

Poetry Series

**Eva L. Shaw**  
**- poems -**

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## Eva L. Shaw(July 6,1950)

I am a woman who loves life. Being raised on an ON farm gave me a perspective of creation, life and death. Enduring a chronic and potentially fatal childhood illness brought discipline and gratefulness. My husband teaches severely handicapped children and my two children teach music. I am a family therapist. As a mature student I graduated with a Doctorate in Counselling at the age of 48. Music, writing, poetry, gardening, helping others and my faith in God create my purpose,

# A Gracious Miracle

A young mother one day,  
                    Knelt by her son's bedside  
The doctor told her that he would likely die,  
The little body was so still lying in that bed  
All alone in anguish she prayed.  
Jesus, touch this little one,  
Yes, He needs your touch just now  
Make him well, make him whole and make him alive,  
And Jesus smiled another smile and He touched my little boy,  
He made him well, He made him whole he made him alive.  
And so I thank you today  
For that Holy touch from above.  
For answering prayer, answering prayer,  
Yes, answering my prayer.  
And as I watch my little boy play,  
Run and shout about today,  
Thank you Lord, I praise you Lord,  
I need you Lord.  
Jesus touch someone today,  
Yes, someone needs your touch just now-  
Make them well, make them whole and make them alive  
And Jesus will smile another smile  
And He will touch your heart and soul  
He'll make you well, make you whole  
And make you alive.  
Thank you, Lord.

Eva L. Shaw

# A Nightmare Revealed

Innocence, innocence  
Destruction, destruction  
Betrayal, betrayal  
Love, unloved  
Confusion, confusion  
Incest-abuse.  
To trust people, to love someone  
To be harmed, black, feathers,  
Candles-death  
Little child, torture, pain  
Outside humiliation, inside destruction  
One become two, two become three  
Survival-oh the pain  
Survival-fear-torture  
Must I do this, yes I must, there's no choice  
Three, four, push it back, push it back.  
Mother, father, trust, no trust,  
Oh those visits, family tradition,  
What is truth? What is truth?  
Many, many, more and more -questions.  
Future question, future trials,  
Help me, help me,  
What is love, where is love,  
Help my confusion, earn my respect, help me love,  
Tell it, tell it, oh for you, oh for you.

Eva L. Shaw

# A Reflection

There once was a child  
Filled with play,  
Joyous and happy,  
Beaming with light.  
The world became dark.  
For years a bleak place.  
Sad and neglected,  
A sad, sorry sight.  
As years came and went,  
Troubled tumultuous and growth -  
The happy little girl  
Wanted to be part  
Of the woman's life now.  
But, still rejected by all,  
Hide her we don't want her -  
Be adult - we like you sad.  
I won't hide I will be seen  
One day to the world  
And those who could have seen  
Will regret not sharing  
That little girl's life.  
In reflection, I see her now.

Eva L. Shaw

# Am I Dreaming

When I first saw you  
All I could do was giggle  
Is this for real, or a dream?  
Does the colour beige mean anything?  
Does the smile?  
What about the walk and  
How about the sunshine?  
Conversation, no words were enough  
Is this for real? Then,  
Life made a call  
A plan had been made  
That could not be changed  
Is this for real?  
The return and connection  
Stronger than before  
All became a reality  
With flowers at my door.  
Arms wide open  
Sweetness to behold  
Gentleness so timely  
Quiet love at my door.  
Love so amazing  
Love so very strong  
Is this for real? For,  
If it is a dream, I  
Wish to never wake up.  
No, it is true, yes it is true  
Love in its best kind  
Happened that day!

Eva L. Shaw

# Charity

Faith, Hope and charity,  
Faith, hope and charity,  
Faith hope and charity,  
But the greatest of these is  
Charity.

Sometimes our faith is so strong, yes so strong,  
He moves mountains out of our way,  
But, Paul tells us we will surely fail,  
Without charity, yes, charity is Christ.

