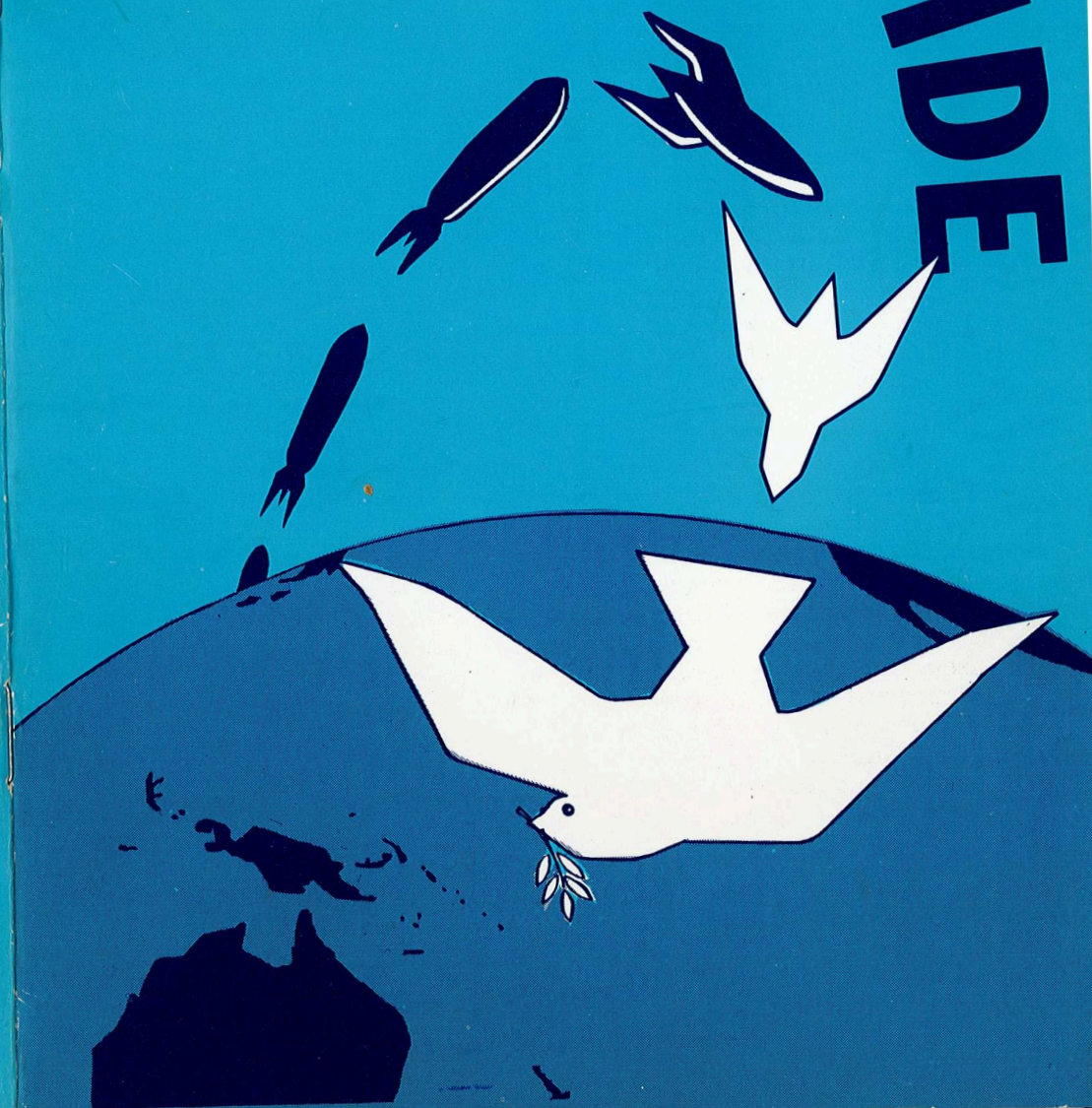


TURN THE TIDE

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Originating from a workshop (funded by the Melanesian Council
of Churches), to determine ways of promoting a Nuclear Free
Pacific in a wider context, it brought together representatives
from churches, national and provincial governments, the media,
community groups and others concerned about responsible
development between man and God in community with His
environment.

