



The Mission Trail

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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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Make Straight Paths for Your Feet

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. . . Friends, have you ever ridden on a wagon down a dusty road in the summertime? As my mind goes back over the years I can visualize the trail that is left behind as the old horse pulled the wagon slowly down the road. Let us suppose it was one of those warm days and the grass was growing beside the road as we made a trip in the "good old summertime". Of course, the horse would be doing the work of pulling the load so he would be in no hurry, but occasionally he would stop for a bit of fresh green grass which was well within his reach. You see, back in those days it was not like it is now with four or six lanes of traffic moving swiftly down a wide road of pavement, but often there was only enough room for one wagon in the road. If you should meet your neighbor, it is quite likely that you would have to pull off between the trees and stumps to allow room for both wagons to pass.

But here is what I want to tell you. Do you ever remember looking behind you after you had traveled a few hundred yards? Do you know what the tracks in the dust would look like? Well, let me tell you something. It is quite likely that those tracks would be very crooked and go from one side of the road to the other. In other words, they would follow the way which the horse had walked. They would also indicate when he had gone to the left or to the right to catch a bite of grass.

Listen now to this text from the 12th chapter of Hebrews and the 13th verse. I quote, "And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed." You see, it is not so bad to have crooked paths behind you if you have been riding in a wagon, but did you ever stop to think what the path behind you may be as you walk the road of life?

Now a good way to avoid a crooked path is to get your eye fixed on an object before you. Here in the 12th chapter of Hebrews and verse 2 we find these words. "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."

And in the 3rd chapter of Colossians beginning with verse 1, "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God."

Think of the many excuses which people make because of the crooked path which they leave behind them. So often it is just a matter of delay. They

say, "Not now". Eventually they plan to make their start for God, at least, I hope they do. Evidently they have something else in mind which they want to do before they are ready to straighten up and live for God. Do you know that the scriptures say "today is the day of salvation"? When Paul was on trial, Felix told him to "Go thy way, for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee." So often convenient times never come.

"Sinful man, thy days are few,
How swiftly they decline!
Time will never wait for you,
Only now is thine."

Those who wait for tomorrow should read this scripture in Proverbs 27:1. "Boast not thyself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth." Do you remember the verse of that old song which says:

"Tomorrow's sun may never rise,
To bless thy long deluded sight;
Poor sinner, harden not your heart,
Be saved, Oh, tonight."

Then again there are those who feel that they are too young, at least that is an excuse which is offered. Listen, if you are old enough to know right from wrong, you are old enough to be saved. In reality, youth is the time when everyone should seek the Lord. Ecclesiastes 12:1 says, "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them."

And again in Isaiah 55:6 it says, "Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near." There comes a time in some people's lives when they seem to be unable to

find God because they waited so long to begin searching.

"Eternity's beggar, the call ne had
heard,
But the warning, he turned it away.
O sinner, then list' to the voice of thy
God,
And turn to the Lord while you may."

There are many other excuses why people are not walking a straight path. Some of them want a little more of this world's goods. Others desire a few more pleasures, and then there are those who find themselves in trouble, but did you know that Christ came to save us from our troubles?

"Your soul is tossed with trouble,
For earthly dross you crave;
But Christ, who died in mercy,
From sorrow waits to save."

This seems a poor excuse to me. Did you ever hear such an expression, "But I couldn't keep salvation". Listen to this scripture from I Peter 1:5. "Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." And there are many other excuses which people use. Yes, I am sure of that.

Some people take this attitude, "I can get saved when I please." Listen a moment. Let me give you this word of caution. It is possible to wait too long. Think how tragic it would be if this were your song in eternity.

"I've sold out my soul for a feather,
No hope in the whirlwind's fierce blast,
I'm undone forever and ever,
I've missed it, I have missed it at last.

The spirit insulted, resisted,
Ne'er refused till the die I had cast,

I said, 'Go thy way,' I insisted.
He went, I have missed it at last."

Friends, it is my sincere desire that every unsaved person who hears this broadcast today may take a solemn look at the trail which they are leaving behind them. If you are unwilling to face God with such a record which has been yours, I hope that you may find the peace and forgiveness which can come only from God through the shed blood of Christ--the one who died on Calvary. It is He who will forgive your sins and set your feet in a straight path on the road to heaven. Listen now to this poem.

Life's Book

No matter what else you are doing,
From cradle days through to the end,
You are writing your life's secret story--
Each day sees another page penned.

Each month ends a thirty page chapter,
Each day means the end of a part,
And never an act is mis-stated
Not even one wish of the heart.

Each day when you wake the book opens
Revealing a page clean and white
What thoughts and what words and what
doings
Will cover its pages by night?

God leaves that to you, you're the writer,
And never a word shall grow dim
Till the day you write the word "Final"
And give back your Life's Book to him.
--Selected

Let us pray.

Our gracious Father,
As these words fall upon the ears of
those who are unsaved, we pray that
you would cause them to say as the

prodigal son of old, "I will arise and go to my father". Help them to find peace and forgiveness through the atonement of Christ our Saviour, and thine shall be the praise forever. Amen

And now may I take just a moment to tell you that this message has been brought your way today by THE MISSION TRAIL of Guthrie, Oklahoma. This is Willie Murphey speaking. We count it a real privilege to live for God, and we consider it a sacred trust to spread the gospel throughout the world both by means of radio and by the printed copies.

Our work is a work of faith, and we are depending upon God and those who hear and read the messages to help us send the word to those hearts who are hungry for the truth. If we may help you understand the things of God better, be sure to let us know, or if the message has brought cheer and comfort to your heart, we would be happy to hear from you. We need your prayers and co-operation. Address your correspondence that you want us to receive in this way: The Mission Trail, Guthrie, Oklahoma.

