

MORE



REFLECTIONS

Pictures and Prayers by Jill Geoffrion
Poems by Bob Kimberly

"More Reflections"

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Published in the United States by Bob Kimberly

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Published by

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The sea is only movement and love.
It is the living infinite.

Jules Verne

The pictures in this book were taken by Jill on a cruise she and her husband Tim took from Australia across the Pacific Ocean with stops in places like French Polynesia and the Easter Islands enroute to Lima, Peru and around the horn to Buenos Aires. On the cruise Jill posted a daily blog with pictures and prayers. Her father, Bob, selected a few of the pictures to use as prompts for his poems.

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Where is God?

God can appear anywhere, anytime. Why is God's appearance always such a surprise?!

My prayer response:

I pray for the peace that You bring—even when Your arrival initially causes shock, uncertainty, or fear. You are my peace, I know. Prince of Peace, help me to be at peace in Your presence.

He is Here

Atop the Cathedral
His image looks
Over all his creation
Where we can find Him
When we look with our heart.



Below the Surface

What seems invisible may be even more compelling than what can be seen. Putting oneself into unknown waters involves both danger and reward. Experiencing the beauty of the unimaginable feels well worth the risk.

My prayer response:

May I find the courage to leave the familiar and plunge myself into Your Unknown Depths, I pray.

Below the Surface

Like a baby bird
Leaving its nest,
We discover a world
We could not imagine
With much to learn
When we venture out
Into the unknown.



Leaning In Giant Petrel

To ride the currents, what an experience! Resistance contributes to seeming effortlessness. Abandon and trust do too.

My prayer response:

May I embody the complexity of who You created me to be with acceptance, grace, and joy.

Leaning In

The Giant Petrel soaring
so effortlessly
on unseen winds
reminds me that
being in tune
with my environment
provides the peace
to find creative space.



Balance

Where am I? Why is the challenge of holding internal and external realities in balance so hard?!

My prayer response:

God, sometimes things are so clear, but only in the small picture—or only inside. Help me to keep a balanced perspective that includes seeing holistically, I pray.

Balance

Like the solitary goose making its way across the valley instinctively adjusting to the wind beneath its wings, we strive to hold to our course in our quest to keep balance in our lives as we face the challenges of the ever changing world



Changing (Chilean fiord)

Change happens continually. The less I resist it, the more I appreciate its gifts.

My prayer response:

Reality, help me to grow in my acceptance of change as a normal part of life.

Changing

Wind, rain, ice
shape the mountains,
and like those mountains
our lives are being changed
as we are buffeted by events,
but unlike the mountains
we can control
how they shape us
as our lives play out.



Power

Natural forces are powerful beyond comprehension. Their wildness, whether spewing hot lava to bring more land into being, or sculpting the landscape with glacial force, is inspiring.

My prayer response:

Wow, God! Wow! May I accept the power you have given me to both create and reshape. May I use it to serve You.

Power

Hot lava builds
Mountains
Slowly moving ice
Brings mountains
Down into valleys
The power of
Fire and ice
Sculpts the landscape.



Elemental

A gentle breeze, tall mountains, deep waters, and the radiating sun. My body-being, perceiving the harmony, reverberated with awe and gratitude.

My prayer response:

All In All, Thank You.

Elemental

As I look out
on this tranquil scene,
I see the water,
the mountains,
the clouds,
all as elements
placed together
to make up
the awe inspiring world.



Praise

Standing in awe before the majesty of creation is one way to praise the Creator.

My prayer response:

Creator, no words could begin to describe the way I feel standing with the pure force, beauty, and movement of these waterfalls. I'm sure You can sense how the experience leads me to gratitude, amazement, and praise.

Praise

When we see
a bubbling brook
grow into a river of
such power and majesty,
we realize that
each of us has within us
the ability and grace
to accomplish more
than we thought possible.



Contemplation

Sometimes there is nothing to say, nothing to do.
Only to appreciate.

My prayer response:

God, I wonder at who You must be. With gratitude
beyond words, Jill

Contemplation

Gazing up at the mountain
With its covering of snow
Other time and places
Come to mind,
The softly rounded Blue Ridge,
The sharp peaks of the Alps,
The snow covered Rockies,
The Olympics across the sound.
Each of these has a story
And evokes still other memories
Of special times in my life.



Day of Rainbows

On a very cloudy, misty day, rainbows kept appearing. With them, my sense of amazement, wonder, and joy grew and grew until I almost could not contain it!!!

