



The Mission Trail

GUTHRIE, OKLAHOMA

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HAPPY NEW YEAR
"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 your speaker Willie Murphey. We are indeed grateful to be coming to you for our weekly visit.

Here we are once again at the closing of another year. Within a few hours, the year of 1965 will be a matter of history. I hope that each of us have made some contribution to cause the world in which we live to be a better place, and as we enter the new year, let us lift up our eyes and look on the fields for they are white already to harvest.

For our scripture quotation, consider this reading in James, chapter 5, beginning at verse 13. I quote:

"IS ANY AMONG YOU AFFLICTED? LET HIM PRAY.

Is any merry? let him sing psalms. Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain; and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit. Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins."

Here we see the value of the powerful force of prayer. In the time of affliction, trouble, persecution, or whatever may be the need, prayer is a mighty weapon of deliverance. Both small and great men of old have learned to resort to prayer. Elijah called upon God for rain and the drought was broken after three years and six months.

The prophet Daniel when he found himself confronted by his enemies continued to resort to prayer and entered into his room with his face towards Jerusalem and the window open and called upon God. When the early church was being persecuted and James had been beheaded by the king, the Apostle Peter was in prison bound with chains between two soldiers. But do you know what the church was doing? They were praying to God without ceasing, and were amazed beyond measure when prayer brought about the deliverance of Peter from prison.

But when people fail to pray, God himself, only, is able to know what the end may be. Now let me point out an example of what can happen in these perilous days in which we live. This is not to cast a reflection upon an individual, but to bring to your minds a warning that others may avoid these dangers. This particular thing of which I mention is the dangers of the modern drugs of our day. Most men and women of the medical profession are aware of the dangers in these drugs, but many people are willing and ready to accept these drugs as just "another pill".

I have a letter to the editor of the Oklahoma City Times which was published November 26, 1965. I am using this with the permission of the Oklahoma Publishing Company. I have deleted one sentence from this published letter. Here it is. I quote:

She Lied, Stole, Died for Daily Gulps of
'Harmless' Pills

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From the Oklahoma City Times, Nov. 26.

TO THE EDITOR:

Yesterday I buried my wife, the mother of my 14-year-old daughter. She was 46 years old. She should have been enjoying the happiest years of her life.

But no! You see, eight or ten years ago, she got nervous and a little upset because I traveled or for one reason or excuse. She took a tranquilizer. One was OK, and it helped calm and relax her.

Soon one pill wasn't enough. It was two, then three and then she was hooked--just as surely as if she was using a needle and potent drugs.

Why didn't I stop her? I didn't know it! I just didn't know it. She kept it well hidden. She ran the house efficiently enough at first. Then the meals began to fall off. "I don't know what to prepare and I don't feel like cooking."

Then she had to have someone come in and help clean the house, then the unimportant clothing stopped being ironed. Why didn't I stop her? I didn't know! She had her own money and the bills were paid promptly.

But it soon began to take more money to run the house--inflation, you know. Just rarely, just occasionally, she would slip and take too many pills when I was around. She would stumble and her tongue would thicken. Then I began to note the frequency of stumbling and thick tongue. I began to note the lack of interest with friends. She became irritable and argumentative with our daughter and would strike her at the least provocation.

When I said something, the pills were hidden. I took her to a new doctor and she admitted that she was hooked. She was hospitalized and went through the withdrawal, as they say. The new doctor substituted all sorts of other pills--they wouldn't hurt her, he said. She could take all she wanted. As time went by, he would cut down the dosage. But something went wrong. He didn't cut the dosage down. Somehow she got different prescriptions at different drug outlets.

The refills were never refused because the doctor said they wouldn't hurt her. She was in a stupor constantly. . . The doctor gave her shots and more pills.

Surely he should have known she had become a con artist. She didn't feel well, she was nervous, she hurt here and there, she couldn't sleep well. So, she conned him out of some sleeping pills and some pain pills.

I would take her pills away and she would buy more. I would find one hiding place and she would find another. Once she asked me to take the pills and dole them out to her. I did, very carefully, until I found a new place hiding 10 bottles.

