

THE WONDER OF HER LOVE

The Biography of Trish Franklin, IBVM

SAMPLE

Michael Adams



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TO THE
LORETO VIETNAM AUSTRALIA PROGRAM TEAM
AND THE PEOPLE OF VIETNAM

FOREWORD

by Tricia Roessler, AM*

Trish Franklin comes with a huge reputation in Vietnam. My first memory of Trish is from her 50th birthday party in Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC), which was held both to celebrate Trish and to raise money for LVAP. Ron Barassi was there, in such regard was Trish held in Carlton Football Club circles. I felt a little bit intimidated at that first meeting because of her reputation, and I never would have predicted that a great friendship would build from that day. But it has, and it is my great honour to write this foreword to Trish's biography.

It is easy to eulogise Trish for her good work in Vietnam, but that would overlook the many parts of Trish. Michael has done a wonderful job presenting these parts, without glossing over anything. She is a woman of great faith, strength, intelligence and compassion, but she is also very human and very real.

At the forefront of Trish's personality is the fact that she is a 'sheila' from Ballarat who loves Carlton and likes a beer. Sometimes, when Carlton loses a game, she likes Carlton and loves a beer. She is Australian through and through and, I think, that is key to her personality.

Friendship is something Trish does very well, always checking in with her friends to see how the drums of their lives are beating. She is very alert to any sadness or joy they may have experienced. Her honorary membership of the Saigon Saints in HCMC is a position she relishes, both because it places her amongst people who love football nearly as much as she does, and because it allows her to check on her footy mates and make sure that the pieces of their lives are in place, something that can be overlooked amongst blokes. They would probably say they look after her – I'm sure it does go both ways.

She has friends for life – Trish took great delight when a number of the Loreto Ballarat class of '68 gathered in Vietnam to help celebrate her 60th birthday. The Loreto connection is strong, starting with the inspiration Trish takes from founder Mary Ward, extending to the love and friendship she felt at school in Ballarat, and to the Loreto community which provides support, guidance and friendship.

Family is an essential part of the essence of this woman. Despite the distance, Trish is extremely close to and in contact with her brothers and sisters as well as her numerous nephews and nieces and, in turn, the 'grands' [grandchildren]. She plays a big part in their lives, as they do in hers.

Keeping up with friends and family across a distance in a meaningful way is a big job, as is following your passions – Vietnam and Carlton. Add to that the responsibility, huge commitment and energy required to run a very successful and expanding International Non-Government Organisation (INGO) and you do wonder how she fits it all in.

I think part of the answer is that these are never competing priorities for Trish. You always have a sense that all the bits – family, friends, footy, Ballarat and, importantly, LVAP and her faith – fit very comfortably together. Being true to all these bits and doing them ‘well’, as Trish does, is what I admire. That, plus the cheeky sense of humour that never quite disappears, even in her darkest footy moments.

**Trish Roessler was awarded the Order of Australia in 2010 for service to the development of relations with Vietnam through the higher education sector (establishment of the HCMC RMIT campus) and a range of charitable, welfare and business organisations.*

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Trish has to be acknowledged and thanked for giving her consent to this book. It is not easy to bear one's soul and life to the world, going under the microscope, so to speak. I know she consented only because she could see that her work could benefit from the publicity, not for her own glory. She knows in practical terms that her level of direct activity must diminish, especially after 2015, and that this book might help to raise and maintain awareness for the future of the Loreto Vietnam Australia Program. The rest of us will say that we are acknowledging the remarkable life of a wonderful person.

Listed below are the many people who have spontaneously contributed to this book. Asking someone to say a few words about Trish can be a challenge at times because they feel they are dealing with someone unique and special and may choose their words carefully. But once the tap was turned on many quite extraordinary contributions resulted. The many sides of Trish, the multi-layers, even the apparent contradictions are a rich vein for others to explore once their thoughts start flowing.