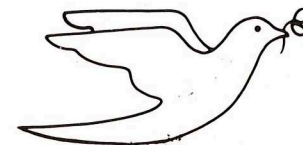
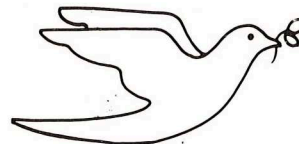
Melanesian Environment Foundation Inc. PO Box 4830, Boroko.
Papua New Guinea.

Poems by

Elizabeth Johnson
in Papua New Guinea

DEDICATION

To: - 'Those Who Care' —
everywhere,
in helping to bring
Harmony and Peace in all the earth.



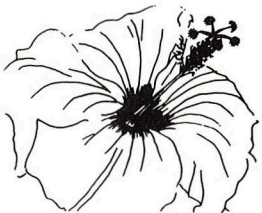
B Ruth
with love.
Betty Johnson



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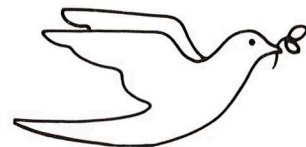
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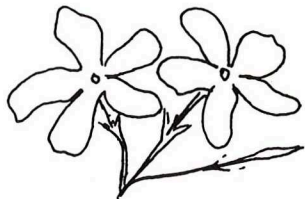


AFTERNOON LIGHT

*Afternoon light falls softly
on the hillside path
while shadows recede
in valleys past,
backdrop now -
as the scene unfolds
and others join
each with their part to play.
Not our will, but thine be done oh Lord,
may your light guide us in your way.*

PEACE

*One full moon light not long ago,
I woke with clear awareness
of deep peace in all the earth.
Alert and listening, I wandered out
to feel and know it more.
Same trees, transformed in shimmering light
Same sky, yet far off stars were close in wholeness
- of all-pervading peace.
deeply it welled from earth beneath,
immense beyond imagining -
All breathed as one (and I a part thereof)
- infinite - eternal.*



TURNING TIDE

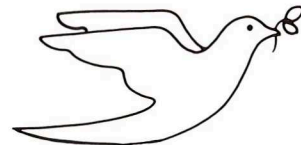
*Swish-wish, slap-lap,
wavelets sliding back
seaweed stranding
in glistening wet streaks
- lingering touches
waiting to return.*

DOOR

*Dear patch of blue and leafy green
greets me through the door,
shadow dappled - sparkling light,
gently swaying shimmering leaves
each with each in radiant whole!
Sheer loveliness, creation's soul.*

DEEP CRY

*Deep cries ache the earth
echoing the heavens.
People stagger; desperate -
to crack the hypocritic hell,
sick-evil dance of death.*



NUCLEAR FUTURE

*Dead ash lies
where science once shone.
Reflection glows
from unknown light
... beyond.*

REQUIEM FOR VIOLENCE

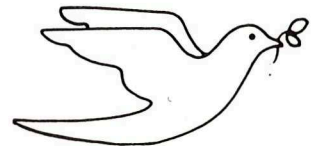
*Giant violence
lies cool -
love holding head
that hatred ruled.
Tears bathe -
both hurter and hurt -
loving the whole.*

EARLY MORNING OVER BOMANA, WAR CEMETERY, SEMINARY AND PRISON

*Vast mountains rise
from low clouds dreaming,
war graves lying,
priests praying,
prisoners - staying.
Creation aches Creator -
gentle mists enshroud.*

PRAYER

*Lighten our darkness O Lord, that our path may become clear
in the light of Your love for all creation.
There is no person or nation who can stand before You,
together we must admit our sins and shortcomings,
together we must ask forgiveness,
that together we may reverse the destruction of all life
by working humbly as fellow-servants
in preparing the foundations of Your Kingdom.
Grant us new hope and strengthen our faith,
that Your will may be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Please Lord - Amen.*



TURN THE TIDE

(For all who care - everywhere!)

