



The Mission Trail

Box 99

Guthrie, Okla. 73044

Willie C. Murphey • Frances E. Murphey • Kathleen E. Murphey

"LIFT UP YOUR EYES, AND LOOK ON THE FIELDS; FOR THEY ARE WHITE ALREADY TO HARVEST." — JOHN 4:35

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The Triumphant Christ

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A very cheerful and happy greeting on this Easter morning to all the listeners of the broadcast. I am happy to be coming your way again with some good news and that good news is Christ is risen from the dead. His praying and agony in the garden, his humiliation before Pilate and the Jews, and his suffering and death on the cross is now passed for ever. He is risen from the dead and is alive for ever more. Through his victory we too have hope in that resurrection morning which is ahead for all the saints. Listen to this poem:

The Lord Is Risen!

How calm and beautiful the morn
That gilds the sacred tomb,
Where once the Crucified was borne
And veiled in midnight gloom!
Oh, weep no more the Savior slain!
The Lord is risen--he lives again!

Ye mourning saints, dry every tear
For your departed Lord;
"Behold the place: he is not here!"
The tomb is all unbarred;
The gates of death were closed in vain;
The Lord is risen--he lives again!

Now cheerful to the house of prayer
Your early footsteps bend;
The Savior will himself be there,
Your Advocate and Friend,
Oh, weep no more your comforts slain!
The Lord is risen--he lives again!

And now this scripture from Matt. 28,
"In the end of the sabbath, as it began
to dawn toward the first day of the week,
came Mary Magdalene and the other
Mary to see the sepulchre. And, be-
hold, there was a great earthquake:

for the angel of the Lord descended
from heaven, and came and rolled back
the stone from the door, and sat upon
it. His countenance was like lightning,
and his raiment white as snow: And
for fear of him the keepers did shake,
and became as dead men. And the angel
answered and said unto the women,
Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek
Jesus, which was crucified. He is not
here: for he is risen, as he said. Come,
see the place where the Lord lay."

You may remember that there had been
a group of soldiers stationed around
the tomb just to be sure that no one
came and stole the body away. Surely
those folks thought they had put an end
to Jesus. But after the resurrection
it became necessary for them to offer
some sort of explanation for the empty
tomb. It would be hard for them to
deny that the tomb was empty for there
was the evidence before them. And
besides, it was some of those very
same soldiers stationed around the
sepulchre which came and told the chief
priests what had happened. Since they
could not deny that the tomb was empty

they must have an explanation. "His disciples came by night, and stole him away while we slept." Now I am quite sure that these soldiers wouldn't rate very high in a military regime which required strict observation of their duties.

Well, someone might suggest that an empty tomb does not within itself necessarily prove a resurrection. I accept that. It is true. Then what were the alternatives possible in that case? Well, there were two possibilities. First a human work or in other words, somebody had removed the corpse. Secondly, a divine work, God had raised the dead. Dear ones, which of these possibilities do you accept? Do you go along with the human reasoning and thinking that someone actually broke through that group of soldiers while they slept and stole that body of Jesus? And if so, what did they do with the body? Isn't that quite foolish to think such a thing could have happened? In giving such a report these soldiers actually acknowledged their fault and failure to handle their duties in a proper way.

But I am convinced that their failure was not one of taking a nap while some one came and stole the body of Jesus. However their weakness is certainly displayed in the fact they were unable to prevent the angel of God from rolling back the huge stone before the tomb. They were unable to prevent the earth quake which rent the rocks. That must have been a fearful sight to behold! They were unable to hold the body of our Lord and Saviour within the tomb. Death itself was conquered and Christ came forth a living Saviour, victorious over death, hell, and the grave.

Think of those immortal words written

in I Cor. 15 and beginning with verse 54, "So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

I am convinced that the news of that resurrection morning was beyond the fondest expectations of Mary and those other women who came to the tomb. No doubt the faith of the disciples had fallen to a very low ebb. But think of the speed with which Peter did run that morning to the empty tomb. And he entered the tomb there to find the linen clothes which had been wrapped about our Lord. The sight of that clothing was enough to inspire in them faith to believe that the testimony given by others of a risen Lord was in reality a fact. The presence of the grave clothes indicated that the body of Jesus had not been carried off. It is very unlikely that one would have taken the time to unroll the clothes or even have felt the need of removing them. The way they lay made it all clear to John. It is therefore written that "he saw and believed". John 20:8 Why? The body of Jesus had passed through the folds of the grave clothes leaving them lying in such a position that showed they had not been unwound and hence that no human hands had removed the Lord's body.

