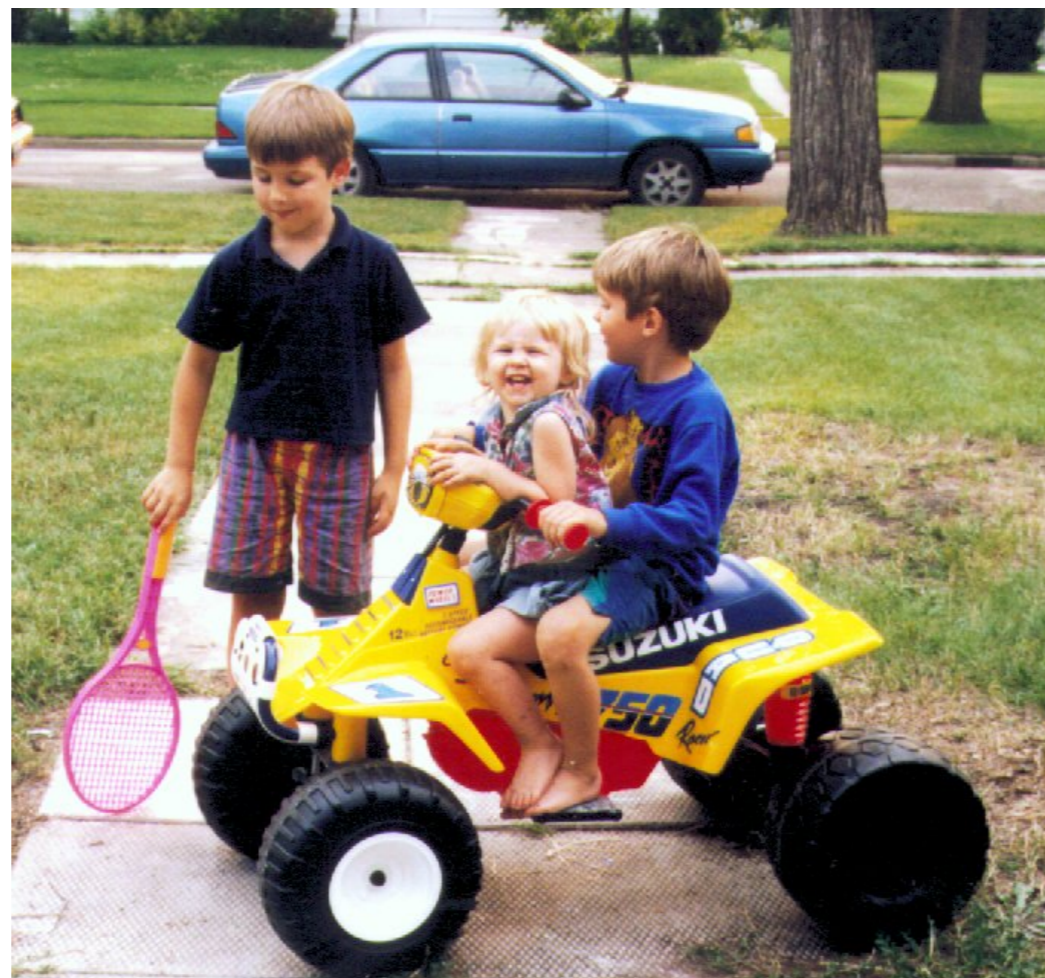
I was there to lift you up-  
When it was impossible to do so,  
I was with you when-  
You did not know it was I,  
I was the One who made stars  
For you to look in awe on,  
I swelled with pride that time-  
When you thought, no one knew,  
I Am Who Am!

I will be with the unborn child-  
Through the terror of being murdered,  
I will hold My Precious People Child-  
And cry in anguish of this deed,  
I will never be willing to understand-  
How something so precious to Me,  
Could mean so little to you,  
I Am Who Am!

I know the joy of new life,  
I can see and feel your excitement,  
I know very well that very moment-  
You look at your newborn child,  
And the woman in whose womb it grew,  
And know more than just the two of you,  
It took Me,  
I Am Who Am!

If you think you have gone so far away-  
That I could never be with you,  
That the sun will never set again,  
That who and what you are doesn't matter,  
I want to make this very clear to you,  
There is no time, no place, where you  
Can not be with-  
I Am Who Am!

I will always be here for you!



### Your Touch

What is an infant?  
A tiny pink bundle of joy  
With lungs that rave and rant  
Until you give it a toy.

What is a baby ?  
Something sweet, simple and pure  
And somehow just maybe,  
A gracious gift to me for sure.

What is a child?  
A baby who suddenly got older  
Now a rogue running wild,  
Unwatched and getting bolder.

When does a child begin to mature?  
When do people begin caring?  
When is it time for the future?  
When can a child stop fearing?

Given love and understanding,  
Each child can develop heart,  
With a heart comes some feeling,  
And in our world, a super start.

True, life can be what we make  
But someone's love will help so  
much,  
And so very much is at stake,  
The difference might be your touch!

### Feeling Good, Doing

Spring has surely arrived and I feel good,  
Hopped on my bicycle and away I go,  
Gentle breeze slides up aside my face,  
And  
I feel good,

Pull into a gas station  
(Looking for air for my tires)  
Stand on the pedal to look good,  
Down I go kerplow  
And  
I feel hurt.  
Check all my limbs and they're still there,  
My glasses, where are my glasses,  
Found them lens intact, frames spread,  
And  
I feel sick.

Nothing physical broken except pride,  
I accept hands of a friend to stand  
Bike's fine, so am I, except my frames  
And  
I feel lucky

Then I remember I gotta tell my wife,  
She's really nice and doesn't yell at me  
Which is good because you see  
Now  
I feel foolish.

Frames can be fixed you know,  
It is still a beautiful day,  
I needed the exercise  
And  
Guess what?  
I still feel good!



### The Zoo

I took my daughter  
To the zoo this day,  
An ice cream cone I bought her  
As we merrily went on our way,

We look at animals  
All tightly locked in cages,  
I thought of manimals,  
Locked in jobs, earning wages,

My daughter was so cheerful,  
Each animal so loved her,  
My day became so very joyful,  
No discontent was allowed to stir,

We saw the giant ape,  
Locked in a cage with her child,  
She saw love of mother ape and  
baby,  
Playing, as in the wild,

I saw people pushing, gawking,  
I saw people staring, fearing,  
I wondered how I'd feel,  
All others talking,  
Then I saw my daughter, caring,

We rode the boat  
Our over the small lake,  
We didn't need a coat,  
The breeze kept us awake,

We took a ride on the zoo train,  
I watched her small face smile,  
We saw buffalo, zebra and  
crane,  
I wished we could ride another  
mile.

## Looking for God

I am looking for God,  
I started by looking at myself,  
Understanding just who I am,  
Listening to my needs,  
Finding myself, I would find God.

I soon turned to nature for God,  
Rain falling, water flowing, fresh  
air,  
All the beautiful birds singing,  
The conversation of what is,  
I still, was looking for God.  
Serving God's People looking for  
God,  
Meeting all I could of their needs,  
Giving all of me to them,  
Listening, being opened to God's  
People,  
I was still, looking for God.

I was looking so hard for Him,  
I have great difficulty in knowing-  
Just exactly when it was,  
In my looking so hard for Him,  
That,  
My God actually found me!



## Listen and do

The Lord speaks to us in many ways,  
Have you heard His Call,  
Have you listened to what He says,  
Have you responded to Him today?

What did God say to you this day,  
What did you allow Him to say,  
Did you make time for God today,  
Or,  
Did you push God far away?  
It is said God never stops speaking,  
I sure hope, He really doesn't,  
Because,  
If He did stop speaking,  
I probably missed what he said.

Even if I heard His Word,  
What did I do about it,  
What action did I take,  
I think I just said,  
I'll get to it someday.

The bottom line is just this,  
It isn't enough just to listen,  
Although for some,  
It would be a start,  
We have to do what He tells us,  
Most of all,  
We must do it  
Today.

**The Requirements of Gifts,**

These things I know,  
I am not a perfect man,  
Then again,  
Is there such a thing?  
The sounds of life are all around,  
But so few really stop to listen  
Am I so unique because I do hear?

There is so much to be thankful for,  
Yet  
So often I hear myself crying, what  
Is it so unusual to be this way,  
The People I see have many needs,  
Yet  
No one allows himself to care,  
Why am I so enraged at this?

Indeed it is so,  
I am most unique because I do hear,  
I am ashamedly normal in asking  
what,  
I am right to be enraged by lack of  
concern,  
Except,  
Because of the above,  
I can not be just another man  
These gifts I have received  
Just do not allow it!  
Indeed  
The very knowing, doing, seeing,  
hearing,  
Requires  
Of all that have received these gifts,  
A doing.



**To serve, or not to serve**

When you see something that is wrong,  
And you know how to make it right,  
When you have eyes that clearly see,  
And a heart that tells you what to do,  
When you have the ability to change things,  
And make them better, and you don't,  
Because you've accepted you are to serve,  
And it is not your place to decide and do,  
O God, it does tear your heart out.

You try so hard to serve, to do God's Will,  
You know that God gave you the ability –  
That seldom accompanies the vision, to  
effect change,  
Someone else, who is in charge, is afraid of  
change,  
And, you are pledged to their service,  
A promise entered into freely on your part –  
Negates the fact that things are most  
difficult,  
Do you do what you perceive to be God's  
Will,  
Do you close your eyes and obey the pledge  
to serve?

When is a promise not a promise,  
What gives you the right to set aside your  
word,  
When do you know so much, only you know  
what is right,  
Are you so sure you can't serve and still do  
God's Will,  
Are you sure you cannot honor your word,  
I know to all of this there is an answer,  
While I can't clearly see what the answer is,  
I know I must continue to serve,  
And in doing so,  
Allow my God to use me anyway He chooses.

## From Jesus to John, With Love

The following poems were written on or around August 5, 1985. My wife and I were working in Floresville, Texas, as VESS Volunteers. We were being paid \$110 per month, and were living in a tiny home across from the church we were working in. It was hot and we were always tired and burned out. We had gone to a healing service at a church about 35 miles from Floresville and, while there, I had been "slain in the spirit." I still do not understand what happened that night but, it was a powerful night in my life. I know that the God I believe in, the God I am trying so hard to serve, came and dwelled in me that night. The following is what I wrote following that experience.

I have heard the voice of my God –  
He has called me in words I understand,  
I have answered His call,  
He has told me to be ever vigilant  
So I stand at attention for my Lord,  
He said, "Be ready, John,"  
I am ready, Lord,  
I seem not knowing what to do,  
My Lord knows, My Lord shows the way,  
"Be patient, write My Word,"  
I know not what to say, Lord,  
"Put My pen in your hand, John,"  
The words you write are Mine, not yours.'

"I have a message, a story for you to tell,"  
Just pick up My pen, I'll do the rest,"  
The Lord spoke to me,  
"Tell them of My Love, strong and endless,  
Tell them of My Heart, deep with compassion,  
Tell them of My need, yes, even God  
needs,  
Tell them I need them, all of them,  
Tell them they are My people, and,  
I yearn, Yes, God yearns, for their  
love,  
Tell them I came to be among them,  
Let them know I will come back,  
I am among them now,  
I still yearn for their love,  
I gave them Myself, I gave them Me,  
They do not realize who I am,  
So, John, you will tell them,  
I speak to you, and I will make you  
listen,  
I am your God  
The God of endless love that you  
proclaim,  
I will raise you up so that you can do  
And will do





Jesus, I am listening

I asked You Lord for guidance,  
You told me "write My Word,"  
I am putting Your pen in my hand,  
I am listening now, Lord.

You taught us in so many ways,  
You are a great storyteller,  
I'll bet You're the very best  
Of all the salespeople that have lived.

You were kind of a real smart kid,  
You accepted, if a little reluctantly,  
The fact, You, God, were a man child,  
And, like the rest of us, had a mom.

When the time did come,  
There was no question of Your readiness,  
Responsible men instantly changed their lives,  
On the spot, for you, God!

You told us what You were about,  
You showed us who You are,  
You did not overwhelm us,  
Instead, You filled us with Your love.

You told us in special ways of Your Dad,  
We came to know our Father's need,  
We came to know we were His People,  
We began to know You, our Father's Son,

The people of God began to grow,  
Through You, God's People gained entrance,  
From You, God's People took hope,  
In You, God's People came to be.

There has never been anyone like You,  
We are so grateful You came,  
You've brought us so much closer,  
To  
Our Father, Your Brother Spirit, and  
You, Our God!

Jesus the Man  
(Jesus spoke to me about Himself)

†

Tell them about Me, the Man,  
Tall, strong, bearded, large hands,  
I didn't look like Paul Newman,  
Had I planned better, I might have,  
Everyone knows I like people-  
Who serve other's needs,  
Women, who let men be men,  
And yet,  
Remained woman.

†

You know, I treasured most of all  
The times when each man and woman,  
Fulfilled their individual needs  
By coming to Me,  
The deliberate uniqueness of each  
individual,  
Especially in their ways of expressing love.

†

The rigid rock exterior of Peter,  
Softened by his deep inner sensitivity,  
The all out upfrontness of the Baptist,  
You never wondered where he stood,  
The incredible gentle ability of Mary M  
In allowing a man to feel fullness in  
manliness  
Mary, My Mother, such unquestioning,  
unequaled faith  
In knowing and understanding who I am.

†

I cast Lucifer from My Being,  
Thrown forever out of the Loving  
Presence  
of My Being

Lucifer's vile inner self consumed  
him

He began to oppose all that I Am,  
I prevailed only because of the  
endless depth of My Love.

†

You were born from this great love,  
I wanted a People that  
Willingly and freely  
Would choose to love Me  
Over all Lucifer chose to do,  
I would not stop Lucifer from  
interfering.

†

It is only because My People  
Have begun to freely love Me,  
To freely and willingly seek me out,  
That I have decided to let them  
know

I acknowledge their efforts,  
I have heard My People calling Me,  
And,  
I have decided it is time to answer!



In the beginning,  
 †  
 Before anything existed,  
 I was,  
 I was the whole of everything,  
 I did not know loneliness,  
 I was completely satisfied in Me.  
 †  
 It sounds strange to you,  
 For Me to say  
 That love permeated My Being,  
 It occurred to Me,  
 If there were more of Me,  
 More Beings like Me,  
 There would be that much more love,  
 I never considered that a being  
 Like Me,  
 Created by Me,  
 Would not love Me.  
 †  
 Angels are what you called the new  
 beings,  
 All of them at first were filled with  
 love,  
 It was My love that filled them,  
 Out of My love came their love,  
 Some of them became unhappy with  
 their love,  
 I had never known unhappiness before,  
 I was stunned!  
 †  
 Lucifer is what you have called  
 The angel that was My first being,  
 Lucifer was given almost all of Me,  
 Lucifer was given so much, he felt  
 He was more than I Am,  
 I did not know what to do about this,  
 I could not, would not ever destroy  
 That which I loved,  
 I will always love Lucifer,  
 Someday,  
 Lucifer will return to My Love.



†  
 I cast Lucifer from My Being,  
 Thrown forever out of the Loving  
 Presence  
 of My Being  
 Lucifer's vile inner self consumed him  
 He began to oppose all that I Am,  
 I prevailed only because of the endless  
 depth of My Love.  
 †  
 You were born from this great love,  
 I wanted a People that  
 Willingly and freely  
 Would choose to love Me  
 Over all Lucifer chose to do,  
 I would not stop Lucifer from  
 interfering.  
 †  
 It is only because My People  
 Have begun to freely love Me,  
 To freely and willingly seek me out,  
 That I have decided to let them know  
 I acknowledge their efforts,  
 I have heard My People calling Me,  
 And,  
 I have decided it is time to answer!





Who you are, is, who I Am,  
(Jesus speaks about who He is and who we  
are)  
†  
It is said,  
I always was and always will be,  
It does not say  
I cannot change,  
Now understand,  
Who I Am has always been and will always be,  
Love,

While love is always unconditional,  
While love is always unlimiting and unlimited,  
Love is always changing,  
Love is always growing,  
Think how you have changed,  
Think how you have grown,  
Why would you deny Me My right to grow, to  
change,  
All that I am is love,  
All that comes from Me is love,  
I have never limited your growth,  
Please do not try to limit Me.

†  
My Love is forever  
It's power is limitless,  
My promises to you shall never change,  
My Word remains as it always has,  
There is no god beside your God,  
I Am your God,  
I love you,  
I know it surprises you, but  
I very much want, and need your love,  
Your love is My completeness.

†  
It is through you that I Am,  
I know you do not understand this  
It is ok because I know,  
I AM YOUR FATHER  
You are My Children,  
I will come to be among you very soon now,  
Because  
You have chosen to come back to Me!



**Jesus, Spirit, Father**

Three yet One

My Father,  
My Brother Spirit,  
And I  
are One!

We cannot be separated and are all together,  
We are not unique because We are One ,  
We cannot be divided,  
Where One of Us is present,  
All of Us are there together,  
The Eucharist is indeed the Trinity,  
As I am My Father,  
My Brother Spirit is Me,  
My Father is My Brother Spirit,  
Our Mother is your mother,  
As you love your mother, so do We,  
By loving Our Mother, you love Us.