Foremost to thank is Trish herself, who attacked this task with all the thoroughness of an LVAP Children's Project. As a result we are able to see so many of her own thoughts, including gems of wisdom and deep spirituality.

We tried to reach as many people as possible who might want to contribute to the book. Many did, but not all contributions could be incorporated. Apologies to those not contacted (unintentionally) or to those messages perhaps lost in cyber-space.

The contributions of those quoted are gratefully acknowledged:

Members of Trish's family: brothers Bob, Bernie and Phil, sister Maureen, cousin Jenny Leaper, niece Anne Ryan, and nephews Chris Franklin and Andrew Stott.

School teacher from Ballarat, Helen Brittain (Gannon).

School friends from Ballarat, including Cecilia McDowell (Prunty), Carmel Johnson (Hughes), Mary Kennedy (Toohey), Helen Goodman, Chris Barr (Maroney), Barb Jens (Hayden), Bernadette Burke (Flynn), Cheryl Ryan (Foote) and Mary Delahunty.

Members of the Loreto order (IBVM):

In Australia: Sisters Genevieve Davey, Margaret Callaghan, Mary O'Brien, Margaret Burchell, Cynthia Wright, Toni Matha, Leonie Peterson, Rob Robinson, Maria Bongiorno, Helen Murphy, Dr Elizabeth Hepburn, Margaret (Hilary) Blackie, Zita O'Donohue, Jan Barlow, Anna Gaha, Margaret Sculley and Loreto Perth Archivist Sister Anne Carter.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In Vietnam: Sister Ái Thiên IBVM.

LVAP staff members: Hà My, CEO, and Hanh Tâm, Deputy CEO; Steph Giles, Communications Manager.

Former student boarders with Trish in Ballarat: Belinda Byrne and Anne Portelli.

Nedlands parents: Tony and Annie Gibson, and Julianne Prendergast; and Nedlands pupils: Cassandra Le, Veronica Hoad and Catherine Stubbs.

Refugees and aid workers in Thai refugee camps: Anne Hamilton, Nha Tran, Trang Chau, Lan Pham Hornsby and Huy Vu, Ms Chau, Nguyen Huu Ha, Nguyen Ai Phuong, Hong Anh, Mr Oanh and Lien Le.

Australian Consul General HCMC 2001–5, Dr Stephen Henningham, and his wife Catherine.

LVAP Sponsors: Tareq Muhmood – ANZ CEO Vietnam, and Alan Valpied – Rotary, Ballarat.

In Vietnam: Darren Cotter and the Saigon Saints Football Club; Amaury LeBlanc, Saigon Pony Club; Jon Tuck and Alan Cook; SOUL Music Academy, headed by famous singer Thanh Bùi, who is Loreto Program's Ambassador in HCMC.

Other Charity Organisations in Vietnam: Donna Burr – Christina Noble Foundation; Van Ly – East Meets West; Paul Cleaves and Paul Finnis – Saigon Children's Charity; Julia Stanton – British Council.

Helpers and friends in HCMC: Bào Trúc, Trish's Vietnamese teacher, and Jocelyn Angove; Elspeth Campbell; Gail Moxham-Duly; Annie Garrett, Gregg Dixon and Em Huckson.

Australian visitors and helpers: Pam Mann and Trudie Dickinson; Brooke Mallard, school captain St Joseph's College, Banora Point NSW; Anna Gingell, teacher, John XXIII Perth; Carrie Power, John XXIII Perth; Ailsa Vernon, Ayr Queensland; Jann Muller; Loreto Mandeville Hall students, Toorak.

Also of great background help was the fine work *Loreto in Australia* by Mary Ryllis Clark (USNW Press 2009). The book conveys the spirit of Mary Ward, Foundress of the Loreto order; the distinctive and high quality of education developed by the Loreto nuns in Australia; and the atmosphere that allowed the development and application of individual talents in its members. Trish steps out of its pages as a natural part of the development of a fine group of nuns.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanh Thuy, writing about Mother Teresa in Asia News 08/30/2010, helped put her in a Vietnam context.

