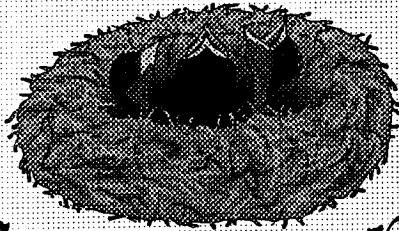
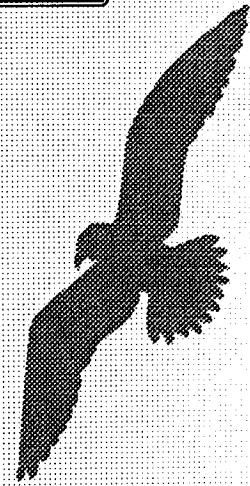


*"They shall
mount up...*

ON EAGLES' WINGS

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



AERY NUGGETS

What cheering words are these!
Their sweetness who can tell?
In time and to eternal days—
" 'Tis with believers well!"

In every state secure,
Watched by the Saviour's eye,
'Tis well with them should life endure,
And well if called to die.

Well in affliction's ways,
Or on the mount with God;
Well when they joy and sing praise,
Or buffet with the flood.

'Tis well when joys arise,
'Tis well when sorrows flow,
Or darkness *seems* to veil the skies,
And strong temptations grow.

'Tis well when on the mount
They feast and joy in love;
And 'tis as well, in God's account,
When they the furnace prove.

But above all, how well
When Jesus speaks the word,
And, at the trumpet's sounding swell,
They arise to meet their God!

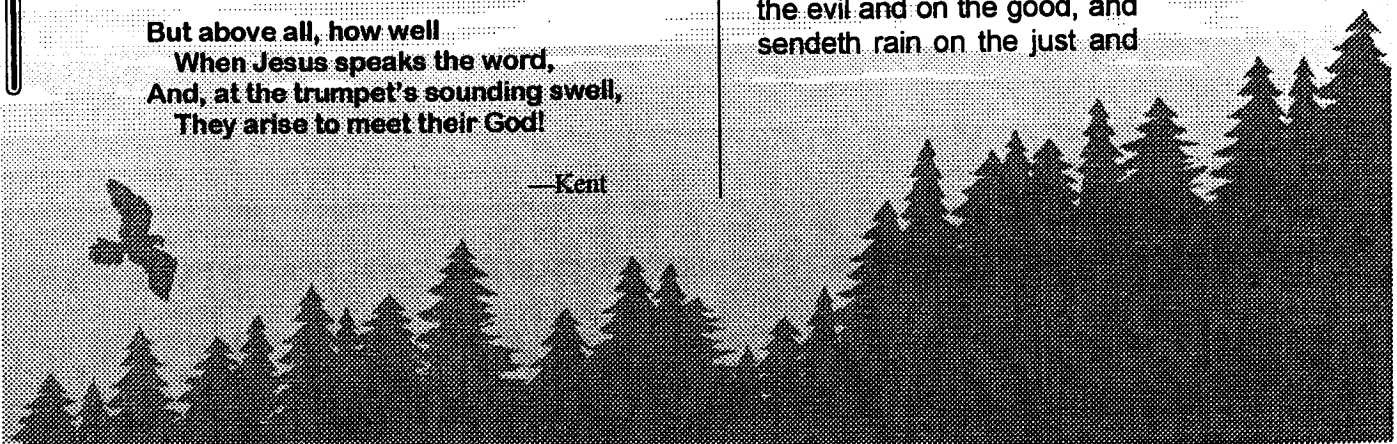
—Kent

Dear Beneficiaries,

Have you looked up that word lately? It means "One who receives benefits." To go a little further, benefit carries with it the thought of "something that does good or helps." Of course we are used to such expressions as medical benefits, job benefits, social security benefits and also the benefit of an inheritance when a rich relative passes away.

The foregoing benefits are largely realized in the form of money, but there are many other benefits we enjoy without thinking of them and for the most part not being thankful for them. Ps. 68:19 is a good place to start. "Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation. Selah." *Do you feel the load?*

The greatest benefit we can have is the gift of God's Son, and salvation through His death and resurrection. "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift." (2 Cor.9:15). Then for some practical benefits we have Matt.5:45 which says, "For he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and



on the unjust." While there are many more daily benefits enjoyed from the hand of a loving and merciful God and Father, here is a significant verse, "Seeing he giveth to all life and breath and all things." (Acts 17:25). Once He has started us breathing does God lose interest or control of the ongoing process? No indeed! For as Daniel told Belshazzar, "God in whose hand thy breath is." (Dan.5:23), so we see the intimate connection He has with His creation.

Having been going through some physical upsets for over a year, I have had to accept the benefit of others help when offered and express thanks for it. A good verse to put into practice exhorts us to "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (1 Thes.5:18). Surely it is easy to be thankful for the pleasant things of life, but what about the many unpleasant ones?

Have you ever been thankful for the invention of the wheel? Maybe so, if they are accompanied by a sporty body and a powerful engine, but what if your set of wheels are attached to the chair you have to spend your time in. Many people have to supplement the lacking proficiency of their bodies by the use of one or more of the following: eye glasses, hearing aids, dentures, canes, crutches, leg braces, knee braces, wheel chairs, which are the more common aids, but no means all.

Now, how do we face the need to use one or more of these supporting aids? With complaint, or thankfulness for their availability? "And when the people complained, it displeased the Lord" (Num.11:1). "Do all things without murmurings and disputings." (Phil.2:14). Think of the patriarch of whom we read, "By faith Jacob, when he was a dying, blessed both the sons of Joseph; and worshipped, leaning upon the top of his staff." (Heb.11:21).

While we are not to compare ourselves to others with words of the Pharisee, "God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are" (Luke18:11), yet it can help to make us more content and thankful with our lot when we see someone with worse problems than ours. Like the man who said, "I complained because I had no shoes until I met a man who had no feet." Some time ago several ladies were primping before the mirror with a couple of them going on about it being a bad hair day. A third one, who was on chemotherapy spoke up and said, "I have no hair days."

We have suggested being thankful for things to aid with our bodily infirmities, but what about infirmities themselves. Can we with the Lord's help rise to the point of giving thanks for them? Could

they be thorns in the flesh? When Paul besought the Lord to remove his, the Lord answered, "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness." From then on Paul's attitude was, "Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then am I strong". (2 Cor.12:9,10).

Believers do have a rich Relative who owns an immense amount of real-estate and all that goes with it but, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in the heavenly places in Christ." (Eph.1:3). Yes, God our Father has begotten us, "To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you." (1Peter 1:4).

May we be humbled by all of the benefits God has shown to us and be thankful for them. "

"Thanks be unto God",

Leslie L. Winters

"Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost!"

—Thomas Len, 1637-1711

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." (Psalm 46:1)

God uses trouble to teach His children precious lessons. They are intended to educate us. When their good work is done, a glorious recompense will come to us through them. There is a sweet joy and a real value in them. He does not regard them as difficulties but as opportunities. Selected.

*Not always OUT of our troublous times,
And the struggles fierce and grim,
But IN deeper in to our one sure rest,
The place of our peace, in Him.*

—Annie Johnson Flint.

For address correction or free new name addition,

write to:

Leslie L. Winters

or

Christine Albury