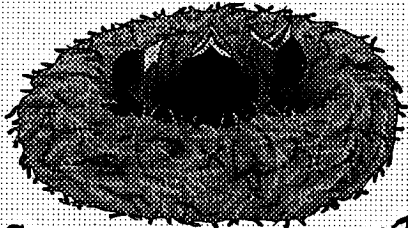
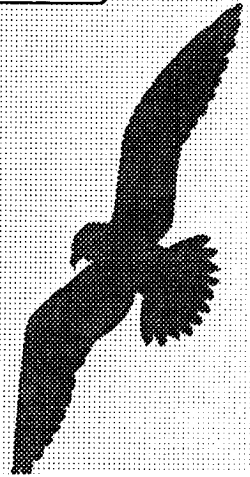


*"They shall
mount up..."*

ON EAGLES' WINGS

*... with wings
as eagles."
Isaiah 40:31*



AERY NUGGETS

*"The Lord possessed me in the beginning of his way,
before his works of old. I was set up from everlasting,
from the beginning, or ever the earth was."
Proverbs 8: 22 & 23*

Ere God had built the mountains,
Or raised the fruitful hills,
Before He fill'd the fountains
That feed the running rills,
In Thee, from everlasting,
The wonderful I AM
Found pleasures never wasting,
And Wisdom is Thy name.

When like a tent to dwell in,
He spread the skies abroad,
And swathed about the swelling
Of ocean's mighty flood,
He wrought by weight and measure,
And Thou wast with Him then:
Thyself the Father's pleasure,
And Thine, the sons of men.

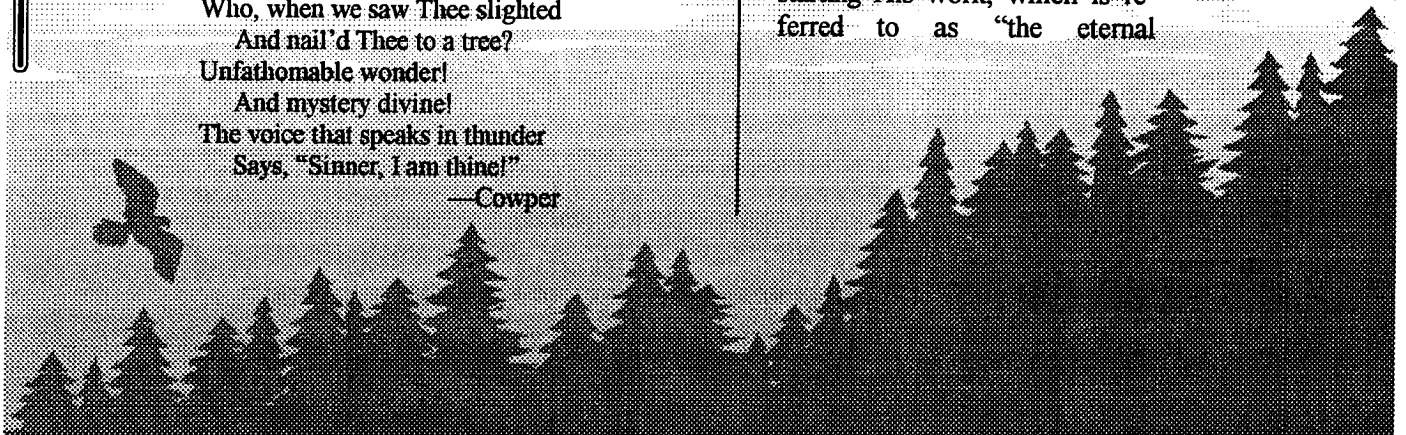
And couldst Thou be delighted
With creatures such as we,
Who, when we saw Thee slighted
And nail'd Thee to a tree?
Unfathomable wonder!
And mystery divine!
The voice that speaks in thunder
Says, "Sinner, I am thine!"

—Cowper

In this age of Ready-mades, most people don't have to develop more than one skill, and so we are intrigued to try developing some other skill that will be a diversion, challenge, and supply a need all at the same time. The general term for such a pursuit is a hobby.

