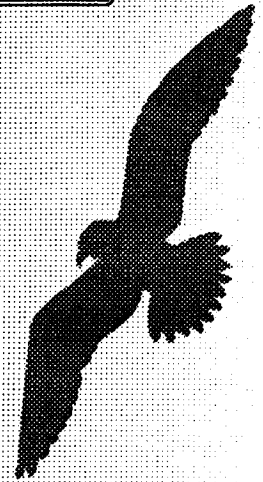


*"They shall
mount up...*

ON EAGLES' WINGS

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



AERY NUGGETS

God in mercy sent His Son
To a world by sin undone;
Jesus Christ was crucified—
'Twas for sinners Jesus died.
Oh the glory of the grace
Shining in the Saviour's face!
Telling sinners from above,
"God is light," and "God is love."
—H.K. Burlingham

Dear Fellow Couriers,

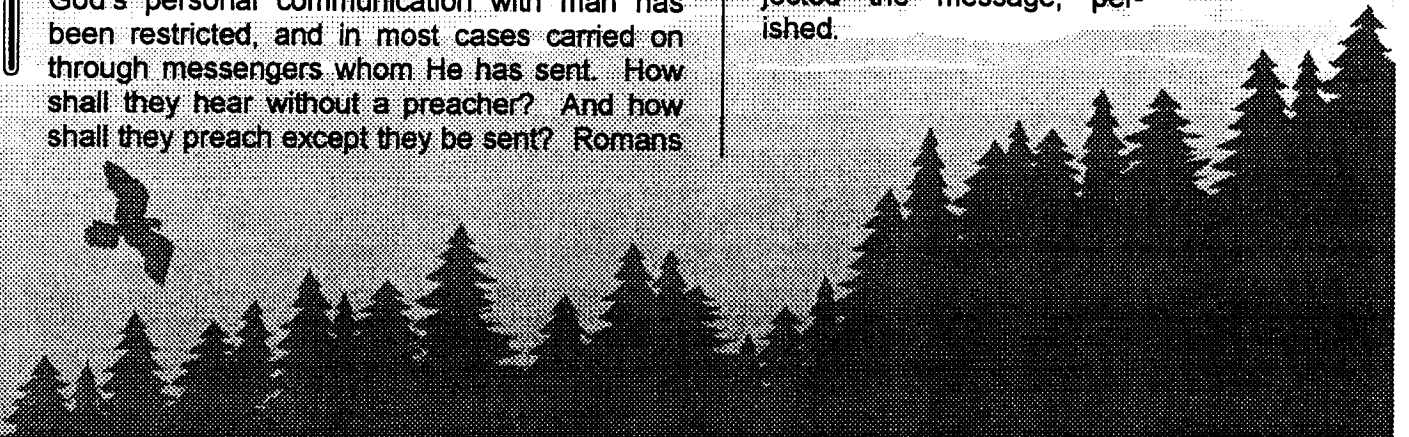
Isn't it remarkable in this age of rapid communications, rapid parcel delivery, fax and the like, that there is still the need for messengers to deliver confidential papers and records, even to the lowly "parts-chaser" who delivered an oil filter to the garage where our van was being worked on. Some of these couriers, who handle items needing security might wear uniforms and/or possess means of identification, access passes, and can be monitored in their progress.

Since the entrance of sin into the world, God's personal communication with man has been restricted, and in most cases carried on through messengers whom He has sent. How shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach except they be sent? Romans

10:14b & 15a. Let's look at a few of the significant ones.

Of Abel we read, "By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh" (Heb.11:4). What more eloquent way could the message that, "Without shedding of blood, is no remission" (Heb.9:22) be demonstrated than to see his sacrifice accepted while his brother's offering of the fruit of a cursed earth be rejected. In spite of his initial rejection, God offered to Cain a last appeal by the words, "If thou doest well shalt thou not be accepted? And if thou doest not well, sin (or a sin-offering) lieth at the door" (Gen. 4:7).

Another preacher of righteousness, Noah, "Being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of righteousness which is by faith" (Heb.11:7). How sad that after a sermon lasting 120 years, only eight persons were called by God into the ark to escape the floodwaters, and the rest of mankind, who rejected the message, perished.



Isaiah was one who may have had a blinding hero, for he writes, "In the year that king Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple." (Isa.6:1). Perhaps during the king's lifetime his acts had occupied our subject's attention and so it wasn't until he (Uzziah) was removed that Isaiah could be reached. The spectacular vision truly opened his eyes and humbled him before the Lord, preparing him for the next step. His ears were open and he says, "Also I heard the voice of the Lord saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me. And he said Go, and tell this people..." (Isa.6 & 8a). Some of his messages are predictions of our Lord's birth, and also His sufferings and death.

Not every one of God's couriers responded to His errand willingly. "Now the word of the Lord came unto Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me. But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarsish from the presence of the Lord." (Jonah 1:1 & 2).

We know how the Lord reached His wayward messenger and stopped his flight through a great storm, and a great fish. Think of the wonderful words expressed by Jonah, while submerged and in the belly of the special fish, "Salvation is of the Lord" (Jonah 2:10).

"And the word of the Lord came unto Jonah the second time, saying, Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee. So Jonah arose, and went unto Nineveh" (Jonah 3:1-3a). The message was received with much repentance, God's display of judgment averted, but the prophet was displeased because his prophecy did not come to pass because of God's mercy.

Jeremiah was one whom the Lord told, "Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations" (Jer.1:5). Some prophets had one message to deliver, while others such as Jeremiah had a variety over the space of a lifetime of service. Of himself as well as of others he could say, "And the Lord hath sent unto you all his servants the prophets, rising early and sending them; but ye have not hearkened, nor inclined your ear to hear" (Jer.25:4). What a testimony to God's longsuffering in dealing with those He loves.

Malachi, the last of the O.T. prophets introduces our next messenger with the promise, "Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me" (Mal.3:1). In the Gospel of John we read, "There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe" (John 1:6 & 7).

We have come to the Divine Messenger from God, the Lord Jesus Christ. "For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved" (John 3:17). From the lips of Jesus we have the message He was to proclaim, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life" (John 5:24). "Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent" (John 6:29). "For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak" (John 12:49).

Our Lord's crucifixion did not put an end to God's interest in mankind, but ere the Lord's ascension He commissioned eleven messengers with these words, "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

One last courier, Saul of Tarsus, renamed Paul. The marvelous grace of God stopped this man in his course of persecuting the Christians of his day and turned him into a devoted believer. After the Lord had brought him to his knees and identified Himself, Saul asked, "Lord what wilt thou have me to do" (Acts 9:6). The Lord's answer to this was first heard by Ananias in the words, "He is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel." (Acts 9:15).

Thus the knowledge of God's loving concern has been spread abroad over the face of the earth by those who have responded to the call of God.

In His service,

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