

In Honor of Dr. Tom McDaniel, Old Testament Professor

He brings us to Scripture  
with coal-touched ears  
cleansed of past mis-hearings  
and open wide  
to the voice  
of the Lord of Hosts.

He leads us through Scripture  
with barefoot eyes  
touching lightly on the holiness  
of every word  
as we feel them squish  
luxuriantly between our toes.

It is clear  
he has come to the world  
for such a time as this;  
whispering life  
into skeleton words  
picked clean  
by disbelieving vultures,  
self-affirming buzzards;  
whispering and watching  
as sinews form  
as flesh stretches over  
cheeks, thighs, stomachs;  
watches finally  
as the breath of God  
caresses to life  
the dust he has carefully formed  
into passionate lovers of God's word,  
zealous lovers of God's world.

*with eternal Love + Gratitude,*

*Joanna Dale Hauser*

*1999*