*Wake up World! Open your eyes!
See earth's death in nuclear skies.
Expose the murderers, expose the lies,
nuclear war all life denies.*

*Together - we can turn the tide!
Turn the tide - turn the tide -*

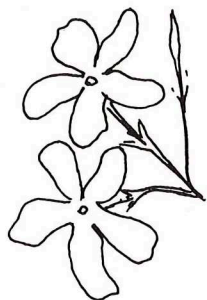
*Join together round the earth,
all who care for future birth.
Open your eyes, open your hearts!
Learn to love until fear departs.
Together - we can turn the tide!
Turn the tide - turn the tide -*

*Small nations have big roles to play,
each and all must take a part,
that means you and you - and you
all people with a caring heart!
Together - we can turn the tide!
Turn the tide - turn the tide -*

*If you're wondering where to start,
peace begins in every heart,
with every thought and every act -
for peace on earth to be a fact.
Together - we can turn the tide!
Turn the tide - turn the tide -*

*Forgiveness we must come to ask
if we want God to help our task.
With humble hearts we need to pray
for God to lead us through each day.
Together - we can turn the tide!
Turn the tide - turn the tide -
Many don't believe in God
but care much more than those who do.
Let's work together every day,
trusting truth to lead the way.
Together - we can turn the tide!
Turn the tide - turn the tide -*

*Join us as we work for Peace!
Join us as we seek the way -
Join us as we ask God's help
for peace on earth to win the day!
Together - we can turn the tide!
Turn the tide - turn the tide -*



ANT

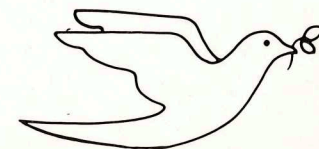
*An ant set out one early morn
to celebrate that he was born.
He felt the earth and sniffed the air -
exciting things were everywhere.
He climbed some grass to look around
but brothers called him to the ground!*

*"You've gotta keep in line" they said
"so keep that message in your head.
Move along and don't be slow!
We ants are always on the go.
We're busy but we're happy too!
We fetch and carry, climb and pull,
whatever keeps our pantry full.
We've little ones at home to feed
and that's our way to meet their need."*

*That little ant soon learned his role,
(no ant was ever on the dole!)
God's made in them their living plan, * 1
they're far ahead of mighty man!
We've yet to learn to do His will
before our plan He can fulfil. * 2*

** 1 Proverbs 6:v6,7,8. "Go to the ant thou sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! 7. It has no commander, no overseer or ruler 8. yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest."*

** 2 Jeremiah 31:v.33.34. "I will put My law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. 34. No longer will a man teach his neighbour, or a man his brother saying. 'Know the Lord.' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest." declares the Lord. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."*



THE GREATEST CRIME

*The greatest crime since earth began
has been prepared by Superman!*

*The crime is to destroy the earth,
all people and all future birth.*

*Judges judge on major crime,
yet legalise the death of time.*

*Superman is supersick,
he's pulling off the devil's trick.*

*Satan fights his own payback -
this is now his big attack!*

*Pride comes before the fall,
pride of crime now holds the ball.*

*The humble of the earth cry out,
"God help us turn this crime about!"*

*The humble have less pride to fall,
it's they who now can play the ball.*

*If they unite around the earth -
God's help could save all future birth.*

Psalm 73, (Pride of violence and control of world communication.)

- v3. *"Therefore I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity
of the wicked.*
- v5. *They are free from the struggles common to man, etc.*
- v6. *Therefore, pride is their necklace; they clothe themselves
with violence.*
- v7. *From their callous hearts comes iniquity, the evil conceits of
their minds know no limits."*
- v8. *They scoff and speak with malice; in their arrogance they
threaten oppression.*
- v9. *Their mouths lay claim to heaven, and their tongues take
possession of the earth."*

CREATION'S NEW DAY

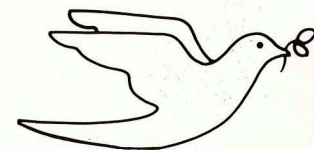
*Again and again I think of you
hoping, trusting that all is well
that time is healing and life revealing
the many ways of making
to-morrow's world with harmony and helping hands
building in gentle equilibrium.*

*Together we must help subdue
the strident voice of violence and greed,
the blind complacency that fears to feel
the aching void and deep despair
of fellow humans everywhere.*

*Hollow voice of politics
rattles in the wind,
rusting doctrines quiver
in blasts of questioning.*

*Tornado of truth, tear down decay
that all may see with brilliancy -
clear light of truth illumine the earth
darkness dissolving in pangs of new birth.*

*Lord almighty, immense beyond imagining,
renew and fulfil our threatened creation.
May your will lead the way
for peoples and nations
to meet you and greet you;
Creator revealing Creation's New Day.*



