

## Creative Courage <sup>1</sup>

*From hearts of peace,  
May there arise in us  
The creative courage  
– To give of ourselves  
... Arms, heart, and spirit open to the world...  
And, in the Spirit of Christ  
Open, as gift, to Abba.*

## Too Humble To Be Noticed <sup>1</sup>

*We're so busy looking for SIGNS of God,  
We fail to see God already present.  
Our God, so very often –  
Is too near to be sensed!  
Is too available to be searched for!  
Is too humble to be noticed!  
And, too close to be held!*

*Indeed, to recognize God's Presence ...  
And to be open to the intimacy God offers ...  
Is itself God's gift to give :  
God "who FIRST loves us" <sup>2</sup>  
Grants us the very receptivity  
To treasure the Gift of Love Eternal!*

## In the Whisper, Within <sup>1</sup>

*In the ordinary everydayness of life,  
We fail to experience intimacy  
With others or with God :  
We become anaesthetized  
To Presence  
... In the routines, we cling to ;  
To Mystery  
... In the ordinariness, we get lost in.*

*We look for intimacy  
In the extraordinary, in the dramatic  
... When OUR feelings are heightened.  
However, Love's approach---  
Is like someone's affirming hand on our back,  
Is in the silence of another's sacrifice,  
Is in the glow of the pre-dawn,  
Is in the whisper WITHIN ...*

*God makes love to us  
... As EACH second ticks by.*

## Paradox <sup>1</sup>

*All that is truly relational is generative of life –  
So by being other-centred,  
Gifting one's energies in an consistently personal way,  
And, willing to live with the truth of the other  
By an open, simple acceptance of their goodness  
... Our relationships are affirmed, enriched and vitalized.*

*All that is falsely relational is abusive –  
So, by using one's energies impersonally and spasmodically,  
Being dismissive of the truth of the other  
By using deception and manipulation  
...Our relationships are undermined.*

*The paradox  
Is that the 'truly' and 'falsely' relational  
Often COEXIST IN THE ONE PERSON  
...So that a UNITARY description of the relationship  
Does not reflect the whole reality.  
Thus, there is a need for patience, compassion and forgiveness  
...To both balance, and integrate, one's relating.*

## Living Water <sup>1</sup>

*The life force of each Christian  
Flows forth from Christ, our “living water”. <sup>2</sup>  
What is this divinely – human WATER  
That has suffused our being ?  
Firstly, each of us is uniquely gifted by that Spirit  
Who first “hovered over the waters”, <sup>3</sup>  
At the creation of the world.*

*That water has since become  
Ocean, creek, swirling fog, winter snow and summer downpour.  
It has become the life force of this earth  
– The life-force of plants, trees, cereal grains and fruits.  
This same water has become incorporated – quite literally,  
Into the bodies  
Of amoeba, jellyfish, dinosaurs, starlings and kangaroos.*

*Lastly this water has come  
To live in...to enliven...and to empower  
Our own Body–Spirits,  
Sustaining us with life.*

*Above all, this water is also the chosen element  
That, in baptism,  
Mysteriously incorporated each of us  
Into ANOTHER BODY  
– The body of Christ.*

*Immersed in Christ  
We are now cleansed and refreshed in a new way  
– By sanctified water,  
Which rejoices our eyes and hearts,  
Because it revitalizes our SPIRITS  
DIVINIZING THEM!  
– With Christ “the living water”! <sup>4</sup>*

*Individually, each person becomes a droplet of that “living water”  
...Singularly, of little impact  
...But TOGETHER, as the life-forces mingle and mix,  
Capable of nurturing and enlivening others’ lives  
– Indeed, of Christening them,  
Of forming them into life-giving community,  
En-Spirited by that Spirit  
Who again “hovers over the waters”.<sup>5</sup>*

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1 Poem 276 Victoria Street Community Brisbane, Oct 1998.

Note: Later used, in prose form, by the author at the 1999 Provincial assembly paraliturgy, using a fountain of water as a centrepiece. Each brother brought water from his own community.

2 Jn 4:10 and Jn 7:37

3 Gen 1:2

4 Jn 7:37, 38

5 Gen 1:2

General Note: “My prison ministry came to an end around September 1998, because of a Departmental state wide rationalization – SUPPOSEDLY TO EMPLOY ONLY PSYCHOLOGISTS AS BEHAVIOUR TEACHERS. They tried to RE-HIRE me, after letting many teachers go, but I decided after fifteen plus years, to explore a new direction”. Author.

## Led by Mystery <sup>1</sup>

*True freedom lies in openness to Mystery  
... To the Mystery enveloping our lives.  
Openness to Mystery lies in humility and spontaneity  
... In UNPLANNING our relationship with God,  
To allow ourselves to be LED.*

*In this openness to Mystery, self-discovery occurs  
– Because discovery desires to engage the unknown.  
Then, because of our heightened awareness  
Of a God wrapped in Mystery  
... Of Presence greater than ourselves,  
Self-surrender becomes possible.*

*Spontaneity is the activating spirit of Mystery :  
It sets the formulations of happiness aside,  
It always opts for openness,  
It allows our spirit to be DRAWN,  
And is responsive to Love's constant surprise!*

*Such spontaneity dismisses formulas, such as –  
“I'll love her/him on my terms”,  
Or “We'll love each other, on mutually agreed terms”  
...Rather, Love itself  
Invites each to enter into love's Mystery  
On Love's TERMS!*

*Thus, we allow Love itself  
To shape our futures together,  
Discovering realities beyond our dreams  
...Being led by Mystery  
...Into Mystery.*

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1 Poem 277 Taringa Community Brisbane, Jan 1999.

