

Preface

Each day brings its own rhythms and questions. Sometimes the day passes in a predictable manner. Sometimes the unexpected intrudes into a well-ordered day. Unforeseen personal events, unpredictable events, news of global disasters can disrupt the rhythms of life.

Perhaps there are times when we question our faith in God or look for answers in the Bible. We may turn to prayer or listen to a favourite piece of music while we wait for the ordinary rhythms of life to return. The stories and reflections in this book are offered for use during such times. They are stories from ancient times that can remind us that the predictable and the unpredictable can occur no matter where life takes us.

The ten Reflections centre around women and men in the biblical narrative. The stories from the Old Testament speak of times when lives become tangled with demands in relationships. In times of conflict God is silent or sometimes God is the voice of authority and power.

The stories from the New Testament tell of women and men who encounter Jesus as healer and teacher. There are conversations that lead to the recognition of Jesus as the Son of God.

The reflections have been created as stories that go beyond the written text. The creative style for retelling episodes read into the silences that surround the people and the events that occur in their lives. I am indebted to a hermeneutic created by Dr. Elizabeth Schussler Fiorenza that invites readers to go beyond the written text, to ask questions and most importantly, to let God speak through the words and the silences.

Each reflection is for personal use or for the use of groups as Bible conversations. The times for pausing and reflecting are times for the reader to use for their own moments of quietness.

The undertaking to write these series of reflections came as a response to a request from Geoffrey Wellington, Presbytery Minister in the Canberra Region Presbytery, The Uniting Church in Australia. Thank you for the challenge and the trust placed in my skills as a writer and a storyteller.

I also extend my deep appreciation and thanks for the support and encouragement I receive from the following people.

Mark Faulkner who convinced me to pick up my creative writing skills after I retired.

Basil Rebera, my husband and Bible scholar, who makes sure my creative storytelling stays true to the biblical narrative.

Margaret Reeson, writer, critic and friend, who encourages me to be myself and “tell it like it is!”

Carolyn McAllister, editor of *Perspective* for her patience and quick responses to my numerous emails.

Bill Lang for his advice and work on book design and publishing.

Finally, my thanks to Mark Faulkner for his cover illustration that reflects the numerous moments of each ordinary day, and the times when the unexpected breaks through such moments.

It is my hope that the words on the page will touch you and evoke a response that is personal as well as challenging for the ordinary times of Life.

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