Hobbies can be as diverse as people and can include sewing, cooking, knitting, painting, gardening, electronics, etc, etc. My father's and mine were in woodworking. Together we made several larger pieces of furniture. He left behind a considerable number of pieces, attesting to his craftsmanship and patience. The crowning monument was a Chippendale Desk, made by the use of simple basic hand tools, with none of the modern power tools he had later acquired.

Some projects may be a one evening project, while others like quilting or furniture making may take much longer, testing the perseverance of the handiworker. It may be hard for us to realize, but we are part of a handiwork that has been in process for over 6000 years. The Handiworker is God. He entered into this project with a definite plan in mind *before* starting His work, which is referred to as "the eternal



purpose" (Eph.3:11), and included *us*, as we read, "according as he hath chosen us in him (our Lord Jesus Christ) before the foundation of the world" (Eph.1:4).

Proceeding in an orderly fashion, "He...hangeth the earth upon nothing" (Job26), while at the same time He could say, "Mine hand also hath laid the foundation of the earth" (Isa.48:13). Five days spent in making the earth a habitable place for human kind to live in, ended with God's assessment of His work as being "good."

Now comes the crowning act of His handiwork, "God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness" (Gen. 1:26). Viewing the culmination of His efforts at the close of six days of work, "God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good." (Gen. 1"31). An ascription of praise to the Lord contains the words, "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive honor and glory and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created" (Rev. 4:1).

As a *mar* in the fruit of a craftsman's toil robs him of the pleasure he might otherwise have taken in it, so the entrance of sin by one man into the world (Rom.5: 12) and the passing on of a sin nature to all of his descendants, interfered with the joy God would otherwise have received from His *creation*.

Not to be thwarted by man's perverseness, God spent many centuries seeking to reconcile man unto Himself, testing him in many ways to no avail. Man could not redeem himself, Psalm 49:7, nor depart from his sinful ways. Referring to these efforts of God, the Lord Jesus could say, "my father worketh hitherto" (John 5:17). For God so loved the world He sent His Son, (John 3:16), "to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10). What love! Now man has no excuse for not meeting God's standard, if he will but accept Jesus Christ God's Son as his substitute and Saviour.

Does the handiwork stop once God has brought us to a saving knowledge of His Son? No indeed! Before His death Jesus predicted, "I will build my church" (Matt. 16:18). Now the work takes on a different and more personal nature, and we, "As lively (living) stones, are built up a spiritual house" (1 Peter 2:5).

As we, so to speak, come from the quarry we have many rough edges, sharp corners and disfigurements, which do not fit the picture of the One God wants us to resemble. With the assurance, "That all things work together for good to them that love God, to them that are called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28), the forming begins on us "whom he did for know". He also predestinated that we were "to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren" (Romans 8:29).

It was *self-will* that got Satan cast out of heaven, and was man's natural will that led Adam and Eve to disobey God. The new man has a will too, that is compliant to our new Master. So, when there is a desire to please Him let

us realize, "It is God which worketh in you both to will and do of his good pleasure" (Phil. 2:13).

Though our lives may have assorted joys, difficulties and sorrows for us to experience, let us keep before ourselves, "We are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them" (Eph. 2:10). We will be in God's workshop for the rest of our time on earth, and He wont be finished with us till we hear that, "Shout" (1 Thes. 4:16), which calls us up to be with Himself. Until then let us treat as, a show of the Lord's hand, unexpected things entering into our lives as having some significance to our progress.

Three examples of the unexpected which happened to me this summer are the following:

1. A misdirected letter, which hopefully may lead to a profitable acquaintanceship.
2. The provision of a golf cart to be used at a recent Bible Conference by an unknown brother in the Lord in that area. This developed as an answer to prayer, showing the Lord's concern, and also the Lord's working in that brother's heart.
3. Having an unsought conversation in a restaurant with a lonely person, who turned out to be the Lord's.

One verse I'd like to close with, in case some reader is going through a hard time, is Isaiah 59:1, "Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear."

With sincere love in Christ,

Leslie L. Winters

† † † † † †

The Father sent the Son
A ruined world to save;
Man meted to the Sinless One
The cross—the grave;
Blest Substitute from God,
Wrath's awful cup He drained;
Laid down His life, and e'en the tomb's
Reproach sustained.

—H.K. Burlingham

For address correction or free new name addition, write to:
Leslie L. Winters or Christine Albury