

***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.***