The Swift Completion of Their Appointed Rounds — What a concept for these latter days ....

THE GREEK HISTORIAN, HERODOTUS, IN THE fifth century BC, speaking of a band of Persian couriers, penned a few lines that have been adapted and adopted by the United States Post Office. Though not the actual quote of Herodotus, the sentiment is chiseled into gray granite above the entrance to the New York City Post Office, and reads, “Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds.”

It’s hard to imagine a world without a postal system; even in this electronic age we still need packages delivered. Until 3D printing, or some such similar technology, becomes viable and affordable, we will need a way of handling personal and business deliveries. With the exception of a relative handful of communities, every human being on the planet can send a package clear across the globe to any one of seven continents.

There was a time when all mail was handled only by the world’s ruling authorities, but those days are far behind us. Private enterprises such as FedEx, UPS and others now offer their services for transporting packages and letters, though the term “mail” is generally reserved for your country’s official postal system. At IBE we use all of the above. Our packages are handled by whoever is the most affordable to the destination. For obvious logistical reasons our Community Mailing is handled exclusively by the US Post Office. And though there are many restrictions and guidelines that have to be adhered to, the Post Office is still the way to go. Every month we send tens of thousands of books into communities around the United States and its territories.

In many other parts of the world, letterboxing is allowed. That means that civilians, such as ourselves, can go from door to door and slip a book into the letterbox of every reachable home in the country. We adopted this method on a wide scale during the late eighties, and distribution is still conducted in this fashion by volunteers around the world.

It’s difficult to picture a time when the work of sowing truth may only be carried forward at the peril of the carrier, but we know that time is not far away. As we consider the approach of the warmer spring months, may we encourage you to make a plan for the scattering of good seed for the Kingdom. Make allowance in your giving to sponsor a book evangelist who has the time to … Get Out There!

Thousands of books bound for Fargo, North Dakota

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**Community Mailing®**
is still one of the most efficient, cost-effective ways of quickly scattering Good News across the United States—English and Spanish. To arrange a mailing to any US Zip code, call Lary Petty: (205) 646-2941

“The work which the church might have done in a time of ease and prosperity, she will be forced to do under the most forbidding circumstances.”

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Sign me up for the free Enews Service (email address required).

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