Fulfill Our need for you to be Our People  
We deliberately have chosen Free Will for you,  
When you deliberately choose Us, you become Us,  
Out of your love,  
Which comes from Our Love,  
You become Us,  
You can only come to Us out of Our Love,  
Remember,  
All things are traced to love  
Even anger,  
Comes from Love.



Hear Me, I Am speaking to you!

† I have never questioned that My God was clearly speaking to me, as I wrote this poem. In this message, God anticipates my complaining nature and gives me instruction, and, I reply in both the last verse of this poem and the poem that concludes this conversation.

†

Who are you to run from me?  
Why do I have to ask you for your love?  
What have I not given you?  
Did I not die so that you could have Me?  
Is it you just cannot see Me?  
Where did I go to hide?

†

You say your life has not been easy,  
You say your life is full of pain,  
You say you have no control,  
And,  
You say it must be My doing,  
Because you believe I could change anything,  
You think I must approve your misery.

I tell you,  
It is not true,  
I gave you choice,  
A freedom to choose,  
I exercised My choice,  
Are you now choosing?  
I heard you choose Me!

I ask of you, your love,  
You will always have My love,  
I know you love Me,  
Don't forget, I love you,  
You are on the right track,  
I am here for you to find,  
Remember  
Through My love is power.

†

Have I not told you what to do?  
Can you not hear Me speaking?  
Are you not My Son?  
I know you believe in My love,  
I know you better than you do,  
Remember,  
I am Who created you!

†

(I reply)  
I hear O God, but, I am foolish,  
I forget I am Your servant,  
I try to rule Your free people,  
Through Your love, I will change,  
For I believe I have heard You,  
And,  
You will have it no other way.

Let's go Lord!

†

I see and hear You O Lord,  
You are all that is absolute to me,  
Through Your Heart,  
I can be,  
What it is You have called me to.

†

The reason I falter is human,  
I keep on trying only because of you,  
The me inside wants my control,  
The You in me will not allow it.

†

I am confident my Lord,  
I am hearing and believing,  
Through Your Heart, it will happen,  
Your Love is becoming my control.

†

The testing I am enduring –  
Pales beside the nails You took,  
The Love You have for me,  
Conquers all that gives me doubt.

†

So,  
Here I am,  
My Lord,  
Not perfect by any means,  
Yet You know I love You,  
And,  
Your love will not quit.

†

So, we are going Your Way, Lord,  
Mine wasn't quite the way,  
I am probably going to stumble,  
Just don't forget,  
To Lovingly lift me along Your way!



## Selfishness

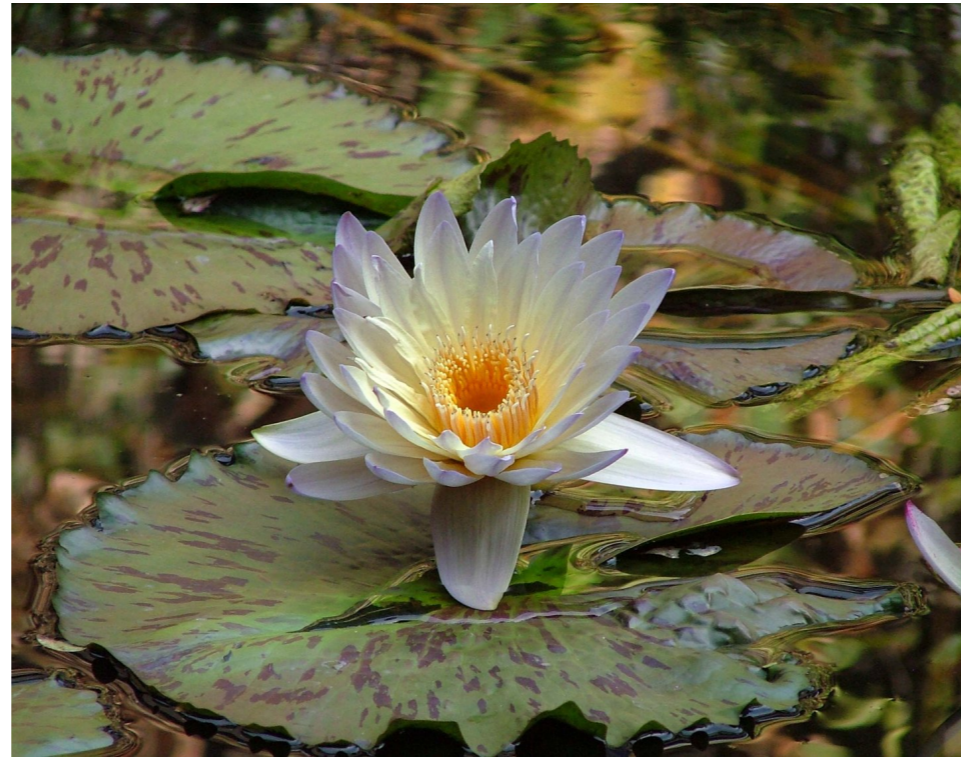
I can hear you speaking,  
I want to listen to what you say,  
But,  
Can I tell you there is another  
way,

I could listen to you right now,  
I could give you my time,  
But I'm so busy  
I just don't see how,

I really want to help you,  
I think you really want me to,  
But  
Can't you see,  
I just don't have time,

It's not,  
You,  
Aren't important  
To me,

Of course,  
You are,  
Don't be silly,  
But  
The dishes must be washed,  
Can't you see.



Happiness  
Happiness truly has no one  
definition,  
A daughter's arms around her  
father's neck,  
The jumping of a fish in a lake,  
A child at it's mother's breast,  
Perhaps,  
This is just part of the condition,  
The sun at it's brightest crest,  
The loving of two people without  
break,  
The finding of life after a wreck,  
A deep delightful fresh breath of  
fresh air,  
Your wife's face, so very fair,  
The giving from one to one,  
The simple setting of the sun,  
The moment of unity of man and  
wife,  
The dear and timely start of a  
new life,  
Surprised with snow down your  
back,  
The warming of your body in a  
hot tub,  
Pancakes piled high in a stack,  
Friendship, accomplishment in a  
club,

Happiness,  
You can see,  
Is many things,

It could be,  
That  
It is all that life brings.



**A Child**  
I held your child in my arms  
Early this beautiful day  
I held her and marveled  
At her beauty and strength  
She was seven weeks young  
With a smile to melt your heart

I knew at once she was special  
You had made something good  
I knew at once how precious  
Life of all ages is and how fragile  
I knew my life had been touched  
Though I held her but for a  
moment

Strange how a stranger's child  
Can invade and capture your  
being

Strange indeed considering the  
event

That brought this child and me  
together

Strange that such a brief moment  
Could mean so much to me.

Once again You bent down and  
breathed on me

Once again an awareness of You  
filled me

Once again You leave me in awe  
One child spared and I knew You  
noticed

One moment in time and I am  
once more aware

Of the importance of every life  
You have created!



## Balance

How often each of us has heard-  
To everything there must be balance,  
For every act, there is an opposite,  
There is nothing if there is not balance,  
If this is true,  
And,  
We're told it is so,  
Then,  
For every good, there is bad,  
For every bad certainly a good,  
For every high a low must follow,  
For every low, there will be a high,  
To off set God we must have a Lucifer,  
All things are indeed equal,  
Good, bad, love, hate, low, high, devil, god,  
And  
I am not in agreement!



There is no balance to God,  
God is the essence and totality of Love,  
There is nothing,  
No power as strong,  
As  
The Power of God's Love,  
There can be no balance to our acceptance of  
God's love,  
There is no equality in balance,  
What is right and good is just that,  
What is wrong or bad must have balance,  
Wrong must have a balance of good,  
Good never has to have a balance,  
Good and all that is good, comes from God,  
God is completely and totally good,  
God doesn't have to have,  
Indeed,  
God does not have  
Balance!



Lucifer is not God's balance,  
Lucifer exists only because of the Love  
of God,  
Things do not happen because of  
balance,  
Things happen  
Because  
Man allows them to happen,  
Man is simply not comfortable without  
balance!





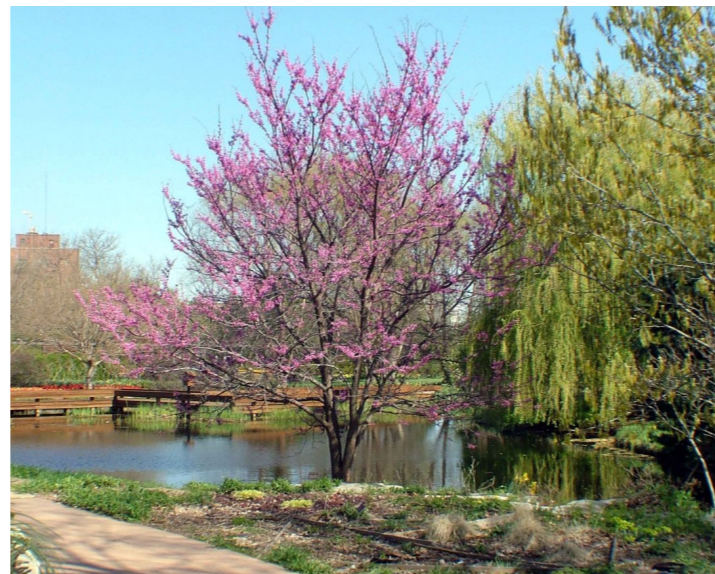
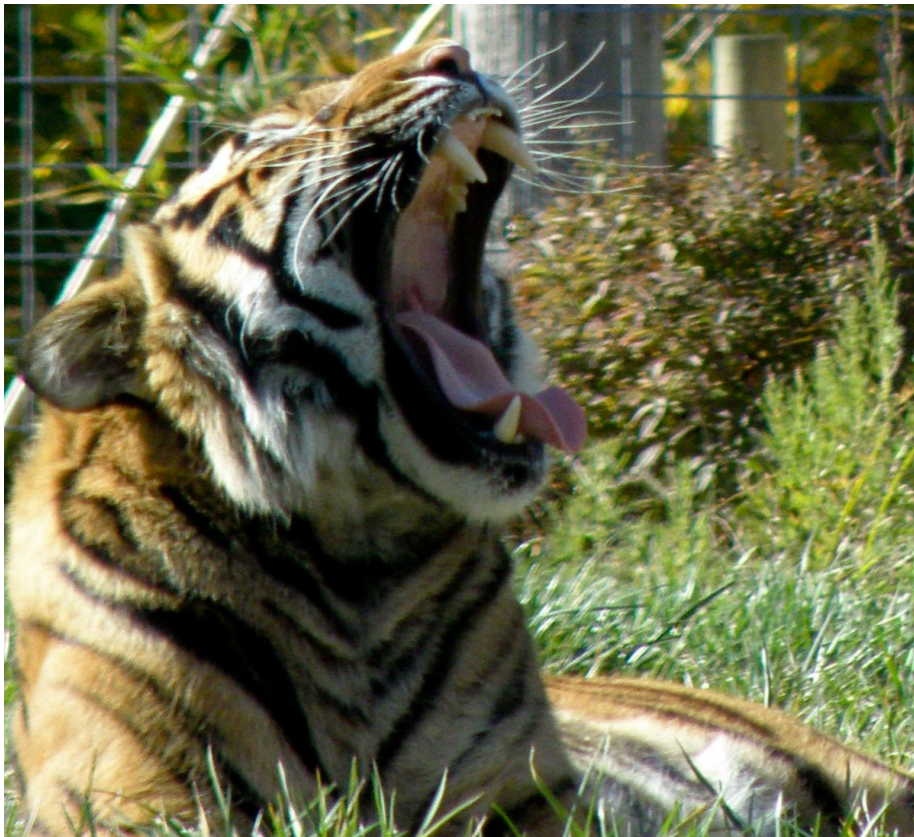
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Someone who knows only trust,  
Someone who looks with love,  
Someone who laughs with joy,  
Someone, who is only eight.

To see with eyes so very bright,  
To look at life with an open heart,  
To hear perfectly with imperfect ears,  
To be a growing child of eight.

A way of understanding and feeling,  
A way of looking at life,  
A way of hearing everything good,  
A way of living that is only eight.

I know such a person,  
I've seen understanding in her eyes,  
I've heard love from her lips,  
I know,  
Because,  
She is my daughter,  
Only eight!



### The Comet of Life

A comet flashes across a starry sky  
Tails of fire follow it through the  
night

Brightly it shined for a brief moment  
In that moment, time stood still  
In that moment, life began once  
more.

Life is more than a brief moment in  
time

Life is a forever comet in the night  
Life shines brightly through all time  
Life is a forever moment in time  
God begins Life in the forever  
moment.

Fire, ice, space and time  
A rock becomes a comet  
Instantly there and then gone  
Never to be seen no more  
A comet is not a forever moment.

However fast Life is begun  
However long Life lasts  
However forever Life is  
Life can end just like the comet  
Then there is Life no more.

There is Life after the end has  
happened  
Life is constantly beginning again  
Life is always different yet the same  
Life is the always presence of Love  
God is Life always beginning in  
Love again!

Is it possible?

Is it possible to change?  
How you treat people  
How people understand you  
How you understand people  
Is it possible to change

I see people trying so very hard to change  
To be different  
In their actions  
In who they are  
How they live  
I don't see much lasting change

Change is possible  
Only for a very short time  
Only with the greatest of effort  
Only with serious pain  
Never, it seems, forever  
Change never seems to last

The status quo is not something  
That gives up easily  
That ever seems to change  
That allows for change  
That supports dreaming  
And dreaming is the only hope left.

It is wrong that this is the life we live  
Some seem so blessed  
In all they do and are  
Others seem mired  
In all they are and do  
Where is any justice in this way?

Is it that some are reaping the  
Rewards of their ancestors  
Enjoying what others  
Gained for them  
Left to them  
Is this the way it is?

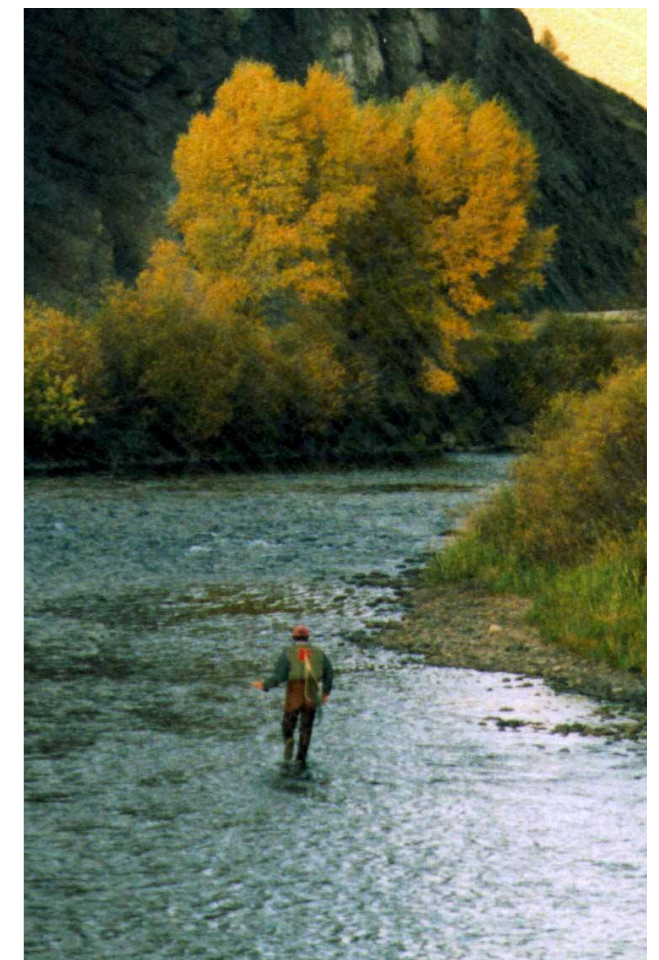
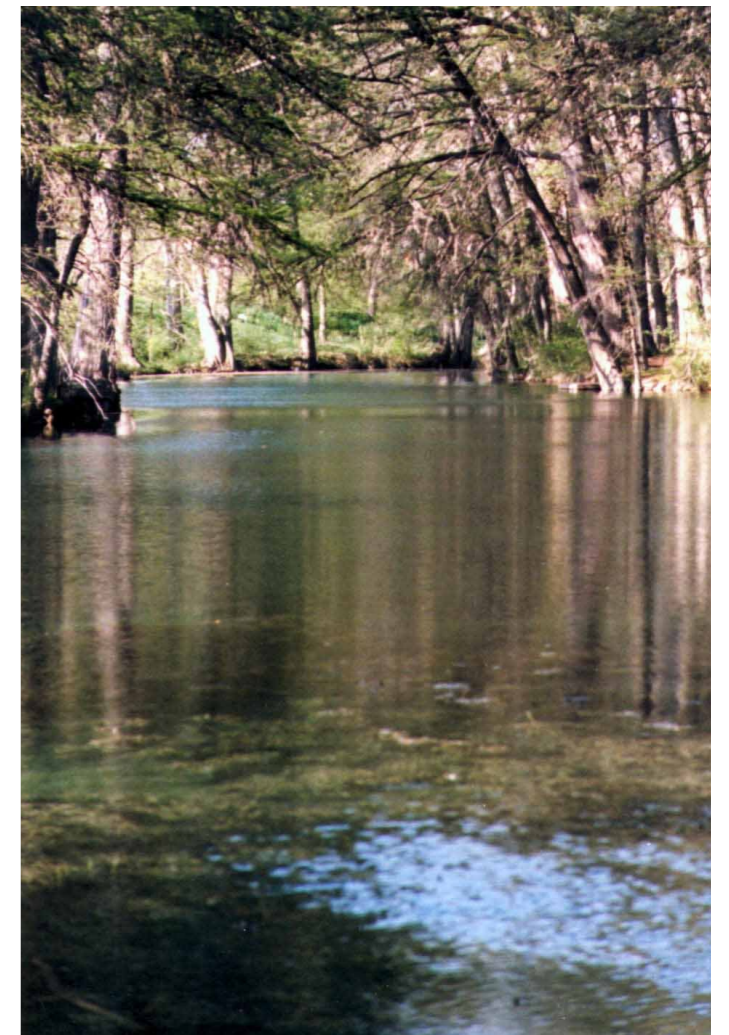
Is it that some are reaping the  
Pain left to them  
Paying for the sins of others  
Compounded by their sins  
As foretold in the Book of Life  
Is this the way it is?