General Note: “Our Victoria Street Community of two, was dissolved, when Br Kevin McDade was transferred to St Laurence's Community for Nursing training, and I to Taringa Community.” Author.

## Who I Am <sup>1</sup>

*Whenever I cry out "Abba"  
I am crying out WHO I AM :  
God's Beloved Son!  
... God's cherished daughter!  
En-Spirited love.*

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<sup>1</sup> Poem 278 Taringa Community Brisbane, Jan 1999.

General Note: "This was the first year, of what was to be discerned as my Prayer Ministry". Author.



## Prelude to the Word <sup>1</sup>

*Prayer in tongues,  
Or in everyday sighs, sounds, humming, or chuckles,  
Is the Spirit's prelude  
To Abba's Word  
Settling in our minds  
... Revealing the Divine,  
Casting light on our humanity.*

## Within the Flow of the Spirit <sup>1</sup>

*To rest in the Spirit's simplicity,  
To stay open to the wholeness,  
We need to surrender to the Spirit's transformative power,  
To the Spirit's re-creative energy.*

*We are called, endlessly, to abandon –  
Every newly exposed level of self-focussing,  
And of self-directed activity  
... Surrendering all initiatives of our own  
Externally, internally  
... Even our silence, stillness and solitude.  
We leave all decisions,  
Even those of prayer,  
To God  
... God wanting us to pray,  
... God wanting to converse with us,  
... Or God desiring to unite with us, in the ways God devises.*

*We are drawn...  
Into that Flow of Relating  
That is the Spirit...*

## The Spirit's Relating <sup>1</sup>

*Jesus shows us  
How to relate to the Father,  
Mary shows us  
How to relate to Jesus,  
The Spirit shows  
How to relate to ourselves, and to others.  
... "The Spirit joins Himself to our spirit", <sup>2</sup>  
"To each person, the manifestation of the Spirit  
Is given for the common good", <sup>3</sup>  
– As we are "individually members one of another". <sup>4</sup>*

*In this way the Spirit brings all four relationships  
Together into unity –  
"The unity which has the Spirit as its origin,  
And peace as its binding force". <sup>5</sup>*

## For Our Eternal Good <sup>1</sup>

*Evangelical celibacy “chooses” us,  
Rather than we choosing it.  
Religious life is not a calling  
To celebrate celibacy,  
But a calling to celebrate the Gospel  
In a celibate way ... like Jesus.  
It seems a particular individual is thus called  
Because, in God’s wisdom,  
His or her psycho-sexual, spiritual reality  
Is BEST served by such a call.*

*If the call is of God,  
Then it is for the person’s long term, indeed ETERNAL, good.  
And because the choice is eternal,  
Most of the reasons will be clothed in mystery.  
Some will be GLIMPSED at the psycho-sexual level,  
Others will surface within one’s spirit.  
Faith in the celibate Jesus,  
Can be a wonderful source of deep strength  
For the struggling religious.*

## Signs of Faith <sup>1</sup>

*If we believe, like Mary, we don't need signs,  
... But will be given them unasked for.  
"We of little faith" cannot recognize <sup>2</sup>  
The signs given us, AS signs :  
... Such as negative signs-like Zachary's loss of speech,  
... Or positive signs-like Elizabeth's pregnancy.  
We will rationalize them away  
... As 'coincidences' or 'scientifically explainable'.  
However,  
If we "keep" the Word like Mary <sup>3</sup>  
Within our hearts,  
We simply KNOW the signs are given to us  
– To glorify the God of our believing,  
And to draw us to declare,  
"Be it done to me according to Your (signed) Word". <sup>4</sup>*

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<sup>1</sup> Year 1 Prayer Ministry Taringa Community Brisbane March 1999

<sup>2</sup> Mt 8:26

<sup>3</sup> Lk 2:52

<sup>4</sup> Lk 1:38

## The Pre-Dawn of Our Hearts <sup>1</sup>

*Anyone who LOVES THE TRUTH about life,  
Is like the person who loves the dawn  
But DOES NOT YET SEE the sun.  
His deep intuitive attraction  
Is to the One  
Who is the Light of Love  
... Lighting up the pre-dawn of our hearts  
Until the graced day  
... Ever present but not yet ...  
When “the God of tender mercies ...  
Will bring the rising Sun to visit us”. <sup>2</sup>*

## Co-Authored <sup>1</sup>

*In re-telling our story  
We need to be especially thankful ...  
For others valuing us,  
And for affirming our story.  
In so doing,  
Our life is re-authored anew  
– Because it is now CO-AUTHORED !*

## Like the Work of the Womb <sup>1</sup>

*God's Word spoken through nowadays prophets  
Not only eternalizes the Word NOW  
– By proclaiming a future unfolding LOVE –  
But actually ENABLES it ...  
Because God's Word ever-CREATES the future of His People.*

*Humankind, the responsive FOCUS OF CREATION  
– Which, with all nature, tries to 'perfect itself' –  
“Groans in travail” <sup>2</sup>  
And is acted upon by the Spirit  
Who “plumbs the depths of God”. <sup>3</sup>  
Thus, the Spirit is the Re-Creator of our lives,  
In the Ascended Christ.*

*In this transformative process,  
Abba's Creative Spirit  
Enters into the chaos and our confused strivings  
– Bringing energy, direction and motivation,  
Integration and beauty,  
To our struggles  
– Re-configuring then to the humanity of the Beloved.*

*Humankind's needed primal response,  
Is OPENNESS  
To this “hovering Spirit” <sup>4</sup>  
... Stirring our feelings,  
Triggering our intuitions,  
Firing our dreams.  
The Spirit's work is like the work of the womb :  
In reverencing growth,  
There need be no rush,  
No haste to form our lives, or to hurry development.*