We all need hope and have it in Him,  
He is our hope every day,  
But God's Word tells us that  
Charity is love,  
Yes, charity, charity is love.

We can prophesy, have knowledge and be so wise,  
Help the poor with our wealth,  
We can be a martyr and bear our load,  
But, we need charity for charity never fails.

So, love your neighbour, love your enemy,  
Help the despised and be kind,  
Sincere love is felt without a word,  
We need love for charity is love,  
Yes,  
Charity, charity is love.

Eva L. Shaw

# Decisions

Here I sit in the sunshine contemplating.  
Soon a decision will have to be made.  
I see the cross-road ahead  
Coming closer and closer.  
Do I turn, or do I walk on?  
I pray for guidance to  
Choose the way.

The Bible is my road map,  
Jesus said 'I walk with you'  
'I will guide you'  
Trust me in the present  
For the future when it comes  
Will be My will for you  
And, you will know.

Trust in the Lord with all of your heart and  
Lean not unto thine own understanding  
In all thy ways acknowledge Him  
And He shall direct thy path.  
I weigh it in my wisdom,  
Speak to elders who have more  
I question and oh how I question

The effects on many lives will happen  
This is overwhelming to me  
Procedure dictates the rules  
And so I guess we will see.  
So, Lord guide this process  
Bring your will to me  
For, what can I do without you?

Your will be done now and forever  
Let me be your hands, feet, ears and eyes,  
To work as you worked on this earth  
With compassion, trust and gentleness  
Lord, reflect these through me, and  
The decision will be made.  
With praise, love and thanksgiving



Amen

Eva L. Shaw

# Friendship

Jesus is the giver of life in troubled times,  
He shows me the way that I must go,  
He's always there to help me if I only ask,  
He's the best friend I could ever have.

He's the best friend,  
He's the best friend,  
He's the best friend,  
I could ever have.

There are times in this old earth  
When He seems far away,  
I know this is me and  
I must go to Him  
He's not so far away  
If I only ask  
He's the best friend  
I could ever have.

At times when I can't even find the words to say,  
He sends a friend to help me on my way,  
Each time I need a helping hand He sends someone,  
To show me He's my friend and He's my stay.

So be a friend to someone  
Who needs you today  
Let Christ shine through your life to them  
They need your love from  
Christ above, whatever their state

Just love them and  
Show them He is their friend.  
Just love them, Just love them,  
Just love them and  
Show them He is their friend,  
Just love them, Just love them,  
Just love them and  
Show them He is their friend.

Eva L. Shaw

# From My Heart To Yours

I sit and wonder and wait for  
You, my friend.  
Feeling compassion and excitement for  
You, my friend.  
You are a wonderful person  
With an adventuresom spirit,  
I sit and wonder and wait.  
Amazed - I dream  
I wonder and wait,  
Where are you my friend, where are you?  
Do you hear me, do you feel my prayers?  
My eyes want to see deep into your spirit,  
Please, come to me.  
Come and bring your spirit  
As only you can do.  
So, where are you?  
When will I know?  
What will you say?  
How will you be?  
I want to hear the stories  
The wonder of it all, because  
I know, Cambodia has changed your life,  
Forever.....

Eva L. Shaw

# Hope

As I walked down life's pathway all alone  
I met a friend called Jesus on the way  
I asked Him to come into my heart and live within  
And I would love Him, yes love Him, forevermore.  
The path was narrow, the path was straight, the path to home  
He was guiding me on the rough uneven road  
I was trusting, ever trusting in my Lord  
As I walked down life's pathway I wasn't alone.  
The way is sometimes weary  
And the way is sometimes hard  
The way is always exciting  
Because I am trusting in His way  
As I let Him lead me on  
Ever trusting, ever loving  
He's leading me home.  
One day He said to me, 'You need to walk on in My way  
Will you serve me, will you trust me forevermore? '  
Then He said, ' I will lead and not just guide  
Step by step ever trust me, I must lead.'  
The way was sometimes weary, and  
The way was sometimes hard  
The way was always exciting  
Because I was trusting in His word.  
The way was His way  
As I let Him guide me on  
Ever trusting, ever loving  
He is leading me home.

