



# Thoughts On A Cool(ish) Autumn Day

Do you find yourself feeling uncertain and a little lost due to the speed with which things are changing all around us? If you don't, you're probably not paying attention, or you have perfect faith, hopefully in God. If you do share my uncertainty, welcome to my club, even though I do try to practice faith in God. I'm not very good at it yet.

As if struggling with the supply chain issues and trying to keep our store fully stocked for our customers weren't enough; as if trying to hire competent people from a growing population of government dependents who have little interest in working didn't drive us crazy; as if trying to run this complex little center by the ever-changing and often insane rules didn't cause us to lose sleep at night; on top of all that and much more I could list, yesterday we received the official memo that our Medicare provider, Inter Valley, is closing down its operations as of the end of this year.

Oh, really?!? Now what do we do? It's not as if there aren't any alternatives. There are many -- too many alternatives, and who has the time or depth of understanding to find the best one?

This morning, as I was thinking with God about the whole thing, I realized that what I feel like is a person standing on a stool or a ladder, working on something above his/her head, and someone comes along and removes the ladder or stool, leaving that person hanging there with nothing to stand on.

God reminds me: "You know what that says, don't you? That says you've been putting your trust and faith in the ladder or stool, and in your normal routines, not in Me! TRUST ME", He reminds me. "Yes, it feels uncomfortable when things you've known in your life are changed unrecognizably or are destroyed completely. But then that shows you how misplaced your trust and confidence are. Your peace of mind and confidence are rooted in your accustomed life situations and your expectations that all will proceed as it always has. Your trust is in this broken world that you love so much that you fear leaving it, and not in ME, where you will find eternal peace, true happiness, and nothing of the frustration of watching pure evil prevail all around you."

This brings me to the poem nearby, "Love", by Vasko Kohlmayer. It came to me through an email subscription. The title "Love" will instantly cause many to immediately tilt their heads as they think of love as a mushy emotion of affection or romance. Resist! My dad (Ernie Gommel) called "love" a four-letter word, a word that has been corrupted, misused, abused, and is almost useless. We used to pronounce it "luh-vvvvv" when using it in the common, cheap sense.

Please read Mr. Vasko's poem two or three times, without letting the sentimental aspects of the word get in the way. Think of it this way (almost like a math problem, yuk!):

*God is Love. God is Truth. Therefore, Love is Truth.*

*God is Love. God is Justice. Therefore, Love is Justice.*

*God is Love. God is Righteous. Therefore, Love is Righteous, demanding that justice be served.*

*God is Love. God created the universe and all living things, including us. Therefore, Love was there as He created us, to be His image-bearers.*

*God is Love. God cares about our well-being. Therefore, Love cares about our well-being, as we should care about the well-being of those around us, also.*

*God is Love. God kicked us out of His marvelous Garden when we rebelled and disobeyed Him. Therefore, Love punishes us when we rebel and disobey.*

*God is Love. God wants us back with Him in His marvelous Garden (hard to believe why*

*He would want us vermin with Him), but on His Terms, giving up our self-will, rebellion, and submitting to Him in obedience. Therefore, Love would do the same.*

Does that throw a whole new light on the word "Love"? It does for me. There are other ways we express love, like, or affection and have assigned to them the word "Love", like romance, or our intense affection for our doggies, or activities and articles of which we are fond (I love to take trips, or I love my new car), but those are not the Love that God is, that He expresses to us, that Mr. Vasko tries to describe in his poem.

What's the bottom line? Hopefully you are now sensitized to the misuse of the word "Love" in so many ways that cheapen the word. Hopefully you will appreciate God's love for each of us, for you in particular, and then return His Love in all the ways described above and more, best you can.

*Linda Gommel*

## LOVE

By Vasko Kohlmayer



Love is the thing that we all seek,  
Love is the tongue the angels speak,  
Love is the soul's eternal thirst,  
Love is life's last and also first.

Love is the force that drives it all,  
Love is the heart's most earnest call,  
By love we God's promise seize,  
Love is the lens through which God sees.

Love is what gives the heart its grace,  
Love is the matrix behind space,  
It is love that dresses Earth in air,  
It is love that makes living fair.

Love is the secret of life's bliss,  
We do not live if love we miss,  
Love is the glue that binds us all,  
Love is the cure that heals the soul.

On throbbing love this cosmos stands,  
Love is the pulse of the universe,  
Love is the wellspring of all being,  
Love is the secret of right seeing.

Without love no joy rings true,  
Love is God's most telling clue,  
Love is God's most precious dealing,  
Love is what gives life its meaning.



# Olive Tree Ministries

Note from Jan Markell: At the close of a recent online conversation with prophecy host Pastor Jimmy Evans, I concluded with this short reading from Sandy. I use it often as it is uplifting, particularly in dark times. Please feel free to share Sandy's encouraging words wherever you can. The trip we are going to take is imminent! Even perhaps today.

## I'm Taking a Trip

by Sandy Tuzinski, September 28, 2022

*I'm taking a trip to a foreign country. A country I have never seen before. This will be much different from previous trips.*

*I won't need to pack any clothing – and no glasses or medications. My passport has been purchased and authorized at a great price.*

*The tour guides on this secure flight will be courteous and swift. I will pass through security like a breeze.*

*I guess this is a round trip and there will be a layover celebration before I will be returning with an enormous tour group made up of many horse riding folks.*

*There is still room on this flight and I hope you will be coming, but you had best hurry as the standby list is filling up fast; the red eye is too, and time is running out.*

*Be ready to depart in an instant and keep watch on the overhead screens, because you do not know what time or gate from which we will depart.*

*A new name will be given to me in this new country, so my name tag will change, but you will still be able to recognize me by my beaming smile.*

*Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air and so shall we ever be with the Lord. (I Thessalonians 4:17)*

## On The Lighter Side . . . Contributed from the Web

**Today a man knocked on my door and asked for a small donation towards the local swimming pool. I gave him a glass of water!**



# HALLOWEEN TAILGATE TRICK OR TREAT!

Sunday, October 31

In the parking between the Library and Senior Center.



Hosted by the Lucerne Valley Roadrunners