

Through

Eyes

of

**Faith**



Through  
Eyes  
of  
Faith

{poems}

Mary Dixon

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This book is dedicated with love to:

Richard,

Debbie and George, Ben and Sethlyn,

Ritch and Lisa, Nate and Jade,

Mom,

My Church,

My God



# Contents



Acknowledgments .....	.xi
Preface .....	.xiii

## **PART I: FAITH IN VERSE**

1. Can You Imagine? .....	1
2. Can We Learn? .....	3
3. Sense of a Goose .....	4
4. Serving Each Other and God .....	5
5. Hollow Voices .....	6
6. How Can It Be? .....	7
7. Sensing God's Presence .....	8
8. Stand and Fight .....	10
9. Reminders .....	11
10. Always Near .....	13
11. I'll Go Home .....	14
12. Do No Harm .....	15
13. Satan .....	17
14. Be Wary .....	18
15. Future .....	19
16. Time .....	20
17. Look Up .....	21
18. The Other Side .....	22
19. Nature's Trust .....	23
20. Nature's Bouquet .....	25
21. For Me .....	26
22. Fear Not .....	28
23. Today .....	30

24. You and Me . . . . .	31
25. True Love . . . . .	32
26. Just Hold On . . . . .	34
27. Pick Up Your Cross . . . . .	36
28. From Sorrow to Joy . . . . .	37
29. Make Your Peace . . . . .	38
30. What Do We Do? . . . . .	39
31. Sun and Rain . . . . .	41
32. Sock-It-To-Me . . . . .	42
33. Talking to the Lord . . . . .	43
34. Jesus Among Us . . . . .	44
35. Trinity . . . . .	45
36. Working on a Building . . . . .	46
37. Winds of Time . . . . .	47
38. Joy of Salvation . . . . .	48
39. Good and Evil . . . . .	49
40. Life's Shadow . . . . .	50
41. Sick Souls . . . . .	51
42. Signs of the Times . . . . .	52
43. Way, Truth, Life . . . . .	54
44. Eyes of Faith . . . . .	55
45. He Lives! . . . . .	56
46. A Poet's Prayer . . . . .	57

**PART II: FAITH IN SONG**

47. Wait and Watch . . . . .	61
48. I'll Be New . . . . .	62
49. Holy Fire . . . . .	63
50. Satan Cannot Stand . . . . .	64
51. Serving You . . . . .	65
52. Inside Your Heart . . . . .	66
53. Sing a Song . . . . .	67
54. Never Lonely . . . . .	68
55. I Love You, Jesus . . . . .	69
56. Praise His Name . . . . .	70



### **PART III: FAMILY AND FUN POETRY**

57. I Am Me . . . . .	73
58. From My Kitchen Door . . . . .	74
59. Chigger Digger. . . . .	76
60. Bath Time . . . . .	77
61. On a Mission . . . . .	78
62. I Am Here . . . . .	79
63. Granny. . . . .	81
64. 'Tis a Puzzlement!. . . . .	82
65. Enduring Love . . . . .	83
66. Black-eyed Susans and Queen Anne's Lace. . . . .	84
67. Memories. . . . .	85
68. Domestic Servant. . . . .	86
69. Socrates . . . . .	87
70. Leaves. . . . .	88
71. Bluebirds . . . . .	89
72. Nan's Wooden Rocker . . . . .	90
73. Thanksgiving . . . . .	91
74. I Wrote a Poem Today . . . . .	92
75. Imprisoned Heart. . . . .	93
76. Bite Your Tongue . . . . .	95
77. Let Me See . . . . .	97
78. All is Well. . . . .	98
79. Hidden Treasures . . . . .	99
80. Rebirth. . . . .	101
81. Avarice in High Places . . . . .	102

### **PART IV HOW-TO POETRY**

82. Phone Number Poetry: 838-2312 . . . . .	107
83. Who, What, Where, When, Why, How Poetry . . . . .	108
84. Mosaic Poetry: Winter . . . . .	109
85. Mosaic Poetry: Friends . . . . .	110
86. Prepositional Phrase Poetry . . . . .	111
87. Preposition Word Bank . . . . .	112

**PART V: CHRISTMAS JOY**

88. Precious Memories and Honest Answers: A Short Story . . . . . 117  
89. Mary's Heart . . . . . 119  
90. Do We Think? . . . . . 121  
91. Just Her Baby Boy . . . . . 122  
92. The Name of God . . . . . 123  
93. Manger Child. . . . . 125  
  
Epilogue. . . . . 127

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# Preface



*THROUGH EYES OF Faith* is a book of poetry and inspirational thoughts for people who love the Lord, love life, and love reading about the good news of Jesus Christ. Even in the face of bad news that abounds in the world, Christian people can rejoice and find peace in the midst of what seems to be pure chaos. Yes, there are wars, pestilences, famines, and great earthquakes, all of which seem to indicate the nearness of end times. Some might argue that these events have always been a part of life on Earth. Yes, they have. However, over two thousand prophecies have been fulfilled exactly as told in the Bible with no error. Each event represents the good news of Jesus Christ if we look through eyes of faith.