Of inestimable help was Rob Robinson IBVM, and my son Gerard, whose textual suggestions and patient, practical advice made the work more coherent and readable.

My wife Colleen was a great ‘sounding board’, distilling the text by highlighting her own insights, and spotting mistakes.

I am used to writing mainly in the history genre, so this biography was a great challenge. I only hope the work begins to do justice to Trish, in her mind and the minds of her legion of supporters and admirers. As so often said through others in the book: I am so lucky to have known Trish. Her wholesomeness as a human being, her practicality and the depth of her spirituality have helped me maintain and develop the idea that we can make a difference in our world. What better way to start than supporting Trish and LVAP?

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Cover Painting: The Wonder of Her Love

Painted by Anne Ryan, the niece of Trish Franklin, for the cover of the sheet music of Trish's song, 'The wonder of your love'.



But I do remember thinking how I wanted the image to be radiant, simple and textural (kinaesthetic ... hands on) which describes you and reminds me about your presence. Not just on a personal level but how you have radiated across the globe to so many.

It was done by creating a cardboard plate with raised surfaces and a crayon rubbing over a piece of paper. Something the blind children would really relate to!

–Anne Ryan

Each chapter is preceded by a short Vietnamese proverb. These were contributed by Hà My and Hanh Tâm, Trish's Loreto Team in Vietnam, and one from Lan Pham (Hornsby). They are natural expressions of regard for the qualities of Trish and are a natural means of expressing appreciation in the Vietnamese culture. They lose some of the Vietnamese idiom in translation but still come across well enough in English.

INTRODUCTION

Một trái tim lớn hướng tới tương lai: big-hearted, future visionary thinker.

A woman small in size but big in voice as an advocate, with a giant heart dedicated to helping children and to serving her God. I don't know anyone who doesn't respect at the very least, if not love, Trish.

–Van Ly, Regional Development and Communications Manager,
East Meets West Foundation, HCMC¹

There are some people who prove that love has no limits – that the human spirit can soar so high above the mundane world we live in – yet totally disarm you with their naturalness when face to face. On the surface they appear to pose contradictions, a clash of expectations and reality, but we eventually discern that these people are naturally capable of great things well beyond the reach and imagination of the rest of us. Trish Franklin is just such a person, perhaps a surprise to the uninitiated, but a tonic to meet and be with, a wonderfully practical achiever and simply a wonder to the tens of thousands of people she has helped achieve a higher human dignity.

I remember being told about Trish through friends of mine and their first words of warning were, ‘...she is a nun, but expect the unexpected’. With some trepidation and visions of Mother Teresa in my head I was still taken aback. Trish does not look like a nun. She doesn't wear a habit. However it has made her so incredibly approachable and human and I think this is the magic she is able to weave with people, children, sponsors, peers, colleagues and friends alike. She most clearly is dedicated to her mission, without a doubt loves God, but is able to conduct herself in a way that is both non-threatening and somehow endearing and very real. In Vietnam, where religion has not always been well tolerated, this has worked well. Trish is an absolute dynamo. She has an amazing energy but at the same time is able to sit down and have a beer with the lads.

–Donna Burr, Office Manager,
Christina Noble Foundation, Vietnam²

Like Donna Burr, so many people are surprised by the reality of Trish, expecting to meet their stereotypical image of a ‘nun’, but instead finding the most open and down-to-earth person, whose standard salutation is to wish us ‘cold beers and cheers’. Her friends rather enjoy the disarming effect Trish has on new

¹ East Meets West is a well-known charitable institution founded in the USA by Le Ly Haylsip, author of ‘Where Heaven Meets Earth’.

² Christina Noble Foundation, another well-known charitable institution founded by another renowned woman, Christina Noble.

acquaintances struggling to wed their pre-conceptions of nuns to the reality of Trish.

