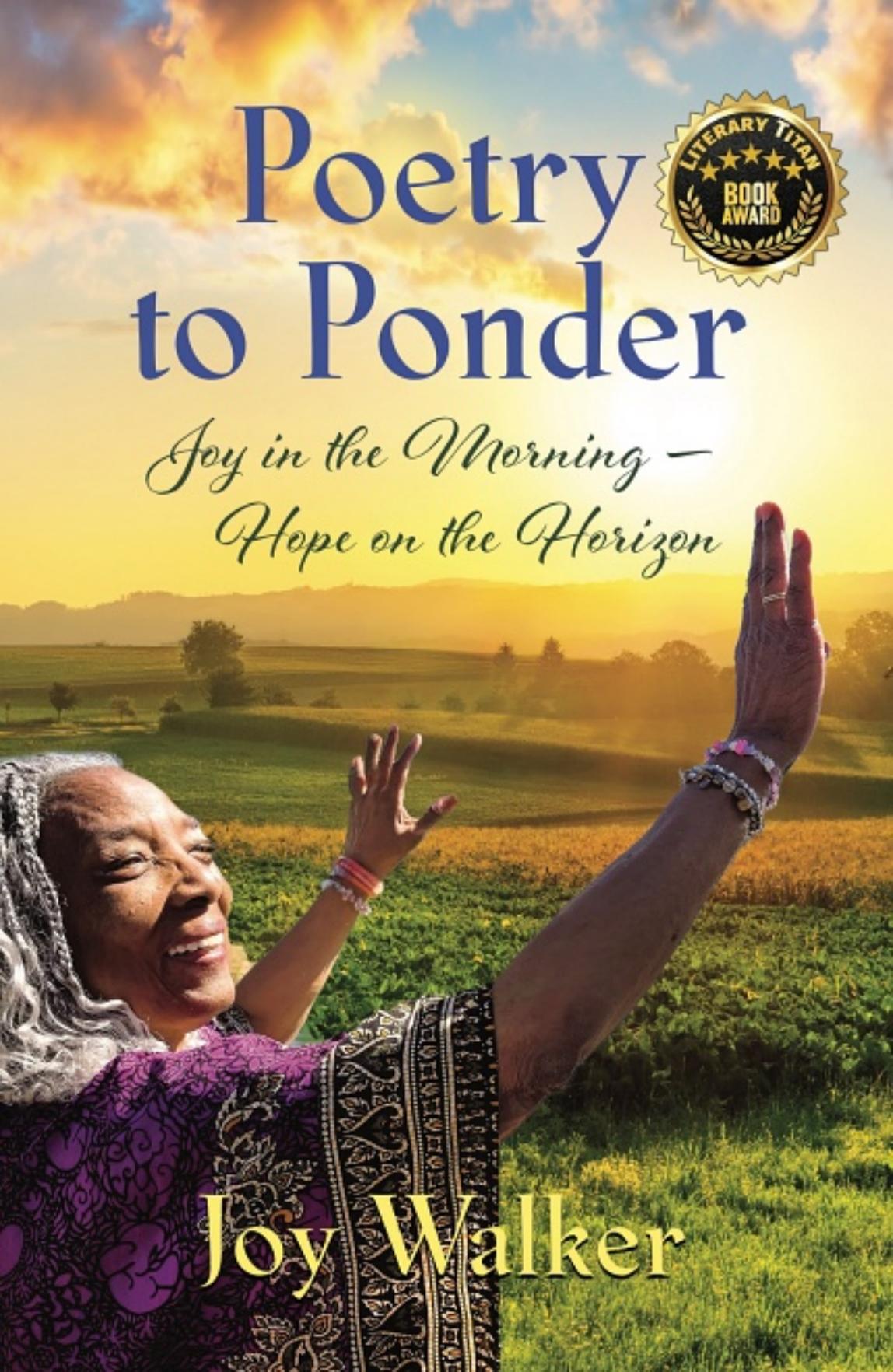


A poet recalls her journey with vision loss, divorce, motherhood, and cancer. Dismayed by her own struggles and society's brokenness, she wrestles with God for answers. Her faith deepens as she leans on God's promises for a better tomorrow.

**Poetry to Ponder:
Joy in the Morning - Hope on the Horizon**
By Joy Walker

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A woman with her arms raised in a field at sunrise. The woman is in the foreground, smiling and looking upwards. She has her arms raised, and her hands are open. She is wearing a purple patterned top and a black and white patterned shawl. The background is a vast, open field with rolling hills under a bright, hazy sky. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow. The overall mood is one of joy and hope.

Poetry to Ponder



*Joy in the Morning –
Hope on the Horizon*

Joy Walker

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Out of respect for God’s name, I have personally chosen to capitalize all nouns and pronouns that refer to all persons of the Godhead.

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WHY I WRITE POETRY

I'm a poet in my humble way.
How I came to be I cannot say.
The gift was simply given to me
By the Lord Almighty.

If of this talent I'm bereaved,
A void within me it would leave.
It courses through my very veins.
Without it I would be insane.

I thank the Lord for this great gift,
So oft' it gives my spirit a lift
And countless hours to me has brought
Of moving moments and thrilling thoughts.

I write what I feel inside of me.
I write what no one else can see.
I'm at my best in solitude
When I've on my thoughts a long time chewed.