Eva L. Shaw

# I Love You

I met a fifty six year old Persian man  
We had many wonderful hours of talking together  
On going our separate ways,  
He parted by saying, 'I love you'.

Strangers but one in spirit and in truth  
Sharing words of kindness one heart, together  
Lives so different but one in spirit  
I will always remember, 'I love you'.

Eva L. Shaw

# Imagine!

Imagine-

A newly developed butterfly  
Has just come out of the cocoon  
It is sitting on a leaf drying  
It's wings and it must flutter  
Until strength comes to it.

Imagine-

It flies close to the leaf, for  
Security in it's weakness,  
Taking time to recover the  
Long growth in a safe place.  
Waiting, and working, with patience

Imagine-

Strength comes and so for  
A time it sits and then it flies  
But, wait, now, there are two  
Another butterfly, comes and they  
Experience freedom and flying together.

Think about this-

Someone once said, 'If love is a choice,  
Who would choose such exquisite pain', but  
Love is only painful if one chooses not to give it.  
Real pain is never experiencing true love.  
Experience freedom-love as a butterfly loves.

Eva L. Shaw

# My Walk Along The River

I walked and talked with you today  
The sun shone bright and the mountains spoke clear  
The snow on the tops glistened as I watched, but  
The river ran cold.

Thinking of you in a far away land  
Knowing it is hot and humid and so different there  
Wondering if you too are looking at the calendar  
Does the river run cold?

My heart is happy but it is also sad  
I walked and talked with you today  
The joy in my heart is scared that  
The river will run cold.

Is your heart happy, or is it sad too?  
How are you remembering me, or are you?  
Do you have joy in your heart that fears  
The river will run cold?

My only wish for you is  
Peace, Hope and Love  
And the greatest of these is  
Love.

Eva L. Shaw

# Peace In The Tumult

The water ripples over the stones  
The horses neigh in the pasture field  
The leaves twitter in the breeze  
The sun shines through the branches.  
Racing, racing, my thoughts race  
As the water flows quickly in the brook.  
Fish are spawning  
My thoughts are breaking  
Feelings of rage, confusion, frustration, fear.  
Alone again, no one to share  
But peace in the tumult  
God is peace, He has control,  
He knows my need,  
He will provide.

Eva L. Shaw



# Sisters

A letter from my sister□  
Says 'I am your sister'-  
'That cannot change'  
What do these words mean?  
It's not true  
Psychologically not so.  
I do not expect you  
To understand or make sense of  
The things that I say.  
How could you when you  
Were not even present,  
How could you  
As a child understand?  
Why would you now  
Want to recall?  
Blame must go somewhere -  
I cannot understand  
But, as my sister-  
Why could you not hear my cry?  
Why did you close your eyes to my pain?  
Psychologically, not so sister dear,  
Lost, oh yes, lost 'tis so.

Eva L. Shaw

# Soroptimist International

I have found friends, friends who care,  
They live the whole world over.  
Women who love life,  
Women who are strong,  
Women who help women,  
Empower, empower, empower.  
As a young woman, I needed  
Help, encouragement and to be empowered.  
I was struggling as a single mom  
Working full time and oh so tired  
With two children by the hand - when  
The Soroptimist Training Award  
Chosen, I was chosen, It was mine.  
The next semester courses were paid for  
With the help I received, no longer did I worry for  
I completed my diploma and onward to my goal!  
Working hard in social service agencies  
Helping others as I could  
Finally the day arrived when a Ph.D. was mine.  
Thirteen years in private family counselling  
Children grown and doing well  
I returned to the place where it all started  
To Soroptimists and I must tell -  
The story of my award and the life it brought to me  
Through kind and loving women  
Who care when it seems there is no sign.  
I am excited with each step  
As I learn and go forward  
Women teaching women and  
Women helping women  
It is my time to give  
My time to empower women with  
An organization I believe in.  
To take on the challenges of life  
Domestic violence and trafficking  
So demoralizing to women and their children  
Public education, important as it is  
Educate all who will listen to the stats and stories told.  
We all know of the hardships women endure

So, give, empower, teach, and train.  
Women helping women-  
Soroptimists, Soroptimists, Hurray for Soroptimists!