I put her on an allowance. She charged the pills. I cut off the accounts and she swiped money out of my pocket or wrote checks. Obviously, this could no longer be hidden from our daughter and we begged her to stop--to go some place where she could be taken off. She threatened to kill herself if

we put her in an institution.

The situation got worse. I finally gave her the final word. Either she agree to go to an institution or I would take the daughter and leave. She couldn't quit. She had a horror of institutions and she couldn't make it alone, so she took all kinds--sleeping pills, pain pills and tranquilizer pills. She died after surviving two days. Two days of hope but no chance. Two days of misery and heartache for her little daughter, so mixed up and confused.

I pray to God, someone, just any woman will read this and profit. In heaven's name, pills are a poor substitute for life and bring only misery and despair. I know. I buried my wife of almost 28 years yesterday.

Name Withheld, City

End of quote.

Let us spend a moment in prayer.

Our Father:

May the blessings of heaven rest upon all those who need Thy divine help, because of their struggle to overcome the powers of darkness. Give each one grace to break the binding habits which would drag them down and destroy their peace of mind and heart, for we ask it in Christ's name. Amen

Here now is a song by Bobby Forbes, Dorrall Forbes, Randal Flynn, and Melvin Doolittle. It is entitled "In Times Like These".

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 upon your request. May the Lord bless and keep each one until we meet again and help you throughout the new year and now until next Friday night, this is Willie Murphey speaking for THE MISSION TRAIL and saying a very pleasant good-night!

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SECTION

by Kathleen and Patsy

I Peter 4:12 says, "Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:"

By this we understand that many trials are going to present themselves to us as we live for the Lord. These trials aren't just some easy thing over which we will soon have the victory. They are strange things which we aren't able to understand.

In I Peter 1:7 he said, "That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:"

If we just submit ourselves under the hand of God he will make these strange and fiery trials of more worth to us than gold.

"Dear Kathleen, . . . I'm happy to report victory in my soul today. I was just thinking the other day how wonderful it is to have someone we can depend upon . . . I can take everything to the Lord in prayer, and I can trust Him. Thank the Lord. Isn't it wonderful? But then I think of how easy it is to compromise with the world. That is something we must think about and to watch and pray so that this will not overtake us. Even though we are not of the world, we are in the world, and if we are not careful . . . the enemy of our souls will deceive us . . . And if we do things like the world, it won't be long until a little pride will spring up in the heart. By then the devil has gotten quite a start and in most cases the spiritual is just about dead before the person really realizes such is taking place . . ."

--Don McIntosh

AT PRESS TIME WE UNDERSTAND THAT:

TODAY

(For the new year of 1966)

With every rising of the sun
Think of your life as just begun.
The Past has cancelled and buried deep
All yesterdays. There let them sleep.
Concern yourself with but Today.
Grasp it, and teach it to obey
Your will and plan. Since time began
Today has been the friend of man.

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The assembly meeting here in Guthrie this week is in full progress and saints from many sections of the country are present, including some from as far away as California, as far south as Louisiana, as far east as South Carolina, as far north as Illinois. The Lord's presence has been felt and a number have come forward to seek and receive the spiritual help which they desired.

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Bro. Charles Smith of Shawnee, Oklahoma had an automobile accident a few days ago on a rain slicked highway and suffered an injury to his hip; however, he is at home and seems to be improving somewhat as he looks to the Lord for his recovery.

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Many viewed with great interest the slides which were in color Bro. and Sis. Carver made while on their missionary trip to Nigeria and the ones which he brought back from India.

Oklahoma received a much needed rain, but otherwise weather conditions have been favorable for the saints, as they have been traveling on the highway. Those coming from Calif. reported the highways were in good condition with no trouble from snow.

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The soul would have no rainbow had the eyes no tears. --Selected

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GOD'S WAY IS BEST

God's way is best; if human wisdom
A fairer way may seem to show,
'Tis only that our earth-dimmed vision
The truth can never clearly know.

Had I the choosing of my pathway
In blindness I should go astray,
And wander far away in darkness,
Nor reach that land of endless day.

God's way is best, I will not murmur,
Although the end I may not see;
Where'er he leads I'll meekly follow--
God's way is best, is best for me

--C. W. Naylor

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We wish our listeners and also the readers of THE MISSION TRAIL the very best of happiness and success in this coming new year of 1966.

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