*At Abba's "appointed time",*<sup>5</sup>  
*The Word appears with CREATIVE POWER :*  
*Lightening the shadows,*  
*Giving humanity's dreams expression in words,*  
*Letting the truth of our inner stirrings emerge,*  
*Colouring and highlighting our aspirations,*  
*Discerning directions and priorities,*  
*And interpreting the Father's metaphors of COMMUNION*  
*... Therein revealing, some of the faces of the Fellowship of God.*

*The Spirit not only prepares for the Word,*  
*But companions its embodiment within humanity,*  
*And empowers it to fruition.*  
*It is creative of the Church Community*  
*... Christ's Body ...*  
*Labouring within it, sensitizing it,*  
*Animating it, enabling it.*  
*It opens it to receive the Word,*  
*To shape acceptance of the Word,*  
*To integrate the Word's many expressions,*  
*To nurture and love the Word into life,*  
*To cause the Word to burnish our spirits with joy!*

*The Word is Abba's Word :*  
*It is a SAVING word,*<sup>6</sup>  
*Sent into the world, enfleshed in this world,*  
*Always producing what it proclaims*<sup>7</sup>  
*Until its mission is "fulfilled",*<sup>8</sup>  
*And it returns to Abba.*<sup>9</sup>

*The Spirit of this Incarnate Word*  
*Is the Spirit of the Ascended Jesus*  
*... The Spirit animating the Church,*  
*And dwelling within our hearts.*

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Year 1 Prayer Ministry.

1 Poem 286 Taringa Community Brisbane, May 1999.

2 Rom 8:22 3 1Cor 2:10 4 Gen 1:2 5 Gal 4:4 6 Acts 13:26 7 Is 55:11 8 ibid 9 ibid

## Intuitive Prayer <sup>1</sup>

*Because the Beloved is faithful...  
As our prayer buds into life, before blossoming,  
– In “the sighing of the Spirit” within, <sup>2</sup>  
In the stirrings of intuitive prayer-  
The untapped POWER of humanity  
– Of the unconscious and sub-conscious –  
Is released within our spirits  
– Within the Mystery of the Spirit.*

*The Spirit liberates us, from our controlling egos,  
As we are DRAWN lovingly,  
Into the mystery of our inner self,  
And thus into the wellspring of all our relationships  
... Our graced relationship with Abba  
– In Jesus Ascended.*

## To Dream the Spirit Dream <sup>1</sup>

*Trust is stifled by timidity of imagination.  
Failure in faith is most often a failure of imagination.  
But, it's not our plain human imagination  
... Which registers only ephemeral traces of God ...  
No! It is our imagination elevated, permeated, by the Spirit  
– Imagery, subsumed by the Spirit as its own!  
It is the lack of openness to THIS imagination,  
That stifles faith –  
Limiting, restricting the eternal sweep  
Of the Spirit's creative energies  
To the confines of our timidity.  
It is failing to know,  
With the Spirit's incomparable Intuition,  
That God is ever operative and present – Here! Now!*

*Contrarivise, it is our calling, as God's beloved children,  
To be responsive to THIS imagination,  
To be servants of it,  
To allow it to galvanize and transcend our own!  
To dream with God's own Dreaming...  
And, because it is the Diving Imagination,  
It ENABLES, what it imagines, to become real.*

*Ours it is, to dream this Spirit Dream –  
To ride the wings  
Of the wind  
Of this Creative Spirit!  
To sing Christ's Song  
To Abba, our Abba,  
On Ascension Day!*

## Nurturing Christ <sup>1</sup>

*Mary puts us in touch with Jesus ...  
In an especially tender and nurturing way.  
From her, we learn the possibilities  
Of caring affectionately for Christ-in-the-other.  
Through touch we can, like Mary,  
Nurture Christ's gentle growth in others.*

*Yet it is the Spirit, through Mary,  
Who CAUSES this nurturing to happen :  
Because it is "the power of the Most High overshadowing Mary", <sup>2</sup>  
Who brings Christ's humanity to blossom within her.  
Thus, our own sharing,  
As in Mary's open responsiveness to the Spirit,  
Will allow Christ to blossom in others  
... Through our caring touch.*

## Embodying the Word in Our Lives <sup>5</sup>

*The Word of God found a home  
In the heart and womb of Mary.  
We will not find it elsewhere  
... For WE need Mary's heart to hear the Word,  
So, with St. Paul, we can "believe with our hearts". <sup>6</sup>  
Similarly, we need Mary's womb, to nurture the Word  
... For the Spirit who lives and moves there,  
Embodies the Word in our lives,  
Empowering us to proclaim the Word  
– Alive in the womb of OUR hearts.*

## Mary's Pentecost <sup>1</sup>

*In the upper room with the disciples, Mary waited.  
A lifetime before,  
She had already received her PERSONAL Pentecost ...  
The Spirit's "overshadowing", as she conceived Christ.<sup>2</sup>*

*Now, she heartens the disciples  
... Preparing hearts, yearning for the Spirit;  
She leads them  
... To welcome the Spirit's advent WITHIN,  
Within the infant Church  
– An advent, signed in tongues of fire,  
Hovering over each, WITHOUT.*

*Together with Mary,  
These outdoors men, focus WITHIN,  
As the Spirit...*

*Empowers*

*Envisions*

*Enthuses*

*Enables...*

*As Jesus Ascended comes to birth within each  
...Within all, together.*

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Year 1 Prayer Ministry.

1 Poem 291. Taringa Community Brisbane, Aug 1999

2 Lk 1:35

Note. I wrote this poem in the aftermath of my nephew's sudden death...his 'Pentecost'.

