

CHRISTMAS CROSSING

My Uncle Clarence (pictured in uniform at far right) was a wire runner in Battery B of the 157th Field Artillery Battalion. During World War II, he installed lines in Germany that enabled Allied communications. When he wrote home, he couldn't add x's and o's to the bottom of his letters because adding that affectionate shorthand could have hindered or even prevented delivery.

Can anything hinder the delivery of the Good News? (Luke 4:18)

Can anything hinder the Messiah from coming to earth to dwell with us? (2 Corinthians 6:16)

Can God use a donkey to deliver the Good News? (Romans 8:35-39)



Recently, Christians in west Asia asked themselves these very questions. They longed to get God's Word to the persecuted believers in a neighboring country, so they loaded bags of Bibles on the back of a pack animal. But the guard at the border crossing turned them away.

Undaunted, the donkey's handler scouted out the area and found an overgrown path leading into the adjacent country. Soon thereafter, the text arrived: "Shipment received. Donkey rewarded. Believers jubilant."

We don't know what it was like for Jesus to cross that border between heaven and earth. But we do know it was a picture of obedience. Such obedience is linked inextricably to trust.

God's plan for mankind turned out to be the most intentional, unconventional, yet altogether trustworthy, redemptive act in the history of the world.