

## when i walk on water

JOSEPH HURTGEN

some time ago, before i learned i  
could walk on water, i asked a girl  
i knew if she thought i could step  
off the boat we were in and walk  
across the lake. she was wise, and  
said it wouldn't work unless there  
was a reason for it to happen.  
i thought about reasons for years.  
it came to me that Peter sank  
when he forgot why he was out there.  
at first he was hanging with Jesus,  
out there for enjoyment and companionship.  
he forgot about that, and looking down,  
thought water was for sinking.  
when i go out, i go out for the enjoyment.  
i go out for the companionship.  
i remember when i used water to swim through.  
i stayed near the top of it,  
so i could breathe when i wanted.  
my reasons then were the same.

now, when I'm out miles, sometimes i sit down,  
take off my shoes, and cool my feet  
in the wetness of it.  
when i take my feet out to dry,  
before returning to the world of shoes  
and walking on water,  
i imagine Jesus sitting down and  
untying his hair to dry my feet,  
i walk on water to be clean.

[Joseph Hurtgen received a B.A. from Campbellsville University in 2004 and an MA in English Literature in 2006 from Western Kentucky University.]