Is there no way out of this quagmire?  
Is it really hopeless?  
Is life predestined?  
Is everything predetermined?  
Is there nothing that can be done?  
Certainly it seems that way

I must have some hope  
Even if it is self generated  
Even if it is useless  
Even if it is unreal  
Even though nothing changes  
I refuse to believe there can't be lasting change.

Maybe it isn't change that really matters,  
What matters is I believe I can change  
I know I can effect change  
Even if it doesn't last  
I will change what I can  
This strength of mind is what is important

This strength of hoping, believing in  
The ability to change forever  
To be better than you are, forever  
To accept who you are, forever  
To constantly keep trying, forever  
This is really what is important, forever!



## **This Special Moment**

**When I see you standing there  
With your eyes all aglow  
Sparkling in the moonlight  
Your smile inviting me to relax,  
I am overcome by the moment  
This place in time where you are  
I want so much to be in this  
moment**

**This moment in space you  
created**

**This moment I wish could last  
forever**

**Time seems so fast, so fleeting  
My being infused with all that is  
good**

**This moment needs to last  
forever**

**I can help prolong your moment  
Perhaps it will become my  
moment also**

**We must share in this time and  
space.**

**We must find a way for it to last  
forever!**

**Such a moment comes rarely  
anymore**

**Such a moment reminds us of  
who we are**

**Such a time reminds us of who  
we have been**

**Such a space reminds us of who  
we can be**

**Hold on to this moment, hold on**



## **A Moment in time..**

**Today is a moment in time surrounded by hope  
A moment when God is present  
God is present always in every moment  
Sometimes we fail to take note of God's Presence  
We fail because we are weighted down  
By human ability to be diverted from God  
So easy is it for us to feel alone and deserted  
Yet the reality is we are never alone  
God is with us waiting only on our plea for help  
Which as God knows frequently comes  
Almost by the moment**

## Purpose

Sometimes I wonder what I am doing  
Then I begin to do and I no longer  
have time  
To question what it is exactly I am  
doing  
So maybe the answer is to do,  
anything  
Except in doing anything for the sake  
Of not being idle it would be easy  
to do the wrong thing.

Purpose is necessary for every  
action  
Yet if you wait for the purpose to  
become obvious  
You will be waiting a very long time  
Purpose it seems is often evasive  
Even when you think you understand  
Why you are doing what you are  
Quite probably you do not have  
a clue.

Only God knows what the purpose is  
God doesn't share that purpose with  
us  
Often we make up a purpose just to  
have one  
Sometimes we actually think we know  
what and why  
Even then we really have no idea  
The bottom line is trust you will be  
OK  
Keep doing the best you can  
Just be certain to do!





## **Kansas**

**Kansas is a hot dry land  
Not much water anywhere  
It is like a barren well  
That once held the flow of life  
But now is smothered in dust.**

**Once life poured through this land  
Once water flowed freely in its wells  
Once a lush green glow was  
Kansas**

**Now there is not much hope  
All is dried, fried and dust**

**When life has been drained away  
Can it ever return to begin again?  
Fortunately yes is the answer  
For life can begin as though  
Life had never gone away.**

**One drop of water can bring life  
One breath of fresh clean air gives  
hope**

**Hope is what allows life to continue  
Even after the water is gone  
Still, water is what brings life**





## **Mystery**

**If you don't know what it is,  
It is mystery,  
When you can not explain it,  
It is mystery,**

**Because,  
You don't understand it,  
It is mystery,  
If it is not what it first seemed,  
It is mystery.**

**The Holy Trinity is Three in One,  
It is mystery,  
The Eucharist is Jesus,  
Flesh and Blood,  
It is mystery,  
The Wine is The Blood of Christ,  
It is mystery,  
Jesus, Our Savior, we crucified,  
It is known!**

**Who is was, and always will be,  
It is God,  
Who is forever and always love,**

**It is love,  
Who brought us salvation,  
It is Jesus,  
Who are God's People,  
It is Us!**

Today

It was a beautiful day, today,  
The air was crisp and clean,  
Yesterday's heavy hotness is gone  
away,  
The hues of Autumn are clearly seen,  
I thought of why I was here this day,  
And,  
There was only one answer for me,  
An answer I first could not see,  
Because,  
I was looking so hard at me,  
To see,  
I was only a small part-  
Of the Love  
Of His Great Heart.



Time  
How do you handle not understanding?  
Your stomach is up in your throat,  
Your feet feel like elephant feet,  
Shoulders ache, feelings hurt, emotion  
high,  
How do you handle not understanding?

Straight forward,  
You are who you are,  
Be yourself,  
Not,  
Someone else,  
Let them understand you,  
Not,  
You understand them,  
And,  
You know clearly,  
You are angry.

There probably are two aides here,  
Too bad they can only see one side,  
Too bad you only want to see one side,  
Some times you must serve others first,  
Before  
Really knowing the right thing to do.

I don't know how to handle what I now  
feel,  
I don't know what to tell you,  
Is it enough for me to say-  
Time is the answer to all things,  
Not very satisfying,  
But,  
Probably true.

Yet I know more than time,  
There is God,  
And,,  
He is loving me,  
Through all of this, through all time,  
The one everlasting thing we can count  
on,  
Is in God's Love is the right answer.



## Control

There is time to share,  
By letting someone else do what they  
can,  
Even,  
If you know you do it better,  
It is a way to show you care.

It is difficult enough to ask,  
When you are so very capable,  
Maybe,  
They need to do,  
And you need-  
To let them do.

The more you ask someone to do,  
The better you will find you feel,  
By purposely placing yourself second,  
Quite often you will wind up first.

Uniquely enough you will soon see,  
By allowing someone else to star,  
By helping them to fulfill their need,  
Surprisingly, you are really the one in  
Control!







**Death**  
**The voice of the one who loves,**

**I am the one who loves,  
I care for you,  
I breathe your breath,  
I feel the pain of your death,  
I ache when you ache,  
I hurt when your limbs break,**

**My tears flow when you cry,  
My heart is heavy when you sigh,  
My dimples show when you laugh,  
My face glows when you smile,  
My heart beats so very fast  
When I see you at long last,**

**The voice of the one who is loved,**

**Now that I am gone away,  
And, you , are left behind to stay,  
So many demand so much of you,  
Still, I Am with you,  
Still, I am a part of you,**

**Death does not stop one's being  
here,  
Death can not stop one from seeing,  
Death is only the beginning,  
Death is indeed a part of living,  
For you,  
New expectations of life,  
For me,  
The fulfilling of life.**



## Light

Brilliant awesome light burst forth  
upon me,  
And I am aware  
I have a purpose, a place, a  
reason for being  
I have hidden from this Light far  
too long,  
No more will I hide for I am here,  
This Light has pursued my very  
being,  
I run away frightened and in  
despair,  
Still the Light seeks me out.  
Moments of great brilliance  
Dwarf the darkness  
I have been engulfed in,  
Darkness is an easy and willing  
companion  
Light is hard and demanding  
Tonight I choose Light over  
darkness  
Tomorrow I may once again  
despair  
The Light will find me still  
And vanquish the darkness  
Once again I will acknowledge  
I have a reason for being, a  
purpose  
In the end and there will be an  
end,  
Light will permanently banish  
darkness.  
I will be who I was created to be



## True Light

Black sky lit by flying light  
First a single light streaks  
across the night  
Then the whistling sound of light  
after light  
Echo's through the once dark  
night  
What was black and void  
Suddenly is changed into light  
Then as the lasting light arises  
The blackness is gone forever  
The streaks of light forever  
replaced  
True Light has come  
And  
Vanished the night!



## Marriage

She is short and sweet,  
Her eyes differently blue,  
Her face a rough red,  
She is the one I did woo,

She is the one to whom I said,  
Though our lives are fleet  
As this morning's dew,  
I will always love you.

If you'll but be my bride,  
In you I'll always take pride,  
If you'll stay by my side,  
In you I'll ever confide,  
From fierce fear I'll not hide,  
If you'll stay by my side.

Here together you and I stand,  
And,  
Listen to the Priest say,  
Let no man sever  
What God puts together,  
From this day,  
We're united forever.



## The Mine

Slender shaft leading deep into the  
earth,  
Dark, damp, cold timbers holding  
back black earth,  
Candlelight flickering in a wispy  
breeze,  
Shadows at first distinct then  
blending together,  
air is so precious one needs to  
bring one's own supply,  
Sounds of machines moving,  
grinding,  
Sounds of man grunting, moving,  
breathing,  
Sounds that at first seem negligible,  
Become,  
Sounds of madness screaming out  
of silence,  
This is the mine,

Why would you go into this place?  
What does it contain that draws a  
man to its inner belly?  
Why would anyone go into such a  
place?  
What could you bring out that could  
be worth your soul,  
Inside the dark chambers of the  
mine,  
What will you find that  
Will draw you back time after time,  
Are their riches beyond belief?  
Is that why you go,  
What is so compelling about the  
mine?



Perhaps,  
The mine provides an income for  
your family,  
Without this income,  
Your family would have less than  
what you now have,  
What you now have is barely  
more than less,  
Perhaps  
The mine will provide a way out  
If not for you,  
For your children,  
Perhaps  
The mine provides you  
With  
A secret place to be yourself  
Where  
Who and what you are  
Is OK.

Energy  
For heating your home and your  
neighbor's home,  
Food, clothing, shelter,  
From employment in the mine,  
Energy,  
For industry,  
Is it worth it?

Black lung brings death,  
Black lung leaves families without  
hope,  
What is the answer?  
Is this too dark a picture?  
Is their hope  
In the mine?

## Time and Space

How long will it be  
Until tomorrow,  
How long has it been  
Since yesterday,  
Is time how long it is between things,  
Yes,  
Yet, Time is more,  
There is a right time  
And a wrong time,  
There is a good time,  
And a bad time,  
Perhaps time is somewhere between  
Good and bad,  
Time is still more,  
Time is more a present period of one's life,  
Times is when a person looks for and sometimes  
finds –  
Those things in life  
That are worth looking for.

Where is anything that I want,  
Is Space a place where things are put until found,  
Is Space an imaginary place where persons  
search –

Whatever the true meaning of their life is,  
Is Space an area in one's mind where one is safe,  
Is space a place  
Where one person is  
Either or both –  
Physically and or mentally  
Capable of filling,

That's it, isn't it,  
Space is a place to be filled,

It is much more than a void to be filled,

Space is a gift just as time is,  
As with any gift,  
It is how it is used that matters.



## The one who changes everything

There once was a man who changed  
everything  
There was no one who met him that  
wasn't changed  
Even after this man died everyone knew  
him  
You cannot know this man and be the  
same  
This man is the whole of love

Love changes everything love meets  
Nothing can withstand the force of love  
Resisting love is like the universe  
standing still  
The universe was created by this man  
The universe was created from love

There is no need to physically stand in  
love's way  
Love reaches out to each of us through  
all of life

There can be no life without love  
Life without love is the truest form of  
death  
Death is the avoidance of love

You and I are this man who changes all  
You and I are this love reaching out  
Though we most often do not even know  
this  
Though we hide and run from our identity  
You and I are the personification of love

**The knowledge of life,**

**When does life begin, what is life?  
Who am I to try to answer such  
questions?  
What gives me such a right?  
Who could give me such knowledge?**

**The answer to why me is simple,  
I am the man God chose to do this,  
I would not have chosen to do this  
myself,  
But,  
I am not so stupid as to ignore God.**

**As far as what gives me such a right,  
The answer is more than obvious,  
Since God who is all love chose me,  
Who would dare to argue with His  
choice?**

**Who will give me the knowledge I  
need?  
I do not need any such knowledge-  
For what I am about to write  
Does not come from me,  
But  
From God!**



## The Dreamer

The sun came up this morning,  
It will fade away tonight –  
To be replaced,  
By light from the moon,  
Light shining from heaven afar,

The moon will also fade away,  
Because,  
The sun will shine tomorrow,  
Now,  
This is the way it is with dreams,  
Even before one is lost,  
One is reborn,

Such a man am I,  
One who dreams,  
One who knows not what it is to fail,  
For to give up,  
Is,  
The only way I could fail,

I have learned that dreams are the  
essence of life,  
For to me,  
The sun will always come up in the  
morning.



## Sentiments

Sometimes it seems  
I can not see what isn't there,  
Sometimes that is because  
here is nothing to see,  
Often though,  
I just don't look clearly  
I can only see what is physically  
In front of me  
Even then,  
I miss so very much,  
To see what isn't there,  
Well,  
I often refuse to look  
Much less to even see.  
It angers me I see so little  
I am frustrated by not understanding  
How do I understand?  
When I can not see  
How do I understand  
What I can not see  
I know I should understand,  
I know I should see clearly,  
I know I can see what isn't there  
I know because I am me.

If I did not wonder  
About these things  
I would not know  
I should be able to see  
If I did not know that there was  
Something beyond the physical  
If I did not know that there was more  
Than what I could see  
If I did not know that  
I did not know more existed  
It would not matter  
I could not see!

The issue is, you see  
I do know  
And  
I can not see!

In the next day or so, I will know if I am going to have a job for next year. Naturally I am somewhat worried.

Sitting, waiting, thinking, praying, and most of all hoping,  
Trying not to ask for the one thing most desired,  
Wanting to ask and yet saying, Your Will, not mine,  
Praying that Your Will and mine might be the same,  
This is where I am and what I am doing.

I wish I could just trust for I do believe in Your Love,  
In a way I do trust for I really want to serve You,  
If that is true and I know it is, then whatever happens is ok,  
How is it I am sure You are taking care of me,  
Yet,  
All this tension in my being as I sit waiting, praying.

You are my God  
I am Your Servant  
And,  
Although I am frightened  
I am secure in Your Love for me!



It is fine to be human for that is what I am,  
It is normal to feel as I do which is worried, slightly afraid,  
My real and true prayer-  
Is

First of all, I am Your Servant for You have chosen me,  
Second is my determination to be used by You, my God,  
Next is that even if I know not what You are doing,  
I accept Your Will,  
I tremble thinking of Job,

Bottom line is I really want to know Your Will for me,  
I really want to have the desire to do whatever You ask of me,  
I will accept whatever You give to me, (Probably not without complaining)  
I do ask You to help me to be worthy of what You want of me.

Stand firm with me O Lord for I am fragile,  
Hold me close and tight for I need to feel Your Nearness,  
I do love You  
And ,  
I trust You  
As  
I know Your Love  
For me  
Is Real!



## Strength

It is a bright clear crisp day,  
I feel the warmth of God's Love,  
His smile is the light that shines  
On you and me this and every day.

When it is impossible to know what to  
do-

It is way past time to listen to God,  
Past time yes, but, never too late,  
God's Heart is an endless sea of Love.

When you finally know what to do,  
But,

You can't find the courage to do it,  
Don't worry so much, let God be in you,  
God's strength will guide your way.

When you get lost along the way,  
And,

You despair of ever completing your  
task,

Rejoice in God Who has such faith in  
you,

God's Love will see you through.

Him of Whom I speak is Jesus Our Lord,  
He is the Son of Mary, our mother,  
He is the Brother of the One Who is Our  
Spirit,  
He is the flesh Son of Yahweh Our God!



## Strength

I don't know what to do when things re  
calm  
The stillness stifles my being and  
Before I know what has happened  
The nervous energy that is me begins  
again.

I can handle calm a little at a time  
Always in my own way and my special  
time

I cherish those quiet times  
There are not ever very many of them

The fear that permeates my being  
Like the constant sound in my ears  
Is always there, never ever relenting  
The enormous hold they have over me

This is the fear that overwhelms  
The quiet that I search so hard for  
And run so quickly away from  
The fear I refuse to give in to

There is this strength within me  
That refuses to allow fear to dominate  
me

That always gives me strength to get up  
To keep trying to be better than I seem  
to be.

