



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. 14

PUBLISHED WEEKLY

APRIL 24, 1970

“Train up a Child”

Radio Broadcast for week of April 19, 1970 (See back page for list of stations.)

Good morning, friends. It is a pleasure to be coming your way once again over the airwaves. We hope today finds each of you encouraged and pressing on in the ways of the Lord for surely it is a pressing way. There is one verse of scripture which says, "The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it." Luke 16:16

We are living in a time when there are many problems. I am sure there were problems in this world before we came and there will be plenty of them when we leave here. However, I hope that we may, through the grace of God, contribute something that will be a help to those around us in solving their problems. Many of us are aware of some of the difficulties faced by the younger generation and may I say right here before I go any further that I am particularly concerned about the young people. They have plenty of problems, some of them for which they were not all together responsible. Some of these problems were handed down to them from the past generation. So they need special help and encouragement. When we see so much disorder, riots, and civil disobedience, I am made to believe that somebody, somewhere has failed to do their duty. Do you remember the old expression which says, "A stitch in time saves nine"? I believe that if more teaching, instruction, and discipline had been invested in the youth of our land, we would not be required to gather such a vast harvest of disturbance. Now someone may think, "Just

what are you getting at?" Well, let me come directly to the point. Listen to this scripture from Prov. 22:6. "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Friends, do you believe that? This is a statement of fact and is not hard to understand, so when we see the reckless manner in which some of the youth of our land is living I am made to believe that some parents, somewhere, have failed to do their duty. Delinquent children are often the result of delinquent parents.

Here is something which I believe will prove interesting. It will give us a greater insight into how folks lived many years ago in the 1700's and the manner in which they taught their children. Even though we have more light on the truth in these days, it might be well for us to remember how they trained their children and take a lesson from it. Now, this mother of 19 children who lived in England had plenty of experience, and two of her sons were preachers. Here, then, is some of her letter to one of her sons telling him how she trained her family.

"July 24, 1732. . . Dear Son, According to your desire, I have collected the principal rules I observed in educating my family; which I now send you as they occurred to my mind, and you may (if you think they can be of use to any) dispose of them in what order you please.

"The children were always put into a regular method of living, in such things as they were capable of, from their birth; as in dressing, undressing, changing their linen, and so on. The first quarter commonly passes in sleep. After that, they were, if possible, laid into their cradles awake and rocked to sleep; and so they were kept rocking till it was time for them to awake. This was done to bring them to a regular course of sleeping, which at first was three hours in the morning and three in the afternoon; afterward two hours, till they needed none at all.

"When turned a year old (and some before), they were taught to fear the rod and to cry softly; by which means they escaped abundance of correction they might otherwise have had; and that most odious noise of the crying of children was rarely heard in the house, but the family usually lived in as much quietness as if there had not been a child among them.

"As soon as they were grown pretty strong, they were confined to three meals a day. At dinner their little table and chairs were set by ours, where they could be observed; and they were suffered to eat and drink as much as they would but not to call for anything. If they wanted aught, they used to whisper to the maid which attended them, who came and spoke to me; and as soon as they could handle a knife and fork, they were set to our table.

They were never suffered to choose their meat, but always made to eat such things as were provided for the family.

"Mornings they had always spoon-meat; sometimes at nights. But whatever they had, they were never permitted to eat, at those meals, of more than one thing; and of that sparingly enough. Drinking or eating between meals was never allowed, unless in case of sickness, which seldom happened. Nor were they suffered to go into the kitchen to ask anything of the servants, when they were at meat: if it was known they did, they were certainly beaten, and the servants severely reprimanded.

"At six, as soon as family prayers were over, they had their supper; at seven, the maid washed them; and, beginning at the youngest, she undressed and got them all to bed by eight, at which time she left them in their several rooms awake; for there was no such thing allowed of in our house as sitting by a child till it fell asleep. . .

