

Folio Sixteen

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*Meant to be sung

The Kiss Of God ¹

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 ¹

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 ¹

Always the Spirit hovers ²

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" ³

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 ¹

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 ¹

*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 ¹

*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 ¹

*Our Spirits swell with heartfelt thanks
For our 20th 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.*

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

NOTE: Written on the last day of the 20th century!

Wisdom, Walk Along With Me ¹ *

(Walking with Jesus, to meet Abba :)

Wisdom, walk along with me,

Your Spirit in our company,

Also bring humility ²

And our friend, simplicity. ³

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 ¹ *

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, warn, 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 ...

O Abba, Jesus, Loyce ¹ *

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

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

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

O Spirit who enlivens ³

*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.* ⁴

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

O tender-hearted Eddy, ⁶
*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)

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 ¹

*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 ¹ *

*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 ¹

*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 ¹

*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 ¹

*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 ¹

*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 ¹

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 ¹

*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 ¹

*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". ²*

*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" ! ³*

Strugglers, Stranded, and Strays ¹

Jesus, it is we –

The strugglers,

The stranded,

And the strays ...

Whom You invite –

Within your heart

Inside Your “inner chamber” ²

... Your chamber of love ...

Into the HOME of Your Spirit .

