



The Mission Trail

Box 99

Guthrie, Okla. 73044

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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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"Some Things Hard to Understand"

Radio Broadcast for week of March 3, 1968--(See back page for list of stations)

. . . A very cheerful greeting to all the listeners of this radio station. I am certainly happy to be coming your way again with a message from Him who knoweth all things and is able to lead us safely through this world of trouble. I wonder if you have found some things in your life which are hard to understand. It might have been the loss of a loved one. It may be a sickness which appears that it will follow you until the day of your death, or it might be some things of the scriptures which baffle you and bring perplexity. Now that is exactly what I want to talk about today--"The things which are hard to understand".

Peter spoke of some things which the apostle Paul had mentioned in his writings that were hard to understand. This was concerning the coming of the Lord and the passing away of the world and the things which are in it. May I add that many people do misunderstand the scriptures concerning that great day. They are looking forward to the returning of the Lord to set up a literal kingdom here in this world, whereas the scriptures tell us that He is coming to bring the world to judgment.

Some of those who teach such a theory seem to feel that they can live as they please here and now, but somewhere out there in the future they hope to be given another opportunity to make their peace with God. Friends, let me tell you plainly, if you ever intend to change your ways and become a child of God, you had better be doing it now. We are told that "today is the day of salvation and now is the accepted time". I can foresee no promise that one who passes up his opportunity to be saved now will ever be given another chance after death.

Listen to this scripture. Beginning with the 15th verse of the 3rd chapter of II Peter, I read. "And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction."

But let us go back to the thought concerning the things which are hard to understand. I remember the advice of an aged saint which was given to Frances and me at a time when it was hard for us to understand why our first son which was born dead should not be permitted to bring joy and gladness to our hearts as we had so long planned for. Let me pass along this advice to you. She said, "God is too wise to make a mistake and too good to do wrong." Friends, I accept that as being true, do you? In other words, we

must realize that God understands His business better than we do. He has plans and purposes which we might not understand.

But speaking of things which are hard to understand, I confess to you that there are many things which I do not understand. I do not understand why God saw best to call Bro. David Madden home to himself so shortly after he made the missionary trip to Nigeria and brought back so much first-hand information of those people who were hungry for the gospel.

I do not understand why the Lord of the harvest should in such a short time thereafter cause Sister Opal Wilson to go to her reward and leave the same missionary field in Nigeria where she and Bro. Ostis Wilson were so busy in giving the bread of life to those hearts who were hungry for the word of the truth.

I also confess that I do not understand why God allowed the door to be closed to Bro. and Sis. Carver when they were just ready to enter that field for the second time in the summer of 1967. We might be inclined to think that perhaps this was because the Lord had in mind to also take Sis. Carver home to her reward within just a few weeks after the Lord worked it out for them not to enter Nigeria. However, we know the Lord could have prolonged her life and made it possible for them to administer to those people as long as He saw fit.

And now we understand that Biafra, the part of Nigeria which has seceded from the Nationalist are blockaded and have very little connection with the outside world. They are surrounded by the Nationalist armies. Port Har-

court is blockaded from the admission of ships to bring in supplies. We understand from a newspaper report that planes fly into Biafra after night and bring supplies under cover of darkness. And again I say that I do not understand why God would see best to have many of the congregations which He was raising up in that place to be isolated and endure the devastation of war.

Let us not forget those in Biafra and other countries as well who are deprived of hearing the word of God explained in its fullness, as we know it, and its power to save.

Bro. Ostis Wilson in speaking of the people in Nigeria told the saints at the national campmeeting in 1965 of conditions that existed while he and Sister Opal were there. How many of you remember his words as he had this to say? I quote:

"When things turned out as they did, those people were a bewildered group of people. They just about folded up. They said, 'David came over here and went back, and in a few days he died. Now you folks come over and your wife dies right here among us. No one will ever venture to come to help us any more.'

"They just about lost hope. They just about folded up. And all the women--Opal when she started teaching them to sew, she just cut up small pieces of cloth about to so big a square and she was teaching them to make simple stitches and hems and so on, on that little piece of cloth. After she had gone those women came to Bro. Etuk, and they held up the little pieces of cloth. You know, like the people did with Dorcus in the Bible, they were holding up the things that Dorcus had

given them. These people came and held up their little pieces of cloth and said, 'Is this the end? Is this all we have? Is there going to be no more?' "

End of quote.

Friends, I wonder how these dear ones are doing today. I wonder if those who have learned to know the Saviour are still living for Him at this time. Will you remember them in your prayers? Not only those in that country, but in many other places there are those who are suffering things which are "hard to understand". But here is a note of comfort. Listen to this poem.