WORDS - WORDS

*Big words can have a hollow sound.
good hearts are where the truth is found.
The plainnest talk is what we need.
if plain people can succeed.
When people care and try their best
God's help will guide us with the rest.
All our colors, all our creeds
are one in wanting basic needs.
Needs of care for earth and people,
care that listens, care that learns
to live with love in all concerns.*

HABITS

*Habits - like rabbits
are easy to breed,
but harder by far
to break if you need.*

*So make them - or break them
with every due care
for living in harmony
- everywhere.*

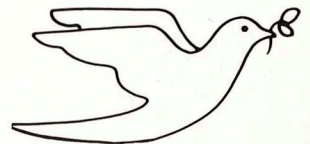


JASMINE

*Centuries of fragrance
float from this flower
beauteous creation
blessing each hour.
Elegant, gentle
... starry bloom ...
may mankind
not destroy your power.*

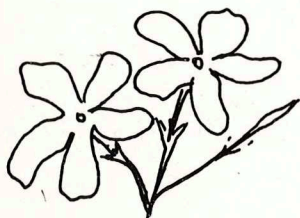
PRAYER

*Jesus, Jesus, Jesus,
fill us with gentleness
in the grace of your Holy Spirit
spreading through all creation
to unite in Your love,
that peace may reign in all the earth.
Please Lord, Amen.*



NAISSANCE

Sometimes,
my soul swells
in flood of tears
for all creation.
More than
here and there
or now and then
but for
the totality
encaged in time
with agonies so vast,
the earth itself
now groans in labor
to release
the expression ultimate
when time
fulfilled,
unlocks its truth
reality revealed
beyond illusion -
shedding dross
to rise in light
fulfilment supreme -
renaissance d'esprit
le monde entier,
alive in love
in love reborn.



MELANESIAN GRAIL *

There lay a land, sun drowsing, jungle clad
- language laden with many tongues.
Traditions most ancient held life intact,
'though warring within, withholding defeat.
Strangers came from other worlds,
crosses saving, baubles selling - confusion!

"Come along! the big world wants
all it can get, from you and you,
from earth and trees and fish from seas!
We've money to buy all you can sell!
You can be like us.. (marvellous in conceit)
.. technology, science, the lot .. complete!
(Don't look now! There's a flash like the sun* *
... we could wipe you out before you've begun!)"

Hold strong, hold fast to all that will last,
The songs and the feelings that run with the wind,
that dance with the dreaming and laugh with the hills!
Hold strong, hold fast to all that is true,
integrity's cast is the challenge for you!
Let truth be the measure, let truth be the trail
that takes you and makes you in finding your grail.*

* **GRAIL.** This word is not used in Papua New Guinea - (it comes from early European history), but its meaning is relevant to the search wherever young countries seek integrity as Christian Nations.

'The Grail' was said to be the cup or goblet used by Christ at the Last Supper and has come to symbolise the attainment of a great ideal.

This idea developed during the time of 'The Crusades' (12th & 13th centuries) when bands of soldiers (Crusaders), set out to resist the Muslims (followers of Mohammed) who had swept through Palestine and Southern Europe as far as Spain. A legend grew amongst them that if The Grail could ever be found, the finders would be given the Grace of Christ in a very special way.

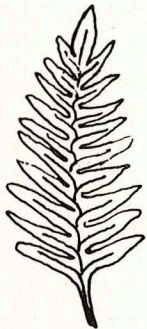
* * 'flash like the sun': During a nuclear explosion, anyone who looks at the flash can be partly or wholly blinded, even at a distance.

RAINFOREST

*Great jungle trees
vines twining
mossed and ferned
moving near you
our hearts absorb
- Your soaring strength.
Breathing your breath
our lives flow
as your sap
in the great oneness
of creation
Oh let us adore
our one Creator!*

PAPUAN DAWN

*Come share with me
a time of early morning
in the wet season,
with dripping trees
and birdcalls
floating out and out
from sparkling wet,
while cool sweet perfumes
emanate and mingle
in the silky mist.*



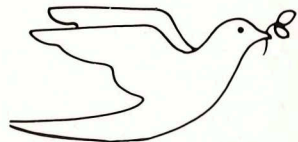
FLOWERING EUCALYPT

*I lie
in a limpid breeze
air-laden with fragrance
of things unspoiled
Beside
a flowering eucalypt
floats - alive with butterflies!
white on black, some small yellow
and in that same tree, there hang
some twenty nests of taylor birds,
leaves woven over and round
to form each little world
in universe of aerial green.*