## Homecoming Gifts <sup>1</sup>

*Solitude is a special gift of homecoming:  
While we never come home to God alone,  
Together, in Spirit,  
We each need to still our heart, our whole person  
– So we can rejoice in the Breath of the Spirit  
Coupled to the RHYTHM of our heartbeat.  
Here, in the special embrace of the Spirit,  
We gently, joyfully, become aware of many others  
United, in Christ, WITHIN US,  
“Members, one of another”.<sup>2</sup>*

*Together, we celebrate ‘my-our’ homecoming,  
Loving together in joy ...  
In the silence of the deepest mutual acceptance.  
Our crowning gift of homecoming  
Is peacefully being formed into God’s Family  
... On the basis of Jesus’ own relationship to Abba  
“May they be one in us  
– As you are in me  
And I am in you”.<sup>3</sup>*

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Year 1 Prayer Ministry.

1 Poem 292 Taringa Community Brisbane, Aug 1999.

2 Eph 4:25

3 Jn 17:21

## God's World <sup>1</sup>

*As our hearts are stilled through silence,  
We find ourselves at the heart of a world  
That is God's world – generally not our world.*

*God's*

*Is the world of the widow, the orphan, the stranger,  
The world of those ill in body and mind, and of the prisoner.*

*It is GOD DWELLING IN THEIR HEARTS*

*Who invites us*

*To be weak with them,*

*To be needy with them*

*... So as to truly identify with them.*

*It is a world, pregnant with God's compassion!*

*All God asks of us*

*Is to channel this compassion*

*– To be weak, with the weak,*

*To be open to Love's deluge!*

*God's ultimate gift*

*For all,*

*And, in particular, for contemplatives,*

*Is to become poor, weak, non-coping*

*... Perhaps even a prisoner,*

*In God's world.*



## Gifted by the Ungifted <sup>1</sup>

*Let the Spirit*

*Always recall to mind,*

*That we are never –*

*The prime reconcilers,*

*Or the prime givers*

*... Of life.*

*Let the Spirit recall*

*That we are not even good servants,*

*Or trustworthy stewards of the Lord*

*... But a sinful, broken people.*

*Let the Spirit declare*

*That we often need more care*

*Than anyone we care for*

*– Needing to be*

*... Gifted by the wounded*

*... Gifted by the ungifted!*

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1 Poem 294 Star of the Sea Retreat Centre, Yamba, Nov 1999

Note: This was a life-nourishing Retreat of 3 weeks:

Week 1 Family of Origin

Week 2 Sexuality Journey

Week 3 Spirituality Journey

Facilitated by Sr. Ann Hannigan and, for me in week 2, by Fr. Nilon.

## Without Desire <sup>1</sup>

*We discover our true identity ...in prayer,  
– In the prayer of being OPEN  
To the spontaneous movements of the Spirit of God  
Within our spirits.  
In this encounter,  
Our Abba creates the very imagery  
Which opens us up to Him  
...To all aspects of the PERSON of His Beloved Son!*

*Then, as we abandon ourselves, more and more  
In spontaneity in the Spirit,  
The God of all freedom  
Frees us further  
– Surpassing even His Christ-focussed images –  
Drawing us, directly into communion  
With Love itself.*

*Through this communing with Love,  
Our spirits open  
With the Eternal Openness of God.  
In that gifted moment for us,  
God ceases to be Other :  
God draw us into Oneness  
... Without desire  
... Simply one  
... We become love  
... The face of Love  
... Of Jesus Ascended*

## Feeling at Home with Strangers <sup>1</sup>

*Because a time of intimacy often arrives, unbidden,  
As a gift of God's graciousness,  
We can thus experience intimacy  
... At the points of struggle in a relationship  
Or, even at times of complacency.*

*This paradoxical situation arises  
Because OUR thoughts as to a suitable intimacy time  
Quite often runs counter  
To God's estimation  
– Both of a suitably mutual time, and of its importance  
To enhancing the growth of love between us.*

*In a further ironic twist,  
We fail to notice, much less to value intimacy  
Especially intimacy with God,  
– In the little things ... in the routine ...  
In the mundane ... in the ordinary.*

*We become over-accustomed, in our T.V., film world,  
To expect intimacy –  
In life's highlights ... in life's emotional peaks ...  
In times of drama ... or when WE feel emotionally moved,  
Or even, more superficially, when WE'VE scheduled it!*

*Clearly, we need to let our consciousness be re-configured  
By the Spirit of Mystery  
And by the Spirit of Growth and Evolution  
– So, becoming attentive to God's timing,  
And, sensitive to God's promptings,  
Our life of intimacy begins to change.*

*Probably, we notice it first  
In the UNEXPECTED  
... Perhaps, while waiting idly  
In the line-up of a checkout counter.  
Here...using our empathetic imagination,  
And, in response to the Spirit's gentle prompting,  
We may anonymously celebrate God's Presence  
In specific other customers.  
Thus we are able to experience the Spirit's surprising us,  
By simply enjoying  
'Feeling at home with strangers'  
– Enjoying the paradox of warmth with people unknown.*

*Experiencing such ordinary, regular intimacy with others,  
Can become, with God's grace, a template for routine intimacy  
With Abba, Jesus and Loyce.  
It can also help us  
To 'be at home' with our true self  
– Putting aside masks, posturing, and false confidence  
... All of which intensify with sin.  
To do so, is to come home to our vulnerabilities,  
And to our deepened need to trust the other  
... Especially The Intimate Other,  
Who accepts us and loves us  
As we are.*