Trish is a down-to-earth Australian who enjoys a drink and a passionate yarn about football – Aussie Rules, of course. But she is even more passionate about her children, the near thirty thousand or more Vietnamese she and her Loreto Vietnam Australia Program (LVAP) Team have enriched through scores of practical projects over eighteen years of operation in Vietnam (1997–2015); plus the many refugees she has helped in Thai border camps, settling some into Australia.

The thing that makes Trish stand apart from, and rise above, just about everybody else, is the absolute clarity of her existence and the wonderful, often dramatic interplay of apparent opposites in her life and character, as observed by those close to her:

She is a mischievous saint. She is an introvert person; the work she has done at LVAP is almost ironic, a different character. If Trish wants, she can do anything. She does not believe she can do anything. I think the world lost a great diplomat/actress/politician/author because Trish decided to devote herself to charity work and education for kids.

–Hanh Tâm, Office Manager LVAP
In the same vein:

Trish has an interesting and inspiring life, but apart from work, she is a real woman. First impression – ‘I never want to get on the bad side of that woman, whoever she is’. Later, I have learned the other side of Trish, the side everyone talks about when they talk about Loreto. The identity of Loreto Program in Vietnam is tied directly to Trish. I have grown to know Trish as kindhearted, passionate and confident.

–Van Ly, East Meets West Foundation

It is this clash of seemingly opposing human traits that creates the electricity, the sparkle in her eyes, such that you are liable to get any response from Trish, but always one that lets you know where you stand, winning over all but the most impervious, rarely causing offence because everything she does publicly is meant to illuminate, not denigrate.

Maria Bongiorno, Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary (IBVM), states that “Trish has a unique capacity to be immersed into another culture and yet not losing her strong sense of being thoroughly Aussie.’ Her ‘Australian-ness’ can take Vietnamese people by surprise at first. It is a directness that can come across as blunt, but it is tempered by respect. She may show disagreement but not disrespect. And there is a warmth that totally disarms Vietnamese people’s normally reserved politeness in public. All this is beautifully summed up by Van Ly of the East Meets West Foundation:

She is as honest and loud about things she finds distasteful as the things she thinks are great. In our committee, she shows her support for her committee members in hugs and strong words of appreciation. ‘Good on you!’ or ‘Dúng’ (Vietnamese for ‘that’s right’) are words that I frequently connect to my experience with Trish. She is always ready for a strong word of support when you need it ... and even when you don’t need it.

Trish as a young Loreto nun (left), with friends Margaret Murphy and Theresa Elliott, IBVM



Trish is a Loreto nun, vowed to her God and to her children, her vows allowing her to be in constant contact with her God and enriching her spirit, which overflows into the love she gives to her children. She proves that one receives more when giving, that there are truly channels of a Divine Force and Grace to those who need it most. She almost left the convent in her search for better ways to serve her God and the poor. Her early Loreto life as a nun was the conventional spiritual formation, teacher training and life as a teacher in several well-regarded Loreto schools in Australia. Most of her charges were from comfortable families, but the cry of the poor was always in her soul.

According to Cynthia Wright, IBVM, ‘Trish has always had a great passion for making a difference in the world’, so she left the security of her convent life on leave of absence, never an easy decision, wondering if she was letting the side down or being true to her original calling. She descended into, and freely experienced, true poverty, before embarking on a life-changing mission that took her into the stark realities of human misery and displacement in the refugee camps on the border of Thailand and Cambodia. Among the broken people who had suffered so terribly at the hands of the genocidal Khmer Rouge regime, and the displaced refugees of communist regimes in Vietnam and Laos, Trish brought a calm and cheery presence which radiated new hope to all, especially the ‘unaccompanied minors’ (displaced children). She was home among the poor, and the poor welcomed her. On rejoining her order she was able to continue her new mission.