Prophecies are being fulfilled before our very eyes at an unprecedented rate. Should Christians worry? No. We should watch and pray and share the gospel at every opportunity. The Bible says, “Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him” (James 1:12 KJV). Paul said, “Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 3:13, 14). Like Paul and the early Christians, looking toward the future through eyes of faith and with humble hearts assures the prize for which God calls His children heavenward in Jesus.

Heaven is not a metaphor. It is a real, eternal place that is being constructed by Jesus for the faithful. Jesus said, “I go to prepare a place for you that where I am, there you may be also” (John 14:2). However, in a world of instant communication, there are so many who have heard the good news with their ears, but not with their heart. How many messages—cell-phoned, text-messaged, or faxed—contain the good

## xiv Through Eyes of Faith

news of Christ? Are people as excited about attending Sunday school, church, or youth group as they are about using the technology that gives them instant access to friends? Do they know their best friend is just a prayer away? How much do they know about accessing God and looking forward to Heaven through faith in Jesus? How can Christian people get the message out to a seemingly uninterested world? Each of these questions deserves conscientious and immediate thought.

Addressing every question cannot be achieved within the pages of this small book, but the basics of finding and serving Christ can be found in the scriptures, thoughts, and poems the Lord has given. As with my first book, *Faith Finds Expression*, it is my sincere prayer that *Through Eyes of Faith* will uplift, teach, comfort, allay fear, encourage, and prompt serious thought about the role faith plays in the lives of Christian people. It would be a great thrill to see someone accept Christ as a result of reading this book.

Part I  
Faith in Verse





# Can You Imagine?



Can you imagine . . .  
Sitting at the feet of Jesus,  
Hearing the kindness in His voice  
While He explains mysteries of the ages  
As the angels, in chorus, rejoice?

Can you imagine . . .  
Gazing in awe at the glory of Heaven,  
Walking on streets of pure gold,  
Seeing prophets, martyrs, and kings  
Of the Bible in days of old?

Can you imagine . . .  
Meeting loved ones of earlier times,  
Greeting them with a kiss,  
Singing with them a new song  
In perfect harmony and bliss?

Can you imagine . . .  
Dancing with wild abandon,  
Having no worry, sorrow, nor pain,  
Giving the highest praises  
To the precious Lamb that was slain?

## 2 Through Eyes of Faith

Can you imagine . . .  
Feasting at an endless table  
With all saints of ages past,  
Knowing with no uncertainty  
That you've made it home at last?

But as it is written, eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

—1 Corinthians 2:9 KJV

# Can We Learn?



WHILE TEACHING A Cooperative Learning class, my colleagues and I discussed “Lessons from the Geese” (*Agricultural Notes*, Issue 97, Merle W. Boos, editor, ELCA). Essentially, the article said that when geese fly in a V-formation, “uplift” is created for the birds that follow. Only when a bird falls out of formation does it feel the drag and resistance of flying alone and quickly gets back in place. When the lead goose gets tired, it moves back into the formation and allows another goose to take the lead. All of the geese honk to encourage those up front not to slow down. When a goose gets sick or injured, two others drop out of formation and follow their fellow goose down to provide protection. They continue to stay with the afflicted member until he or she is able to fly again or dies. After that, they take flight, sometimes joining with another formation or catching up with their own flock.

Can we learn from the geese? It seems that people can get where they are going and accomplish more by working with others who have a common goal. It helps to associate with people who are headed where we want to go. It makes sense to take turns and share each other’s loads. The Bible instructs us to “Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ” (Gal. 6:2 NIV). Obeying God’s directives makes life a lot easier for everyone.

Also, “honking” each other onward lifts spirits and infuses new energy into a task. Lastly, staying with those who have needs until the end (whatever that might be) shows compassion. “Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me” (Matt. 25:45 KJV). Can we learn from the geese?

# Sense of a Goose



So, you've allowed yourself  
To get off-track  
And you are too stubborn  
To ask the way back.  
Don't whine and snivel  
And make an excuse.  
Just pray for the sense  
God gave a goose.