## O Three Personed Heart <sup>1</sup>

*All Glory be to You,  
O Three-Personed Heart  
Of the universe of our hearts.*

*To You, dearest Abba,  
Mystery of Loving beyond all naming!*

*Through You, Jesus, best of brothers  
... Our divinely faithful Friend!*

*In You Loyce, chameleon Presence within our world,  
Wondrously wedding us together ... IN Jesus Ascended!*

*Dearest Spirit,  
In animating this Circle of Love  
Be, for us, the power of our prayer  
– Moving loving hearts to self-surrender,  
Within the Paschal Jesus  
... The praying heart of humanity.*

*Dearest Spirit,  
Fire our spirits  
To open to what Abba desires of us  
– For You, Yourself, enable Abba’s Dream within us,  
Aligning our desires, with His.*

*Dearest Spirit  
Create the gift of attentive awe within us:  
Let our spirit sing with fondest love, of our adorable Abba!  
BCreate heartfelt thanks – a beloved Son’s thanks – within us!  
Embrace us, in Jesus Ascended, with Abba’s encompassing blessings.*

## Warmly Welcoming the Word <sup>1</sup>

*When the whisper of the Word  
Emerges in our consciousness  
... So obviously AT HOME in our world ...  
Give it the warmest of all welcomes!  
Welcome it with special immediacy :  
Let your spirit flow  
With graciousness and thankfulness.  
For the Word seeks again to be enfleshed  
Personally in your humanity.  
He yearns to share His wisdom  
... Selecting out some form of words,  
From your outer circumstances,  
To give Divine Emphasis to His message, within.*

*Honour this adorable Word of Abba  
... Personally yearning to share, heart to heart ...  
As would Jesus – sitting alongside of us,  
Gazing at Galilee's water ...  
As it cools our feet on a hot summer's day.  
=Pause=  
Pause with Him ...  
And let peace wash into your soul ...  
Feel free to chat to Your God ...*

*But dare not treat this Divine Speaker within,  
As another idea, as one more holy thought  
– As just another reality alongside others!  
No!  
He is Eternal Reality specially meant for us :  
Abba's dearest Desire for us,  
Jesus' brotherly Revelation to us,  
The Spirit's empowering Enlightenment in us  
... God, eager within us!*

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<sup>1</sup> Poem 298 Star of the Sea Retreat Centre, Yamba, Nov 1999. Week 3  
See NOTE. Poem 294.

## Fasting : Spiritualizing the Body <sup>1</sup>

*Longing for the Lord's return  
Is focussed and deepened by fasting.*

*When I eat and drink sparsely,  
I don't talk as much, and I listen more.*

*The temptation to give way  
To the free reign of the flesh  
Is the commonest deception of humanity's tempter.*

*As followers of the simple Jesus,  
We are urged "to seek the things that are above". <sup>2</sup>*

*This spiritual quest is bio-chemically dampened  
By the surfeit of food and drink,  
Or by sexual indulgence.*

*Contrarimise, our spiritual questing is ENHANCED though fasting  
... Especially when wedded to prayer and almsgiving.*

*Moreover, ANY PYHSICAL SURFEIT OF SATISFACTION  
Blunts, even anaesthetizes, the hungers and quests of our higher powers  
... Especially, expressly SPIRITUAL desires and yearnings.*

*Furthermore, this surfeit of satisfaction  
Accelerates other fleshly urges and drives,  
Such as lust, laziness, and lack of eye and tongue control.*



*Paradoxically, the less spiritual we are,  
The more we over-compensate with food and drink  
... Short-circuiting, still further, our spiritual quests.  
This spiralling effect often deepens into compulsive behaviour.  
We end up directing more of our energies to PART of ourselves.*

*Holiness is wholeness ...  
The integration of body, mind, and spirit  
– In the Spirit of Him “who makes all things new”, and thus whole. <sup>3</sup>*

*Our human body needs to become  
The transparent sacrament of Jesus’ Spirit.*

*This embodying-the-Spirit  
Needs always to be accompanied  
By spiritualizing-the-body  
... Both enhanced by fasting.*

*The ‘lightness of being’ achieved by fasting  
Allows scope for the Spirit  
To irradiate one’s being,  
More effectively,  
As a WHOLE.*

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Year 1 Prayer Ministry.

1 Poem 299 Taringa Community Brisbane, Dec 1999.

2 Col 3:1

3 Rev 21:5

## The Kiss Of God <sup>1</sup>

*The Spirit is the Kiss of God*

*Upon each person*

*... Revealing the person's uniqueness*

*... Highlighting their gifts*

*... Integrating their lives*

*– And filling them with the joy of Paschal Intimacy.*

*Abba kisses each, and all,*

*As His Beloved ...*

*Thereby adopting them as Family*

*– Giving us, even now, a glimpse*

*Of our true identity and dignity*

*... And of our destiny TOGETHER.*

## No Face of His Own <sup>1</sup>

*The Spirit has no face of His own :*

*The Spirit is WHAT HAPPENS*

*When the Father faces me*

*And as I face the Father*

*– In Christ.*

## The Spirit's Coaxing <sup>1</sup>

*Always the Spirit hovers <sup>2</sup>*

*Murmuring over the chaos,*

*Preparing me for the Word*

*... Spoken to, and for me,*

*Within Mystery.*

*To be thus en-Spirited,*

*Is to murmur with the Spirit,*

*To be a conduit for the Spirit's "groanings" <sup>3</sup>*

*To be a mouthpiece for the many 'sounds'*

*The Spirit uses in the struggle*

*To give birth to the Word,*

*Within ourselves or others.*

*All this can surface in one's life*

*Through simple ordinariness :*

*Singing in the shower,*

*Attending to our breathing,*

*Humming snatches of music,*

*Sounding agreement in conversation,*

*Exploring, in wonder or laughter,*

*Or 'body-languaging' emotional tones*

*To life's surprises, changes and encounters.*

*Thus, as a child to a delighting Father,  
I need to shed my controlling adult psyche,  
And be as free, in the Spirit,  
As a babbling toddler  
... YIELDING to the Spirit's coaxing  
Effortlessly, simply, openly, unself-consciously,  
... And LETTING my 'spirit-sounds'  
Flow freely  
– To artlessly prepare for the advent of the Word.*

---

Year 1 Prayer Ministry.