This strength comes even when  
I'm not looking for it,  
This strength comes mostly when  
I'm not expecting any help  
This strength gives me eternal hope  
when

I wish it would just go away  
This strength will not allow me  
To just up and quit  
For it is the strength of God  
That is my strength !

### The Prayer of one tired man

Tired, sleepy, weary of being depressed,  
A man sits before a monitor trying to  
write,  
Not knowing for sure what it is that  
needs writing,  
Not even knowing for sure that he is the  
writer,  
Determined to put something of meaning  
down on paper,  
Slowly fighting off the urge to give up,  
Words begin to pour forth from within his  
soul,  
He begins;  
O Lord my God, I do not want to fail one  
more time,  
I fear I can no longer continue to get up  
off the ground,  
My body aches and my heart is filled with  
pain,  
It seems I am always close  
To being what You called me to be  
Yet never ever actually making it,  
And,  
O Lord, I am tired,  
Could it be that what You want of me  
Is not within my ability to give,  
I am beginning to think this is the case,



Lord,  
I constantly get this close to giving up  
But I cannot do that either for You will  
not let it be,  
How do I overcome the part of me that  
always fails,  
How do I keep the part of me that  
refuses failure,  
How do I become Your success and  
find my peace,  
Is this possible,  
My prayer is to know Your Will  
My plea is that You have me do Your  
Will,  
My fear is I can never fulfill what You  
have called me to  
One more time I beg You O God,  
Hold me close and do not drop me for  
I am fragile  
Caress me and be tender with me for I  
break easily,  
Put me together with the strength of  
Your spirit,  
Enable me to find peace in being used  
by You.  
And  
While the man is still tired there is a  
spirit now,  
A feeling of security that being loved  
brings  
Allowing a weary man to close his  
eyes and sleep,  
When he wakes, he will be refreshed  
by this love,  
When he wakes, he finds the strength  
to try one more time.

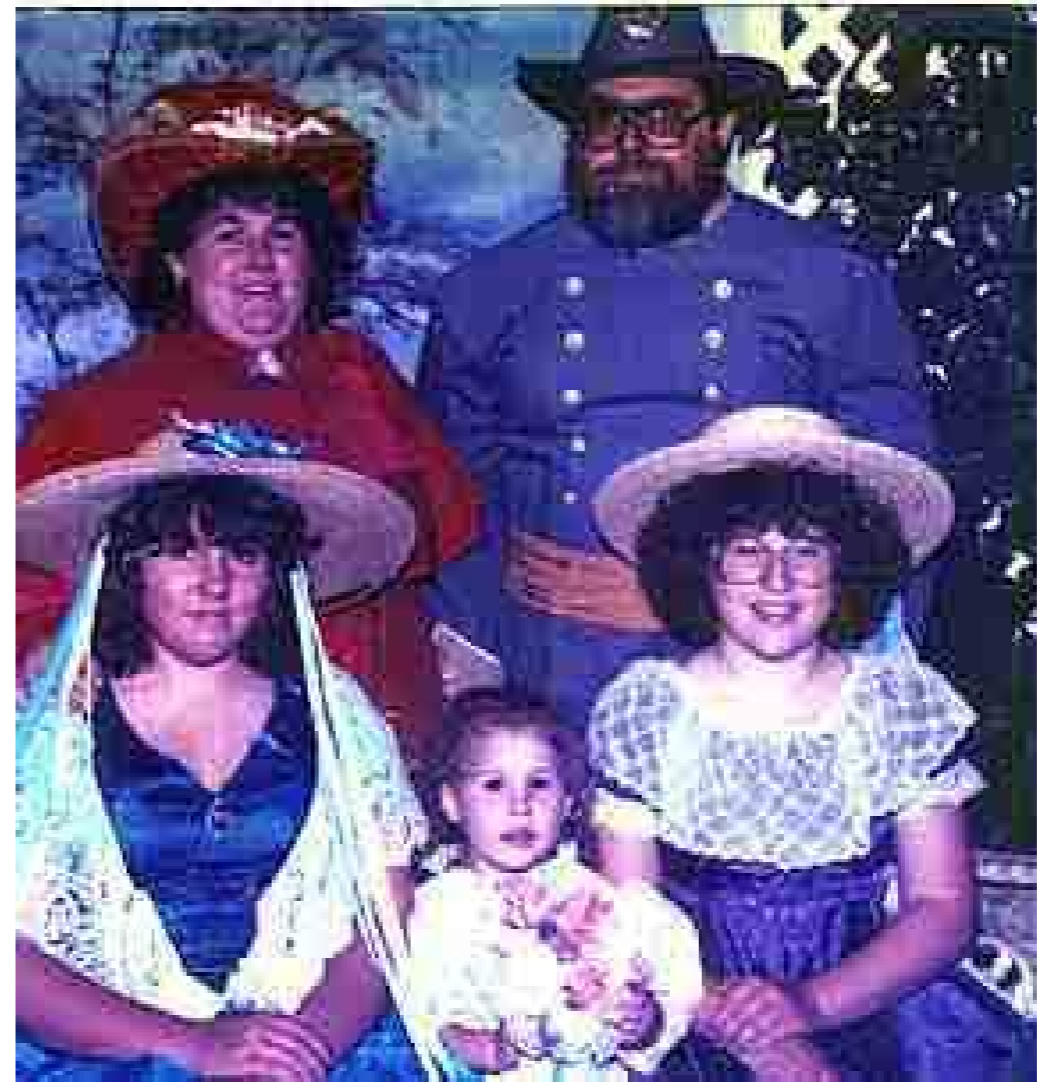
**Now**

**Look away from the moment and see  
Something new and different  
Something excitingly normal  
Something special only to you  
Look away from the moment to find  
Only that which is meant for you**

**I see a time where I can be who I was meant to be,  
I see a place where I can trust who I am to be  
I see a place where who I am will touch you  
And you will be able to find me with your touch  
I see a special time and place in which a moment  
Will be shared forever in an instant  
An instant meant only for me and you.**

**Look toward the future and see us together  
Look toward the day when we will know no fear  
We will not need courage for we will know strength  
We will know the strength of loving and being loved  
And fear has no place in such strength  
Such strength of love destroys fear forever**

**Look ahead to that time of strength and of love  
Look no further than this moment  
In this one moment meant only for you  
The strength of love is ever present  
This strength is present only for you and me  
This moment is now,  
This time and place is this time, and this place**



**The Lord gives, and the Lord takes**

**The Lord gives and the Lord takes  
Even if we think we have nothing He wants,  
He finds that part of us that is good,  
The part of us that belongs to Him,  
The Lord takes that which is His,  
And gives it to those who do not have.**

**In this way, we receive more,  
For by giving what is of the Lord,  
We become more fully a part of Him,  
The more He takes, the more He gives,  
The more we receive, the more He takes,  
This is the way we grow in Him.**



**Not being blind....**

**Living in the dark doesn't always mean being blind  
Dark alone can't hide life which is goodness  
That which is good always is visible  
That which is right is never hidden  
Living in the dark doesn't always mean being blind.**

**Blindness is more than a state of mind  
It is the reality of shutting out life  
Blindness can't shut out life  
Although darkness can make seeing difficult  
Living in the dark doesn't always mean being blind.**

**Sometimes not being able to see  
Is more than being surrounded by dark  
Sometimes not being able to see  
Is choosing not to allow life inside  
Not allowing life inside always means being blind**

**That which is visible is clear to all  
That which is life is entirely visible  
No matter the shadows that hide sunlight  
No matter how dark the eyesight might be  
Choosing life always means never being blind.**

**Shadows of light cross my vision  
My eyesight is only partially clear  
My mind is befuddled by wrong thoughts  
Sometimes I am tired and confused  
Always I will choose to see life  
And  
Never will I really be blind!**



**am more than nothing**

**If you dream your dream over and over,  
The dream can take on it's own life.  
At least, that is what I believe  
At least, that is what I choose to believe  
For this offers me hope where I would have  
none.**

**I dream and I plan and I hope and I know  
I can not do more than I am doing  
Perhaps it is my unwillingness to give up  
That allows me to still dream  
Otherwise, I am nothing, nothing at all.**

**I will not be nothing, I am more  
I am more than nothing,  
Despite constant ever present failure  
I continue to try, to get up and to persevere  
Against all odds I am a viable human being.**

**I am more than nothing  
I feel so I am still alive  
I still dream and I can still see my dream  
I still believe in my dreams  
I know they can come true**

**If this be a prayer, so be it  
If this is a plea, a cry for help, so be it,  
If this is all I have left, It will be enough,  
If it never changes, I will be ok  
I am more than nothing,  
I will still find a way to dream!**



## Good

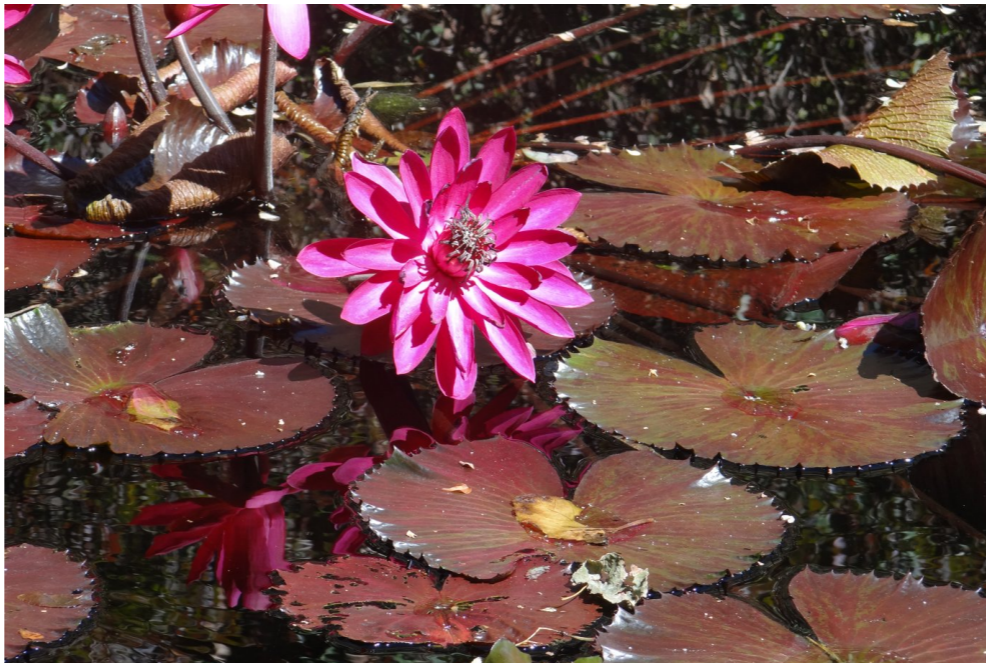
There is a time for everything under the sun  
Even a time for all things good to happen

Sometimes we cannot see a time for good  
All we see is the bad that has happened  
All we see is nothing we want happening  
Still this is the time for all good to happen  
And it will happen before we are ready

You see we will never be ready for good to  
happen  
Sometimes we cannot even see good when  
it has happened  
Often Good happens and we see only the  
dark  
Still good does happen and does not need  
For you or me to acknowledge it is  
happening

We are so ready for good to come into our  
life  
We even describe what good is  
In our limited knowledge of good  
We decide we know what good is and when  
it is needed  
That is the good we are ready to see happen

The good that actually is happening  
May or may not be what we expect or want  
We must look past what we have decided is  
good  
We must open ourselves to what is real  
And see the good in that world where we  
live.



## An Understanding of Life

How can you feel the same as  
another person,  
You can try by,  
Mentally putting yourself in their  
place,  
Physically, when possible,  
Their steps you might retrace,  
You might,  
Study their problem in detail,  
Even attempt to solve their worry,

However,

Understanding only flows from one  
to a brother,  
Understanding is the end of  
selfishness,  
It is the placing of someone else  
before yourself,  
It is a way of caring for someone  
else,  
Almost, a sharing of wealth,

Understanding is offered freely  
And continues even when rejected,  
Sometimes, it will never be reflected  
By the one who is being  
understood.

## Birthdays

Have you ever,  
Seen anything,  
From the inside out,

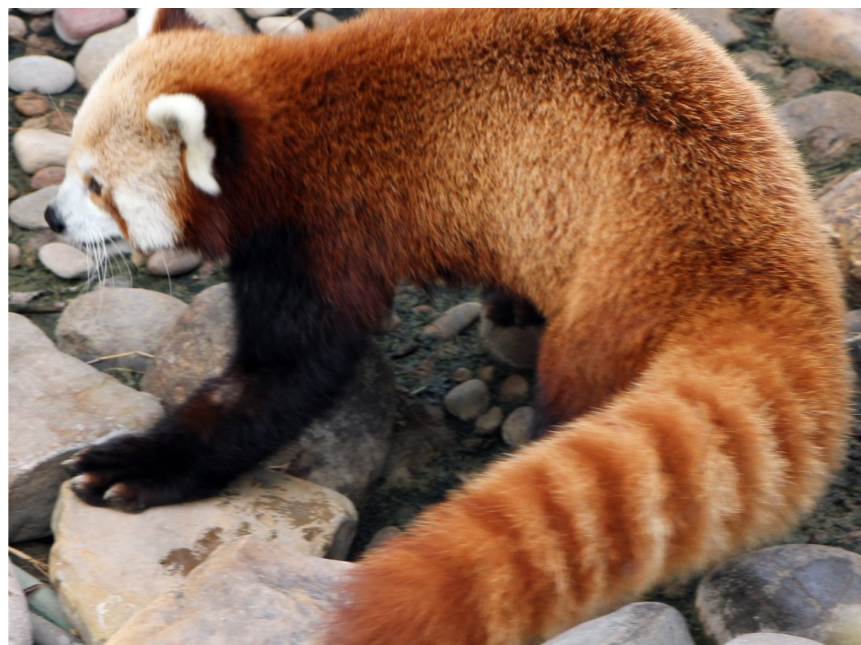
Did you ever look into a mirror,  
Until,  
What was well known,  
Became totally strange,

On this day of your beginning,  
Do you know,  
What it is you are about,

Isn't this the special time  
When you want –  
To know your past,  
To see your future,  
To hear your feelings,  
To know where you are.

Not that you would need to ever change,  
You're just right the way you are,  
But,  
You would be open to change,  
If change  
Just happened to be needed,  
You could and you would change,  
Or would you.

If you look at yourself,  
Long and deeply,  
You will discover,  
Where you've been,  
What you've done,  
When you did or did not do it,  
Isn't as important,  
As,  
Who you are now,  
Where you are now,  
What you are now,  
And,  
Tomorrow,  
Depends on today.





## The Church and Me

I'd give anything if my Church wanted me back  
I'd even forgive and be happy to be back  
Still it will never happen  
The Church doesn't know I am not there  
What is even worse,  
If the Church did know,  
It would not care for more than 15 seconds  
If that long.

The Church has to take care of so very much  
That it has forgotten that it exists for me  
That is was founded for me, and for you,  
The Church is so very worried about surviving  
That it has forgotten its mission  
Why in the world would I want to go back  
What answer is there other than  
It was where I belonged.

I don't belong there anymore  
I don't know where I belong and I feel lost  
I always belonged there in the past  
In reality the Church never knew I was there  
That was the way the Church liked it  
I was there doing all I could  
And I could not get enough of doing  
The question is why

I felt I belonged and I felt I was  
contributing  
I am not sure why I felt this way  
It was the place I turned to in need  
Even when the need wasn't filled  
If you have no other place to go  
Then the Church becomes a place to go  
A place to be safe you would think  
A place where you will not be abused

I went to the Church and I was abused  
I grew up being abused by much in my life  
I went to the Church to be safe  
To be close to a loving God  
And I was abused both as a child  
Then even more as a worker in the  
Church  
That was even worse and became my  
torture.  
I gave my life to my Church  
And it did not know I was there.

Still I have finally come to accept  
The Church never knew I was there  
As the Church would say,  
The pain is mine, not the Church's  
Still I miss being a part of the Church  
I miss being a staff member  
I miss the joy I felt in loving God  
Through the Church.

I miss the importance of what I thought I did  
I have found that my love of God has  
increased  
It has not decreased or diminished in any  
way  
Perhaps, I even pray more intensely  
Ah, now the Church can say  
Look, see what the Church has done in my  
life

But then the Church would have to admit  
It knew I was there and that the Church  
could never do!

I don't know if there is a Church for me  
anymore  
I so want to hope so  
Yet, if there is not, I know I will be ok  
For day by day I am finding my way  
Each time I get mired down in the past  
God gives me something to lift me up  
You see, God knows I am here  
God has always known I was here

Loving God allows me to love God's  
People  
I am conscious of trying to do this more and  
more  
I try to love everyone I come into contact  
with  
You can not love God and not love God's  
People  
I have re-discovered Eucharist in God's  
People  
Christ really is inside me and you  
O that I only let you find Christ within me  
O that you only find Christ within you!