Things Just Don't Happen

Things just don't happen to children of God,
They're part of a wonderful plan.
The troubles, reverses, the sorrows,
the rod
Are strokes of the great Sculptor's hand.

When some dread accident strikes you
a blow,
And you restlessly fret and demand;
Why try so hard the mystery to know?
It's not just an accident, it's planned.

Have you been dropped from a place of
power
Do you wonder and reprimand?
Don't rebel, but look to Him in that hour,
This just didn't happen, it is planned.

Persecution, tribulation, come down
like a storm,
Friends disappoint and withstand,
At last, all alone, bewildered, forlorn,
You look, and He smiles, this is planned.

Do you wonder why God to affliction
should call
And why you must suffer and moan?

"No man should be moved by affliction,"
says Paul,
For you know it is part of the Plan.

Did some dear one sicken and finally die,
Did your heart break with anguish and
woe?

Did you question your Lord and cry,
"My God, why?"
Don't question. He planned it just so.

Things just don't happen to children of
God.

The blue print was made by his hand.
He designed all details to conform to His
Son.

So all things that happen are planned.

No matter what happens to those called
"His own,"

Events that are awful or grand,
Every trial of your life, He sends from
His throne,
Things just don't happen. They're
planned.

Read Romans 8:28. --Selected

And now let us pray.

Our Father,

Help us to realize that the things
which are hard for us to understand
are all within the great plan of our God.
Bless those who hear the message today.
May they put forth a greater effort than
ever before to do the things which are
pleasing in thy sight for we ask it in
Jesus' name. Amen

And now, friends, may I tell you this
message has been brought your way
today by THE MISSION TRAIL of Guthrie,
Oklahoma. Your speaker is Willie
Murphey. These weekly messages are
made possible through the co-operation,
prayers, and contributions of those who
have a love for the truth. If God should
speak to your heart to help us, we would

be glad to hear from you. If we may be of help to you, or if you would like to get the message in print, be sure to let us know. There is no charge or obligation. Address your letter to The Mission Trail, Guthrie, Oklahoma.

Listen now to this song, "Come Unto Me". The singers are Bob and Dorral Forbes, Randall Flynn, and Melvin Doolittle.

Friends, it has been a pleasure to bring you the gospel today. Be with us again next Sunday over this same station at this same time for another broadcast of THE MISSION TRAIL. Until then this is Willie Murphey saying may the Lord's richest blessings be yours and a very cheerful good-bye!

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From Missouri: "The Mission Trail, Dear Bro. and Sister in Christ, Christian greetings in Jesus' name. I thank God for His saving power, for He is able to keep us from falling and He will satisfy our heart's desire. Praise God, what a Saviour! . . . God bless and supply your every need. In Christ,"

--Mrs. Fannie Adams



THIS PICTURE made last week shows the family when it was "assembly time" for THE MISSION TRAIL. From left to right: Patsy Murphey, Frances Murphey, Wayne Murphey, Kathleen Murphey and Willie Murphey. The "printshop" is located in the basement of our home in Guthrie, Oklahoma.

From . . .

Parents of Ruth Gaines

"Dear Bro. Willie and Sis. Frances, Greetings of love. We are still encouraged in the Lord. Ruth is still yet in a critical condition, but we are walking by faith and not by sight.

"We have committed Ruth into the Lord's hands and know He is watching over her and taking care of her. I realize that, no doubt, the Lord loves her even more than we do, and we love her very much. Our power is limited, but God's power isn't limited. It has been a wonderful consolation to us. There cannot one thing happen to her except what God allows. When I am tempted to become afraid or worried, I remember that I gave her to the Lord to take care of. When I leave her at night I know the Lord is going to be watching over her.

"Surely the Lord has been so good to us, and we have felt the presence of the Lord. We appreciate the prayers of the saints. We have also appreciated all the many cards, letters and poems sent to us. Many letters have contained love offerings. We pray that the Lord will richly bless and reward each one for their sacrifice and supply all their needs. I will try to thank each one by a personal letter, but until I get around to it, please accept our thanks through this letter. Some sent one dollar bills to Ruth with cards at home that I've never answered yet. I think Ruth received two stuffed toys at home after we came up here that I've never acknowledged yet. We want everyone to know we appreciate each thing everyone has done. Christian love,"

--Clayton and Eva Lou Gaines
c/o Don McIntosh, Route 5, Columbia, Missouri 65201.