Listen now to this song, "Under His Wings". The singers are Lynn and Alma Carver, Arnett and Genevieve Carver.

Be with us again next Sunday at this same time on this same station. Until we meet again this is Willie Murphey saying may the Lord's richest blessings be yours and a very cheerful good-bye!

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"But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day. The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble."

--Proverbs 4:18-19

Testimonies

From Oklahoma: "To the Mission Trail, We greet you all in the name of Jesus. He died for us all and rose again. Praise His wonderful name! We love Him this morning. We are praying for you all that God will keep you well and use you all for His work. . . We are well. Pray for us. Thank you for the book. From the sisters."

--Bell Sanders and Nancy Jones

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From Louisiana: "Dear Bro. and Sis. Murphey and family, Greetings of love to you this morning. I am still enjoying the Mission Trail--the paper and the radio broadcast. I thought the March 8 issue was especially good. I am enclosing a small offering to use in any needed way. May the Lord bless you abundantly in this work for Him. Keep encouraged and remember us in prayer. Christian love, "--Veva Myers

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From California: "Dear Ones, Greetings in Jesus' name. I have been putting off writing which is so easy these days here, but I have been sick or having trouble in my side. . . but I know the Lord is still healing his people. I was thankful for Kathleen's letter, and it was so nice of her to think of me. I enjoy the paper. . . Your Sister,"

--Gladys Ewbank

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From West Virginia: ". . . I want to request prayer for myself and my brother. We both are in very much need of prayer at this time. My brother is sick and needs to be saved."

--Sister Essie Carter

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From Colorado: ". . . I love to read Mission Trail, and the letters and testimonies are an encouragement to me, and I need them as I am isolated from all saints. . ." --Fred B. Allen

From Missouri: "Dear Bro. Willie and family, Greetings of holy Christian love. Trust this finds all of you encouraged in Jesus' name. I can say that the dear Lord is good to me, encouraging my heart and mind in his ways. I have been having some test of faith, but the Lord has proved to be on my side, and my faith and love is increasing in Him as I press on with my faith and confidence in Him. I am still enjoying the Mission Trail each week. I appreciate the good messages, poems and testimonies. Trust the good Lord will continue to supply your needs. We had close to twelve inches of snow this morning. It really slowed things up around here today. I desire an interest in your prayers."

--Bro. Vada McMillian

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From California: "Dear Saints, How glad I am to report victory in my soul. I am glad to say I love the Lord with all my heart and want to do his will in all things. I ask the Lord each day to fill me with more love. I have been in this way all my life and it grows sweeter all the way. I need your prayers."

--Sister Alpha Daniels

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From California: "Dear Bro. and Sis. Murphey and family, Greetings in Christian love. We are happy to get the little paper, The Mission Trail. It's a blessing to my soul, and I read it through before I can lay it down. Would like to thank whoever had it sent to us. We are not able to get your radio broadcast sermons but do love and appreciate the little paper. Please keep sending it to us. God has been so good to take us through some trials and dangers this past year. We thank Him for healing my mother, Sis. Annie McKinney, of high blood pressure. Love all the dear saints and appreciate their prayers." --Sis. Lucille Allen

at press time

we understand:

From California: "Dear Willie and family, Greetings in the precious name of Jesus who suffered and died on the cruel cross of Calvary for us that we might have entrance into the glory world and be with him eternally. I am so thankful for his blessings to me for He is so good to me and keeps me encouraged to press my way to the end for it is those that endure unto the end that will be saved, so pray for me when you think of me as I do you in your great work for the Lord. I would love so much to hear the broadcasts but am so thankful for Sis. Luehring to read the Mission Trail to me, and I enjoy it so much but miss the singing. . . I have been feeling pretty good in my body for three weeks now of which I am so thankful to the dear Lord of whom I trust. May the Lord bless you all. . . Your sister in the Lord,"

--Sister Atha

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From Arkansas: "Dear Bro. Willie, Sis. Frances and children, My dear father passed away March 9. It was such a bad day for his funeral--sleet, snow and hail all day, but he had a beautiful funeral. Today I attended the funeral of the only aunt that I have at the same cemetery where my father rests. Their graves are almost side by side. My heart is very heavy, and I desire the prayers of all the saints. So glad you came by. I know God had a hand in your visit. Now may the good Lord bless and keep you all. As always your sister in Christ,"

--Sibyl Delahunt

We do appreciate those who have responded to see that the broadcast is kept on the air in their particular area. However, we are discontinuing the message over KCRS of Midland, Texas at the end of this month. We hope to maintain the other stations as the Lord directs and supplies the means to keep his message on the air.

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From Kentucky: ". . . The Lord is blessing the work here in Shelby City. A week ago yesterday Bro. Wilson got sanctified. It made our hearts rejoice because we know when a person gets sanctified, he has power over the enemy of his soul. The saints are growing real good in the Lord here, and it makes our hearts rejoice. . . We desire to be examples for the Lord. . . Love and prayers to all," --Sis. Verna Samons

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We are pleased that Sister Artie Bettis is moving back into her home in Anthony, Kansas after an absence of some months.

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As the warmer weather comes on and the opportunity is given for more gospel work to be done throughout the summer, let us each one ask ourselves the question, "Lord, what will thou have me to do?" Then may our hearts respond with a willing answer, "Here am I, Lord, send me."

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Be sure to hear the broadcast next Sunday, the 24th. We have a special report from those who drove the "mission of love" bus to California.



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.
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.

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Address Correction Requested