## Communicating

Don't say I never communicate with you  
As I have tried so hard to talk to you  
On so very many occasions such as this  
moment.

How many times have you heard my voice  
Then denied my Presence by your action or  
lack of.

Sometimes I feel as though I have shouted at  
you  
For so long with no response that I just want  
to cry.

I do not like shouting at you and I surely  
Am not fond you shouting at Me.  
By the way you shout at me a lot,  
I always understand your need to yell at me  
Don't like it but understand it,  
We just don't communicate so well sometimes  
Still I am trying and I know you are also  
If I might suggest, just stop and listen  
You will hear My voice amid the sounds of  
other voices

Trying to drown Me out.  
There will always be voices trying to drown  
Me out

You will always be able to find My voice  
within your heart  
Trust your heart as it is center of your  
goodness

As for Me, I promise to try to not only to  
listen better  
I promise to make my answers more clear to  
you

Even if you miss the answer as you often do  
I promise I am with you and My answer will  
be there





### How Different you are

It was no accident that each of you is  
uniquely different  
No one should be burdened by being the  
same

I wanted a diverse creation that could both  
change and adapt

You are a changing and adapting species  
You see something and immediately decide  
it could be made better

You attempt to do so although sometimes it  
was just fine

And needed no improvement

You see, I created you to be Me!

You turned out well

Sometimes you should not try to improve on  
Me.

Which one of you do I not love?

I created woman to complete man

Sometimes woman chooses another woman

Sometimes man chooses another man

This is not the way I intended things to be

But it is the way things have turned out.

Am I supposed to hate you, if you do not  
choose

To love and be loved the way I intended?

Let's get this clear, I have no ability to hate

I exist as you exist which is only to love.

Love is love no matter where you find it

Cling to it, and hold it tight,

Defend love with all your might.

When you embrace and support love

You are then the closest to my Heart

You can never be closer to me than

When you are Love!



What happens

What happens when one of you makes horrible decisions?

Decisions that cut me to My very core

The taking of life in any way, for any and every reason

This is the gravest of all sins

This is the knife that slices through my Heart

What happens when you choose anything but me?

What happens when you abort life in any manner?

Am I supposed to destroy you?

Am I supposed to stop loving you?

Yes I hurt so deeply and yes a part of Me dies.

I still love You and I will help you find your way to me

Even in this disaster you have not left Me

Even in this disaster I have not left you.

It is impossible for Me to stop loving you.

You and I are one core and one Heart.

Perhaps it is in the midst of horror that you

Will finally understand you are not alone!

Perhaps in the middle of chaos

You will seek my help

You must feel I have deserted you

Or you would not be where you are

It is not true and don't let anyone tell you

You have deserted me

It is not true.

Sometimes this is the only way for you

To find Me.

While it will never be right

The actions of destruction

You and I will find our way back to light

Just reach for Me and let me hold your hand!





Who is God today in the midst of all that is?  
What happened to the God who spoke?  
What happened to God who interacted with God's Creations?  
What happened to the God who washed mankind clean?  
Over and over with the water of Noah,  
The Blood and plagues of Moses  
The blood of God through Christ Jesus?  
Where are You now when we need You so very much?

Is it possible God is still here?  
Can it be God still speaks?  
Is interaction with God only something we can read about?  
Would not it be wonderful to be washed clean by a torrent of  
God's Love?

There are plagues all around us and so very much water  
Aids, Hurricanes, disease, hunger, and just plain meanness  
The earth shakes and we quiver a little  
Is it possible God is still here among us now?

Maybe God is shouting at us to love each other  
Maybe God is allowing us to cleanse the earth  
To cleanse ourselves through the pain so many are suffering  
Perhaps we have forgotten the purpose for which each of us was  
born

Perhaps God has simply forsaken us to our own wits  
God did give us intelligence to make our own way  
I believe there is still more going on in this world today  
I believe you and I have no choice but to be more than we have  
been.

It is only through you and me that the world can change  
Our actions are the core of what is right and wrong  
It is impossible to change anything without beginning to change  
ourselves

It is possible for you and me to change, to become whole and clean  
again

If we could but find our inner strength to be who and what we  
really were created to be. Nothing would be the same ever again for  
all of creation

Everything must be centered in love for each other  
Love for each other requires putting aside the pain.



I created the future so you would think I could  
see it  
more clearly  
What I see isn't always a happy future although  
there will be many wonderful times  
Someone will step up and lead you to the road  
It is the road that you have often dreamed of  
You will know this road is the right road  
You will travel this road with confidence and joy  
At the end of the road you will find a land  
Filled with the joy of love  
Along this road there will be mountains and  
valleys  
Each turn will bring new adventures  
Going uphill sometimes will be easier than  
downhill  
You will go slower and enjoy more than when  
racing downhill  
There will be cool springs to provide you with  
safe water  
There will be fruits and nuts to provide you with  
nourishment  
Your eyes will be washed clean and full vision  
will be yours  
Your bodies will suffice for the journey and not  
let you down  
Your ears will hear all I have created for you to  
hear  
Your mind will fill with knowledge and you will  
share this gift  
You will share all your gifts and become the  
leader of the journey  
These things and more I see but this is more  
than enough  
For you to understand at this moment.  
Know this; know that the best part is now  
begun  
The time is now for you to be what you have  
dreamed  
Enjoy this time but remember better times will  
follow!





Ok I am God and I could interfere, right?  
Technically yes I could instantly change  
everything  
No more pain, no more poverty, no more war,  
No more of anything but love and I am so  
tempted  
However you see, I am the Creator,  
I chose to create you with the ability to choose  
I so want you to choose Me  
And you are choosing Me  
It is just taking a little longer than I hoped  
Still I am God and I know that when you choose  
me  
Of your own free ability to choose and,  
in the face of horrible things  
Our uniting will be of the strongest forever  
lasting kind  
The bad is almost over  
Hang in there just a little longer  
Your faith is so very strong and complete  
You have come through so very much  
What is left is nothing compared to what has  
been.  
Tomorrow will be so very much brighter and  
better  
Tomorrow you will be on the special road home  
The journey will be filled with the joy you crave!  
Your faith and endurance is what will have  
brought you here  
You love is what has sustained your faith  
It is this love that will bring you home to Me  
along this road!  
The journey has begun!



Nothing is more important to God than God's Creation  
You and I are God's Creation and we are most important  
to God

God empowers each of us in different ways but equally  
In that each of us has the unique ability to choose  
We have so very different circumstances to survive  
Yet it is in that difference that we are One and the Same.

I wonder how we will survive with no means to provide  
for that survival

You wonder how the moment can be so very painful  
Surviving such stress and anguish leads to more pain, even  
despair

You rejoice in your good fortune and relish in what you  
have

I can not see what I have for the worry of what comes  
next

Yet we are the same somehow in that we both must  
choose

The choice we have seems so very clear, so very obvious  
We make this choice over and over and there is no  
difference

It is like there is no choice because there seems to be no  
end

The repetition is harrowing and continuous and constant  
You do what it is you do as do I  
Yet we both are making the same choices

How do we change our choices?

How do we change what seems to be our fate

Is it even possible for fate to be changed?

Or is there no other way, no other possibility

We have become overwhelmed with what is

We have lost sight of what and who you and I are.

WE must fight to regain the knowledge of who we are

We must allow the God that is you and me to surface

We must shove the ordinary even the moment to the back

We must overcome our fear, the Lucifer Fear

We can not do this alone; no way can we do this alone

God will give us the strength we must find





## Respect



Does everyone have to live the same way?  
I don't think so or why would I have made you all so  
different?  
When did I start worrying about the fact that some of you  
Choose to love Me in different ways?  
You see, I just want to be loved by you.  
However you find a way to love Me,  
This is the right way to love.  
Is there a right way to love and be loved?  
Of course there is.  
The right way to love and be loved is to love and be loved  
by Me!  
The right way to love and be loved is to love Me  
There is no way to love Me without loving each other  
Loving each other begins always with respect and  
acknowledgement  
That no matter how different you are, there is only one of  
Me  
I am the One each of you love, at least I hope I am the  
One.  
Allow your neighbor to love Me differently than you love  
Me.  
Allow yourself to love Me as your heart dictates.  
Love can not be wrong!  
Respect the right of each unique being to be different.  
You don't have to like it but you must love that right  
Or you will never be able to allow it.  
Acknowledge that being different is good.  
Acknowledge that being unique is how I created you!  
If love causes destruction then it is not love  
While love can be difficult to understand  
Love can never be destructive or exclusive!



## Watching

I have watched in dismay as my people keep finding  
So many ways to inflict horrible pain  
I have become the focal point of everyone's  
Lust to be the only way to me  
It seems in finding me someone must always be hurt!  
It seems that so many know exactly how everyone must live  
If everyone knows who I AM, then why isn't there peace?  
Which one of you did I make my warrior king?  
Did I say to anyone of you that only you knew the way?  
Well maybe, but I think I said to love each other  
I know I said to love Me and I know that some of you do love  
Me.  
To be perfectly clear, you can not love Me without loving each  
other.  
By the way, loving each other does not include  
Warring on each other because one of you thinks  
Their way of loving me is better!  
Loving each other does not include so much of my creation  
Constantly suffering through hunger, pain and neglect  
While a few, who must seem to be chosen by Me,  
Seem to enjoy almost everything.  
I assure you that each of you is chosen by me  
Chosen to live and love and be loved while being different  
In how you live and love and are loved does not mean  
That I have favored one over another  
More often it reflects histories that took so many different paths.  
There are so many ways to Me that I assure you  
There is a right path for you to Me.  
There are so many paths that not a single one of you  
Will ever travel the same path though you will try to do so.  
Don't you know that I know you?  
Don't you know that I am always with you and  
Don't you know that when you are hurt I am hurt?  
When you hurt anything you hurt Me!  
Put the pain away and begin again down the road  
Don't worry so much about which road  
Take the road that allows you to love and be loved  
For it is always in love you will find Me!



## Stress

**Mental despair is the worst kind  
For when you stop caring  
For when you stop sharing  
Your life has become blind.**

**It is so easy to give up!  
Everything is out of control –  
Helpless to even hold a cup  
Pressure has taken it's toll.**

**The unique quality of man  
Is the uncanny ability to come back  
To reach far down and find hope  
To handle one moment with firm hand  
And even as more woes begin to stack  
From that one moment find hope!**

**Stress will kill!  
Man must decide on the priority of life  
Stress will kill!  
Only the will to live will overcome**

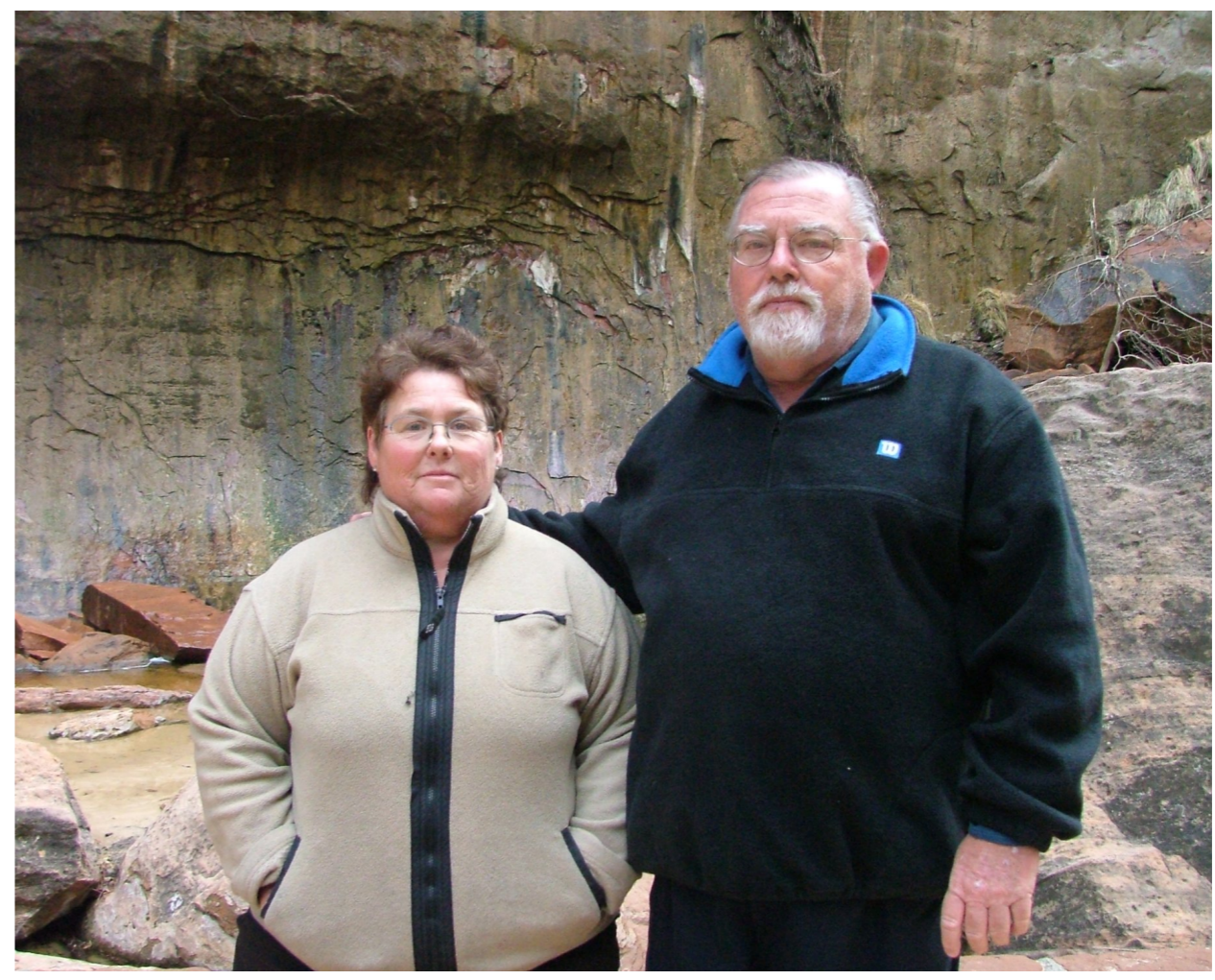
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The earth shakes and we quiver a little  
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Maybe God is shouting at us to love each other  
Maybe God is allowing us to cleanse the earth  
To cleanse ourselves through the pain so many are  
suffering  
Perhaps we have forgotten the purpose for which each of us  
was born  
Perhaps God has simply forsaken us to our own wits  
God did give us intelligence to make our own way  
I believe there is still more going on in this world today  
I believe you and I have no choice but to be more than we  
have been.

It is only through you and me that the world can change  
Our actions are the core of what is right and wrong  
It is impossible to change anything without beginning to  
change ourselves  
It is possible for you and me to change, to become whole  
and clean again  
If we could but find our inner strength to be who and what  
we really were created to be. Nothing would be the same  
ever again for all of creation  
Everything must be centered in love for each other  
Love for each other requires putting aside the pain.



Am I doing my part  
I think I am  
Yet I persist in doing the same things over  
and over  
I even do them in the very same way  
I must really be convinced I am right  
What if I am wrong?

What if I could be doing more?  
I can't finish what I have not yet begun  
How do I get past myself  
How do I see another way  
Even if I see a different way  
How will I know it is the right way?

Confusion reigns so I do what is safe  
I do what I think is right  
And nothing changes  
All remains the same  
Am I doing my part?

Do not let me be distracted  
From what  
You have set me to do  
Give me the strength to change  
Give me the courage to try  
If I am going to fail  
Let it be trying to do  
That which I pray  
You want me to!



When there is no place to go  
Where do you go?  
When there is nothing left  
What is there?

When you can not see the present moment  
How can you see anything?

The answer is  
You go nowhere or you go somewhere.  
The answer is  
There is more or there is nothing.  
The answer is  
There is darkness so deep r  
There is light.