THE COOL

*Suddenly - today, the wind snaps cool,
turns around and comes in from the sea.
Yesterday's calm - tosses white on the reef
and wild winds hurtle the hills.
The Cool - has come, and with it comes The Dry.*

*Please let there be a little rain
to let the young trees grow again.
(The bad habit of burning grass
kills young trees as fires pass)
Care for the earth, don't give it pain
more trees bring more rain.*



THE WORD

*The Word of the beginning
remains the Word of continuing,
the idea and the unfolding plan
given to the mind of man*

*Each moment revealing
shape that's coming soon -
sense its nearness
imminent high noon.*

*'Wake world! we're one, not three!
not islands in a lonely sea,
but all with hearts and hands
to love with creativity!*

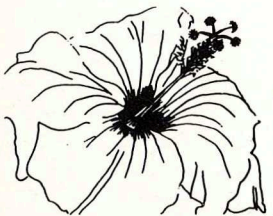
*The Word of the beginning -
remains the Word of continuing
to carry through the crisis
of earth's darkening hour.*

HIGHLAND MORNING

*Silvery clouds
streak the hills
in misty drifts.*

*Lakes, lagoons -
lie dreaming
in morning still.*

*Early birds call bright
greeting another day.
people - moving quietly,
each in their own way.*



ASIAN CONFERENCE OF WOMEN:

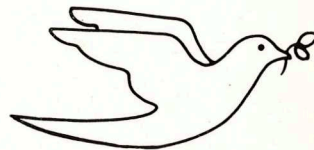
*It's years now since we met
and yet, your presence stays
in the memory of my mind,
along with other keen ones
who helped behind the scenes.*

*While we, the conferees
gathered to discuss and contribute
to inter-understanding
of Asian women and their worlds.
Different - yet one,
and I, an Austral-Asian
was honored to be part.*

*Our worlds now scream for help!
Woman to woman, unite around the earth!
Guard human heritage - all future birth!
In savage protection, pour out our care
in healing the blindness of those unaware.
Wake the sleepers before it's too late -
People - people - wake to your fate!
There's no war to win, but only deep crime
when billions on billions are spent to kill time.
North/south, east/west, will stay apart 'till,
the rising of oneness when all see the whole -
each part unfolding the true global soul.*

WHOLENESS

*Have you ever felt the stars .. soaring?
or listened to the grass .. breathing?
pulsing life all round about
with us, in us
whole .. eternal.*



DAILY ROUND

*I love my little daily round
and greet each day with birds' first sound.
Willy-Wagtail starts the day
as cheery tune he sings away.*

*Neighbour's rooster comes in next
and cock-a-doodles with the best.
'Sweet-pretty-creature' carries on
warbling away his merry song.*

*I make my early morning cup of tea
(very weak is what suits me)
then talk with God and listen too
for guidance in the things to do.*

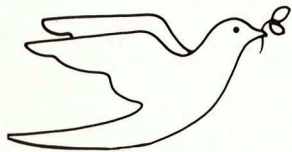
*(Now I'm hearing croak-croak-croak
from frogs enjoying last night's soak!)
I pass my cares for God to hold
His plan for me can then unfold.*

*His will for us is what we need
if daily rounds are to succeed.
and please keep us with humble hearts
for helping other peoples parts.*

*We all need help around the earth
for future life to have more worth.
The earth itself needs loving care -
just love creation everywhere!*

*Hatred has a deadly hold
stronger love can knock it cold!
Don't fool yourself it can't be done,
in Christ creation can be one.*

*This has long been prophesied
how can it be now denied?
(the snag of course is foolish pride)
Thank you God for this small talk,
may we be close in this day's walk.*



COMMENT ON "EDUCATION"

*The missing link in education
is loving care for all creation.
'Development' minus this vital foundation
leads to crime and exploitation.*

*The smartest mostly get to the top,
the rest must manage wherever they stop.
So - the rat race runs along
with little sense of right and wrong.*

*Teachers teach and pastors preach
with little care of each for each,
and if you get to 'higher learning' -
goals aren't 'being whole' but better earning.*

*We need to turn this state around
for true solutions to be found.
It's very good to save our soul
but better still to make us whole.*

*Whole as people, whole with earth -
caring all creation's worth.
Wholeness in Christ's loving care
can help unite us everywhere.*

