



The Mission Trail

GUTHRIE, OKLAHOMA

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"LIFT UP YOUR EYES, AND LOOK ON THE FIELDS; FOR THEY ARE WHITE ALREADY TO HARVEST." — JOHN 4:35

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Once again may I say a very pleasant greeting and a hearty welcome to all who are tuned to radio station XEG. This is THE MISSION TRAIL broadcast, with your speaker Willie Murphey coming to you once again for another of our weekly visits which we have each Friday night.

Listen now to the scripture as found in Matthew, chapter 1, and verse 21. I quote: "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name

JESUS: FOR HE SHALL SAVE HIS PEOPLE FROM THEIR SINS."

This is indeed a wonderful thought for us to think about at this season of the year and to remember that Christ came into the world to save sinners. Listen now to this poem entitled:

CHRISTMAS
by Nahum Tate

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
All seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around.

"Fear not," said he, for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled mind;
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind.

"To you, in David's town, this day
Is born, of David's line,
A saviour, who is Christ the Lord,
And this shall be the sign:

"The heavenly Babe you there shall find,
To human view displayed,
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
And in a manger laid."

Thus spake the seraph, and forthwith
Appeared a shining throng

Of angels, praising God, and thus
Addressed their joyful song:

"All glory be to God on high,
And to the earth be peace;
Good will, henceforth, from heaven to men,
Begin and never cease."

Indeed, I for one, am glad that God sent a saviour to the world. For it is through Him that we have redemption, even the forgiveness of our sins, and without Him there is no salvation. One of the things most encouraging about this scripture in Matthew 1:21 is the fact that he says here that "he shall save his people from their sins." This scripture does not say that He will save his people IN their sins, but it says that He shall save His people FROM their sins. By this I understand that the plan of redemption provides that one should be delivered from their sins and no longer does he live therein.

We are often made to wonder if Christ did not come in vain, or as the Apostle Paul wrote in Galatians 2:21 "For if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain." In other words this does not mean that the work of Christ was not complete, but it does mean that some because of their self-righteousness

or because they do not accept the atonement of Christ as the Saviour for their sins, cause the atonement to be made in vain.

There is one thing present which is rather predominant in the life of a child of God. This is the joy he finds when his sins are forgiven. Satisfaction and happiness immediately belong to him. He is no longer under the condemnation and weight of his sins, but they have been lifted, and he has found a lasting peace and contentment. In fact, all things suddenly become new to him. He comes to the realization that he is in a different family--this is the family of God. His outlook on life is different. The things he once hated, he now loves, and the things which he once thought were so attractive, and he was attracted to them by their allurements, he no longer is bound by their binding influence. Evil habits of life which were once so powerful are suddenly burst asunder, and he finds himself a new creature in Christ.

On the other hand, there are some for whom Christ died in vain. This is because they are unwilling to accept his plan for their escape from the wrath of God.

Now take for example the incident recorded in Genesis, chapter 18 when the angels of the Lord were going to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah. Before they carried out their commission to destroy these wicked cities, they stopped for a visit with Abraham. Abraham feared God and because of his integrity the angels revealed their intention to him before the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. Notice how Abraham stood as an intercessor in verses 23 and 24. I quote: "And Abraham drew near and said, Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked? Peradventure there be 50 righteous within the city: wilt thou also destroy and not spare the place for the 50 righteous that are therein?"

Then Abraham finished off his urgent plea for the welfare and safety of his loved ones who yet remained in these wicked cities. Look again at this quotation in verse 25: "Shall

not the judge of all the earth do right?" No doubt this last statement found its way home and brought about the desired result for we see in verse 26, "And the Lord said, if I find in Sodom 50 righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes."

Now it seems that Abraham should have been satisfied with this guarantee, but, no doubt, as he began to enumerate the ones he could think of who might pass as righteous men and women, he failed to think of enough to bring the total count to 50. He then again made his plea with this question "Wilt thou destroy all the city for lack of five?" To this he also received a favorable reply. But he continued to make intercession for the city, each time lowering the required number of righteous people to be found there.

Abraham then continued to drop the number of righteous people in Sodom and Gomorrah to 40 and 30 and then 20, if this many could be found dwelling in this wicked city.

Listen to his final plea as he mentioned in verse 32. "And he said, Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak yet but this once: Peradventure 10 shall be found there. And he said, I will not destroy it for 10's sake."

We remember that God failed to find 10 righteous people in Sodom, but to those who yet remained there he gave opportunity for them to escape before the destruction of this wicked city. No doubt, Abraham is responsible to a great extent in saving the lives of Lot and his daughters.

We would like to share some letters with you from those who listen or read the printed copies of The Mission Trail. Go right ahead with the letters, Frances.

THE LETTER EXCHANGE

From Mo. Dear Ones in the Lord, We have been very slow in putting our thoughts into words, but please forgive us. I think several times I have told you how we do appreciate

your messages through the mail and of my intentions to write you about it . . . The little news items are also interesting and the drawings were a pleasant surprise too . . . Keep the good messages coming, they are soul food to us, and we pray they will reach many honest souls over the air. Enclosed is a little offering to help in the work . . .