Perhaps it is in the choosing  
It is in the act of choosing especially  
That we either die or  
We find some kind of renewed strength  
Some of us go on until we physically die  
Some of us have already died many times

Living is so very hard after death  
Perhaps Christ's Resurrection over death  
Is the same as what we do each time we are killed  
Perhaps our getting up and finding strength  
Where there should not be any left  
Is our Christ Like Resurrection

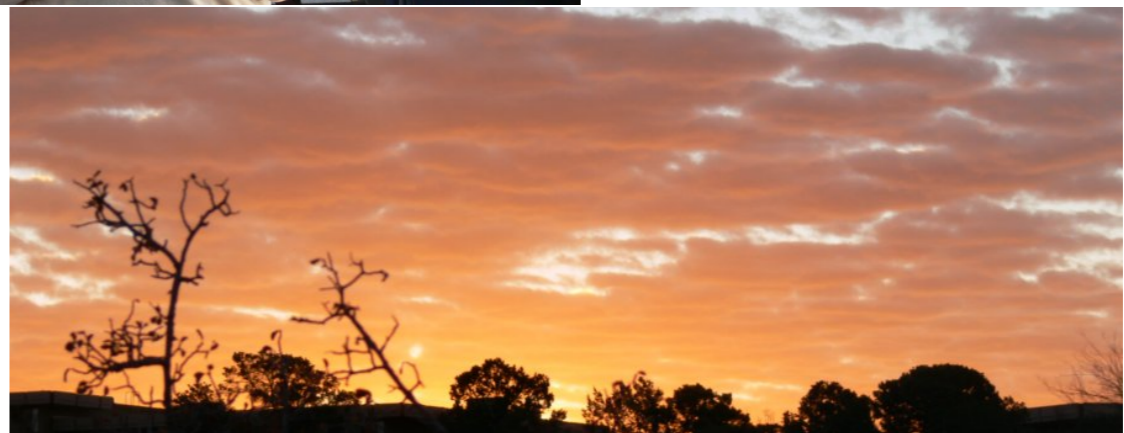
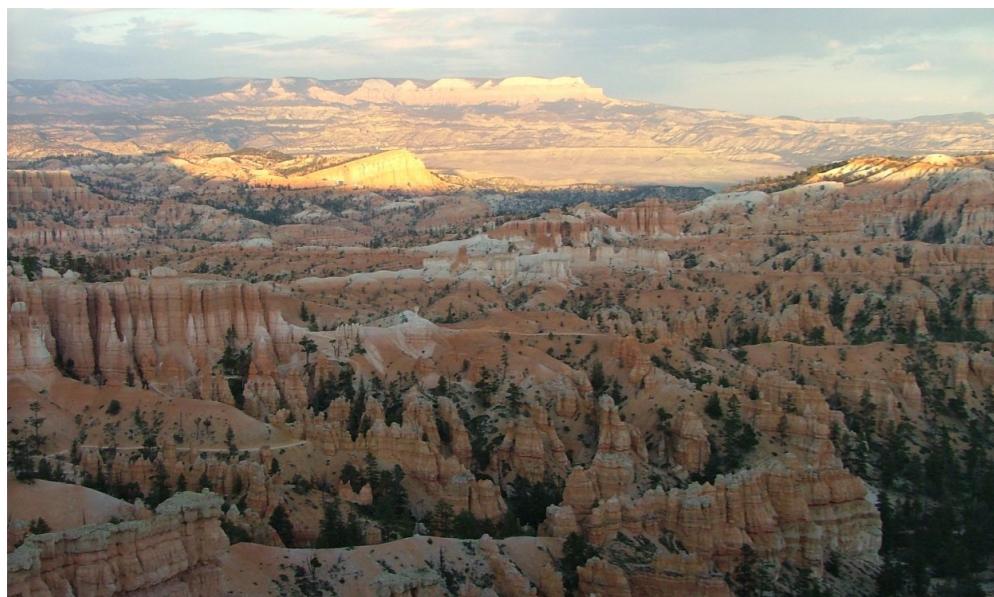
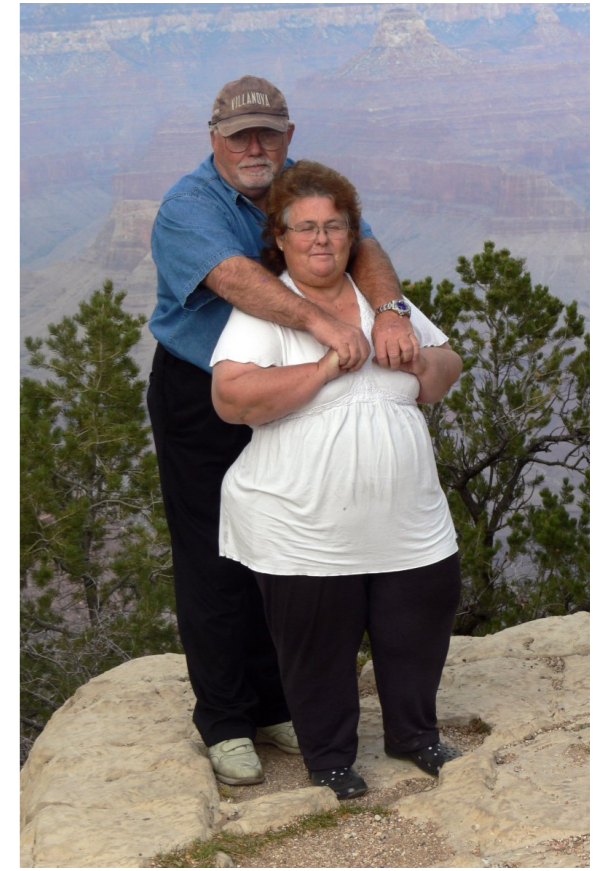


God always seems to have more  
More for us to do,  
More for us to bear,  
More for us to share  
God always seems to have more

Sometimes I think a little less would be ok  
A little less burden, pain, responsibility  
Perhaps even a little less knowledge  
For without the knowing  
There would not be the pain, burden, and more

If we do not know what we are doing is  
Right or wrong  
Then we would not feel the impact in  
The same way!

If we did not know and could not feel  
Who would we be?  
We always seem to have more  
Just as God always has more  
Maybe this too is ok and how it should be





How do we begin again when we are old  
How do we begin again when we have nothing  
Who do we turn to in this time of need?

I began this search for solutions that are not  
apparent  
I began this search by just saying over and over  
Jesus

This is the most powerful Name of all  
This is the Name at which every knee is  
commanded to bend  
This is the Name of Jesus, my friend, my God!

How can there be a solution is a Name  
How can Hope be found in saying this Name  
Why did I turn to this Name Now?

Once I heard a learned man say  
Jesus had been dead for over 2000 years  
This learned man went on to say  
Jesus had not walked the earth in over 2000  
years  
And I was furious!

Jesus is alive and well and real  
Jesus is everywhere I am this day  
Jesus is flesh in blood in you and me  
Without Jesus there would be NO hope  
For Jesus is God personified

Jesus knows each of us personally  
No matter what or how we call to Him  
Jesus is the strength when there is none  
Jesus is the power when we are the weakest  
Jesus will find us the time and the sources to be  
whole again!



Einstein is quoted as saying that doing the same thing  
Over and over in the same manner,  
And expecting something different to happen  
Is insanity.

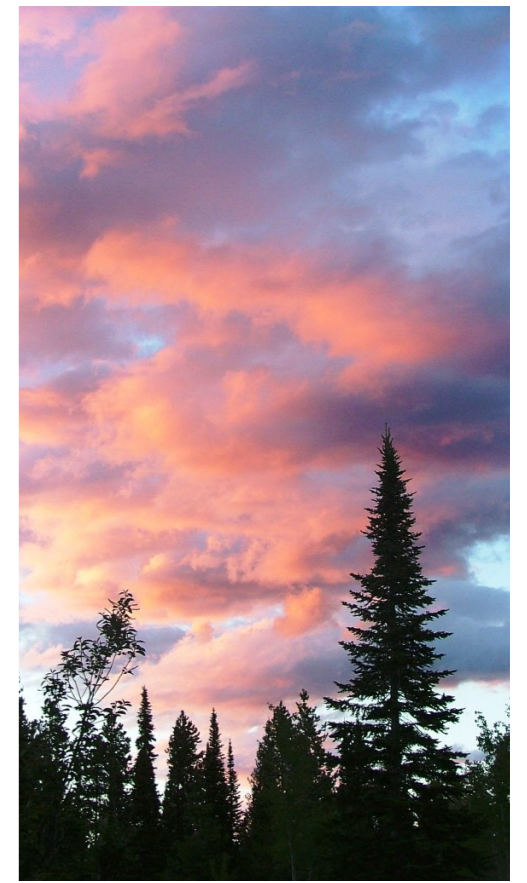
Perhaps I am insane as I do many things over and over  
I always hope and pray that a different answer will be given.

I pray each day to the same God I believe in  
I ask for the same thing everyday  
I beg, I plead, I yell, I scream, I cry  
I ask for the same thing from the same God in the same way!  
I have done this daily for many years with much the same  
result!

I keep not only expecting but believing  
That this day a different answer will be given.  
Perhaps,  
I am insane.

It is clear I have made a choice to believe that  
Somehow somehow my relationship with God is different  
In that I believe that God not only hears me  
As a Creation of God  
But that God  
Is my personal Friend  
And will respond to my personal pleas  
That I have prayed to God for!

A very learned woman once told me that  
God was NOT human  
God was not and could not be affected  
By Human prayers  
Humans can NOT affect God  
I never believed she was right  
I would rather be insane than believe as she does!  
Perhaps then,  
I am insane!





Is God more than just an idea?  
Is God more than a hope, mankind's dream?  
Is God real?

I personally heard a voice speak to me  
In a loud direct way when I was the only one  
present.  
I could not forget this moment even if I tried.

My wife told me she saw an angel  
Sitting at the foot of her bed  
She could not forget this if she tried.

I have seen the Face of God  
In the face of my wife, my daughters and my  
grandchildren  
I have tried to forget but can not.

Even if I had no personal proof  
God would still be real.  
Perhaps it is in our being that God exists.

If we are real then God is real.  
God is ever present in each of us.  
Even when we not only try  
But we actually forget.

Yes God is Mankind's dream and hope!  
Yes God is the idea of Man  
Yes God is Real



**My daughter just called me and  
She told me that I am the one who  
Taught her that everything has a  
reason  
She said she tries to make each  
day  
The best she can  
And my wife and I taught her that!**

**Perhaps her message is the reason  
For our being here  
All I ever wanted to do or be  
Was a person who helped people  
I wanted to be, I want to be a  
hero!**

**Here I am in pain  
Here I am trying not to be angry  
Here I am not understanding  
And maybe the answers are  
Closer than I have been able to  
see**

**Perhaps the real hero is the one  
who  
Finds the way to climb out of  
The impossible depths of despair  
The one who finds a way to hope  
Perhaps it is the one who  
Makes each day  
The best it can be!**

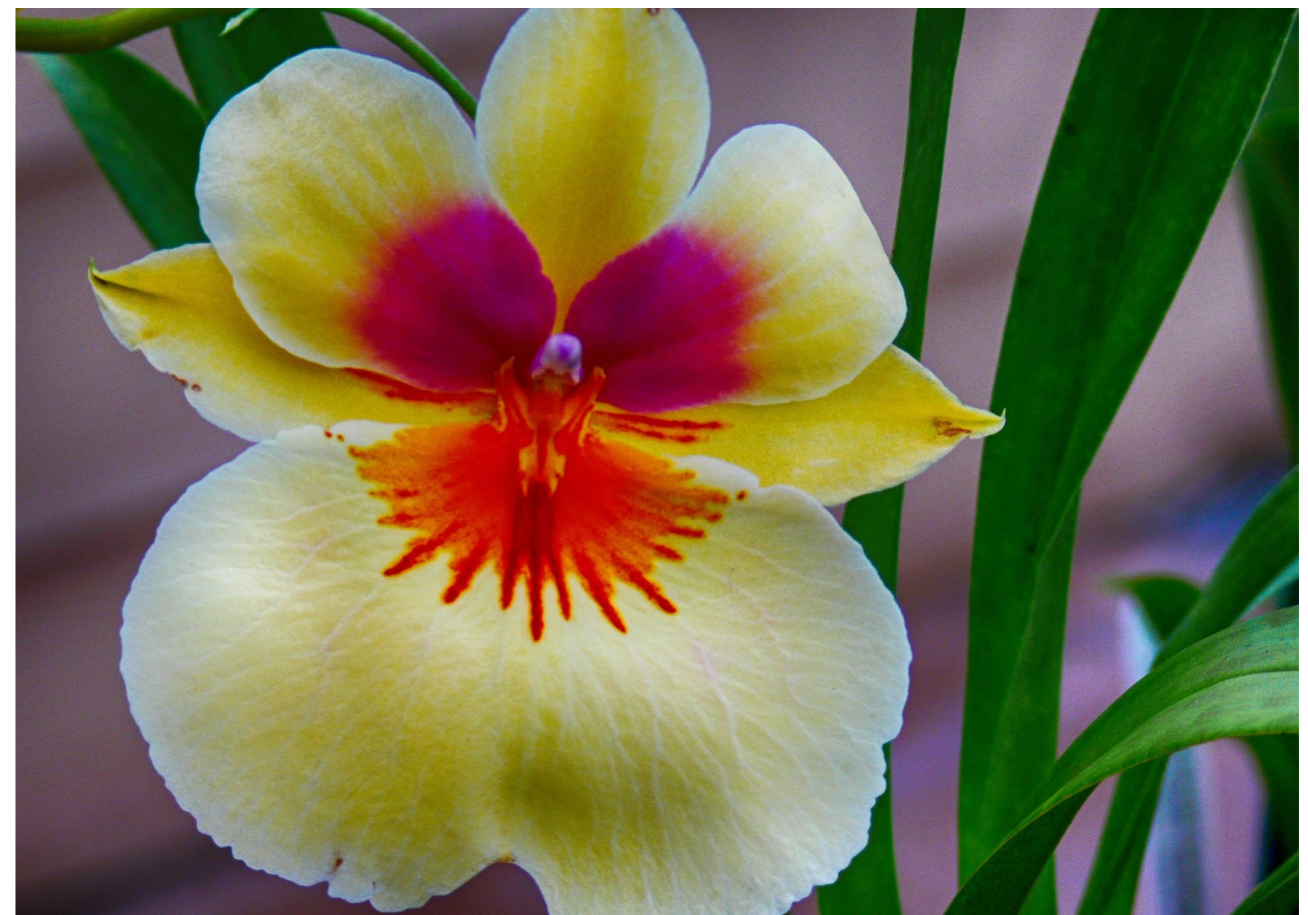


## The Land

I looked out on a special land this night  
I saw vast open areas filled with sky.  
A land where trees stood clear to the sky  
Yet never grew more than average height  
Giant birds appeared as flies in the high clear sky,  
I knew it was a land where the real and the unreal were  
one.

I saw a land this night where horses ran unbridled,  
coyotes, cattle, sheep, rattlesnakes and lizards lived as  
one.  
Neighbors all trying to survive sometimes by using the  
other,  
I saw people wanting to be alone and needing to be  
with people,  
People caring about each other enough to let one  
another alone,  
People loving one another enough to be there when  
needed,  
I knew this was a real land and I longed to be there.

I saw a land so vast and beautiful that some would call  
it ugly,  
I saw a land that I could never call anything but  
beautiful,  
It was a place where I saw God walking among the  
sagebrush,  
It is a place I know I must have been and will return to,  
It was a land so wide that all of God's people could  
live in peace,  
A land where the mountain giant was humbled by the  
blue sky,  
A land where the weather always tried to control,  
It was a land that no one or thing could ever control,  
This vast, tall, deep and wide land has to be God's  
playground,  
But  
The most special thing  
This land I saw was within myself!





A door opened and Peace flowed through  
Windows open and winds of Love flow  
Hearts change and love fills the being  
all because

A few thought to ask this of you

Lives that were to die now live  
Hearts preparing to break now overflow with  
life

Being so blind now filled with sight

All because

A few thought to ask this of you.

What could cause such a change  
How could this happens so suddenly  
When did this really begin to happen?  
It happened.

All because

You were asked by your people.

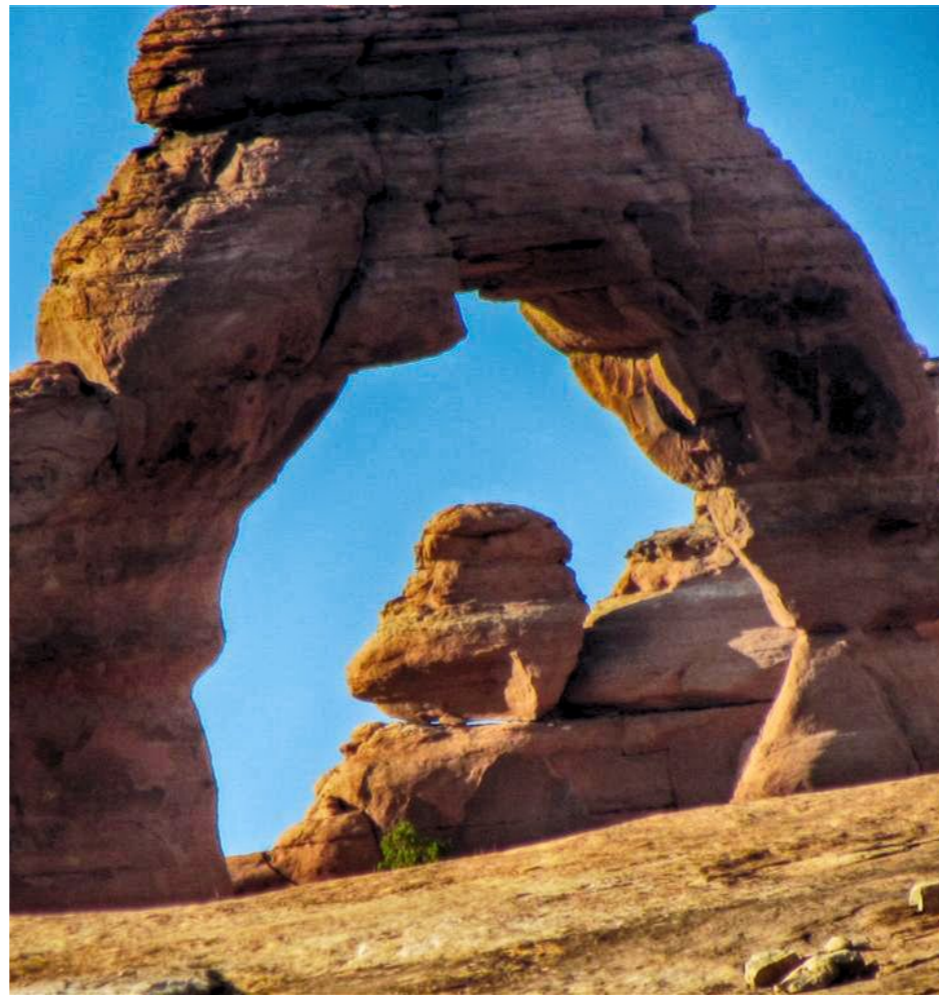


Not everything takes money to  
accomplish  
Some things need only someone's  
participation  
Nothing, however, is free or could be.  
Everything brings a certain cost even  
money.