There were many other witnesses to whom Christ appeared to establish beyond question the power of a risen Lord. Such appearances were not meant to be continued. Given to establish the

fact of Jesus' actual resurrection to put it beyond all doubt and question they ceased after the proper witnesses had been provided. We of today stand upon their testimony. But one might ask, "Is there no evidence for us also?" Yes, indeed, dear ones, the witness of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of those who obey the gospel is evidence of a risen Lord. In the words of that song may I say to you, "You asked me how I know he lives, he lives within my heart".

Friend, is Christ living in your heart today? Are you proving to the world by your life that Christ is indeed risen and that he lives within you and that he is also coming again to receive to himself those who love and obey him?

We are indeed living in a time of doubt and skepticism. The world is filled with unbelief. In fact Jesus himself asked the question, "Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh will he find faith on the earth?" This is a question of great importance for you and for me. I believe that we have a greater blessing, more than the disciples, for you may remember about Thomas, how he said he wouldn't believe unless he could see and feel and so forth there of the nail prints and see them. But Jesus said to Thomas, 'Because thou hast seen thou hast believed. Blessed are those who have not seen yet have believed.' And so today we have the blessed hope of the resurrection. We have a risen Christ whom we are serving. We are living for him. We hope that this will be your conviction too, that Christ is indeed risen from the dead and that he lives within your heart.

Let us pray, Our father,

We are glad for a risen Saviour and that he sits on the right hand of the

throne of God making intercession for us today. Now we bring to thee each listener of the broadcast on this Easter morning and we ask for them a special blessing in the way which they need most. Hear our petitions and strengthen and comfort each one and thine shall be the praise through Christ our Lord forever. Amen

Thank you, friends, for taking the time to listen. I hope that you will tune in again next week as we continue to bring to you the unsearchable riches of Christ. If you are not already receiving the printed copies of The Mission Trail be sure to send us your name and address and let us mail them to you without cost or obligation. We are trusting the Lord by faith to supply the means to keep his word going forth both over the air and through the mail. Send your letter to The Mission Trail, Guthrie, Okla.

Here is a song, "I'm happy, redeemed and free". The singers are Lynn and Arnett Carver, Troy Gentry, and Edgar Martens.

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

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Testimonies

From Okla.: "I sure love all God's people and pray more would come to God. I don't know what I would do without God and the dear saints."

--Ida Ruckman

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From Okla.: "I am still living for the dear Lord, trusting for soul and body, but I am not feeling so well today. . . I am praying that the Lord will bless you all in spreading the truth. Pray for me."

--Mary May

From Colo. : "Greetings to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who saves us and keeps us from all sin. Hope this finds you dear ones well and happy in the Lord. We are both doing well in body and enjoying the blessings of the Lord. We had a wonderful snow a week ago about 6 in. here and plenty wet. There was about 12 to 16 in. 30 and 35 miles south of us but only about 2 or 3 in. in Springfield. We do truly praise the Lord for the good moisture as it was getting awful dry here. We are enjoying the Mission Trail very much. May the Lord bless you in this labor of love. . . The Lord willing we plan on leaving here the 17 of April and going to Carson City, Mich. that is a little north east of Grand Rapids to visit our oldest daughter. Esther and family are going. Just remember us in prayer. . . Also planning on seeing you at Guthrie the last of May at campmeeting. May the Lord bless and keep you is our prayer. Remember us when you pray."

--The McEndrees, Ed and Addie

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From Mo. : "Thank you for your letter and tomorrow is Easter, commemorating the day our Lord rose from the grave. How I wish every one could believe and really understand just what it means and what the Lord could do for them. The last few years, I have been made to rejoice and be more thankful that the Lord chose me and gave me a heart willing to accept and serve Him. Without Him we are helpless. How sad it would be to not hear the call and live in this world without the Lord. Forty-nine years ago He called and I accepted Him. I thank Him for his love and how He bore with me. . . till He could get me rooted and grounded in His love. Praise His name. . . Trust you and your family all are well. Pray for us."

