



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

VOL. 6 NO. 3

PUBLISHED WEEKLY

FEBRUARY 6, 1970

Run With Patience

Radio Broadcast for week of February 1, 1970 (See back page for list of stations.)

"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, 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." Heb. 12:1, 2. Friends, our spiritual race is often likened unto a foot race where the runners put forth their best effort to gain the coveted prize. Sometimes the spiritual conflict is likened unto warfare where one goes out to meet his most deadly foe and indeed, we are in a warfare and we are running a race and let us not forget that we do have much opposition. The moment you give your heart and life to Christ, the moment you put God's will first in your life, from then on you may be sure you'll encounter many hindering obstacles. The only way that we will ever be successful in serving the Lord and in this Christian race is to make God's will our supreme goal in life.

Notice especially that the scripture says to run with patience the race that is set before us. This doesn't mean to run as if you were scared for a while and then take a nap by the side of the road, but it means a continual perseverance. Did you ever hear the name of Glenn Cunningham? Let me tell you just a little of Glenn. When he was only 8 years old on that cold winter morning of 1918, he and his brother were going to the school house to start the fire in the heating stove. A very tragic thing happened that morning when the kerosene that had been poured into the stove caught fire with a terrific explosion. The results: one brother, Floyd Cunningham lost his life. Even though Glenn attempted to rescue his brother his efforts failed and 5 hours later Glenn regained consciousness in his own bed with his body badly burned

from the fire. The family doctor was called who in turn sent for the specialists. As these doctors stood around the bedside and saw the pitiful condition the legs of Glenn Cunningham were in, the toes were burned from his left foot, their advice was "amputate his legs". "He'll never walk again", so they said. But young Glenn said "no" and his parents stood by his decision for him to keep his legs although they seemed worthless. Days went by. Glenn endured much pain and suffering, but his goal in life was that he would walk again. It took effort on his part. It took discipline and training and perseverance. But would you be pleased to know that one day Glenn stood on his own feet again. He struggled to walk, but he kept at it. As the days went by his strength increased. As he helped his father on the farm he was

often seen not walking but running. He watched his diet. He refrained from the drinking of coffee and the eating of too much sugar. In 1923 Glenn was 13 years old. He entered the competition for racing in his own Morton County in Kansas. And who would have thought that this boy who was supposed to have never walked again, won that race and from there he went on with that goal in life, to win in the opposition of racing. It was not one medal he won in racing, but many many trophies were given in his honor because he had started out to win.

Now, what would have been the result of this boy of 8 had he resigned himself to the advice of the doctors who said "He'll never walk again"? Perhaps he would never have walked. But he had a goal, he had a purpose, and a plan and he brought himself, even his own personal body, into subjection to accomplish that end. We, too, as the people of God have a goal before us. We have a race to run, a crown to gain, and an eternal crown that fadeth not away. Friends, let me ask you today, what is your goal in life? There's something far greater than earthly crowns to be obtained in a foot race. But in order to gain this eternal crown we must be willing to endure the hardships which we are bound to have come our way. Look at this 10th verse of the 48th chapter of Isaiah, "Behold, I have refined thee, but not with silver; I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction." Do you have afflictions? Is the pain and suffering hard to bear? Then here in I Peter 4, verses 12 and 13, we find these words, "Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his

glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy."

So don't be alarmed if you meet opposition.

Some of God's choicest work has been done by those who were acquainted with suffering, trials, and persecutions.

Here is a good promise for you to rest on. Luke 10 and beginning with verse 17 says, "And the seventy returned again with joy, saying Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name. And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you." So you see, the Lord is going to stand by his people and bring them through.

Then here is another good promise in Zech. 13:9, "And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The Lord is my God."

It is the trials of life which bring out the glory of God in God's people. And don't forget that God has a purpose and a plan for your life even though he may bring you through the fire. Mal. 3:3 goes like this: "And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness." Dear ones, do you want to enjoy the peace and satisfaction and the favor of God? Are you willing for God to purge and purify your life? Then listen to this poem:

The Refiner's Fire

He sat by a furnace of sevenfold heat,
As He watched by the precious ore,
And closer He bent with a searching
gaze,
As He heated it more and more.

