



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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. . . A very pleasant greeting to all who are in tune with radio station XEG. This is THE MISSION TRAIL broadcast of Guthrie, Oklahoma, and, of course, your speaker Willie Murphey. We hope that each of you are enjoying the blessings of the Lord and are well and happy on this day before Christmas. And, too, we hope that with all the celebration at this season of the year you will not forget the most important thing of all, and that is that we may understand--

THE REAL MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

It is not only a time for one to remember others in the giving of gifts, which in itself is really a good thing if it is done with the right spirit and motive, but it is a time when we should remember the greatest gift in all the world to mankind. Let us sum it up this way. Here is one verse in the scriptures which give us the complete Christmas story within itself. Listen to this verse in John 3:16. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life."

Now first of all this verse explains why Christ came to the world. It was because God loved the people of the world. He loved them then, and he loves them now. And he is interested in their welfare and happiness. Certainly those who are depressed many times are the ones who feel that no one loves them. But this is not true, God loves you whoever you are, and wherever you may be. In fact, he loved us all so much that he gave his son for the redemption of our souls. He desires that each one may find happiness, but many fail in search of this happiness because they look for it at the wrong places. It can only be found in the center of the will of God. Outside of His will is no lasting happiness.

Now again one may ask, "Well, how much does God love me?" Well, really it is hard to measure the depths and the heights and the breadth of the love of God, but one song says it this way:

The love of God is greater far
Than tongue or pen can ever tell;
It goes beyond the highest star,
And reaches to the lowest hell.
The guilty pair, bowed down with care,
God gave his Son to win;
His erring child He reconciled,
And pardoned from his sin.

Oh, love of God, how rich and pure!
How measureless and strong!
It shall forevermore endure--
The saints' and angels' song.

When hoary Time shall pass away,
And earthly thrones and kingdoms fall;
When men who here refuse to pray,
On rocks and hills and mountains call,
God's love, so sure, shall still endure,
All measureless and strong;
Redeeming grace to Adam's race--
The saints' and angels' song.

Could we with ink the ocean fill,

And were the skies of parchment made;
 Were every stalk on earth a quill,
 And every man a scribe by trade;
 To write the love of God above
 Would drain the ocean dry;
 Nor would the scroll contain the whole,
 Tho' stretched from sky to sky.

Now, I hope that you have found this greatest treasure of all, and that is the happiness that comes to those who find the love of God. And if by any chance, there are those listening to this broadcast tonight, and you have not found this happiness, we hope that this Christmas may be the turning point in your life.

There are, no doubt, some tonight who think that the way to celebrate this season of the year is to stop by the little store on the corner where the strong drink is sold, and there take home with them a bottle of this high priced alcohol. This, they hope, will make them happy during the Christmas season.

Oh, my friends, God forbid that we should so foolishly spend our money and waste our time and wreck our health and deprive our families of the necessities of life in order to indulge in the drinking of beer, wine, and whiskey.

Yet, there might be some who would say, "Well I only drink my wine and whiskey during the Christmas season. I can drink it or I can leave it alone." Friends, this may be true. You may drink it or you may leave it alone. But there remains that possibility that if you drink it now on this occasion, you may be unable to leave it alone the remainder of the year. My advice to you, one and all, is found in Proverbs 23, verses 29 through 35. Listen as I quote to you these verses which I hope may cause someone to awaken and avoid such a fearful state.

"Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes?"

"They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine.

"Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright.

"At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder.

"Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things.

"Yea, thou shalt be as he that lieth down in the midst of the sea, or as he that lieth upon the top of a mast.

"They have stricken me, shalt thou say, and I was not sick; they have beaten me, and I felt it not: when shall I awake? I will seek it yet again."

Now, in speaking of strong drink, and what it will do, listen to this reading called:

"Tom Gray's Dream"

Now let us spend a moment in prayer.

Our Father,

Take the words of the message today to the hearts of those who are lonely or discouraged or cast down. May it provide comfort and happiness that will last not only through this Christmas season, but throughout the year. And for those who are bound by the habits of wickedness, we pray that you would set them free and give them happiness as only thou canst do, for we ask it in Jesus' name. Amen

Friends, you are in tune with THE MISSION TRAIL broadcast of Guthrie, Oklahoma. We hope that each of you will enjoy the rich blessings of heaven, and that the peace of God will keep you and give you happiness beyond measure. If you would like a copy of today's message in print, you may have one free of charge by sending us your request.

Then, too, we have some copies left of the reading "Tom Gray's Dream". They are prepared with some special art work on them and are printed in color. If you would like some of these to pass along to your friends or others, you may also have them free of charge

by sending us your request.

