

***Year in Focus...Suffering ...Joy...  
Deepening Contemplation...***

Today the year passes into the next cycle of unfolding life.  
Standing on the brink of the end of another year  
we hold the tension between what is and what might be.  
Throughout the journey of another year, we have watched and  
felt  
and groaned inwardly as:  
national conflicts  
played out before our eyes;  
environmental disasters  
wreaked havoc in unsuspecting lives;  
displaced peoples sought refuge  
in countries other than their own;  
the ravages of drought and famine  
affected thousands around us;  
the Ebola outbreak stole the lives of countless people  
from weeping loved ones' arms;  
the earth cried out in pain for violence  
committed thoughtlessly upon it;  
unemployment and underemployment  
ate into the dignity of ordinary people;  
world terror became a household word  
a common feeling for many;  
violence and a culture of fear grew  
without our knowing or agreement;  
domestic violence and sexual abuse  
became more known as present realities;  
human trafficking loomed larger in our awareness  
as the voices of opposition grew;  
displacement of peoples was debated, discussed  
and few remedies were found;  
children were held in detention centres along with parents  
seeking refuge and safe haven.

This and so much more has been part of the dark journey  
of the year just passing.  
But there has been light as well - so much light  
to balance the darkness of our world's soul.  
There have been so many often nameless people who have:  
stepped out to lend a hand;  
marched or walked in demonstrations  
for a humanitarian cause;  
raised their voices, written letters  
or acted to show they care;  
laid wreaths  
for the dead;  
burned candles  
in memory of the violated;

spoken up  
for truth and goodness;  
fought for their country  
in huge generosity of heart;  
stood up to violence confronting them  
or defended someone else at risk;  
used their profile as public figure to cheer a child  
or encourage another who was lost or down;

There have been countless, nameless people who:  
risked their lives for others  
in floods and bushfires and critical incidents of every  
kind;  
There have been:  
volunteer people who gave their time  
to share a word  
or help a stranger  
or help carry a load too large;  
philanthropic people who gave from their plenty;  
that others might have what they lacked;  
praying people who prayed and trusted and hoped  
that dark shadows would dim.

We in the Contemplative Evolution Network,  
in the course of this year  
have done what was ours to do  
quietly helping to turn darkness into light.

We have longed and dreamed  
and prayed more earnestly.

We have forged bonds with faceless people  
across a cyber network as we sat silently at the Source,  
holding the tension of the world  
in the peaceful centre of our hearts.

We have allowed that peace to deepen further  
taking us into the powerful Centre of all that is... Love.

***As 2016 opens before us,  
we entrust our world,  
still in process,  
to the larger Power  
working at its centre.***

***Let us, along with others,  
be IN the silent beating heart  
that holds all light and darkness  
gently, in quiet balance.***