

## Ransom Notes

### Message from a Humming Bird . . .

My life is blessed in so many ways. Recently I celebrated my 88th birthday. Friends showered me with 'umpteen' beautiful cards, each with messages and thoughts that made me smile and laugh. At times, I was even a bit embarrassed, as my eyes shared with my heart and brain, the kind remarks of the sender.

Pictured here is the image of one card designed by artist Wanda Mumm. She grew up on a farm in Iowa, spread her wings to many other spots of our country, and won numerous awards for her creative talents.

Wanda loved wildlife and shared that love through her art. This card was entitled, 'Hummingbirds'. Hopefully you will be able to spot at least ten flitting hummers, as well as a couple of other two-winged creatures hiding in the array of flower beauty.

The picture drew my eyes multiple times, and then, upon flipping the card over, I began reading her biography. One quote caught my attention. *"An artist's life is a constant adventure with the environment and nature and my paintings are but a glimpse of the natural world as seen through my eyes."*

A moment of reflection of God's world, with all the wonders He created, is also a great adventure for each of us. The pinnacle of His creation is you — YOU, a human, made in His image. The Christian's life is also a 'constant adventure'. (Genesis 1:26) Obviously we are not *exactly* like God. We can't create worlds 'out of' chaos. In fact, we create worlds 'of' chaos. Hopefully, though, we balance our destructive behaviors with enhancing and caring endeavors necessary for hummingbirds to capture life saving nectar from real, not just painted flowers.

Wanda Mumm found joy with brush and paint. Her keen eye and talent blended bird and bush with brilliant strokes. As I viewed the card originally, I totally missed several of the hidden, flitting, nectar hunters. The brilliance of the multi-colored petals became the primary focus of my eyes.

In life, we also may become distracted from the most important goal of our life — to celebrate God and all of His glory. Perhaps daily routines capture our time, leaving only moments for praising the majesty and grandeur of the setting sun, gigantic redwoods, or golden fields of sunflowers. Changing diapers, repairing broken bikes or hearts, or watching endless hours of professional sports, fill our hours, but leave us undernourished from lack of natures' healing properties. Relaxing in the ocean waves, climbing a mountain trail, or observing birds and squirrels scampering amongst the woodland leaves can be an adventure.

You ask, 'Why do I need these moments connecting to God's world?' Psalm 19:1 reminds us: *"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of this hands."* Take a moment to read the entire 19th chapter, refreshing your memory of God's creative ability. Creation quietly reminds us of God's power. In fact, the psalmist compares the daily rising of the sun, within God's heavenly tent, to that of a bridegroom coming forward on his wedding day. He is full of joy, and eager to meet his bride. (Ps. 19:4-6)

The humming bird feeders at our apartment sometimes find a single bird dipping its bill into the sweet water. At other times, several of the tiny birds, weighing less than an ounce apiece, flit about and share the liquid nourishment provided. Unfortunately for us, many days may vanish without a single visitor at the bird restaurant. How we cheer when the little visitors arrive again.

God, likewise, must eagerly look forward to our words of celebration and praise of His beauty. We need to shout out his wonders daily. Let's focus and gain nourishment, figuratively speaking, singing songs of praise, giving words of thanks through prayers, and, of course, introducing our young to the life support system of God's beautiful world provided for our eyes upon which to feast. Go take a hike or woodland drive today. Then shout out praises to the Creator.