*The common facts of communism/capitalism
- both are based on plain materialism.
If you gain the world and lose your soul,
people and nations can never be whole.*

*There's talk about sorting out national traditions
but how about sorting our Christian divisions?
This seems to need some explanation
if there's any true meaning in 'Christian Nation'.*

*Differences came in earlier history
- some quite practical, some very gory!
(These things aren't told in 'far away missions'
so 'heathens' are victims of ancient divisions.)*

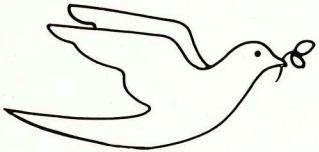
*God knows the humbug - beginning to end,
so we need to be honest if things are to mend.
Honest as true as daylight is day
if Christ's healing spirit can now lead the way.*

RAINBOW LARIKEETS

*Dusk, and the rainbow larikeets
come screeching in
to feed their fill
in the swaying casuarinas.*

*Branch to branch
they swing and turn
chattering and squabbling
for choicest nuts.*

*Then up - and they're off!
flashing and free
in flight for a certain hillside
and favorite roosting trees.*



LARKS*

*If I were a lark
I'd sing -
of love
and love -
and love.*

*Lifting
lighting
leading -
through the days
and dark nights
- to rise
and sing again.*

** Lark. A small brown European bird with a wonderful song, which it pauses to sing as it rises in stages, higher and higher till it's only a speck in the sun. Then it glides back to earth and hops in the grass.
(Sometimes it's song can be heard when it's far out of sight.)*

STORM SUNSET ACROSS GORDONS

*Wet white streaks
gleam bright -
lights shoot darkness
- jump far hills
join dazzling canyon
in leaping luminous clouds.*

SUNLIT SEA

*December, and the dazzle strikes
from glassy sunlit sea -
dark heavy clouds
hang in the dying day.
Black stand the hills
black isles streak silver sea -
illusion leaps reality
in glare of twilit fantasy.*

STORM SUNSET OVER MORESBY HARBOR

*Islands, hills - hang darkly
in shining silver sea
city towers loom stark
over homely harbor villages,
while old Macdhui hulk *
- sideways lying -
murmurs memories.*

** Wreck of a supply ship sunk during World War 2 bombing, now half submerged.*

WILD RED

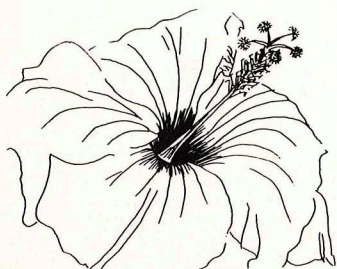
*Waving free and easy
our dazzling common flowers,
the giddy red hibiscus
cheer us through the hours.*

*Scattered through the islands
blazing in the sun,
nectar sweet for sucking birds
or plucked to wear for fun!*

*Daily crop drops down each morn
as new ones take their place,
may we bloom so freely
with simplicity and grace!*

SOGERI - SATURDAY

*Let laughter lift the hills
and fly the sky!
clouds a'scudding
treetops dancing
birds a'singing!
All the world is ringing
- in the Song of Life!*

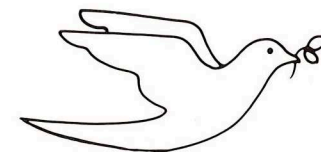


DAWN

*Hi there birds!
'Morning to you all!
Sun's up with rosy glow
and day's begun
in quiet slow.
Dog, still sleeping,
no rush yet,
just birdcalls and I
greeting and meeting
in salutations
to the glory
of another day.
Creation to Creator,
our homage we pay.*

MORNINGS

*Morning time's the best time,
(as far as I'm concerned).
Spinning along with many a song
from point to point - prestissimo!
Praising God and asking Him
to guide the path I'm living in,
to link with love all those who care
for life on earth, just everywhere!
May we come to see Your way
in bringing earth to Your New Day.*

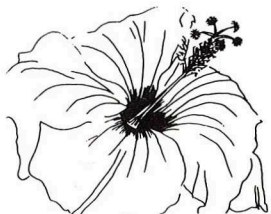


PAPUAN EUCALYPT

*It's not long since the old leaves fell,
broad, tough and rattly
sun-dried in the wind -
so different from the new ones,
pale, tender green and gentle.
How softly they float
- new life breathing,
new life feeling
following the pattern plan
- leaf of eucalypt.*

WHAT AM I?

