

### Comments from readers:

*The honest observations about people's struggles with prayer have particularly touched my soul in an encouraging way.*

**Frankie Reynolds**, United Methodist pastor, Perryville, Arkansas

*This book helps us understand what it means to accompany people living in poverty and how we can grow in our faith and the relationship of faith to the issues of justice and peace.*

**Darrell Huddelston**, Episcopal priest, New Hampshire

*The older I become, the more impressed I am with the power and importance of questions. The end of each chapter provides several insightful queries which warrant everyone's time and attention.*

**Jim Wood**, Quaker leader, Sleepy Hollow, New York

AN  
ADDITIONAL  
OPPORTUNITY

**Join the online community  
and converse with Jerry and other readers**  
about perspectives on spirituality and service

[www.spiritualityofservice.com](http://www.spiritualityofservice.com)  
blog at <http://aakerja.blogspot.com>

### **A Spirituality of Service**

*Reflections on a life-long journey of faith and work  
among the world's poor*

ISBN: 978-1-935388-04-3, \$19.95.

Available in paper and e-book format at [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com)

Or by contacting the author:  
[aakerja@gmail.com](mailto:aakerja@gmail.com) or 406-842-7837

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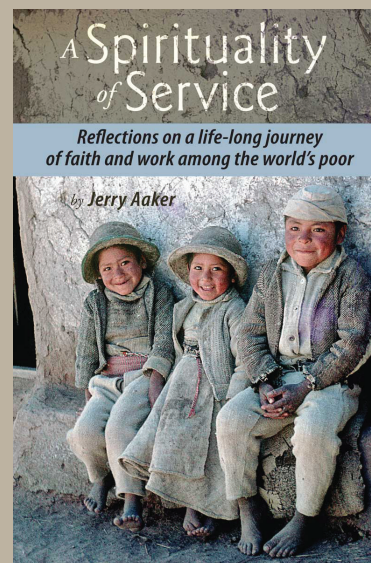


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# A Timely Faith Development Resource

*Helping serious seekers  
gather and discuss questions of faith  
with each other*



AFTER FORTY YEARS of working with people in poverty across the world, Jerry Aaker sat down and reviewed the observations, questions and spiritual insights he had recorded in his daily journals.

In *A Spirituality of Service*, Jerry tells stories and shares observations that emerged from his lifetime of service among the poor—an often difficult journey full of as many questions as answers.

In *A Spirituality of Service*, Jerry offers this unassuming invitation:

*Feel free to use my lifetime of spiritual wanderings and wonderings to reflect on your own spiritual life. My hope is that this book will help you gain an increased appreciation for the mysteries that abound within your faith and will assist you on your sacred journey.*



INTERACTIVE • ENGAGING • STIMULATING • INVITING

*This book will encourage and inspire you to reflect on your encounters with God's grace as you prayerfully discern your own spiritual and vocational journey.*

### Why are many individuals using *A Spirituality of Service* for personal reflection?

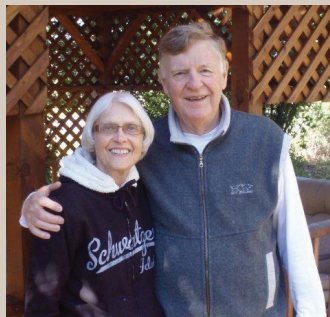
Because the book . . .

- Invites you to walk alongside the author and reflect on your own journey and spiritual understandings
- Offers 35 topics related to spirituality
- Prompts reflection on each subject followed by a scripture text and in-depth questions for discussion and meditation
- Helps you to slow down to read and to reflect

#### **Personal devotions**

*This book is about walking together—walking in a close relationship with God, with others and with creation. Every morning for 30-odd days I woke up and knew that with my coffee I would have another great conversation with Jerry. Every day I looked forward to taking this “journey,” and I have kept a journal and prayed.*

**Gregory Rake**, a Christian working with landless poor in India



#### **A couple's sharing for devotions and spiritual growth:**

*My husband, Alan, and I took one chapter at a time and alternately read aloud each paragraph. Then we read the Reflection section and moved into the Meditation questions. Some of the questions brought to*

*the surface thoughts we had never before put into words and certainly had not discussed with each another. This process provided us with a revealing and a wonderful exercise in listening to one another.*

**Joanne and Allen Heggen**, Madison, Wisconsin

### Why are groups studying this book together?

- The format is ready-made for group exploration. It makes the leader's job easy.
- Each chapter includes scripture texts, thought provoking quotations and open ended answer-it-yourself questions that encourage group discussion.
- The author's personal observations encourage group members to reflect on their own experiences, and the format encourages an easy, accepting style of group interaction.

#### **An adult education class:**

*I led an eight-week guided reading and conversation, adult Sunday school class, using this book. We did not read the chapters in any specific order. Rather the group chose topics of interest. The Reflection and Meditation sections at the end of each chapter are excellent, relevant, and thought provoking. I continue to use the book to help me journal and respond more deeply to the reflections and insights it offers.*



**Carolyn Kelly**, Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Amarillo, Texas

### Options for use with groups:

- Potpourri —A series of sessions on spirituality and discernment. Group members select topics of most interest.
- Lenten Study —A weekly study of various spiritual practices.
- Peace and Justice —Discussions of themes related to service and social justice for the poor.
- Meditation —A reflective meditation group using an adaptation of *lexio divina*.

#### **A men's weekly book group:**

*Fifteen retired men meet weekly to discuss books of spiritual, ethical and cultural relevance. During each of the eight weeks we spent using *A Spirituality of Service* as our focus, we began by inviting each person to share the most meaningful spiritual insight he had gained from that week's reading. Sometimes we barely got around the whole group once in the allotted 90 minutes. This experience changed the way we interact with each other and generated a sense of deep friendship. As a result we scheduled an overnight retreat to share our life stories with each other.*

**Grumpy Elderly Men** of Advent Lutheran Church, Madison, Wisconsin

