

Grassy Branch Pentecostal Church, toenails

by [William Kelley Woolfitt](#) in the [February 14, 2018](#) issue

when you stand with the men,  
when you love, and do not despise,  
and peel off Brother Ivan's moist socks—  
his feet two toads, bumpy, swollen,  
earth-smelling—his nails snagged, pitted,  
sandpapery, little buttons, little moons—  
you dip his feet, wash, cradle, pat dry,  
he says *oh*—and all of it—the water,  
the soft pink towel, his pursed mouth,  
skin on skin—is holy, holy, holy—