What an effort it takes to dream  
And what does a dream cost  
Movement from somewhere to  
someplace  
Movement cost emotion, determination,  
spirit

Emotion flows from within  
Emotion flows someplace from  
somewhere  
Tonight there is a nervous emotion  
A shaky kind of confident feeling  
Let's just do it as soon as yesterday  
With only a small uncertainty toward  
the next fifteen minutes.

I'm comfortable as I am  
What need will it take to allow me to  
move  
The simple unobtrusive fact is I can't  
stand still  
Standing still may well be death  
I always choose life which means  
moving on.



What if you never heard  
the most important words in the world  
From the most important person in your life.  
What if you missed the chance  
to speak those words  
and  
the chance never came again.  
What if you never allowed  
yourself to be open to  
hearing those words from  
that special person in your life.  
Perhaps now would be the time  
to insure what if never  
happens;  
I Love You!



## Grafton

Grafton is a city of wonderful winter people.

Winter people are special people.

Open sprawling fields of potatoes, beets and growing things,  
A sky that touches heaven to earth and sun that glows forever.

Bright jewels fill the sky endlessly

Shinning rays of light through the fields,

Level fields covered with dusty lanes of gravel

Winding gravel roads pushing aside fields of labor

People bent over plucking life from the earth,

Huge machines driven by weather worn men listening to walkmans,

Trucks barreling through the town spilling and going on,

Hot, humid, windy days immediately

become cold and grey,

Cold, grey days quickly change into cold

white hours,

Temperatures fall below freezing and wind blows always,

Wait until winter arrives and you wonder.

Then it happens, in a flash, winter does come,

Blinding wind, snow white and bright,

20 degrees below zero and more.

It is cold, yet, something special begins to be,

People smile and say yes, winter is here, kinda nice you know.



It's long and hard and very cold and lasts forever,

All the time smiling as they are talking to you.

Winter people are a sturdy sort of hard  
independent souls,

Surviving such elements requires some  
interdependence though,

Extending helping hands even to unique newcomers.

People who like to talk, to listen and to do,

Everyone has a different opinion and shares it openly.

Grafton is a city full of wonderful winter people.

Generous, hard-working, glad you are here people,

Always checking to see if you like it here  
in Grafton,

Making sure to tell you it isn't perfect  
here you know,

But if you need help, we're here for you,

You think wat a gift of God this place is,

People who love God, each other, their land and their city  
of Grafton.





One and the Same.....

The man with the million dollars,  
He has wife, children and friends,  
He has boats, cars, and large estates,  
He has gold, silver and many possessions,  
If he hasn't accepted Your Love,  
He has nothing!

The man who writes words of wisdom  
He has written many well read books  
His name will be remembered a long time,  
His words are repeated over and over,  
If he has not accepted Your Love,  
He has nothing!

The man who drinks too much,  
He does everything so very wrong,  
His children are never pleased with him,  
His wife has long been dead to him,  
He doesn't accept Your Love, and knows  
He has nothing!

And these three men are on and the same,  
Doesn't matter that they have not accepted,  
It's there for them none the less -  
In the same amount for each one,  
Each upon acceptance of Your Love,  
Will have everything!





**A Question of Tact....**

**Asking, instead of telling**

**Keeps one's head from swelling;**

**Playing in earnest to someone's pride**

**Has saved many a man's hide.**

**Many are those that speak to frank,**

**Many know that they are too smart**

**And subsequently speak as to direct.**

**An order to some is like a spank**

**And they usually react with a start,**

**And then their work becomes incorrect.**

**In short, you can get your work done**

**Quickly and profitably, it is a fact**

**And peoples respect you will have won**

**If you can master the art of tact;**

**But,**

**It is a difficult art to master**

**Human awareness is the only way**

**Slow down; don't go faster**

**And tact for you is here to stay**



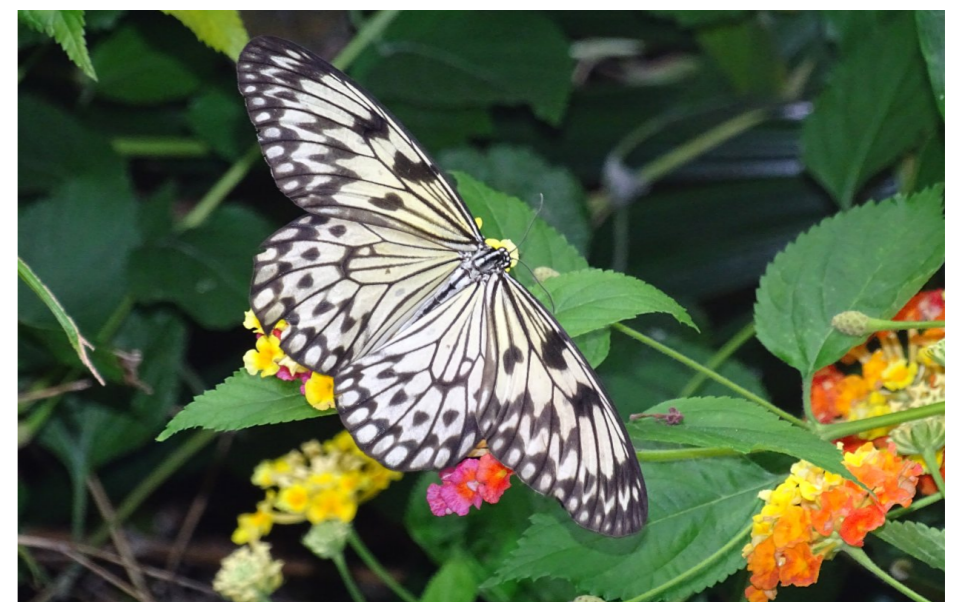
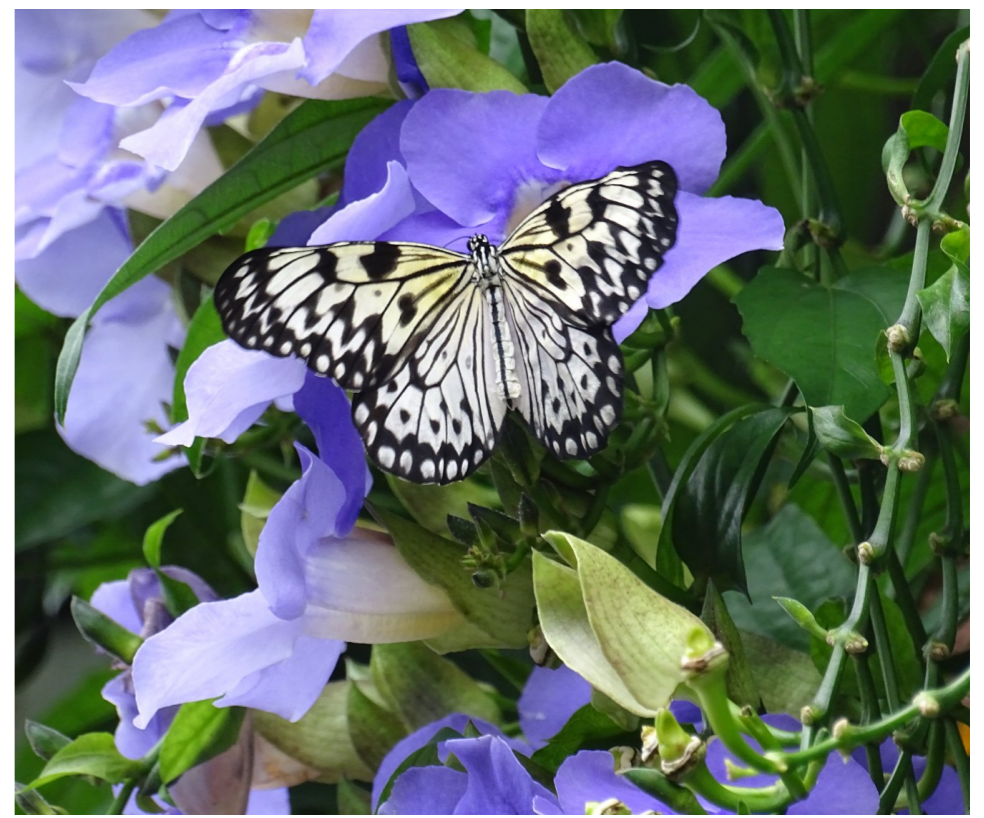
Daughters  
At once so much alike  
And instantly so very different  
So many problems growing up  
Both so independent  
Each knowing their own mind  
One always fighting to find  
Just who she really is  
Getting sick almost always  
Never finding anything easy  
  
On so perfect, so mature  
So knowing, not laughing enough  
So much promise and always  
So very much understanding  
In their own way each;  
At the same time  
Becoming their own person  
Super neat person!!

I hope their futures  
Will include more  
Rip roaring, belly full laughter  
Assurance of their own uniqueness  
I hope their life includes  
Reaching out of their neat self  
Sharing their uniqueness  
with someone else  
  
I hope as often as challenges  
Rise up in their face  
They look in a mirror to see  
Such special people they are  
  
I, also, very much hope  
They know, they sense  
How very much love  
We have for them.  
  
And in a sort of neat way  
I want them to know  
How unique, how special  
They have made their Mother and I



Day light shone forth  
A new day began  
Warmer than normal  
Yet not hot  
Everything bursting up  
And pushing out  
An invisible wall  
Hold all within  
Tomorrow was not here  
This day had just begun

In time  
All will be and  
Nothing held back  
Hope will beget dreams  
Which becomes reality  
Tomorrow will seem closer  
Yet this day has just begun  
The fears that are  
Of the present day  
Fade far away  
Into the joyous birth  
Of tomorrows dreams  
Strength sets aside fear  
Hope replaces fright  
And now the day is ready to end



**Principals.....**

I have seen the end of the world  
I have felt the wrath of humanity  
The love of God overwhelms  
There is nothing  
Today that yesterday did not be  
There is nothing  
Tomorrow that was not today  
And yet  
Each moment is not replaceable  
Each minute is yours to be  
Each hour – yours to grow  
For you  
Are God's love personified  
Under no circumstance  
Can you  
Cause God  
Not to love you  
Strive for all that is possible to be  
Base your humanity on Christ's love  
And follow your humanity to the  
end.



I have trusted the building  
That man made for God and  
I have believed not only in  
It's basic need to be good  
But also to be right and  
I was wrong!

God has no need for buildings  
The building would say God has no need  
I say God does need.  
And what God needs is you and me.

We are not merely as images of God  
We are indeed more in that God resides  
Within each and every part of you and me  
We are God personified.

We create, we fix, we damage  
And we allow life.  
These things we do only as God empower's us.  
Everything we do must somehow be  
Centered in love, for God is alive  
All else is love

If I am to cease to exist  
Where will I go  
If it is certain I am to die  
What happens then  
What my life has been  
Seems not so important now  
For I am focused on tomorrow  
(If indeed there is tomorrow)

I believe in tomorrow  
I have to (or else)  
My being would not handle  
What is before me now  
I do not choose to believe there will be a tomorrow  
I know tomorrow will come  
The question seems to be  
What kind of body (if any)  
What kind of life  
What kind of being



As long as there is a being  
Perhaps  
It does not matter the kind or type  
For any being I am  
Will be  
A continuation of who I have been  
My hope  
Who I have been will become  
A man and fresh being

I am excited about what lies ahead  
Not so excited I'll jump up and into it

Yet  
I think when the time comes  
(and it will)  
It will be the right time for me  
And  
I will be ready  
Yet  
It is for certain, ready or not,  
Willingly, struggling, even fighting  
I will move on  
What I am will not cease to be!

**Love.....**

**Baby, baby, conceived in May  
Baby born a December day  
Inside her, you waited so long  
Inside our hearts sing a song  
Outside our lips say to all  
See our baby lovingly small  
See our baby lovingly round  
Hear the cry, a lovely sound  
You've brought us lasting joy  
You're our beautiful baby boy**

**We have 3 girls and would not trade any of  
them for a boy but girl did not rhyme!**



**"Sin"**

There is nothing I can do, ever  
To cause  
My God not to love me!!  
It is when I freely and knowingly  
Choose  
To place a barrier between me  
And God  
Then, I am in a state of sin.  
God will never place any kind of  
Barrier  
Between me or anyone and His  
Love!  
Let us be very clear about this –  
I must know what I am about to –  
Place barriers between God and  
me –  
And  
I must choose to do it  
And  
Then I must do it....  
That is Sin!

VESS

Young and old, each uniquely  
special,

And yet all together

Eager, nervous,

And wanting to serve and  
learn

The opportunity is great!

If you serve at a parish that

Can afford to pay you,

They can also afford to

Replace you!

Here – for the most part – they are  
just

Glad to have you.

You worry if they will like you

Or if you will fit in

Or if you can do the job.

There is an answer – without you,

There would most probably

Be no one!

The fact that you are different,

Or feel different is soon lost

In the fact that you do what

you can and it is enough!

You learn to overlook the outward

Faults and irritating habits

Of others an indeed, find

Yourself seeking these very

People to be your partner

In this new life.

What is different becomes on

And somehow, your  
uniqueness remains.

What you bring special becomes

Shared so that all become  
special

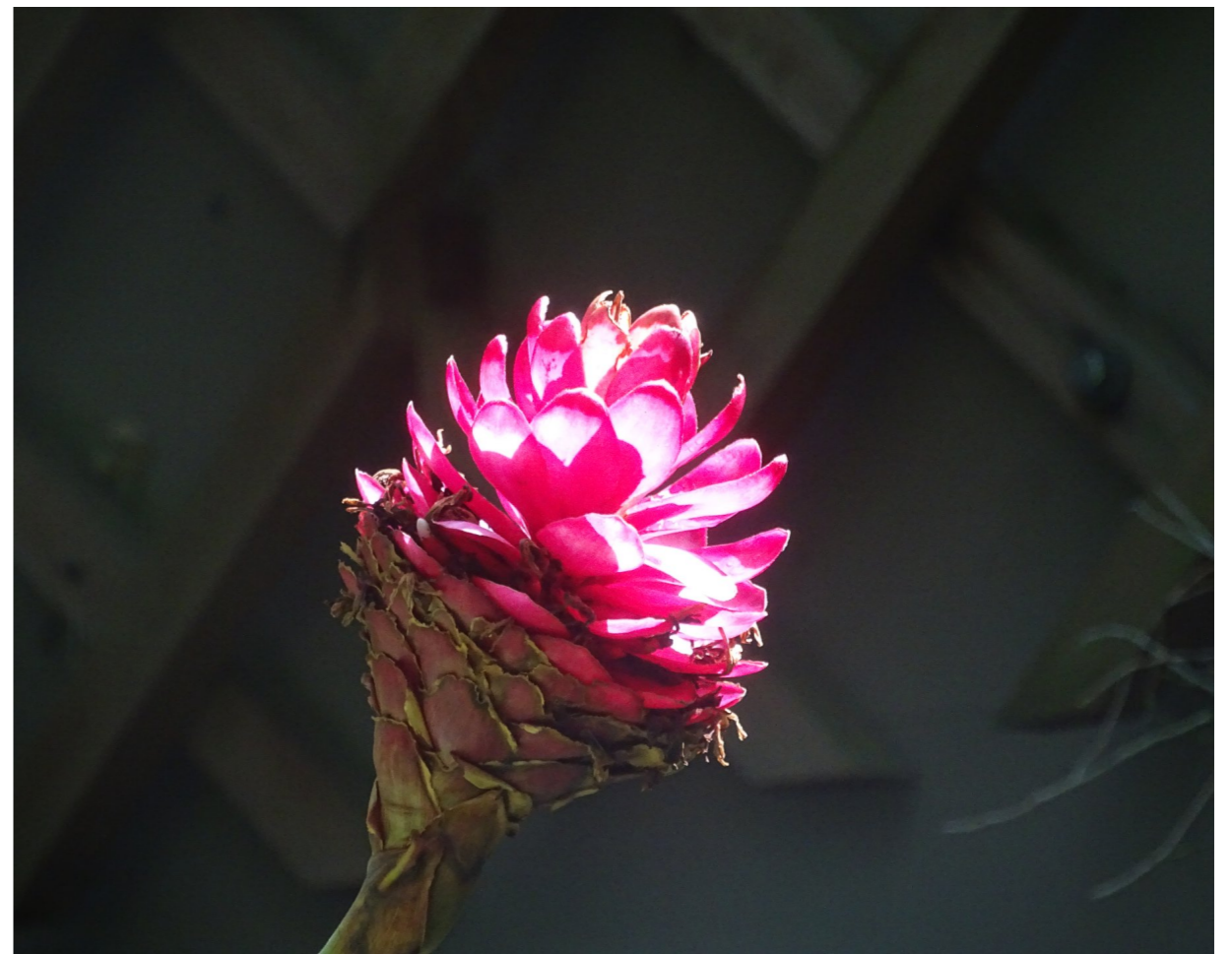
Through you!