1 Poem 302 Taringa Community Brisbane, Dec 1999.

2 Gen 1:2

3 Rom 8:26 (N.A.B.)

## Resonating the Word <sup>1</sup>

*The Word received, personally, in our hearts*

*Mysteriously becomes prophecy*

*... As God's Presence*

*Eternalizes our 'now'*

*– Allowing us to resonate the Word*

*In others' lives.*

*Our very body,*

*Animated by the Spirit,*

*Bodies that Word ...*

*In sign and service to others,*

*In stewardship to the waiting world.*

## Giving Shape To Breath <sup>1</sup>

*How do the Spirit and Word differ?  
The Spirit's expressions are these –  
Its stirrings, moving our emotions,  
Its promptings, guiding our hearts,  
Its suggestions, respecting our freedom,  
Its shaping the mood of a community,  
Its preparing of hearts for the Word,  
Its deepening the sense of Mystery.*

*The Word's more explicit expressions are these :  
Its clear revelations of the new,  
Its revelation of written promises,  
Its detailed, more organized messages,  
Its easily accessible stories and prayer-formulas,  
Its articulated vision and surer sense of direction,  
Its clear and comprehensive teachings,  
Its inspirational exhortations and motivations.*

*It is really the difference between  
A person's breath moving out  
From the lungs, and the guts  
And  
The shape given that breath  
When brain, tongue and lips form a word.*

*Again, the work of the Spirit  
Is like an inspired melody:  
It does not reach its full power  
UNTIL the word of the lyricist ...  
Until the voice of the prophet  
Until the Embodiment of the Word, Jesus,  
PROCLAIMS IT!*

## Our Trysting Time <sup>1</sup>

*Silence provides  
A waiting space, a trysting time  
Wherein Mystery speaks ...  
In hushed tones, to each heart.  
Graced chosen silence allows our spirit  
To be mostly emptied  
Of human chatter and our insistent self-talk.*

*Such silence positively encourages us  
To become sensitive  
To the gentle gifting of the Spirit ...  
As we are drawn into that divine journey,  
Into the realms of our own UNCONSCIOUSNESS  
... To that deeply intimate space  
Wherein the Spirit enfolds our spirit, caressingly.*



## Thanksgiving for a Century of Grace <sup>1</sup>

*Our Spirits swell with heartfelt thanks  
For our 20<sup>th</sup> century's countless, interlacing cascades of grace,  
And especially for all those Spirit-filled openings of heart  
... Touching into Eternal Life!*

*We deeply thank You, O Abba,  
– Both for the graced lives of all who still live on  
... In a world enveloped by Your Love,  
– And for those who have 'passed over,' to Eternity's Reality  
...During this past century of world wars and dehumanizing ideologies.*

*... Yet in a century, also BLEST –  
By deepening human connectedness,  
By visionary leadership  
By the precious spread of equality,  
And by profoundly life-enhancing technologies.*

*May all these lives,  
Past and present,  
COME TOGETHER  
In Christ's Paschal peace and rest,  
WITHIN the Ascensional Embrace of You, our Loving Father.*

---

<sup>1</sup> Poem 306 Summer holidays, Gold Coast, New Year's Eve, Jan 31 1999.

NOTE: Written on the last day of the 20<sup>th</sup> century!

Wisdom, Walk Along With Me <sup>1</sup> \*

*(Walking with Jesus, to meet Abba :)*

*Wisdom, walk along with me,*

*Your Spirit in our company,*

*Also bring humility <sup>2</sup>*

*And our friend, simplicity. <sup>3</sup>*

---

Year 2 Prayer Ministry.

1 Poem 307 Summer holidays, Gold Coast, Jan 2000.

\* NOTE: To be sung to a tune of my own.

GENERAL NOTE: On these holidays, I began the composition of a hand-size WALK-BOOK, a book of hymns and poems put to music-for taking on my solo 'prayer-walks'. Sung silently to myself. About half, had original lyrics.

2 'humility' = Mary

3 'simplicity' = St Francis of Assisi, my hero.

**O Abba, Overflow Our Lives** <sup>1</sup> \*

A. As a poem-prayer:

O Abba, overflow our lives with Your Love ...  
Your boundless ever-present Love,  
Your glorious, oceanic Love,  
Your wholly-free, all-powerful Love,  
Your utterly forgiving Love,  
Your ever-constant, freeing Love,  
Your wondrously creative Love,  
Your ever-faithful Covenant Love,  
Your gentle, warm, enrapturing Love,  
Your deeply, deeply, tender Love  
Your one Eternal, peaceful Love ...  
O Abba, overflow our lives with Your Love.