Step by step she found her way to Vietnam at a time when it was officially one of the poorest countries in the world. Twice she came and went, until her

religious order suggested she might set up a developmental branch in Vietnam. Throughout this spiritual journey and transformation of her life she was supported by her liberal Loreto order, but in Vietnam she was all alone, even in the relative security of refugee aid organisations. But she was among her poor; she says she



only had to walk out her front door in HCMC to meet them. Her practical management skills built one of the most consistently efficacious charitable organisations in Vietnam, with Trish as the constant thread since 1995, and her LVAP since 1997.

*Trish with her 'unaccompanied minors'
in her years working with refugees in
Thai Camps.*

This book is a celebration of one loved by so many, a tribute to an indomitable spirit, and a record of a remarkable journey of an extraordinary person. Unfortunately the day has come for Trish to pass on her baton as CEO, and has developed a comprehensive succession plan for that purpose. To the end she continues to brim full of new ideas, to re-invent her program, and is still enthusing her many supporters. As patron of LVAP one suspects she will never be too far away, and always on the fund-raising trail.

These days she likes to identify bite-size projects that are within the means of ordinary people to help her accomplish. For example, the Ho Chi Minh City International Choir has raised several thousands of dollars at each of its concerts over many years, with Trish giving the choir an achievable project each time, such as a playground or library for a rural school in the Central Highlands or a toilet block and running water for a school with 400 students and 30 staff, which previously lacked such basic facilities.

Being a nun in an officially socialist country sounds like a challenge, and it is. The title 'Sister Trish' is never used in Vietnam for many reasons. First, as a protection against the vagaries of a bureaucracy still coming to terms with what was allowable under socialism; the Catholic and Buddhist faiths were only restored as official religions in 1996. Unlike in Australia, Catholic nuns in Vietnam are seldom found in active work outside the convent; for example, there are no Vietnamese religious schools allowed in Vietnam. Trish was and is the most active of nuns, openly exposed in her mission, often literally alone among her poor in the depths of Vietnam. Above all, though, being a nun to Trish is not a label, a

Anh Do with Trish and her two chief Loreto Staff
Team members: CEO Hà My and Deputy CEO
Hanh Tâm



distinguishing mark. It is a means to a spiritual life that allows her one hundred per cent immersion serving her poor, no need for a title in front of her name. It makes her that much more accessible, allowing her legion of supporters to love and support her as an ordinary person on the outside, allowing us to get close and be enriched by the wonder of the love radiating naturally from her.

The effect Trish has on her supporters is well illustrated in the 2012 television program Anh Does Vietnam, in which Anh Do, the popular Australian Vietnamese comedian, returned to the country from which his family had fled when he was a boy. Anh gave Trish a cheque from the proceeds of *The Little Refugee*, a children's book written by him and his wife, Suzie. Trish's simple gratitude brought tears down Anh's cheeks; he later declared Trish one of his favourite people in the world. That sums it up for many of us. Anh Do summarises his immense regard for Trish as, 'Sister Trish Franklin provides rice and vegetables to hungry children. She provides inspiration to the rest of us. She is my hero.'

Trish is a character who makes an impression that few people can dream of. Just the mention of her name can light up a room. I wish I had met her earlier in my life. Wonderful lady.

—Tareq Muhmood, CEO,
ANZ Bank HCMC

Trish is no longer in any fear of bureaucracy in Vietnam, stating that, 'Having been here for so long, I think they realise I am fair dinkum'. She and her organisation are held up by authorities as the model INGO, and new INGOs are exhorted to follow the example of LVAP. She has been decorated by more Vietnamese official honours than troops on the battlefield. The reason: she is admired for her courage in helping the poor, a recognisable ideal in this socialist country; she follows up her projects with practical thoroughness, ensuring they are completed without cutting corners, and then ensuring the local authorities continue to build on what she has started.

