

NEWS BULLETIN

RELEASE DATE: 8th July 2024

FIRST CAME “SELAH” FOLLOWED BY “HESED”

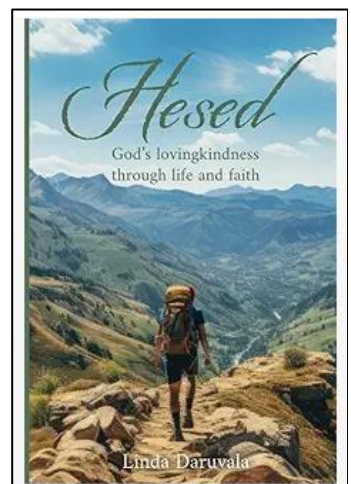
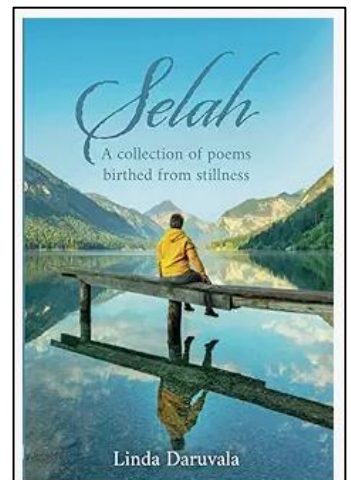
Ian Bunker: - In the 1970's when my wife Sue was teaching here in Poole she became good friends with Linda Daruvala (nee Potter) a fellow first school teacher. Linda is a born again Christian who was baptised by immersion at Bere Regis Chapel.

In 1981 she became Godmother to our son Matthew who was a page boy at her wedding in the Bere Regis chapel. My wife and I were both present at Linda's baptism and I remember the emotion of the occasion and it left its mark on me paving the way to my own baptism. (more about Linda overleaf on Page 3).

Linda the author. In 2020 “Onwards and Upwards” the Christian publishers based in Exeter saw the potential in Linda's poetry and released her first book featuring 46 of her poems. “Selah – a collection of poems birthed from stillness”. From poetic paintings of God's creation to a Psalm-like outpouring of her heart to God, Linda echoes the experiences and emotions that are common to many of us in our journey to the Lord

“Selah” is a Hebrew word that appears in many of the biblical psalms. It is an instruction to the listener to pause and reflect on what has just been sung.

Then encouraged by the sales of the first book Linda and her publisher collaborated on a second book which was released in 2024. The latest book of 72 poems is entitled “Hesed – God's loving kindness through life and faith”. The flyleaf tells us “This insightful collection of poems will draw you into the essence of Hesed, an ancient Hebrew word woven across the pages of the Bible, that expresses God's loving kindness through life and faith.



Whichever of these 118 poems you read will touch your soul in different ways. Although all the material is copyrighted Linda has very kindly given us permission to reproduce one and I have selected “Resurrection Angel” – please see overleaf.

Resurrection Angel

He simply sat on top of it!

A job well done – it was easily shifted,

Like a competent furniture remover,

A massive stone rolled away

With an effortless shove

Amidst, of course, some lightning and earth tremors for effect;

This was a pivotal moment after all.

Brightening the dawn,

Dazzling the women,

Paralysing the guards,

The stone rolled away. Not for Jesus though –

He is already walking to Galilee –

But for followers to see,

For us to see...

"Come inside," he says.

"Run and tell the others, he says.

He gives the Lord's message:

"I am going ahead... meet me there."

Then he stayed sitting on top of that stone

Just for a while longer,

Alone this time,

Observing the whole scene.

And with a knowing nod,

He slid down, peeped inside for a final look

At the place which had sealed hid Lord,

Gave a victorious broad smile...

And left the tomb open

For followers to see,

For us to see...

Based on Matthew 28:1-8

Linda's Note for this poem: I know someone who became a Christian at the Garden Tomb in Jerusalem. As she sat looking, she realised that Jesus was not buried there as in the many other tombs she had visited of famous people. He had indeed risen. This tomb was empty.

More about Linda. She grew up in Dorset and fell in love with poetry while studying Thomas Hardy's poems for O Level. She can still recite some of them! An only child, she has always found solitude a comfortable and creative space to inhabit. She gave her life to the Lord at 18 at teacher training college in Winchester, which is where she also began to write.



A love of Jesus, travel, contemplation, quiet, photography and art all enable her to meditate and compose her poetry, reflections and prayers. She is inspired by Ignatian spirituality and new Celtic monasticism, and loves to retreat to 'thin' places throughout the UK, especially Holy Island.

Linda was a primary school teacher and is married to Jung. They live in Surrey and are very proud of their two wonderful adult sons, Pete and Simon. Since being healed from Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma in 2010, Linda has particularly relished the fresh blessings and opportunities of each day.

Linda leads creative workshops in her home church, St Alban's, Hindhead, and at local retreat centres. She sings in her church worship band and gospel choir, and her joy is to spend time at a little rented beach hut on Hayling Island. She loves listening to God, new travels, sunsets, watercolours and baking lemon drizzle cake!

Availability

Both of Linda's books of poems are widely available from Christian Bookshops and on-line internet sites including Amazon. The first book "Selah" is nominally priced at £7.99 and the thicker "Hesed" book is at £8.99. They are also available as less expensive audiobook "Kindle" versions.

Linda has also released a short video to talk about her writing:-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8gxiaEe5CPU>