Planting Time Is Here

"In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand:" Eccl. II:6

The winter months will soon be over and soon planting time will come. Farmers are becoming eager to get in the fields and work the soil, making ready to plant the tiny seeds, anxiously awaiting their appearance peeking through the fertile ground, their growth, and anticipating their yield at harvest time. The seed benefits by being put to use as it multiplies, as well as the planter benefits.

Let's say you are the planter, and the means which you dedicate in the hopes of seeing some results in the salvation of souls is the seed. Your seed may seem very small, meager in fact, but when it is given over unreservedly, carefully cultivated and nourished by God's sunshine and tender care, it will bring forth, not only one soul, but perhaps many! So not only will one soul benefit from your seed but others, too, on down through time and eternity.

You don't see any results, you say? You don't feel blessed by sacrificing some of the luxuries you have denied yourself by giving? Just remember, one soul is worth more than the whole world.

We are looking forward to warmer weather when the evangelistic equipment can again spread the gospel seed in isolated places. We trust at least as much or more good will be done as was accomplished last summer.

The truck will need a new or rebuilt motor. If anyone has any suggestions or desires to help in this effort, please contact the undersigned.

With love for every soul, Secretary-Treasurer of Church of God Missionary Fund, Louie and Evodna Marler, Route 1 Box 180, Senath, Missouri 63876.

From Texas: "Dear Bro. and Sis. Murphey and girls, I want to say hello and greet you this morning in the name of our precious Saviour. It's been quite awhile since I wrote, but I'm still trying to live a righteous life for God. I am so grateful for his blessings and that he has kept me and my family all through these years. But as I'm thinking, the years are swiftly passing. It's harvest time. It's growing late, and souls are not saved. I'm afraid my loved ones are going to wait too long. Oh, do pray for them and others who are so careless with their lives and for me that I can be filled with God's Holy Spirit and have complete love. Surely I want to be ready for that fast-approaching day when Jesus will come for his own. . . I wish your prayers."

--Sister Frances McDonald

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From Louisiana: "Dear Bro. Willie and family, Greetings of love in Jesus' dear name. I wanted to write you a few lines to let you know I still feel good in the Lord, but I have a cold. I need your prayers. The Lord said to pray one for another.

"We enjoy the Mission Trail and all the encouragement from the saints and prayers. I want the saints to pray for my wife for both soul and body. Remember our children and wives. . . Please pray for Bro. Goldsberry and family and Bro. & Sis. Brown. Your Bro. in Christ," --N. P. Futch

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From Missouri: "Dear Bro. and Sis. in the Lord, God bless you both as you labor together in the Lord. It is such a blessing to me, hearing your broadcast. I thank God for folks like you--giving of your time and energy whereby our hungry hearts might feast upon his words through your labor. . . I hear you over KCLO every Sunday."

--Mrs. Emma Jordan

Prayers Are Appreciated

We have received many lovely get-well cards and letters, and some have sent offerings. Since Darius is so very ill, I am unable to answer all of them, but I want to say we appreciate everyone, and we thank you for your interest and prayers. At this writing Saturday night, March 2, Darius is very sick. Please continue to remember us.

--Sister Evelyn Gibson, Route 3, Box 23, Seymour, Missouri 65746

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From Oklahoma: "Dear Bro. and Sister Murphey and children, Greetings in the precious name of Jesus. We do appreciate the prayers of the saints in times like these--not alone in these, but always.

"Aunt Lizzie Eck is still in the hospital but is very much improved. She is able to talk fairly good although she is still weak.

"By the good mercies of God I went to be with saints at Shawnee, Feb. 18, and stayed till Thursday afternoon. I drove my car. I am happy and thankful for God's care over us all. I also visited the children in Oklahoma City. . . . I still desire your continued prayer for complete recovery for Aunt Lizzie. Pray for us as we do for you. Beloved in Christ Jesus," --Sister Eva Penner

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From South Carolina: ". . . I sure do love to read over the testimonies of the saints of God. It brings joy and comfort to my soul. . . I am glad today that I am standing for the rock of Jesus Christ, the rock that will stand forever. . . . I think a lot of the 3rd chapter of Colossians. Read the 1st, 2nd and 3rd verses. It sure sounds good to me. It says, set your affection on things above and not on things of the earth, for ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. . ."

--Eddie Driggers

From Oregon: ". . . I enjoy the news items. It keeps me in touch with so many I haven't seen for many years. It also makes my heart very sad to read of the sufferings of so many dear ones who have been so faithful to the dear Lord, especially those up in years. We know satan will contest God's people right up to the pearly gates. And until they close right in from of him, he has no intention of giving up tempting God's people as long as there is any life left in them. If we were as zealous as he, what a host of souls might be saved. . . May God bless you in this wonderful work. . ."