He knew He had ore that could stand
the test,
And He wanted the finest gold
To mold as a crown for the King to
wear,
Set with gems of a price untold.

So He laid our gold in the burning fire,
Though we fain would have said him
nay;
And He watched the dross that we had
not seen,
As it melted and passed away.

And the gold grew brighter and yet
more bright,
But our eyes were so dim with tears,
We saw but the fire--not the Master's
hand,
And questioned with anxious fears.

Yet our gold shone out with a richer
glow,
As it mirrored a Form above,
That bent o'er the fire though unseen
by us,
With looks of ineffable love.

Can we think that it pleases His loving
heart
To cause us a moment's pain?
Ah no! but He saw through the
present cross
The bliss of eternal gain.

So He waited there with watchful eye,
With a love that is strong and sure,
And His gold did not suffer a whit
more heat
Than was needed to make it pure.

Let us pray,

Our heavenly Father,

Help us to run with patience the race
that is set before us. May we ever
realize that the ultimate goal in our
lives is to fulfill thy will and plan for
us. Bless each listener of the broad-
cast today. Give them strength for the
trials, grace to resist temptations, and
the courage to stand for the truth for
we ask it in Jesus' name. Amen

Thank you, friends, for taking the time
to listen to this short message brought
your way by The Mission Trail of
Guthrie, Okla. Your speaker is Willie
Murphey. If you are not already on our
mailing list send for your copy of this
week's message mailed to you without
cost or obligation. And if we may be
of help to you be sure to let us know.
Address your letter to The Mission
Trail, Guthrie, Okla. And be sure to
be with us again next week at this same
time on this same station.

Here's a song, "Nothing Between".

Until we meet again this is Willie Mur-
phey saying may God's richest bless-
ings be with each and every one of you
and a very cheerful good-bye!

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Testimonies

From Ore., Dec. 30, 1969: 'This year
will soon be gone and all we have left
is memories of it and the Lord has
been so good to us. . . About 20
years ago the Lord told me he wanted
me to write letters to saints to en-
courage them. And I am doing my best
to do that for the Lord. This is my
548th card or letter this year. So you
see I need the right use of my right
hand if the Lord still wants me to write
letters for him.' --Sis. Emma Busch

From Okla.: "We know there's not a thing to turn back to, nothing to loose, every thing to gain. God is too good to us to turn to the vain things of the world. It does me so much good to see the saints turn out at services on Wed. nights like they do. It helps to keep me encouraged to see others encouraged and hear the good testimonies."

--Sis. Minnie White

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From Colo.: "Greeting in the precious Name of Jesus our Blessed Savior. We hope this finds you all well and happy in the Lord. Wife and I are both doing well in body and enjoying the blessings of the Lord. We are having good weather here, no snow or ice, a little cool at nites sometimes, but mostly 15° to 20° above at nite and from 35° to 50° in days. Bro. Willie, Mother Taylor as we know her for over 50 yrs. went home to be with the Lord. . . Pray for us."

--Ed and Addie McEndree

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From Calif.: "We are thankful the Lord is so good to us. We did have a good assembly meeting. Before it we had a good revival meeting in L. A. Also Bakersfield is having their revival meeting. We were up Sun., had 2 good messages Sun. morning on sanctification and 8 or more were at the altar. The Lord did bless our souls in a special way. We want to get back before it's over. Samuel is in school so it's a little hard to go except week ends. . . Sis. Zinn is still with us despite her weakened condition. . . She seems to get a little better and then worse but the Lord is so good to her and also the ones who care for her. . . Bro. Kroker's grandchild is still in a coma, poor little dear. She was such a sweet child. The Lord knows what is best. May God bless you there and the work you are doing for the Lord."

