

## TEDDY BEARS

There are teddy bears in the windows, Father.

In the midst of this despair and fear,  
Children suffer,  
Unable to comprehend the danger,  
Yet absorbing the emotions of those around them,  
And the gravity of media news.

So teddy bears in the window  
are a message to passing children  
That the vitality  
and enthusiasm  
and buoyancy of a child  
pervades this place.

Families set out on bear hunts,  
Searching the neighbourhood for teddy bears,  
Expressing their elation when one is found,  
Infusing them with personalities,  
Exchanging greetings,  
And imagining their conversation—  
Fear stifled by fun.

Thank you for teddy bears, Father:  
Symbols of warmth  
and love  
and optimism  
and comfort  
and peace.

Signs of life in the midst of death,  
of normality in the midst of insanity,  
of peace in the midst of chaos.

Am I adding to that optimism, Father,  
Or am I feeding the fear?

*The LORD is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The  
LORD is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?  
(Psalm 27: 1, NIV)*