On the whole, Trish praises the Vietnamese authorities for picking up the projects she has started and taking them into further stages. However, she leaves nothing to chance; she will regularly go back to completed projects and

check on progress, insisting upon this and that, with the result that authorities generally continue what she has started and maintain her work with pride, as do the families of the children she helps. The pride that she brings to small, deprived communities cannot be overestimated. The smiles of the children spread to their families. Determination to build on Trish's work inspires the local communities and authorities alike. Very few of her projects 'die' like flashes in a charity pan. Trish lights a spark which spreads and burns for years to come. There is an ethic in the fabric of modern Vietnam which recognises and builds on the worthwhile pioneering work of people like Trish. Of around 80 projects she has developed and steered, many have become self-sustaining; none have failed. Two others she was willing to tackle never happened for reasons beyond her control. There are many more in the pipeline. And she is accountable to her many supporters; as Maria Bongiorno, IBVM, asserts, 'Trish has a way of getting all involved in her projects. Her accountability in the form of photographic reports makes a true and lasting impact on all who are fortunate to be on her mailing list.'

There is a temptation to make a 'saint' out of Trish, with good reason. The last thing Trish would want is to be put on a pedestal, labelled and revered from afar. The problem is that we often have very old-fashioned ideas of saints, devout and pious creatures far removed from our own sullied lives. If we regard a saint as one who is a channel of goodness, a radiator of a love above the ordinary, one who points to a better way of life for us all, then Trish well qualifies as a saint. Trish says her work is important, only insofar as it helps others to appreciate and participate in what she is trying to do for disadvantaged children.

Humility is her other wonderful characteristic – no airs or graces, on the surface just a cheery fellow person, struggling to remember the myriad of names of her supporters and admirers but always acknowledging them. So it should be mentioned at the outset that this book was not Trish's idea. She acquiesced to the idea at the author's request, after reading his previous book written on Vietnam. Her pride is not in what she is but in what she has been enabled to do, the many lives and souls she has been able to lift through learning. She sees this book as much a tribute to those who helped develop her character and gifts: her family, her order, her friends, her supporters, her colleagues, her children.

It is no wonder she was sought out by Australian TV show *This Is Your Life* as early as 1999, and other programs since. We need such stories to raise us above the hum-drum and the pettiness of what fills the majority of our TV screens. Trish takes us up the mountain to see more clearly what needs to be done so that we can better come back and work on the dusty, crowded, tumultuous plain below.

'I am God's tool, instrument: God uses me for good. Therefore I must get rid of the crap in me, flick the stress, empty myself.' Those are Trish's words, the way a modern saint would say them.

How does she know when she can let go of one of her many projects? Does it worry her that it may unravel, that so much may be wasted? When does a project become self-sustainable?

Trish explains, 'The children in the project will have a smile on their faces and look healthier. They will look you straight in the eye and stand up straight. Nothing can take that away.'

It sounds so simple. Yet Trish Franklin has inaugurated so many projects, helping thousands of children, over 20 long years. No one else in Vietnam has sustained such an effort so consistently; most move on, retire or recharge over long layoffs. Not Trish Franklin. She has never released her finger from the pulse, battling through inevitable obstacles, whether bureaucratic or human, never once losing sight of the children at the centre of every project.

This book will recount the life of a young girl, slim, athletic, somewhat rebellious, and maturing in an ordinary, fairly large family in a fairly large Aussie country town. The family was devoutly Catholic in an age where vocations to religious life were still common. But times were changing. The days were numbered when the cheap labour of huge numbers of teaching nuns, priests and brothers was needed to run an enormous school system catering for mostly working class Catholics. State aid to religious schools was widespread by the time Trish was finishing school; by the time she was teaching, salaries for lay teachers were on a par with state school teachers. The demand for Catholic education continued unabated, but the need for personal sacrifice and cheap labour was decreasing. The Second Vatican Council of the early 1960s brought subtle changes to the Catholic Church. Lay members were more questioning; private conscience was recognised. The pedestals that families put their religious vocations on were not as high as before. Parents, including Trish's parents, were more inclined to question the wisdom of a teenager taking such a radical step as becoming a nun. In Trish's case, her parents asked her to work for a year after school before taking a step that had become increasingly harder to comprehend.

