

OCEAN DEPTHS

By

Gale D. Smith



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*And what shall be the ending?
I've touched the fringe of what Thou art,
And Thou hast begun to show me, Lord,
that is all transcending;
I'm standing on the rippling shore;
Love's ocean depths are all before.*

Miles J. Stanford – "Imag-ination 14" page 31 – (emphasis mine)

FORWARD BY THE AUTHOR

It has been said that every life is a journey. Looking back on mine, it appears that the essence of this journey is change, for that is just what mine has frequently done.

Change comes because of our needs as well as our desires. Change can also come because of the needs and desires, or choices, of people around us.

I began writing at the suggestion of Lindy Molloy, but writing it has been a huge challenge with many emotions to face and analyze. At the time I had no intention of publishing this book, it was to be for my children.

A number of people have been wonderful helpers in the process of this writing. First, I want to thank Art Lowther, Nancy Peterman and Doris Anderson, all very dear friends who read the rough draft and encouraged me to publish for a larger audience.

I hope that whoever reads this may find something in these pages of value as food for thought or as an encouragement for some situation in life. My apologies for any errors that I may have made. Some of my memories may differ with those of the reader. I have tried to verify factual information on Wikipedia, but it is possible that is not always correct.

The chapter about our time in the country of Guatemala has been made more accurate by Don and Pat Rutledge, Harold Casper, Jim and Gail McKelvey and Bill and Margie Veith who were friends during that time. They have been so kind to answer questions via e-mail. David Luna, who is from Guatemala, has helped me express the beauty and charms of his native country.

Many people mentioned in this text have been wonderfully helpful with details. Thank you all very much, you have made this more interesting and have encouraged my heart with your confidence in regard to what the end product would become.

Special thanks go to my dear husband Roy who has listened to me talk about this for years. He has kept me going when I grew overwhelmed by the task, discouraged and thinking that the world can do fine without another book. He has worked hard to make it look good by formatting the text, putting in the photos and then producing the finished product. Without Roy's help and confidence in my ability to write, I would not have completed this.

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Also available in adobe acrobat (pdf) format under the "Ocean Depths" link on the web at
rgsmiths.com