--Sister Grace Jones

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From Colorado: "Dear Bro. Willie, Sis. Frances and family, Greetings in the lovely name of Jesus our blessed redeemer. We want to report victory in our souls today over sin and the devil. We are enjoying the Mission Trail very much. This last one, 'Ambassadors for Christ' should stir everyone's heart who reads it and make us take a check on our lives and see what kind of a witness are we. Do we really witness for Christ? Let's all check and see.

"Wife has had the flu for almost five weeks now but is steadily improving for which we praise the Lord. Keep praying for her. . .

"May God bless you is our prayer. Remember us when you pray. Bye for now. In Christian love,"

--Ed and Addie McEndree

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From Oklahoma: "I am still pressing on toward the goal set before us. I love the Lord and the true way. . . We appreciate God's people everywhere, and his way is the sweetest to us. I want to be effective in this true way and not hinder anyone. . . 'Many trials make us more perfect.' This is very true. . . Sincerely,"

--Jeanne Holder

at press time

we understand:

It is encouraging to know that a number found spiritual help in the revival services which Brother Curtis Williams had with the Sapulpa saints last week.

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Our sympathy is extended to Bro. and Sis. Donald Madden of Sapulpa, Oklahoma in the death of their eight-year-old son, Don Jr., whose funeral was Saturday, March 2. Bro. Ira D. Stover conducted the service.

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From Kansas: "Dear Bro. Murphey, This letter is to let you know I am receiving The Mission Trail and appreciate it very much. . . Your brother in Jesus,"

--Homer W. Fee

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From Oklahoma: ". . . I want you all to pray for me that I will get relief. I have been under strain from so many things happening. God's word tells us He will not put on us more than we can bear. . . I want you to pray for our unsaved children. . . God is still on the throne. Prayer changes things. . . I'll close with love and prayers,"

--Sister Ben Harrison

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From California: ". . . Today finds me enjoying the narrow way. This is the only happy way. God is so good to each of his children. He lets things come in our pathway to draw us closer to him and perfect us for heaven. His mercy and love cannot be measured. May God bless and keep you as you labor for the salvation of souls. . . Christian love,"

--Letha Reece

From Arkansas: ". . . We are all well in body, also thankful for the blessings of salvation we feel in our souls today. We are made to appreciate the truth and the saints of God more all the time. . . With Christian love,"

--Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Loftis

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From Oklahoma: ". . . Greetings in Jesus' dear name. This morning finds me determined to win the race. I just got through reading The Mission Trail and do enjoy every bit of it. I am sending some of the papers on to others. . ."

--Mrs. Leonard Roberts

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JUST A FEW MORE DAYS

"So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom." Psalm 90:12

Just a few more days to travel
This life with weary feet
Then we all in heaven will gather
At Jesus blessed feet.

In these last few days let's scatter
Seeds that'll reap eternal life
Laying up some sheaves in heaven
Amid the conflict and the strife.

A few more days to let our light shine
While this world is dark with sin.
It is time to not grow weary
But win a few more souls for Him.

Just a few more days to labor.
Just a few more days to wait.
Then we'll all be safe in heaven
Inside the pearly gate.

--Rada Watkins



THE MISSION TRAIL, originating in Guthrie, Okla., is broadcast by radio and published weekly in printed form by Willie and Frances Murphey with the help of others. It is mailed free of charge to those who request it. Its purpose is to reach the hungry hearts of the unsaved everywhere with the gospel which will save them. Its principal support comes from the free will contributions of its listeners and readers. Those who feel directed by the Lord to assist may do so by sending their offering to: THE MISSION TRAIL, Guthrie, Okla. 73044.



For some it will come true: "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." Jer. 8:20. Let us hasten with the message which Jesus gave: "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls."

Broadcast Schedule

Listen for THE MISSION TRAIL weekly on one of the following stations:

RADIO STATION	LOCATION	DIAL SETTING	TIME
KXOW	Hot Springs, Ark.	1420 kc.	Sunday, 7:15 a.m.
KCRS	Midland, Texas	550 kc.	Sunday, 7:45 a.m.
KCLO	Leavenworth, Kans.	1410 kc.	Sunday, 3:00 p.m.
WFPR	Hammond, La.	1400 kc.	Sunday, 7:45 a.m.
KCKW	Jena, La.	1480 kc.	Sunday, 7:30 a.m.
KCIJ	Shreveport, La.	980 kc.	Sunday, 7:30 a.m.

The Mission Trail

Box 99

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Return Requested