The numbers of priests and religious would reduce dramatically, but it also allowed those remaining to think beyond the usual school vocation as lay people took over the teaching force. Trish could and did question her career as a teacher in well-to-do schools. She could take time out. She could go to seek out the poor of the world in the footsteps of others doing the same.

The book will explore the spirituality of Trish. How does a modern saint see God, the Church, prayer and devotion? How does one from a close-knit family, who joined a close community life existence, find her human and spiritual

sustenance in essentially a highly exposed, one-person life?

The book will be a window into developing Vietnam, where Trish's work in alleviating poverty of mind and body is part of the overall remarkable transformation of Vietnam from one of the world's poorest countries to a confident young nation making palpable national inroads on poverty reduction. Trish's work is something of a microcosm of the whole, while at the same time setting an example of how best to utilise growing resources to reduce poverty.

Some detail will be given to the many and varied projects Trish and LVAP have undertaken in Vietnam. Rather than just a litany of good works, each project comes across as a separate identity, selected, nurtured and developed according to its unique needs, never appearing as just a number among many. Whether big or small, innovative or supportive, each project has a life of its own which is dear to Trish and LVAP, and which is hopefully conveyed through these pages.

The book will be a voice for the many Trish has helped – those who have worked with her or just wish to reflect on 'the wonder of her love'.

The title comes from a song written by Trish as a young nun:

The wonder of your love: Psalm 137

By Trish Franklin, arranged by Robert Franklin

*Lord, with all my heart I thank you for your faithfulness and love,
Which surpasses all I ever knew of you.
You answered when I called to you,
You increased the strength of my soul.*

Chorus:

*Lord I sing and praise your holy name.
For your faithful love to me you are adored.
I bow down before the wonder of your love.
How great is the glory of the Lord.*

*Earth's peoples shall give thanks and praise you Lord for all your ways.
We shall sing and tell forever of your glory.
You care and love the lowly ones,
But the proud you know from afar.*

Chorus

*Even in distress and sorrow Lord You give me life.
You save me by the power of your hand.
Your love for me is everlasting.
Complete the work you have begun.*

Chorus



Trish with Ian Cousins and the Sydney Vietnamese Choir, 1999, on the This Is Your Life tribute to Trish. Ian and Choir sang 'The wonder of your love', composed by Trish and arranged by her brother Bob.

Trish had God in mind, the wonder of His love for her. Now we can reflect on the wonder of Trish's love for so many people over so many years. And, as Trish would say at the end of one of her emails, 'Enjoy the read. Cheers and cold beers!'

SAMPLE



A Vietnamese woman in white skin'
'Bà tiên đỡ đầu': 'Fairy Godmother'

The impact that Trish's personality and spirituality have on people comes through again and again in the many contributions to this book. Here are three which seem to sit well by way of introducing the wonder of Trish's love.

There are so many adjectives to explain this person who is clearly on a mission from God and who proudly walks in Mary Ward's steps, the founder of the Loreto order. Trish Franklin is a woman for all. She has a zest for life that would be the envy of many; a heart bigger than the Kimberley yet as tough as a Malley bull. She touches lives and alters them for good. She is her own person, loves swigging a beer, stands no nonsense but freely touches people, is carefree about life yet dedicated to the Loreto mission, is a strong and inspiring teacher 'lifting learning ...', swims while meditating every morning, loves the people of Vietnam and the Carlton Footy Club. Trish laughs and prays out loud but is thoughtful, humble and gracious. She made me laugh and cry. She speaks Vietnamese very well and lives frugally. I witnessed Trish teaching and wanted to be taught, I saw her through a mother's eyes and wanted to hug her. She's hilarious, insightful, a Vietnamese woman in white skin, a hard hitting no nonsense Loreto.

—Anna Gingell

My life and family have been blessed to have shared life through her lens of integrity, dedication, commitment, strength, self-respect, and humanity.

—Anne Ryan

If there is a modern day Mary MacKillop, I suspect it is Trish Franklin.

—Ross Coulthart, Channel 7