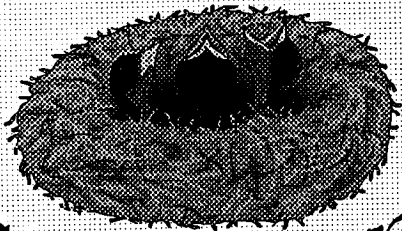
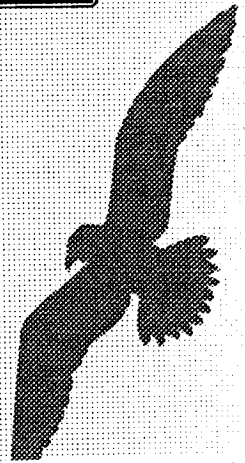


*"They shall
mount up...*

ON EAGLES' WINGS

*... with wings
as eagles."*

Isaiah 40:31



AERY NUGGETS

I've Found a Friend, O Such a Friend

I've found a Friend, O such a Friend!
He lov'd me ere I knew Him;
He drew me with the cords of love,
And thus He bound me to Him.
And 'round my heart still closely twine
Those ties which naught can sever,
For I am His and He is mine,
Forever and forever.

I've found a Friend, O such a Friend!
He bled, He died to save me;
And not alone the gift of life,
But His own self He gave me.
Naught that I have my own I call,
I hold it for the Giver.
My heart, my strength, my life, my all,
Are His, and His forever.

I've found a Friend, O such a Friend!
All power to Him is given
To guard me on my onward course,
And bring me safe to heaven,
Th' eternal glories gleam afar,
To serve my faint endeavor,
So now to watch, to work, to war,
And then to rest forever.

— J.G. Small

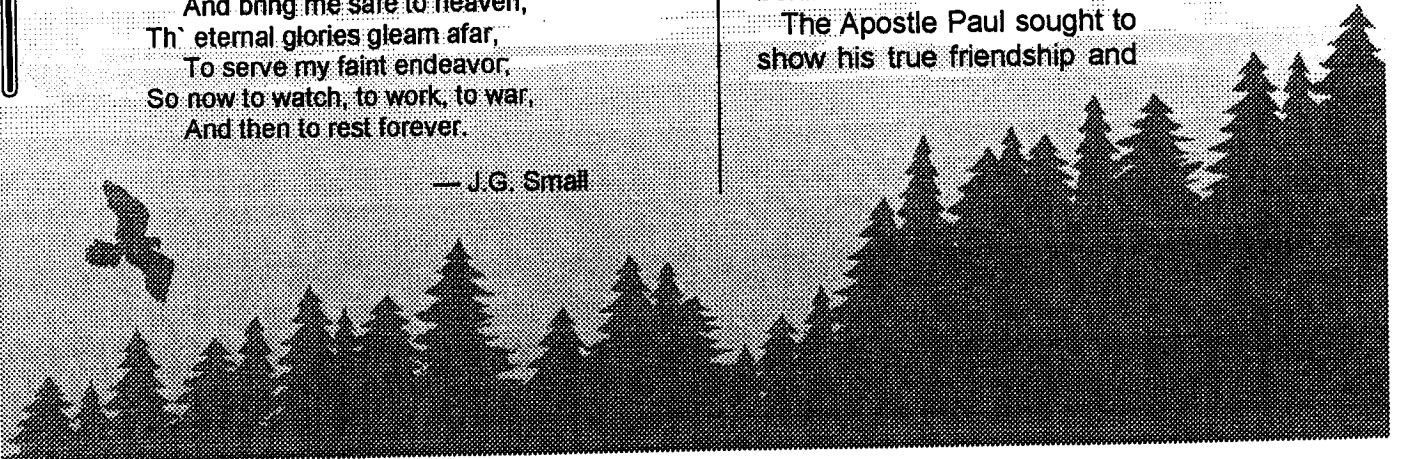
Mi Amigos,

And I do trust that you are still my friends, even though some of the subjects from my pen over the past years may have caused you to be exercised about your life style or over differences we may hold on various truths. Nothing has been directed personally at anyone but in the spirit of the Scripture which says, "Faithful are the wounds of a friend" (Prov.27:6a).

On the other hand, if friendly faithfulness isn't executed when appropriate, it resembles the later half of the proceeding verse, "But the kisses of an enemy are deceitful." Not to give warning of an approaching pitfall of snare is certainly not the action of a true friend.

Dwelling on the "kisses of an enemy" we might think of the time Judas betrayed the Lord with a kiss and how after the act was committed the Lord addressed him with these words, "Friend, wherefore art thou come" (Matt. 26:50). The word "friend" in this case means "comrade", and there was no reproach in this greeting, though the Lord knew full well what was behind the kiss.

The Apostle Paul sought to show his true friendship and



love to the Corinthians, in spite of the reservations he may have had of the results, "And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved" (2Cor. 13:15). This servant of the Lord was no fair weather friend, but carried out the description found in Prov. 17:17, that, "A friend loveth at all times." Now, if this friend had a genetic relation, so much the better for, "A brother is born for adversity." I don't mean a sparing partner, as a man I worked with considered his brother when they were growing up.

Most people like to have friends and, "A man that hath friends must show himself friendly" (Prov. 18:24), but in making close friends we need to consider the effect they might have on our lives. No doubt you have heard the couplet: Birds of a feather__Flock together, but sometimes we might get into the wrong crowd and have to suffer for it. "He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed" (Prov. 13:20). May we each who are believers be able to say with the Psalmist, "I am a companion of all them that fear thee, and of them that keep thy precepts" (Ps. 119:63).

Not only may our friends have an effect upon our lives and how we might think, but also our relationship with God. The question is asked, "Know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God" (James 4:4)?

Think of our early parents, how God would come to the Garden and walk with them until they started to hob-nob with Satan, and, as a result sin entered into the world; the intimate relationship was ended. "Therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden" (Gen. 3:23).

On the other hand, we find in the prayer of Jehoshaphat these words, "Art not thou our God, who didst drive out the inhabitants of this land before thy people Israel, and gavest it to the seed of Abraham thy friend for ever" (2 Chron. 20:7)? This closeness is further revealed by these words, "And the Lord said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do...For I know him" (Gen. 18:17 & 19a)? Think of the honor shown to sinful man, to be cherished as a friend of God.

In spite of the intimate relationship being broken by sin entering into the world, God wanted to reestablish this relationship, thus we read in His word, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). "So" is such a little word that it is hard to comprehend the depth of love it expresses, until we *come* to the greatest gift that could be given.

While instructing His disciples, Jesus spoke these words, "This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no

man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you" (John 15:12-14). How little at the time the twelve entered into the words, "As I have loved you," but in a short time they saw by example the depth of His love manifested by the cross.

May we each one have the desire to be known as a friend of God.

Sincere love in the friendship of Christ,
Leslie L. Winters

"And moreover, because the preacher was wise, he still taught the people knowledge; yea, he gave good heed, and sought out, and set in order many proverbs. The preacher sought to find out acceptable words: and that which was written was upright, even words of truth. The words of the wise are as goads, and as nails fastened by the masters of assemblies, which are given from one shepherd" (Eccl. 12:9-11).

What a Friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble any where?
We should never be discouraged,
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness,
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Saviour, still our refuge__
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer;
In His arms He'll take and shield thee,
Thou wilt find a solace there.

---Charles C. Converse

For address correction or free new name addition,

write to:

Leslie L. Winters

or

Christine Albury