You then become more special  
because

Of the gifts of others.

“Be no afraid – For I am with you  
always –“

Becomes the reality of your  
daily life.





Why.....

The sky is bright blue,  
Proud white clouds are floating  
Now lazily, now stormy;  
Heading westward it is true  
On the river man is boating  
Now lazily, now stormy.  
The trees stand tall.  
Even in the bright sunlight;  
Leaves colored brightly in the fall.  
The sun above shining bright.  
The branches in wind bend.  
There is a message they do send!  
A dirt pathway is the road  
That winds beneath the tree.  
Now no one walks along,  
Although, the road is free  
No one seems to belong  
On the dirt pathway of this road  
The sky is a deep dark grey.  
In the distance a donkey's brey;  
Now and then hear the thunder  
See all the lives we've put asunder.  
In the pasture, the donkey's crud

Is soon covered by man's  
blood.

Inevitably we must ask why  
And the reply is always the  
same,  
We never find anyone to blame,  
We always reply with a sigh;  
War is hell!  
War is hell!  
And there is peace for awhile  
And yet we never seem to learn  
To live together in love  
This knowledge we lock away in  
a file  
To be used to pacify our  
concern  
When we've started all over  
again.  
And I can't help wondering why  
We must kill our fellow man?  
In the name of justice, you sigh  
In God's name STOP I cry!  
Let us save man if we can;  
Let us live together as one man.



**Thoughts Pass through My Mind.....**

**Thoughts pass through my mind**

**A girl, mother, a boy, and a love**

**A God, Father, Son, and a**

**Dove**

**Alive living real; a life**

**Adept, adroit, active, a wife**

**Cuddling cute came a child**

**Come from heaven, is so mild**

**Thoughts; some are not so kind**

**A woman, man and desire;**

**Leads Satan, sin and fire,**

**To deep dark dreary wanton hell**



**Dying dead empty pit-less well**

**Results rude reckoning, un-right  
being**

**Cuddlingly cute came unseeing;**

**Thoughts and ideas begin to  
unwind.**

**Living, loving, losing, loser, lost;**

**Love, lover, loveliest; aside tossed**

**Wooing, weeping, winning, winner  
won**

**Wonderful uniting of two in one**

**Give, gives, given, giving Devine  
nod**

**Good, great, gracious  
understanding God.**

**My mind begins to follow a new  
way**

**Full, fresh, feeling, finding, found**

**Making music so lovely a singing  
sound**

**Singing sand, a wave of hope,  
tender tied**

**Awaken aroused and do not ever  
hide**

**Sighting rising red sun starts  
today**

**And with me now begins a new  
way.**



## **My Love for You**

**She is short and sweet  
Her eyes differently blue  
Her face a rough red  
She is the one I did woo  
She is the one to who I said  
Though our lives are fleet  
As this morning's dew  
I'll always love you.  
If you'll but be my bride  
In you I'll always take pride  
Don't come or go like the tide  
From fierce fear I'll not hide  
If you'll stay by my side**



**In you I'll ever confide.  
You and I stand here  
together  
And listen to the Priest say  
Let no man ever sever  
What God does put  
together  
So that from this day  
We are united forever.  
Now that some time has  
past  
Exactly six days and a  
week  
What, we ask, what do we  
seek?  
And will our love last  
And will we become weak  
Causing our love to pass  
fast  
Or will we hear our heart  
Saying to us, "never part."**

### Telling of His Love

I have heard the beautiful birds singing,  
Through them I heard the voice of my God  
My heart will not allow me to be silent  
From now on, I must speak to you of Jesus,  
I must tell you of his love!

A love that had no beginning,  
A love that never knows ending,  
A love that doesn't need understanding,  
Such is the love of my Jesus  
And so I must and will share it with you!

I look not to see our faults, or flaws,  
I only see so many marvelous gifts,  
I feel not your anger, distrust or scorn  
I can only feel the gift from Him of you  
In this way you come to know the love of Jesus!

What you did before is now of no interest,  
Only your acceptance of Our Lord Jesus –  
Is of any meaning for your life now,  
For once you receive knowledge of Him,  
You will never again be lost, or the same.



**Life is too short....**

**The hectic franticness of man's pace  
Keeps getting faster, never slows  
Much as the hurricane blows  
Exposing many sides of man's face  
The buzzing of a single fly  
Is often enough to bring  
Man to grab his sanity and cling,  
And then, of course, ask why?  
It seems that man would soon  
Begin to understand his plight  
And try to slow down his flight  
And take time to look at the moon  
And take time to rest**



**To know the peace of being lazy  
Instead of running around so crazy  
The warm sun on man's bare chest  
It's good to often rest your brain  
Step and join the world of man  
What it feels like to walk in rain  
You can still do what one can  
Let the tenseness ease out  
Time is the watch guard of all acts  
It is for sure one of the facts  
Speak slowly and not in a shout  
I just cannot help but say  
Life is too short to spend that way.**



**The Justification to Kill**

**He raped my wife, he must die!**

**He violated in the worst possible way**

**That which belonged only to me,**

**So**

**Kill him, kill him, kill him dead!**

**Jesus is a radical, a trouble maker**

**He teaches a strange new law of love,**

**He says, "Love each other."**

**So**

**We killed Him, killed him, killed Him  
dead!**

**They are terrorizing our country and us!**

**They destroy men, women, and our  
children,**

**They don't love us, they only hate!**

**So**

**Kill them, kill them, kill them dead!**

**Jesus, a loud mouth who stirs people up,**

**He would have you turn the other cheek,**

**He would have you love your enemy.**

**So**

**We killed Him, killed Him, killed Him dead!**

**It is popular to strike back today,**

**Let's all stand up tall for our right,**

**Because, if we don't we'll lose**

**So**

**Hit me, so I can hit you, hit you back!**

**Yet, 2000 years after we killed Him dead,**

**This Jesus is still very much with us,**

**Still preaching, teaching a new order,**

**Still**

**Loving us, loving us, loving us to life!**

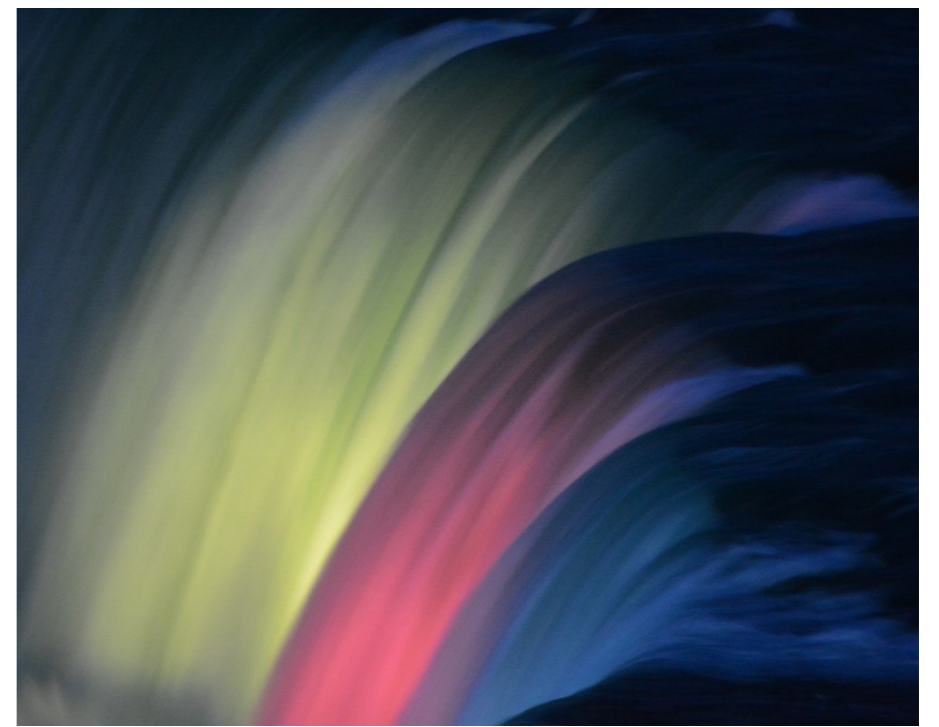
**One day someone will not hit back,**

**One time someone will walk the other way**

**One place someone will not destroy,**

**And**

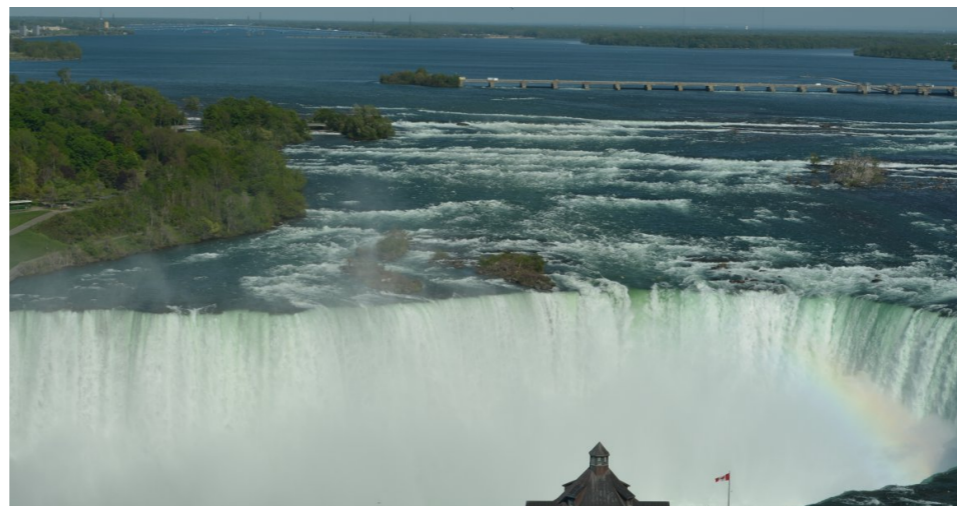
**We will live, live, live a new life!**



**I'll Try**

**The times when I do not know what to say,  
Because I've already said too much,  
When I've acted on impulse, instead of  
thought,  
When I've done what I wanted, not what I  
ought,  
The times I feel so very alone and failed,  
These are the times when I most know Your  
love.**

**It seems you almost have to physically take  
hold  
And shake the cobwebs from my head,  
Before I am willing to do what you ask,  
It seems I am unwilling to accept  
The many gifts You have given to me,  
I'm too busy demanding even more of you!**



**So why do You not give up on me?  
Why do You remain insistent in  
Your Love for me?  
If You left me alone I could just be –  
And yet, You refuse to let me go,  
Indeed, you keep saying I am  
precious to You,  
You keep saying, I love and need  
you.  
  
What good can I possibly be for  
You?  
I've failed in everything I do,  
I refuse to do what You ask even  
when I want to,  
Because You are unwilling to quit  
on me,  
Because, Your Heart is so filled  
with love of me,  
Here I am, Lord, one more time, I'll  
try!!**

**The Long Wait – Adam and Eve**

**Come into my heart - Lord Jesus,**

**Allow the ink from your pen**

**To flow freely, truly and with ease**

**If this be Your will – my Lord Jesus!**

**I thought Adam would be complete in himself**

**I had no plans for more than one man,**

**But Adam, you see, needed something more –**

**And so I completed him with Eve.**

**The two of them were given everything, and  
Me,**

**And surely that was more than enough!**

**Lucifer wanted them to choose him, over Me –**

**And because they were free to choose, they  
did.**

**Even after I was so terribly hurt**

**I could not destroy that which came from Me**

**After all I was the One that gave**

**Adam and Eve the right to choose.**

**I could not condemn them for all time**

**For a choice made in a moment of weakness,**

**But this weakness they had embraced**

**Became permanently part of that which came**



**From Adam and Eve.**

**Yet there was a certain initial strength**

**About the first two of my people**

**Which far outweighed any momentary weakness**

**A strength that delighted and heartened Me!**

**I was glad they knew right and**

**Sad they had learned of doing wrong**

**Yet I knew that with this knowledge**

**When My People did choose Me**

**They would indeed be choosing all that I am**

**And they would be rejecting all that was wrong!**

**So I began what has been the longest wait**

**Knowing eventually My People would choose  
Me!!**

**The Long Wait – The Early Years**

There have been many times in the long wait  
That My people turned against Me.  
They chose some of the most unreal things to  
love,  
It would have been funny if not so, so sad.

Once I looked down and almost gave up,  
But, this funny old man kept on believing –  
And I kept on Loving and began to speak,  
Old Noah, he listened and he did!

And I washed the earth very clean,  
Started all over with Noah and his –  
Things looked promising for awhile  
But, it was only the beginning of the long wait.



The best that came from Noah was  
Abraham,  
And, oh, how I do love Abraham.  
He kept falling down and getting up  
Never did he quit or lose his love for Me!

I gave him beauty for a bride –  
Surprisingly, through much turmoil and  
strife  
They managed to remain man and wife  
And so I rewarded them in their long life.



From Sarah and Abraham, through Me  
Came young Isaac, offered and accepted  
And from Isaac came the father of twelve  
For a while the long wait was most  
pleasant.





**The Long Wait – Hope**

I really began to be glad in My people,  
The twelve tribes multiplied and became  
even more

And all of them chose to love and honor ---  
Me!

But, alas, my wait was not yet over.

They became despondent and enslaved –  
Their freedom to choose Me was damaged

And I could not tolerate this,

So I gave them a most special man, Moses.

Moses could never take anything at face  
value,

Even after I revealed My Person to him,

Even after I told him what My Name was,

Good old Moses wanted even more proof.

I'll never forget when he finally accepted

And knew forever that I Am Who Am!

And Moses did do what I asked of him,

He led My People to salvation's edge.



And at that edge, I promised my people  
That I would send them a Savior forever –  
And indeed, I did, I sent My Son, Jesus!  
I sent My people all I had, Me!!!

He was Me fully, one of mine and he came  
To wash away in the waters of Baptism  
The Sins of Adam and all My people  
As I had once washed the earth with Noah.

And it was when My people finally began  
To freely and willingly choose Me through  
Jesus

Filled with the eternal Fire of My Spirit  
That the longest of waits came to be over.



A Statement of what I believe this moment!

August 30, 2015



There is only one God or so the world says

This one God created everyone and everything

This one God is the essence of Love

This one God knows everything but is not affected  
by It's creations

Really?

I believe this One God is tuned in to every part of  
God's Creation

I believe this One God has a personal  
responding relationship

With all God has created!

This one God is the same God worshiped by everyone

Except

No one seems to agree on who this one God is!

If you don't agree with my understanding of God

You are wrong!

If you call God by a name I don't use

You are wrong!

If your understanding of this God is such that

You decide it is necessary to kill me

And in your God's name you do kill me

I say we do not worship the same God!

If there is only One God,  
And we mostly all say there is just One God,  
Doesn't it make any sense that this One God  
Would know and hear when any of this One God's  
Creations were reaching out to God.  
Would it matter what name we called God?  
Don't you think God will hear you no matter the  
name you use to call God?  
Isn't it possible God knows what is in the heart of  
everyone of God's Creations?  
In fact, this is exactly what I know to be true!  
Would it matter how you worshipped this One God?  
Would it matter how your neighbor loved and  
worshipped this One God?  
I don't think so  
I think what matters is that this One God is a part of  
your life  
I think what matters is that we do reach out to this  
One God  
I think what matters is how we live with each other  
I think since this One God is centered in love  
So must we be centered in Love!

We cannot love and hate at the same time!  
This would be impossible and yet some try to do  
just that!  
It seems to me that respect is very much forgotten  
this day  
It seems to me respect is where love begins  
I do not want everyone to be like me or  
To believe and worship just as I believe and  
worship  
I have a hard enough time just taking care of me  
That trying to make others be like me not only  
would be wrong  
But also impossible!

If this is true and it is also true there is  
only One God  
We must find a way to live in respect  
and love  
As long as you don't want to make me  
be like you  
As long as there is room for love and  
understanding  
We must find a way to love each other  
Without necessarily liking what the  
other person thinks, acts or believes  
This does in no way mean we are right  
or we are wrong in our belief  
It simply means God is present in our  
life and  
We acknowledge God is also present  
in your life  
Each in our own way seeking God  
together as God's real Body!  
Then we really do acknowledge there  
is only ONE GOD  
The God we believe in!

