

THE FAITH COMPANION : A
REVIEW OF LOVE UNBOUND



KATHY BISHOP

LOVE UNBOUND



In an age where the sanctity of life is being eroded by secular society, with calls for the legalisation of assisted suicide, this book will help all Christians to grapple with the question of suffering. Here, Greg Crowhurst and his wife, Linda, develop a spirituality of suffering born out of the crucible of Linda's suffering and Greg's loving care for her. Linda has lived in excruciating pain for 31 years with no help from modern medicine. Coming face-to-face with Linda's suffering Greg has seen the Face of Christ suffering in His Passion up close and has lovingly stayed there, helpless, just doing what he can. This book offers a safe pathway through any kind of suffering as

Greg shows that instead of leading to despair and hopelessness, suffering leads us into the very Heart of the Trinity, what he calls the Heart of Love. As Viktor Frankl says in his 'Man's Search for Meaning', 1 by finding purpose in their pain individuals can transform their suffering into a powerful force for personal growth and resilience. However, with Christ it is more than that. It is here in the furnace of pain and suffering that God's love can be felt in a unique way where immense graces are given in order for suffering to be transformed. In this spirituality, by offering one's suffering to the suffering Christ on the Cross, through the Heart of the Trinity, those who suffer can participate in Christ's redemption of the whole world. This gives suffering immense value, to the act itself and to the sufferer. Far from being worthless, those with chronic illnesses, unable to work are actually doing the most important job of all by assisting Christ in not just saving all of Creation, but all of humankind, not just once but for ALL eternity. In this way those who suffer become co-healers and co-redeemers of the world. Greg also reflects on the messag-

es to the sick and suffering from Pope St John Paul II's 'Salvifici doloris' 2. in which Greg says lies a blueprint for the Church, encouraging the Church to reach out, listen and learn from the voices of the sick and suffering. Here, Pope St John Paul II acknowledges that their suffering is intertwined with Christ's, bringing great wisdom and knowledge from which the whole Church can benefit. It is pointed out that this saintly Pope could only have written this by being in that place of suffering himself, as is the case with this important book. By sharing their lived experience of finding the Heart of God and His love through immense suffering, this book will bring hope to those lost in their suffering, but more importantly it helps Christians formulate answers to those who think they are acting kindly and honourably by fighting to end others' suffering through assisted suicide. What spiritual graces, wisdom, knowledge and even the last opportunity to repent is lost if those who suffer are 'put out of their misery'? In my view this book is one of our Traditions' greatest treasures. 'Love Unbound' is only available at

the moment online through Linda and Greg's website, 'Holyway'.3. Please pray that this book receives the imprimatur from the Church and that it will be widely published.

Reviewed By Kathy Bishop

OPL

Kathy Bishop OPL is founder and editor-in-chief of The Faith Companion. She is a Lay Dominican who has a BA(Hons) in RE and an MA in Pastoral Theology specializing in Christian Spirituality. Kathy is also a qualified spiritual director and retreat giver who trained at the London Centre for Spiritual Direction. She can be contacted via thefaithcompanion@gmail.com or via the website www.thefaithcompanion.co.uk

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