--Sis. Lula Caughron

From Ark. : "The precious name of Jesus never changes. It denotes all power--power to save, to keep, and care for every need. What great love was manifested once and for all, who will accept this love? Love is a big word. God is love. I was thinking last night about love. If we or everyone had the love God intended we'd have a vision of the lost and no one would perish."

--Sis. Lou Bray

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From Ohio: "A few lines in Jesus dear and precious name who gave Himself for us that He might redeem us from all iniquity and purify unto Himself a peculiar people zealous of goodworks. I'm so thankful He is still working and moving to accomplish this in every one who will hear His voice. Praise the Lord, and the promise is still extended to whosoever will. Well, I just read March 6th issue of the Mission Trail, first one I have seen for some time sure was good. It seems they don't get out our way very often. I have moved into my daughter's home. I didn't build onto it as I had planned. The building codes are so rigid here I couldn't build as much as I desired they required so much space left between the garage and the new addition we just fixed up another room, but I am thankful for the peace of God I have in my soul. . ."

--Bro. William McCoy, 2146 Falmouth Ave., Dayton, Ohio 45406

FIT TO SERVE

We are only able to serve as we are fit to serve. Hence if our course of conduct is contrary to the Lord's will—if our friends and associates are such that He cannot approve of; if our pursuits (whether in business or in our leisure time); if the books we read; or if anything else marks us amongst our fellows—if these things are not included as being subject to the Lord's will, and under His control, we are "otherwise engaged," and we are instruments neither fit nor free for His hand to take up and use.

What Former U.S. Presidents Said About the Holy Bible

The Bible is the revelation of the meaning of life, the nature of God, and the spiritual nature and needs of men. It is the only Guide of life which leads the spirit in the way of peace and salvation.

—Woodrow Wilson

If a man is not familiar with the Bible, he has suffered a loss which he had better make all possible haste to correct.

—Theodore Roosevelt

The Bible is the sheet-anchor of our liberties. Write its principles upon your heart and practice them in your lives.

—U. S. Grant

I have always believed in the inspiration of the Holy Scriptures whereby they have become the expression to man of the Word and will of God. No book of any kind ever written has ever so affected the whole life of a people.

—President Harding

If I were to have my way, I would take the torch out of the hand of the Statue of Liberty and in its stead, place an open Bible.

—V P Marshall

--Selected

"Cheer Him"

"They helped everyone his neighbor; and everyone said to his brother, Be of good courage". Isaiah 41:6

I remembered reading of a tenement house fire. The flames had made great headway before being discovered. At midnight, the fire engines came; the tenement dwellers were escorted to safety, and the firemen toiled to overcome the flames. Then it was learned there was still a child in the building.

A fireman rushed up the rungs of the ladder that had been secured against the heated wall. Smoke billowed forth; flames hissed upward, and the fireman on the ladder hesitated. Then someone from the gathering crowd shouted, "Cheer Him!" The crowd cheered. The fireman gained new strength in knowing he was not alone, but that others were trusting him to do his duty at that moment. He courageously went on and rescued the boy.

There are many in the battle of life who hesitate, feeling that they cannot go on, that the battle is too fierce. Then we have our part to do. We must cheer them on. Just a smile, a hand-clasp, a whispered "I'm praying for you" many times has proved to be the turning point in a Christian's service.

When we see a fellow Christian faltering as an onslaught of trouble comes, let's cheer him!

--Selected by Sybil Goldsberry

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THE MEN WHO WIN

I once knew a man
Who would figure and plan
The deeds he intended to do;
But when the time came
To get into the game
He never put things through.
He would dream with a smile
Of the after-a-while,
And the deeds he would do pretty
soon;
He was all right at heart;
But he never would start,
He never could get quite in tune.
If he would have done
Half the things he's begun,
He'd be listed among those of fame,
But he didn't produce,
So he was of no use--
Good intentions do not win the game.

--Selected