*I suppose I'm a 'respected person',
but rather an oddity, that's clear.
Wrong sex .. wrong color .. (in PNG)
not academic .. nor church aligned,
plain Christian .. non-denominational
.. .. somewhat apolitical ..
All in all .. I have no niche,
no home .. or category,
just a worker for peace ..
with occasional poetry
or whatever helps,
trusting in Christ
to fulfil His will for me -
my destiny.*



WHO ARE WE?

*I sometimes wonder why I'm me
but there's nobody else I could possibly be.
Do you ever wonder why you're you?
then 'Greetings comrade! and how do you do?'*

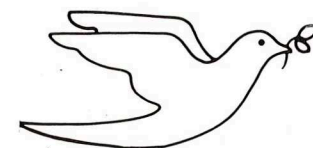
*Wherever we're born or whoever we are
we each have a spirit that can shine like a star.
The spirit of life is the spirit of love
and grows as we tune it with God above.*

ORIGINS AND FUTURE

*There are various theories on how we began
was it Adam and Eve, or one Big Bang?
Interesting thoughts, but better to think
of how to act wisely when life's on the blink.*

MEMO

*It matters only that we love,
and love and love,
till all creation luminates
- with Living Love.
May we unlock a flood of creativity,
working in oneness
through You with us on earth.*



STARGAZING

*Dreamgliding -
starlight engulfed
in aeons luminous
- harmonies swirling
Christic - eternal.*

FOCUS

*Still the chatter of the mind
if peace and quiet you seek to find.
Centrepoint of stillness,
centred Lord on thee,
that actions, thoughts
and each day's life
may flow in harmony.*

TRUTH

*Oh Song of Songs
waiting to be sung,
great wordless sound
of purest truth
breathing deep
in each hearts will
to know and live
full harmony -
expression ultimate.*

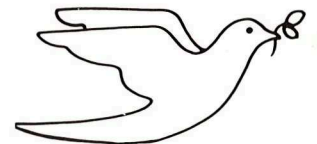


PAST AND FUTURE PRESENCE

*Days past are now
but can now be then?
Each thought cast out
reflects and draws
to where the two can meet,
so then is now
and now is then -
an image to complete.*

TIME AND TIDES

*Translucent blues, dreamgliding in the bay
across tomorrow's shores, or was it yesterday?
Time drifts on the tide and turns again
encircling days in time's embrace
moments in the dreaming,
hope-held in trust -
to love in all eternity.*



LEST WE FORGET

"How many times must a white dove sail before she sleeps in the sand?

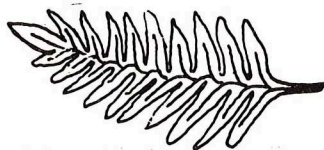
How many times must a cannon ball fly before they are forever banned?"

- The world has now more than 50,000 nuclear weapons whose explosive power is 1,000,000 times greater than all the bombs dropped in World War 2 and Korea.
- One — just one — MX missile has more explosive power than all the bombs dropped in World War 2 and Korea.
- The budget of the US Airforce is larger than the total educational budget for 1.2 billion children in Africa, Latin America and Asia excluding Japan.
- The Soviet Union in one year spends more on military defence than the governments of all the developing countries spend for education and health care for 3.6 billion people.
- Since World War 2 there have been 152 major wars fought in 66 countries causing 20 million deaths.

"How many years can people exist before they're allowed to be free?

How many times can a man turn his head and pretend that he just doesn't see?"

- In 1986, 800 million people live in dire poverty, yet military expenditure in the third world has tripled in the past two years.
- For every 10 scientists in the world, one third work to develop armaments.



- During the First World War, victims were: 5% civilian and 95% soldiers.

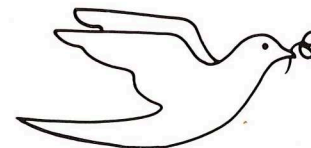
During the Vietnam War,... victims were: 90% civilian and 10% soldiers.

If the 'Great Powers' had a nuclear exchange in 1986 they would totally destroy one another many times over — M.A.D. (mutually assured destruction).

*"How many times must a man look up before he sees the sky?
How many ears must one man have before he can hear people cry?*

How many deaths will it take till we know — too many people have died?"

"THE ANSWER" — LIES WITH YOU.



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