My prayer response:

Amazing God, thank you for the ways that the unseen reality can break through to my eyes, mind, heart, and spirit. More than gratefully yours, Jill

Rainbows

A misty day
The sun behind me
A double rainbow
Arching above the hill
Amazing colors
In the sky.



Reflection

Sunsets, especially when viewed over still water, invite calm reflection.

My prayer response:

God, embraced by the beauty of this moment, I thank You for the day that has passed. Help me to understand its gifts and challenges as You understand them. May the time we spend together reflecting help me to live tomorrow with even greater sensitivity to Your will for my life and the world.

Reflection

Sunset
reflected on the water
causes me to
Stop
to reflect on
all the beauty
I see around me.



Darkness and Light

There is beauty in darkness. There is beauty in light.
There is astounding beauty in the commingling of
darkness and light.

My prayer response:

God, Thank You for the lovely complexity of
creation—and life.

Darkness and Light

Light fights its way
Through the dark overcast
Creating beauty
In the foreboding clouds.



Facing Fear (Ray)

Sensing danger can be instinctual. It can be imagined. It can be overcome.

To swim with rays, to run my hand over their smooth and rough skin, to experience their making eye contact invited me to reconsider, "What am I afraid of?"

My prayer response:

Fear. Wonder. Caution, Interest. Amazement. Joy.

Facing Fear

Encountering the unknown
Creates fear
And a sense of danger
Which can be overcome
As we gain knowledge
And look into the face
Of what it is
That we fear.



Cross Currents

Turbulence can fascinate, destabilize, and purify. Crossing through its watery power, I feel vulnerable, strong, terrified, and excited.

My prayer response:

God, use my respect for nature's forces to know You better. Your power can feel really scary. Help me to trust You, especially when I'm afraid.

Turbulence

When our lives are disrupted by turbulence, like the interaction of ocean currents, we need to know our heading and then stay the course to navigate through these times until we reach calm water.



Self-Knowledge

Rumi encouraged, "Your heart is the size of an ocean, go find yourself in its hidden depths." Knowing and accepting every part of myself, the part that grows slowly like coral, the part that makes use of the current of another, the part that terrifies others like a shark can, the part that catches light, the part that reflects light—every part—is a challenge that I am trying to live.

My prayer response:

Creator, help me to know and accept myself more fully.

Self-Knowledge

To know thyself
Is a challenge.
Like God knows me,
I know my goings out
And my comings in,
And I wonder what
I should hide
Fearing that others
May know me
As I know myself.



Soaring

What would it feel like to fly? When I close my eyes and imagine myself soaring; it feels expansively joyful! The closest I come to realizing this experience is when I pray, opening myself to God's immense potentiality. Bringing myself into the Spirit's presence and being in the midst of Christ's creative life force lifts me towards the horizons of what is possible.

My prayer response:

God, Thank you for calling me beyond myself. Here I am.

Soaring

Gazing up at birds
I wonder what it would be like
to soar across the sky
riding the air currents
looking down on the land below
experiencing the vastness
of all I see.



Really?

So much is learned just by looking. As Henri Cartier Bresson, the French photographer, said, "I look, I look, I look. It is with my eyes that I understand."*

My prayer response:

Teach me to see as You see, O God.

Really

How often we look
But do not see,
Or listen and
Do not hear.
I write to know
What I see and hear.



Moving On

Endings always involve beginnings. Today I leave Sydney and head out into the Tasman Sea for the next phase of my sabbatical. Spreading one's wings, paying close attention to one's surroundings, and riding the currents that one encounters are all invaluable during any journey—external or internal.

My prayer response:

On we go, God, into what is unknown to me. Thank you for all that I will experience and learn. Thank you for the beauty that I am discovering in this moment of anticipation and the beauty of the moments that will embrace me. Help me to embody all the flexibility, openness, and awareness I am capable of.

Moving On

Off we go, Oh God,
Moving on to new chapters.
We pray for blessings.

Jill Kimberly Hartwell Geoffrion is a photographer and an ordained minister. She has published seven books on Labyrinths including one on the Cathedral at Chartres where her pictures are used in seminars and retreats.

Bob Kimberly started writing poetry after he retired. He has published three books of poems.



Approach

This small Burrowing Owl watched me closely, just as I looked carefully at it. Calmly, step by step, I moved as close as possible.

My prayer response:

God, I sense Your ability to come closer without scaring me off. Thank You.

Approach

As I approach
this little owl,
it stands motionless
watching, waiting,
wondering if it
should stand its ground,
or be afraid and retreat.