Eva L. Shaw

# The Answer Is Jesus

I've had people who have asked me,  
Why I wear a smile,  
When they know my situation,  
Is hard, oh yes so hard,  
And the answer to this question  
Is one I need to share  
For the answer is in Jesus,  
He answers my prayer.  
He told me I must put  
My foot in His footstep,  
Not to go on without Him,  
Not to go too far ahead,  
For He would lead me, if I'd let Him,  
Thru the hard, bleak days ahead,  
Ever one step, yes one step,  
One step at a time.  
So, you ask me why I'm smiling,  
How can I wear a smile,  
The answer is in Jesus,  
Alone, he's leading me,  
What a joy to be a Christian,  
When things all seem so wrong,  
To know I have a true friend,  
One who gives a song.  
I have hope through Christ my Savior,  
He's all I'll ever need,  
For He gives me peace in troubled times,  
And joy beyond compare,  
So the answer is in Jesus,  
My help, my hope my song,  
And I will love Him forever,  
As I travel down life's road.

Eva L. Shaw

# The Child No One Knew

A beautiful baby girl  
Beautiful locks of golden curls  
Becomes a statistic  
Of childhood sexual abuse.  
Life-so confusing,  
Peace, love, joy,  
Hate, hurt, pain - a victim  
Of childhood sexual abuse.  
God, Christianity, Sunday School,  
Peace, love, contentment,  
Teaching, learning, playing,  
Acceptance, Music, God.  
The wheat fields flow,  
The corn fields tassel  
The hay bales to be harvested  
The barn full to bursting.  
The cellar holds an enemy,  
Little children are hurt there,  
Down those steps toward torment,  
Over and over again.  
                Grandma held the answer  
But she never told a soul  
Family could do no wrong  
But she cried and when the child cried  
She consoled.

Eva L. Shaw

# The Harm It Does To A Life

She is a woman, plagued day by day  
Told many times over  
It's because of your weight.  
But why are the pounds there  
When she doesn't want the weight  
Only to be healthy  
The pounds must dissolve and go.

Well,  
A beautiful little girl  
Sweet as can be  
Harmed and dis-respected  
Confused and rejected  
Grew up knowing that pleasing  
Is the only way - so  
The pounds must dissolve and go.

So,  
Teenage years were painful  
Abused and tormented  
Confused and rejected  
Still told she was nothing  
Lose the weight and be free  
The pounds must dissolve and go

Or,  
You will always be nothing

But,  
Why did no one ask  
The question that was there  
Why child, why, what is wrong child,  
What?  
No one asked, someone knew,  
But no one dared - ask

Now,  
The Dr. are saying, that the weight must go  
Or, health problems will take over

And, death will occur  
But, when asked the question,  
And they think just too much food  
It's too late for the answer  
Nothing will do.

This strong empowered woman  
Loves herself as she is  
No one can take that away now  
She won't let them in.

What is success?  
Joy in living,  
Loving oneself  
Changing what one can and will  
Not harming another  
Helping the poor and being kind

She is successful, and she has  
Shed the pounds - good-bye

Eva L. Shaw

# The Rose Healing - God's Design

When spring comes to us,  
Scent of flowers in the air,  
A tiny little rosebud,  
A flower of God's design.  
Perfect in His possession,  
Always in His hand,  
God unfolds the petals,  
The secret's unknown to me,  
The tiny little rosebud,  
A flower of God's design,  
Unfolds with perfection,  
The rose in His hand.  
As my life lies before me,  
With it's joy and distress,  
He is always near me,  
Unfolding all life's petals,  
The flower of His design,  
Forever in His hand.