B. As a structured hymn:

- 1 O Abba, overflow our lives ...  
With Your boundless ever present Love,  
    Your boundless ever present Love,  
    Your boundless ever present Love,  
    Your glorious oceanic Love,  
    Your glorious oceanic Love,  
    Your glorious oceanic Love,  
Your glorious oceanic Love.
- 2 O Abba, overflow our lives ...  
With Your wholly-free, all powerful Love  
    Your wholly-free all powerful Love,  
    Your wholly-free all powerful Love,  
    Your wondrously creative Love  
    Your wondrously creative Love,  
    Your wondrously creative Love,  
    Your wondrously creative Love,
- 3 O Abba, overflow our lives ...  
With Your ever-constant, freeing Love,  
    Your ever-constant, freeing Love,  
    Your ever-constant, freeing Love,  
    Your wondrously creative Love,  
    Your wondrously creative Love,  
    Your wondrously creative Love,  
    Your wondrously creative Love.

4     *O Abba, overflow our lives ...*  
      *With Your ever-faithful Covenant Love,*  
          *Your ever-faithful Covenant Love,*  
          *Your ever-faithful Covenant Love.*  
          *Your gentle, warm, enrapturing Love,*  
          *Your gentle, warm, enrapturing Love,*  
          *Your gentle, warm, enrapturing Love,*  
          *Your gentle, warm, enrapturing Love.*

5     *O Abba, overflow our lives ...*  
      *With Your deeply, deeply, tender Love,*  
          *Your deeply, deeply, tender Love,*  
          *Your deeply, deeply, tender Love.*  
          *Your one, Eternal, peaceful Love,*  
          *Your one, Eternal, peaceful Love,*  
          *Your one, Eternal, peaceful Love,*  
          *Your one, Eternal, peaceful Love.*  
      *O Abba, overflow our lives ...*

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Year 2 Prayer Ministry.

1 Poem 308 Summer holidays, Gold Coast, Jan 2000.

\* NOTE: Written to be sung. Tune – I'll Take You Home Again, Kathleen.

See GENERAL NOTE: Poem 307.

**O Abba, Jesus, Loyce** <sup>1</sup> \*

*O Yahweh, God Most Holy,  
Let us offer all to You!  
(REPEAT COUPLET)*

*O Abba, Jesus, Loyce* <sup>2</sup>  
*O bring us home to You!  
(REPEAT COUPLET)*

*O Loving, dearest Abba,  
Enrapture us with love!  
(REPEAT COUPLET)*

*O Spirit who enlivens* <sup>3</sup>

*O on us, pour Your love!  
(REPEAT COUPLET)*

*O Mary, loving Mother,  
O make us family!  
(REPEAT COUPLET)*

*O Thomas, Francis, Michael,  
Isaiah and Moses too,  
O Eddy, Cath, and Charlie,  
My guiding models be.* <sup>4</sup>

*O "Jacob" ... also "Is-ra-el" ...  
"Ron" to "Joseph", then to "Tom",  
Simple "Francis", spousal "Isaac",  
- All Your 'heart-names' for my Way!* <sup>5</sup>

*O tender-hearted Eddy,* <sup>6</sup>  
*Help us be THUS, with the poor ;  
(REPEAT COUPLET)*

*O Loving gentle Jesus,  
Keep us pure and childlike ;  
(REPEAT COUPLET)*

*O Jesus, Lamb of Calvary,  
Be with us here, we pray ;  
(REPEAT COUPLET)*

*O Jesus, loving Saviour,  
O make us sin no more!*  
(REPEAT COUPLET)

*O Joyful, peaceful Spirit,  
Re-create, empower us!*  
(REPEAT COUPLET)

*O Loving, dearest Abba  
Enrapture us with love!*  
(REPEAT COUPLET)

*O Abba, Jesus, Loyce  
May we all be one in You!*  
(REPEAT COUPLET)

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Year 2 Prayer Ministry.

1 Poem 309 Summer holidays, Gold Coast, Jan 2000.

\* NOTE: Written to be sung. Tune: O King of Might and Splendour...

Each couplet (sung twice together) form one stanza of "O King of Might and Splendour"

2 "Loyce". My name for the Spirit-formed from the words LOVE, JOY, PEACE-- (LOYCEE).

3 In the Trinitarian context, I have few prayers addressed TO Christ since we pray, IN CHRIST--- our prayer to Abba, or to Loyce, the Spirit.

4 My "guiding models" are (a) St Thomas, the Apostle, my name in religion, (b) St Francis of Assisi, my hero, (c) Michael Coopes, my adult nephew, prematurely deceased, (d) Isaiah, the mystic prophet, (e) Moses, the voice of God's holiness, (f) Eddy---Bl. Edmund Rice, our founder, (g) St Catherine of Siena, my heroine-as a contemplative, (h) Charles de Foucauld, exemplar of the poor Christ, contemplative.

5 God's "heart-names" for me during my life; for a full poetic history of them

See Poem 397, SEVEN NAMES: SEVEN BLESSINGS.

6 Eddy---Bl. Edmund Rice...being "tender-hearted" to the prisoners he regularly visited.

## Our Life-Giver <sup>1</sup>

*Jesus, cross-carrier, pain-bearer, life-giver,  
Loving Abba, from whom all goodness springs  
... Together, let Your Spirit of Salvation  
Free us from the grip of all that is evil  
Within, and without.  
Good Jesus,  
Be OUR cross-carrier, OUR pain-bearer, OUR live-giver!*

## Give Us Praise <sup>1</sup> \*

*Refrain:                    Give us praise, and we will praise You  
                                 Give us love, and we will love You ...  
                                 [Add couplets 1 – 6, in turn]*

1.                    *... Give us faith –  
                         And we will trust in You, O God.*
  
2.                    *... Forgive our sin –  
                         And we will thank You, from our hearts.*
  
3.                    *... Set us free –  
                         And we will thus be free indeed.*
  
4.                    *... Give us life –  
                         And we will offer all to You.*
  
5.                    *... Give us joy –  
                         And we will give it all away!*
  