Sometimes, as if by the wave of a wand,
There's pen and paper in my hand,
And how the words flow easy and free,
Poignant in their beauty!

The world may never appraise my work,
But I will never from it shirk.
I must obey the urge to write
Even in the dead of night.

When inspiration beckons me,
I follow her most willingly.
Such wondrous stories she repeats
Of life, love, loss, and grace in grief.

POETRY TO PONDER

And as she speaks, with joy I flush.
Sometimes I can't write fast enough.
Then when she's gone, her story told,
The treasure left is more than gold. 1969

MORE ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Joy Walker's sight began failing in her early teens. In 1970, she visited the United States from Jamaica, seeking a diagnosis. She was declared legally blind with paracentral retinitis pigmentosa (RP) and macular degeneration, a progressive inherited retinal disease (IRD).

After returning to the United States as a permanent resident in 1973, Joy received rehabilitation services for psychosocial adjustment to visual impairment from the Carroll Center for the Blind (formerly St. Paul's) in Newton, MA. She then earned a bachelor's degree in Rehabilitation Counseling from Springfield College, MA. Following graduation, Joy worked briefly as a counselor at Davis & Elkins College in West Virginia. After relocating to California, she became the Braille and Communication Skills instructor with special needs blind adults at Therapeutic Living Center for the Blind in Pasadena.

Joy later chose to become a stay-at-home mom and homeschooled her two children until divorce and a cancer diagnosis curtailed those efforts. Shortly after the divorce, closely followed by her mother's death, Joy, at age 48, was diagnosed with breast cancer. The first chemotherapy treatment launched her into menopause. This intensified her struggle as a legally-blind single mom raising a pre-teen daughter and a teenage son.

While enduring eight rounds of chemotherapy and 36 radiation treatments, Joy attended classes at the Braille Institute in Los Angeles. There she acquired computer skills using adaptive technology. Nine years after her mastectomy, she chose reconstructive surgery which led to unforeseen complications. Despite having to spend a week in ICU and 2 weeks in a convalescent home, Joy admits that the outcome "made me feel normal again."

In 2015, Joy was injured in a car accident which resulted in congestive heart failure. She underwent back surgery in 2019 when a deteriorated disc was replaced with a titanium implant. Although beset with various age-related health issues and her declining vision, Joy tries to maintain a positive attitude. "As difficult as it is, I have had enough experiences of God's faithfulness to know I can trust Him for whatever lies ahead."

A committed follower of Jesus since age 12, Joy is now 78 and a 30-year cancer survivor. She lives in Southern California delighting audiences with her inspiring poetry. Joy plays piano and accordion by ear and is on the visitation committee of her church. She considers poetry a gift from God which has, for more than six decades, provided emotional catharsis during her many trials.

POETRY TO PONDER

In 2007, Joy co-authored, with Julie Davy and other cancer survivors, *Writing for Wellness: A Prescription for Healing*. This anthology issued from a support group that met at the City of Hope Cancer Hospital in California. It demonstrates how written expressions of emotions can aid in the healing process.

Joy's life story, *Journey to Joy: An Inspirational Memoir*, was published in 2016. In this book, she vividly describes her journey with failing vision, breast cancer, divorce, single-parenting, and the death of loved ones. Her emotions are expressed in spellbinding poetry and prose.

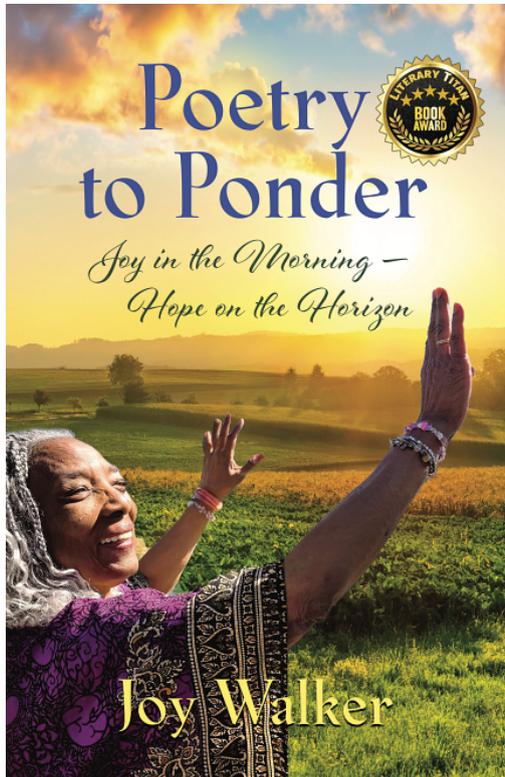
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Poetry to Ponder: Good News! was published in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic, a time of distress and hopelessness for many. These creative expressions of life-transforming truths will resonate with the reader. Powerful in their simplicity, rhythmic and captivating in their cadence, the poems present a cohesive narrative beginning with creation and ending with the promised return of Jesus Christ, providing hope for the hurting.

<https://booklocker.com/11102>

Poetry to Ponder: Spread the News, published in 2022, is a retelling of the Christmas story through vibrant poetry that will stir the reader's thoughtful contemplation and genuine celebration of the season. Several of the poems can be sung to the tune of well-known Christmas carols and other songs. Reflections on the reason for Christmas will either bolster or ignite the reader's belief in God's promise of hope and healing for our fragmented world.

<https://booklocker.com/12559>



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