Eva L. Shaw



# There Was A Time When

There was a time when  
You asked for my heart  
Reluctantly I gave it and  
You crushed my soul.

Over and over again  
Loving you so  
Over and over you  
Crushed my soul.

Past hurt in your life  
Became hurt toward me  
Critically wounding my  
Soul, time again.

You wanted your freedom  
I gave it to you  
Now with another  
You build a life a new.

At first I was resentful  
Hateful maybe too  
But, that only caused me  
To build a life a new.

I learned to take the good times  
There were some too  
Learned our goals were different  
And that our histories seeped through.

Now, I only wish you  
All the best there can be,  
Live life and be happy  
For I am happy now too.

Eva L. Shaw

# Torment

Terror, torture, memories,  
Confusion, bad times, good times,  
I cannot understand it.  
I am loved but I feel hated,  
I cannot trust myself or anyone,  
A little child living in a state of torment.

Eva L. Shaw

# Trust

There are many times in life as I wonder,  
And I feel God's protection ever near,  
I will never forget the times He has warned me,  
So gently, never alarming, He is love.

Satan wants me to be afraid, He wants me to fear,  
Ever human, I've made mistakes and I do fear,  
Then the tender loving Master says, 'I love you',  
Lean on Me, have no fear, I am love.

Then He gently, oh so gently surrounds me,  
With compassion, I feel His perfect peace,  
In my small and fragile state, He is with me,  
I am strong, I have no fear, He is love.

There is a difference now in my life,  
Jesus fills me with His love and abiding peace,  
I want to stay close by his side and never fear,  
Never fear, never fear, for God is love.

I know Jesus will always be there,  
I love Him so, oh how I need Him in my life,  
He enriches and fulfills my every need,  
Remember, Jesus is the conqueror over fear.

Eva L. Shaw

# Vessels

Remember the stories in the Bible,  
How Jesus took the children on His knee,  
The precious little vessels of innocence,  
He loved them and said come unto Me.

He tells us to be like the little children,  
To come to Him and rest in His tender care,  
For we are precious vessels just like children,  
He loves us and says come unto Me.

Each one of us is equally important,  
He needs our praise and love every day  
He knows we are weak and oh so weary  
Lean on Him and rest in His peace..

Precious peace of Jesus  
Precious hiding place  
Hope for every one of us  
Lean on Him and rest in his peace.

Eva L. Shaw

# Words And Questions

Words and Questions

puzzle - by the lakeside

sister - mine?

Do you love me mummy?

Buried in the sea

I do not understand

Onward.

I am a mother

Shame

Blame

Guilt

Forgiveness

Where was God?

Protection

Water heals

fish

freedom

Up the ladder

Cats

Seasons

physical

psychological

abuse□

sexual abuse

Disbelief

facing the fact

Illness

music

faith

myself

Who am I?

This chapter is not finished.

Eva L. Shaw

# Worthwhile

A world of make belief

Daydreaming and imagery

A fairytale childhood

With protective loving parents,

Siblings who cared

Children and -

A perfect family plan.

This world is full of hurt and pain -

To love and to be loved

Hurt and despair.

So, not to go on with

A picture of remorse and regrets.

Grieving the past, but

One day I knew that

I am worthwhile.

I will go on. I have a purpose.

The struggles are not over

But I will go on.

Searching, oh searching,

'Prostitute' rang clear

'No one will ever want you'

'Ugly, stupid, useless'.

Someone, one day,

Helped me to see

I am worthwhile.

I will go on. I have a purpose.

My dreams one day I'll see.

The memories will fade and

I will be whole,

Able to live, in spite of it.

Is there any forgiveness?

I am worthwhile.

I will go on.

I have a purpose.

I will be set free.

□

Eva L. Shaw