6.                    *... Give us peace –  
                         And we will rest in You, our God.*



*You Re-Commission Us*<sup>1</sup>

*Loving Jesus,  
In forgiving us our sin,  
You re-commission us ...  
With the promise of Your Grace,  
This reassurance of Your Presence  
Is Your Spirit at work in us  
– Re-configuring us,  
To be another Christ in our world.*

## Beauty : The Radiance Of Love <sup>1</sup>

*Beauty radiates lives ...  
When a good person lives out the simple truth  
Of what it means to be fully human  
– Being receptive to love, giving of love, personifying love.*

*Indeed, the beauty of life, lies only in love,  
If there is no love in us  
– Past or present, God's love, our love,  
The love of all those who give us life –  
Then there will be no beauty in us  
... Nothing to attract the human heart.*

*God is love: therefore the world is beautiful.  
That love which the Spirit creates between us  
Is beautiful,  
And beautifies our lives.  
The 'beautiful people' – the truly beautiful  
Are those who love as Jesus loves.*

*Abba, Jesus, and the Spirit  
Radiate Their Communing Love  
... Love's Beauty ...  
Into the world around us,  
Adorning our lives, uplifting our spirits.  
Think of a morn, radiant after sun showers wash the air  
... Feel the freshness of Eden in your lungs ;  
See the waves roll and rear, uncoil and roil,  
Splaying themselves on the beach they massage  
... Their swishing fingers tracing patterns of beauty,  
Swirling onto the sand, and laced with edges of foam.*

*Yet people – at their best – easily surpass nature’s glories:*

*Quilting the landscapes with variegated crops,  
Greening the desert, sculpting harbours,  
Fashioning into ever new, creative expressions –  
Sound and song and dance,  
Paint and wood and clay,  
Light and space and movement,  
Ideas, images and emotions,  
Sport and other bodily expressions.  
Surpassingly, co-creatively.*

*Couples can entwine their lives and D.N.A.  
Into NEW persons, who also can beautify  
Our world and our life,  
Through radiating love  
– To reflect the Glory of God’s all-enabling love!*

*Once, in straw, lay a babe  
A weak and tender bundle of love,  
Focussing the beauty of creation anew:  
Impressionable, yielding, new with life,  
Calling for love in all those around Him  
... With the timeless smile and ageless innocence of all new-born.*

*He came to us ...  
So humble, so simple, so very human;  
Yet, He came into life to love  
... So the love, so EVIDENT in His Easter rising,  
Might radiate into our lives  
BEAUTIFYING ALL!*

## The Promise We Rejoice In Today <sup>1</sup>

*Abba,  
Because we trust  
In your ETERNAL Love,  
We will have tomorrows ...  
Pregnant with the promise  
Of the Good News  
We rejoice in today ;  
And yesterdays ...  
Guarantors of love fulfilled !*

## Making Thorns Bloom <sup>1</sup>

*Prepare to wear His crown of thorns,  
To receive His gift of peace.  
That peace, issues, not from the absence of conflict,  
But from UNION WITH HIM  
– The Risen, Crucified One  
Who makes thorns bloom ...*

## Abba Does the Growing <sup>1</sup>

*O Fiery Spirit!  
Fan to full flame  
Our first fervour's  
Flickering faith !*

*Fill us  
With the passion to proclaim  
Your presence  
– In EVERY aspect of living.*

*Yet, also steady my heart  
To accept  
That Abba does the growing  
... If we but trust enough  
To WAIT.*

## Bring To Focus, Abba's Face <sup>1</sup>

*O Pentecost Spirit,  
During our times of prayer ...  
Breathe Your stillness into our hearts,  
And fill us with the whispers of Your Presence  
... So as to bring to focus  
The Loving Face of Abba  
For all who are, in Christ.*

*With a Son's love, Jesus,  
Move us to pour out our love  
For this tenderest of Fathers,  
And within the beauty of His will for us,  
Let your Spirit of Union  
Enfold our hearts' desires  
Within Abba's !*

## Turn Your Spirit Loose <sup>1</sup>

*Father, as we gather within Your love,  
Challenged by your truth,  
Turn Your Spirit loose !*

*Give Your Beloved's face  
– Eternity's Face impressed within our humanity –  
Focus, for our lives.  
Let the deep feelings of Jesus, our fondest brother,  
Course through our spirits  
– Summoning us to energize  
Humanity's 'lost millions', with Easter hope and purpose !*

*Abba, USE US, that Your Son's longings  
May bear fruit.  
Use our prayers, all contemplative hearts,  
– All Christ-like spirits –  
As AVENUES OF GRACE for these lost ones.  
Thus, use us, to transform their new-found Easter hope  
Into "repentance, for the forgiveness of sins". <sup>2</sup>*

*Abba,  
Turn Your Spirit loose  
– Using our spirits, to en-Spirit these lost ones  
So that, with their consent,  
We can say, with Jesus,  
"They were dead, and have come to life,  
They were lost and have been found" ! <sup>3</sup>*



## Strugglers, Stranded, And Strays <sup>1</sup>

*Jesus, it is we –*

*The strugglers,*

*The stranded,*

*And the strays ...*

*Whom You invite –*

*Within your heart*

*Inside Your “inner chamber” <sup>2</sup>*

*... Your chamber of love ...*

*Into the HOME of Your Spirit .*

## Virtues, As Companions <sup>1</sup>

*Humble hearts provide  
Room for God inside ...*

*Patience employ :  
Your harvest is joy!*

*Compassion will bring  
Bruised spirits, new spring ...*

*While lust will beget  
A train of regret,  
Pure love will release  
Deep blessings of peace...*