From Calif. Dear Bro. Murphey and family, We were so glad to get The Mission Trail this week. We missed getting several, I suppose, because you didn't have our new address. They are so encouraging, how I wish we could hear them also . . . We are ever striving to work and live for the Lord that souls might be saved because of us. We are willing and ready to stand in the gap. . . Keep us on your prayer list. We are praying for you.

From Calif. I have been receiving your paper for a few weeks, and I surely enjoy it so immensely that I just look forward to the next one . . .

This is all we have for today.

Thank you, Frances, and then we have another visitor with us here today that we're very glad to put on the microphone. Here is Sister Florence Sisk of Enid, Oklahoma.

Sister Sisk: "Hello, saints, everywhere. I certainly do appreciate the prayers of the saints everywhere and what the Lord has done for me."

And now at this Christmas season for anyone who may be troubled or distressed or in need anywhere, listen to this called:

THE CHRISTMAS PRAYER

"O Lord, there sit apart in lonely places,
On this, the gladdest night of all the year,
Some stricken ones with sad and weary faces
To whom the thought of Christmas brings no
cheer;
For these, O Father, our petition hear
And send the pitying Christ-child very near.

"And there be tempted souls this night, still
waging
Such desperate warfare with all evil powers;
Anthems of peace, while the dead strife is
raging,
Sound but a mockery through their midnight
hours;
For these, O Father, our petition hear
And send Thy tempted, sinless Christ-child
very near.

"Lord, some sit by lonely hearthstones sobbing,
Who feel this night all earthly love denied,
Who hear but dirges in the loud bells throbbing
For loved ones lost who blest last Christmas tide;
For these, O Father, our petition hear
And send the loving Christ-child very near."
--Selected

This message has been brought to you by THE MISSION TRAIL of Guthrie, Oklahoma. If you would like to have a printed copy of today's message, you may have one free of charge by sending us your request. Until next Friday night at 11:00 this is Willie Murphey saying may the very best of the Christmas season be yours and a very pleasant goodnight!

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YOUNG PEOPLE'S SECTION

by Kathleen and Patsy

We extend to all the young people a cordial welcome to attend our young people's service each Friday night here in Guthrie, except the first Friday of each month when we meet in Oklahoma City. The Lord has been blessing us, and we have been learning many things which are helpful to young people. If you desire to come or would like more information about these services, write us a few lines, and we will be glad to tell you more about it.

During this Christmas season we have been thinking of how much God has done for us and how wonderfully God has protected each of His children. We remember this verse in Psalms 34:7, "The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him . . ."

AT PRESS TIME WE UNDERSTAND THAT:

Many of the saints and especially those of the Guthrie congregation are looking forward to the assembly meeting which begins here on Friday, December 24, and extends over the holidays which will include January 1, 1966. It would be well for those who are interested in finding a better location for the church grounds to come prepared to make some concrete suggestions as far as location and financing such a move. The flood conditions this fall hampered the plans to enlarge the chapel, and this has not been done. We are looking forward to a large attendance and a good meeting blessed of the Lord. Anyone desiring further information may contact the pastor, Bro. Ira D. Stover, Box 210, Guthrie, Oklahoma.

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If you are now receiving THE MISSION TRAIL, perhaps through the request of a friend of yours, and it is your desire to have this free copy which is mailed to you each week discontinued, please advise us at once. We have many calls from those who are anxious to receive this weekly message.

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IS IT I?

Perhaps at first they talked of little things

At supper time that evening in the spring,
The upper room was dim with candle-shine

As Jesus sat with twelve, remembering.

Then quietly, He said, "There is one here

Whose kiss will bring betrayal by and by.

They did not look at Judas curiously

But each man murmured, "Master, is it I?"

Each one looked inward, frightened lest he
find

A shoddy place where he had dreamed of self.

None placed the guilt on any other guest

Who had partaken of that gracious meal.

When there is hunger on my little street,

When I see tears or hear hearts cry

Because someone has failed to keep true faith,

May I, too, murmur, "Master, is it I?"

--Selected

IS IT RAINING?

Is it raining, little flower?

Be glad of rain.

Too much sun would wither thee;

'Twill shine again.

The sky is very black, 'tis true,

But just behind it shines the blue.

Art thou weary, tender heart?

Be glad of pain.

In sorrow sweetest things will grow,

As flowers in rain.

God watches, and thou wilt have sun

When clouds their perfect work have done.

--Mary Frances Butts

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"Holly Hill, S. C., December 9, 1965.

Dear Fellow Laborer, . . . Once again our Lord has permitted me to testify to you of saving and keeping grace in this life above sin and the enemy of our souls . . . Tell all the saints that Archie Sweat at South Carolina is asking to be remembered in prayer . . . Keep the good work up to date."

--Archie L. Sweat

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We are indeed grateful for the response we have gotten from those who receive THE MISSION TRAIL. It is encouraging to us, and by the Lord's help and blessings, we have almost completed the first year of our broadcast. Many of you have shared this responsibility with us, and we appreciate your cooperation. One listener wrote the following: "I do pray for the broadcast. It means so much to see this need. Time seems so short . . . We are so thankful for you dear ones, you mean so much to us. We need your prayers, all of us."

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We wish our readers the richest blessings of the Lord during this holiday season. Enclosed with this copy of THE MISSION TRAIL you will find a little book of poems, most of which are published for the first time. All of these are written by the saints, and there are many worthwhile gems of truth contained in their pages.