"In order to form the minds of children, the first thing to be done is to conquer their will and bring them to an obedient temper. To inform the understanding is a work of time and must with children proceed by slow degrees as they are able to bear it: but the subjecting the will is a thing which must be done at once; and the sooner the better. For by neglecting timely correction, they will contract a stubbornness and obstinacy which is hardly ever after conquered; and never, without using such severity as would be as painful to me as to the child. In the esteem of the world they pass for kind and indulgent, whom I call cruel, parents, who permit their children to get habits which they know must be afterward broken.

Nay, some are so stupidly fond as in sport to teach their children to do things which, in a while after, they have severely beaten them for doing.

"Whenever a child is corrected, it must be conquered; and this will be no hard matter to do if it be not grown headstrong by too much indulgence. And when the will of a child is totally subdued and it is brought to revere and stand in awe of the parents, then a great many childish follies and inadvertences may be passed by. . .

"I insist upon conquering the will of children betimes, because this is the only strong and rational foundation of a religious education; without which both precept and example will be ineffectual. But when this is thoroughly done, then a child is capable of being governed by the reason and piety of its parents, till its own understanding comes to maturity and the principles of religion have taken root in the mind.

"I cannot yet dismiss this subject. As self-will is the root of all sin and misery, so whatever cherishes this in children insures their after-wretchedness and irreligion; whatever checks and mortifies it promotes their future happiness and piety. This is still more evident if we further consider that religion is nothing else than the doing the will of God and not our own: that the one grand impediment to our temporal and eternal happiness being this self-will, no indulgences of it can be trivial, no denial unprofitable. Heaven or hell depends on this alone. So that the parent who studies to subdue it in his child works together with God in the renewing and saving a soul. The parent who indulges it does the devil's work, makes religion impracticable, salvation unattainable; and does all that in

him lies to damn his child; soul and body forever."

Now, what do you think of that for disciplinary action as taken by a mother of 19 children in the 18th century. I am afraid that most boys and girls would feel they were being really suppressed if brought into subjection in that manner, wouldn't you? Well, I am not really advocating that they be handled in the same manner, but I do say she had some points well worth remembering and she let it be known that children should be brought under subjection to their parents. Remember the text. It says, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

Let us pray,

Our Father,

Bless this message to the hearts of each and every listener. May grace, wisdom, and peace be imparted to each one who hears this broadcast. Help us not to forget the instructions left in your word, but may we teach them to our children with diligence and thine shall be the praise through Christ our Lord. Amen

Friends, if you have any comments about this message, let us hear from you. Address your letter to The Mission Trail, Guthrie, Okla. We are trusting the Lord by faith to keep his word going forth on the air so long as it is his will. And now this song, which is an old one, "My soul be on thy guard". The singers are the Carvers, Lynn, Arnett, Genevieve, and Sharon.

Until we meet again this is Willie Murphey saying may the Lord's richest blessings abide with each of you and a very cheerful good-bye!

Testimonies

From Ill. : "Greetings in Jesus dear name. I hope this finds you all well. This is a beautiful Sunday afternoon, warming up more like spring. Some of the early flowers are blooming. My husband is still improving which we are so thankful to the dear Lord. His eyes still bother some, so pray that God will heal him completely for his glory. . . Continue to pray for me, I'm feeling some better too, but I've had an awful headache in my eyes today. Pray for my complete healing of my eyes and blood pressure, also nerves. The dear Lord has been so good and merciful to us. I surely give him the thanks and praises. Also thank you good people for agreement in prayer for both of us." --Mrs. Truman Pitts

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From Calif. : "Greetings in the precious name of Jesus. I am not well in body but I am encouraged and happy in my soul. Jesus is so good to me. He gives me grace to bear all he permits to come my way. I am so glad I learned to trust him, sick or well. I often think of you dear ones there and wish I was there with you, at times. I am failing in body. I can not do as I did the day I last was in your home. If I live to see this birthday I will be 84. I have so much to be thankful for. If I am permitted to be there on my birthday I want a great big Okla. watermellon in your backyard. (smiles) Pray for me. Enclosed is a little donation to be used where most needed. I want to help all I can as I am not able to go as I have been. Would like to be in the different campmeetings but I think it will be few as I am not physically able to travel as in the past. God knows what is best. I will not murmur. Pray much for me. Love and best wishes to all yours for the truth." --Melissa Greer

From Okla. : "I still enjoy reading the Mission Trail. Pray for me that I will be able to measure up to the teaching. Pray earnestly for my feet."

