**Dear Friends,**

**I am enjoying my week of leave – showing two of my classmates from high school (Ukarumpa High School, Papua New Guinea) around Canberra – but last week, while thinking about palindrome or reverso poems, I came across this poem – *‘The Prayer of Cyril Brown’* by American post, Sam Walter Foss.**

It reminds me of a wonderful children’s talk Jeanette and John did, many years ago, about different positions that people use for prayer (children’s talks – sigh – are always more memorable than sermons!) but it also reminded me of the situations I’ve been in when I’ve prayed *“the prayingest prayers I’ve ever prayed”* and the significance of those times in my life.

I do believe that when we pray *“the prayingest prayers we ever pray”* God is very close to us.

*"The proper way for a man to pray,"  
    Said Deacon Lemuel Keyes,  
"And the only proper attitude  
    Is down upon his knees."  
  
"No, I should say the way to pray,"  
    Said Rev. Doctor Wise,  
"Is standing straight with outstretched arms  
    And rapt and upturned eyes."  
  
"Oh, no; no, no," said Elder Slow,  
    "Such posture is too proud:  
A man should pray with eyes fast closed  
    And head contritely bowed."  
  
"It seems to me his hands should be  
    Austerely clasped in front.  
With both thumbs pointing toward the ground,"  
    Said Rev. Doctor Blunt.  
  
"Las' year I fell in Hodgkin's well  
    Head first," said Cyrus Brown,  
"With both my heels a-stickin' up,  
    My head a-pinting down;  
  
"An' I made a prayer right then an' there -  
    Best prayer I ever said,  
The prayingest prayer I ever prayed,  
    A-standing on my head."*

**Grace and peace be with you,**

**Belinda**