

Writing Poetry—the Language of the Soul by **Jeanetta R. Chrystie, Ph.D.**

A. What does it mean *for a Christian* to say that poetry is the language of the soul?

- Does it imply a Christian viewpoint, message or theme?
- Does it imply an introspective, interpretive or illustrative venue?

B. Consider how the following scriptures could apply to our topic.

Encourage

1 Thess 5:11
Job 16:5
Ps. 10:17
Acts 15:32
Rom. 12:7-8
Heb. 3:13
Rom 1:12
Phil 1:14
2 Tim 4:2

Edify

Rom. 14:19
1 Cor 14: 4-5
1 Cor 14: 15-17

Teach

Ex. 33:13
Deut. 4:9
Prov. 9:9

Discern

Col 2:2-3
Ps. 139:1-4
Phil. 1:9-10
I Kings. 3:12
Prov. 10:13a
Prov. 16:21
Prov. 18:15

C. **Reading**

- Helen Steiner Rice, “Part of the Plan”
- Henry Vaughan, “Jesus Weeping”
- John Donne, “Holy Sonnets” #10
- George Herbert, “Love”

D. **Activity**

- Select a favorite childhood memory or imagine meeting Jesus somewhere.
- Describe it in a short paragraph using concrete, sensory language. Specific detail should include sounds, smells and colors. (10 min.)
- Answer: “How does this memory or imagined scene fit into the pattern of my life?”
- When completed, then write a short poem based on this material.
- If you choose Haiku form, it’s three lines with 5 – 7 – 5 syllables per line. “Gulls riding the wind/ Catch opportunity’s prey/ Dining at low tide” © 2000,. Jeanetta Chrystie

E. **Share Time**

You may chose whether to read your poem to the group (as time allows). Comments should be: positive points, a suggestion for improvement, positive reinforcement.