So, you don't always  
Achieve things your way.  
Get over it. Let go.  
What else can I say?  
Don't rant and rave  
And threaten abuse.  
Just pray for the sense  
God gave a goose.

So, you're sick and tired  
Of the worry and strife.  
You wonder what's in store  
For the rest of your life.  
Just give it to Jesus  
And turn it all loose.  
Then pray that God gives you  
The sense of a goose.

. . . for with the Lord is unfailing love and with him is full redemption.  
—Psalm 130:7 (NIV)

# Serving Each Other and God



When I sail through high, troubled waters  
Weathering many storms in this life,  
It teaches me to feel compassion  
For others who are experiencing strife.

When I climb the rough mountain passage  
And sink to the depths of despair,  
It shows me how to help those in need  
When it's their time to travel there.

When I struggle through dry, sandy deserts  
And the Valley of the Shadow of Death,  
It helps me to feel my brother's pain  
When he struggles to draw his next breath.

When I walk through perilous pathways  
And the many roads I must trod,  
It shows me the reason for living  
Is for serving each other and God.

Serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.

—1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)

# Hollow Voices



Listen to the voices  
Wafting on the wind.  
Hollow, haunting voices,  
Pleading to come in . . .  
Hungry for contentment  
And the touch of a gentle hand,  
With souls as dry and thirsty  
As the arid desert sand.  
With a drink of Living Water,  
And a piece of the Bread of Life,  
They can know that there is respite  
From their ever-present strife.  
Help them with their many needs.  
Pull them close into your breast  
So that they, too, can find their purpose  
And, in God, a peaceful rest.

The Lord heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.  
—Psalm 147:3 (NIV)

# How Can It Be?



I gaze in wonder at the night-time sky,  
Trying to fathom the how and the why  
He created such beauty for someone like me.  
How can it be?

I marvel at the dawning of a brand-new day  
While seeking the meaning, looking for a way  
To grasp the fact that He's mindful of me.  
How can it be?

I tremble in awe at the magnificent peaks  
Knowing they are symbols of how He speaks  
Of His great love for me.  
How can it be?

It quickens my heart when I pause to recall  
That in the beginning He made it all.  
Then sent His Son to die for me.  
How can it be?

I don't know all the mysteries of life,  
But I know His blessings are wondrous and rife.  
How is it that He loves even me?  
I accept it, but wonder, "How can it be?"

Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting  
God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow  
weary; his understanding is unsearchable.

—Isaiah 40:28 (NIV)

# Sensing God's Presence



I hear God's proclamation of power  
As thunder rumbles across the sky.  
God speaks a sweet message of innocence  
In a newborn baby's cry.

I read God's direction of endurance and faith  
In the map of a wrinkled old face.  
Each tiny line relates a true story of love,  
Of peace, and of hope in His saving grace.

I see how our Father provides daily  
For the needs of each tiny bird.  
He satisfies my spiritual hunger  
When I partake of His Holy Word.

The fragrant scent of the honeysuckle,  
As the summer evening grows dim,  
Reminds me of the sweet, sweet savor  
Our lives should bring to Him.

I taste the Living Water and the Bread of Life  
That the Lord so humbly gives.  
I feel the Holy Spirit stirring in my heart;  
I know my Savior lives.



He speaks to us in many ways  
That let us know He is always close by;  
That, through Him, we can do all things  
If we only believe and try.

The Lord God tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs  
in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those  
that have young.

—Isaiah 40:11 (NIV)

# Stand and Fight



When you feel that you're adrift on the troubled Sea of Life,  
And everywhere you look you see sorrow, pain, and strife;  
Just listen for that tap, tap, tap, and open your heart's door.  
He will bring redemption; deep peace forevermore.

When burdens seem so heavy and you are feeling blue,  
Just stand upon His promises and know that they are true.  
Keep your faith and pray—stand boldly for the fight.  
Put on God's whole armor, and brandish it with might.

Some day when we're no longer bound by time and space,  
We have finished up the course and won Life's long, hard race,  
The trumpet will—at last—sound the blast for us to rise,  
And we will meet our Savior in the eastern skies.

So stand, fight boldly in this battle we call Life.  
Satan is the enemy and his evil wiles are rife.  
But with your shield of faith and God's Word as your sword,  
Truth and righteousness will win this battle for the Lord.

Put on the whole armor of God that ye may be able to stand against  
the wiles of the devil.

—Ephesians 6:11 (KJV)