



A NOTE ON POETRY & PUBLISHING

Now and then I still write poetry. I guess that's obvious. There was a time when I'd take the time to send them somewhere to, hopefully, be published in a "real" magazine. To have them legitimized by periodicals. But not now. It's absurd how long it takes for one periodical to decide if they want to use your poem (or article). In other words, to come to their conclusion that it's good enough or not.

And they allow you to send in only a handful at a time. It could take years to get one poem placed in one periodical. Time is too precious to be subjected to someone else's rules.

Nearly all of the poems in this new book have been published on my award-winning blog, FaithBraided.com (many have been tweaked for this collection). Some have been submitted to and rejected by magazines. At least two periodicals ceased publication while I had writing being considered. No poems are still under consideration.

Publishing poems and other writings on my own blog usually means they are no longer suitable for submitting elsewhere. This is primarily due to fears regarding rights. It's complicated.

This is only my second volume of poetry. My first, *The Godtouch* published in 1985, included poems that had appeared in several periodicals, nearly all of which are now defunct. In fact, the first edition of the book was published by a small press that no longer exists.

I obtained back all the rights to the book (as I said, it's complicated) and reissued my own self-published edition a few years ago, adding several newer poems to the original 55. You can learn more about that book and read the original poems at www.TheGodtouch.com. You'll need to buy the book to read the additions.

Given the changing nature of publishing -- with periodicals and publishers falling by the wayside -- and the growing movement of self-publishing, submitting to "real" publications and publishers can be easily by-passed. It's also a way to scratch that immediate gratification itch.

This book, other than the *Foreword* by my former teacher (a brilliant guy), is all me. The writing, the layout, the cover, etc. were all done by my hand. So if there's anything you don't like, I'm the only one to blame.

In fact, if you have any comments, good or bad, please feel free to write a review online at Amazon or wherever you found the book, or email your thoughts to me at Stephen@HomeNoise.us.

In the meantime, write some of your own poetry, share it, and let's make America great again!

