

# Spiritual search results in new book

By MARGIE McALLISTER  
Camera Staff Writer

Six months ago, Merritt Horn of Lafayette decided to take time away from work to concentrate on prayer and worship.

Although he had been on a spiritual search since he was 15, Horn, 31, decided that his quest had reached the point "where there was lots of understanding, but I was not seeing clearly."

The results of six months in prayer are detailed in a book he wrote, "The Call of the Spirit."

He describes "The Call" as "the relationship of living with God, rather than theological gymnastics."

Horn quit his job to further his religious quest — "and to help my wife."

Jeanne Horn, was expecting the couple's fourth daughter (Carmen, now six weeks old) and agreed that two parents at home could provide better fami-

ly life for Shamah, 4, and 18-month-old twins Alexandra and Ariana.

Although strongly religious, Horn no longer attends church.

"A church is good in that it promotes a relationship with God," Horn said. "But so often churches get sidetracked into worthy things other than the relationship with God."

In July and August Horn concentrated on home-centered worship and prayers.

Nightly, after childcare chores and prayers, he would write those thoughts in a journal.

"The Call of the Spirit" is a crystalized free verse compilation of those journals.

The relationship is broken into four parts: the call, the journey, the messenger and the mission.

In the "call" section, Horn explains the love God has for humans, and the question of

why people do not heed His word.

*"A million stars  
would I trade for your love,  
A thousand galaxies  
for your devotion.  
But these are beyond my grasp  
without your assent.  
I, who, have made heaven and  
earth,  
will not take what must be  
given.  
Others may compel you by  
force;  
I will guide you only by consent.  
The decision must be yours."*

The "journey" section explains the kindling of faith and God's trust. It depicts God as a loving father.

*"Shall I deny my spirit to my  
children?  
Shall I be deaf to their pleas?  
Shall I disregard their needs?"*

*No, for I am a loving parent,  
and I shall do all in my power  
to help them.  
But my spirit is thwarted  
by their lack of faith."*

□□□  
The final chapter, the "mission," is spreading the message beyond one's self that God is alive and with each person now:  
*"Tell them they must no longer  
live  
as if I were not here.  
They know I am infinite,  
yet they imagine that I am not  
with them.  
They know of my power,  
yet they think I cannot help  
them.  
They know of my love,  
yet they refuse to let me com-  
fort them."*

□□□  
Horn is hopeful that the book can be a meditational script for others. It sells for \$5.95 in Boulder bookstores or by calling him at 665-5458.