Now we hope that each of you will have a very pleasant Christmas, that God will bless you and keep you until we meet again. I would also like to say, if possible, why don't

you plan to come and be with us in the assembly meeting right here in Guthrie beginning today. Until next Friday night at 11:00, may heaven's richest blessings be yours, a very merry Christmas to each and everyone and a very pleasant goodnight.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SECTION

by Kathleen and Patsy

As we think of Christmas and the close of the year of 1965, we think of some of the great things which have been accomplished this year. It seems that perhaps the greatest advancement which has been made are the discoveries which science has made. They have been very busy exploring the seas, land, air, and space. They feel that they have learned much by sending the Gemini capsules aloft.

This is indeed a great accomplishment, but I wonder how many have been busy exploring the real meaning of salvation. Perhaps some feel that by thinking of salvation once or twice a week, they have thought of it sufficiently. But I feel that real salvation isn't just for one or two days. It is for 365 days a year.

Yes, we know that we have a holiday once a year because it is supposed to be the day on which Christ was born. It is the reason why Christ came that gives us the real meaning of salvation. Christ came because God loved the people of the world and he wanted us to be his people, and he wanted to be our God. (Jeremiah 30:22) But because of our sins God couldn't claim us for his own because he hates all sin. Therefore, there had to be someone who wouldn't yield to sin to bridge the gap between God and us.

It was love for us which caused Christ Jesus, the only son of God, to come to this world, so that we might be the people of God, and he could be our God.

When the coming of Christ was announced, God said that he should save his people from

their sins. (St. Matthew 1:21) If we are saved from our sins, does it seem reasonable that we remain in our sins, except for one or two days a week? No, because God loved us so much he saves us from our sins for seven days each week. Then can we be the people of God, and he will be our God.

This day let us give to God the greatest gift we can, which is our life. Then as the year of 1966 comes, let us remember that because of the great love of God, which is the basis of true salvation, we are the children of God and living for him every day of the year. Let us each day take this advice given by J. D. Templeton in the poem:

THE NEW YEAR

I am the New Year, and I come to you pure
and unstained,
Fresh from the hand of God.
Each day, a precious pearl to you is given
That you must string upon the silver thread of
Life.

Once strung can never be unthreaded but stays
An undying record of your faith and skill.
Each golden minute link you then must weld
into the chain of hours

That is no stronger than its weakest link.
Into your hands is given all the wealth and
power

To make your life just what you will.
I give to you, free and unstinted, twelve
glorious months

Of soothing rain and sunshine golden;
The days for work and rest, the nights for
peaceful slumber.

All that I have I give with love unspoken.
All that I ask--you keep the faith unbroken!

AT PRESS TIME WE UNDERSTAND THAT:

Pomona, Calif.--"We are having a farewell gathering at LaVerne's tomorrow nite (Fri.) for Sis. Poulos before she flies back to the home at Shawnee." --Geneva Hite

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"Bro. Willie Murphey and family, Greetings in Jesus. Just a note to tell you of the change of our address for The Mission Trail. Address--Nellie Poulos, c/o Golden Rule Home, Route 5, Box 74, Shawnee, Okla. 74801. God bless you and we desire a special interest in your prayers. Christian love, --Nellie Poulos."

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Claremont, Calif.--". . . I feel very grateful to you for the invitation to be in your home at the time of the assembly meeting, or any time for that matter, but I am not informed as yet that I will be granted the privilege. The Lord has not burdened nor impressed me that way--so unless I get other definite leadings that way, I'll just plan to be in Mexico on Christmas. Thank you just the same!!! . . . I covet your continued prayers for both work and workers in Mexico--that God lead, guide, and direct. Yours for precious souls, " --Bro. Harland Smith

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The assembly meeting begins today here in Guthrie and continues through January 2. Come and enjoy the fellowship of the saints and the blessing of the Lord in these services.

Earnest prayer is requested for the five year old son of Hutson and Edna Crummie, Route 1 Box 42, Holly Hill, S. C., who has not been well for several weeks.

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Also remember Johnny Bray, six years old, of Route 2, Garfield, Arkansas, who is now recovering from a head injury as a result of an encounter with a horse.

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THANK GOD FOR YOU

Thank God for you, good friends of ours.
Seldom is friendship such as thine,
How very much I wish to be,
As helpful as you've been to me.

When I recall, from time to time,
How you inspired this heart of mine,
I feel myself inclined to pray,
God bless this friend this very day.

So often at the throne of grace,
There comes a picture of your face.
And then instinctively, I pray,
That God may guide you all the way.

Some day I hope, with you to stand,
Before the throne, at God's right hand
And say to you, at journey's end,
"Praise God, you've been to me a Friend,
THANK GOD FOR YOU

The Mission Trail

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