--Bro. and Sis. A. E. Harmon

From Ohio: "The dear Lord has been real good to me. I was anointed and prayed for for a condition I had on my body for over 6 yrs. And praise his dear name, he came to my rescue and has healed me!. . . I so desire to be in some of the camp meetings this summer and that was one of my request I was holding before the Lord. I still have something else I'm desiring the Lord will undertake in and I know he can for he knows my heart how I love to be in good meetings. So we do thank each and every one for their prayers in our behalf. Husband still needs help in his limbs. Thank the dear Lord, they are some better. As he is retired now we are free to go more. Do pray for us as we do you. Bro. McCoy is still here, getting along fine. He and Bro. and Sis. Key went to Akron today for a few nights meeting. Bro. Mart Samons is there holding a meeting. The Lord is adding to our little congregation. . . God bless you all is our prayer."

--Bro. Bill and Sis. Dovie Abbott

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From Calif.: "Greetings of love in Lord, our great redeemer, who loved us so. Because of his love to us we do love him this morn. His blessings make us rich and no sorrow is added. It's a wonderful, wonderful privilege we have in this life to trust and commit all our concerns to our great God, creator of all things, who understands all things, and too wise to make one mistake in all his dealings with us, as we travel on. And truly we are all traveling on, life being shorter every hour. Also we are all nearer eternity every hour. Oh, may God help us in these days of lukewarmness and falling away to draw closer and closer to the Lord continuously. We must keep busy working at this great salvation daily. I do often feel the need of pray-

ing as the Psalmist David in Psa. 86: 11. In order to walk with him in this life as Enoch, having the testimony we pleased him. We surely need to be seeking God diligently to direct all our ways and steps in to his way, and walk therein. And even in these perilous days we find sweet rest and peace to our souls, ever keeping heaven in view and our path shining brighter. Praise him forever. . . Trust you are all well at this time. We are just coming thro another seige of the flu. But thanking God for his mercy to us thro another time of sickness." --LaVern Manuel

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From Ohio: "We are thankful this morning that we can report victory in our soul. It is only through the mercy of God's love that we're saved today. I'm so glad that we don't have to live an up and down life, but we can have victory every day of our life as long as we keep true and faithful. I'm so glad for salvation today. If I wasn't saved I don't know where I'd be today, because the life I was living was sure a way to Hell. But thank the almighty Father, he saved my soul and set me in a new place and established my going. Oh how I praise His Holy name for saving me when he did. I'm so glad that God loved us so and gave his only begotten Son for us, that he paid the price for our sin. Just think where would we be today if it wasn't for his love? We would be lost, undone without him. . . Pray for me that I will be as clay in the potter's hand that he could take me and mold me into his image that I be used to the glory of God. . . Yours in Christ,"

--Bro. and Sis. Kenneth Knight

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From Kansas: "I heard your sermon on the power of God this morning and surely enjoyed it. I enjoy the Mission Trail too. Thank God for it, it en-

courages my soul. We have been having some zero weather with plenty of ice. Last Sunday it was cold and the streets covered with snow and ice, and I was dreading to get out on them Monday morning, but one of the teachers that teaches at Fulton called me to let me know, that while the roads were bad she and her husband would come by and take me to school. I knew that it had come from the loving hands of God. I thanked God for it and I certainly appreciated them being so good to me. The new year is going fast, but I pray God to help us to live more worthy of his blessing to us. . . May God bless each of you. Remember me in prayer." --Sis. Mamie Norcutt

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From Mo.: "I am encouraged in things of God. I think of the scripture in Ps. 73 where it says, 'whom have I in heaven but thee? And there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee?' I can say from my heart that is my testimony. If we have him that includes everything we need. . . I surely want to be used of him in the little place he would have me fill. Some of us went down to Garfield, Ark. yesterday afternoon for their all day service. Bro. Murphy Allen had been with them for their all day service. The message was real good in the afternoon. He came to Neosho for night service. Heard another good message. His daughter, Janice, was with him. We appreciated having them both in our service. . ."

--Bro. T. V. McMillian

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From S. C.: "I intend to live for God from now on. Please hold me up to God that I will always live for him. He has been real good to me in those days of my life and I am truly thankful for it. . . I truly love the Lord with all my heart. Please pray for my lost sisters."

--Lurline Scott