--Mary May

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From Mo. : "How I do thank the Lord for His every blessing, especially for Spiritual blessings and privileges. In one testimony that we read in the Mission Trail yesterday, a sister stated she was thankful for the way in which the Lord bore with her until He could get her rooted and grounded in His love. My heart also goes out in thankfulness to our Saviour along this line as well as along All lines, I trust. I only want to be more grateful and do as the Word says, deny self, daily, take up my cross with a willingness in such a way that the joy of the Lord is my strength every step of the way. . . A . . . preacher writes in our town paper, weekly, a local man. Here is what I clipped from his writing (one paragraph) It is word for word: 'The Bible declares that all men are sinners. It's plain blunt and to the point. But through Jesus Christ we become a different kind of sinner. In other words we are weeds in the kingdom of God and compared with what God wants of us a very sorry lot at that.' (end of quote) Does not seem possible that so-called preachers do not fear to utter such words. A message of NO HOPE whatsoever, oh how we all need to rally to our Saviour side to be a help in Jesus name to all who will have help. My earnest prayer is for all ministers and workers who are true and faithful. The Lord surely knows each and every one of them. . . Well today I've reached another milestone in life and have arrived at my allotted time to live--puts an earnestness and an urge for sincerity in my heart to give good heed to self and walk close to the Lord." --Sis. Rosella Scott

From N. M.: "Greetings to all in Jesus dear name. Trust every one are well and God bless you in all his service there in the Mission Trails. Sure always love to read everything over. I want to send a little to help in the best way you see fit. So the dear Lord bless all in every way." --Ruth Doolittle

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From Mo.: "Greetings in the glorious and all prevailing name of Jesus, who took our place on the cross and opened that fountain for the cleansing of sin and all uncleanness. (Zech. 13:1) Praise God! Now we have no excuse to be bound by sin's filthy habits. All who desire to be saved may come and be washed in its all-cleansing stream. (Rev. 22:17) I thank God that I can report victory over all the forces of hell. I believe the only thing that prevents many people from being saved is their unwillingness to give up all their sinful pleasures. Jesus says that unless a person forsakes all of these, He cannot be a Christian. (Luke 14:33) Words cannot express my sorrow at seeing how the majority of people mock God by professing to be Christians when their lives and conversations prove otherwise. How long, O Lord, must these conditions exist, my soul cries out. Surely the judgment day cannot be far away now. Praise God, our faith is soon to be lost in sight. I pray that we will all be prepared and ready to go when our Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: (II Thes. 1:7-8) Yes, brother, I am encouraged to continue on in the work of our Lord. I see a great need for more laborers, more holy spirit filled ministers, more praying, more faith, more giving of our temporal things now as we realize that time is fast coming to

a close, and what we do we must do quickly. (Read II Cor. 9:6-7) I desire to do my part and reap a rich harvest. I realize my weakness and truly I am nothing alone, but I also realize that if I keep my hand in his, he will lead me and use me to his glory. Praise His holy name! Also I desire your agreement in prayer for him to send someone soon to help repair our meeting house. The roof leaks bad and we desire to have the inside papered and painted, and the plaster patched up before our spring revival meeting. I have tried to hire some one here but the ceilings are high and I have not been able to find any one yet that will take the job. I can do some of the work myself but need help for the high work. Some money has been given to me already and more promised to do the job, but labor is the problem, so I am just going to commit it to the Lord and wait for him to provide as he sees fit. Also I have meetings scheduled for other towns in Missouri and Iowa when I can arrange to be there. Pray for me that our Lord will be glorified and that I may have liberty, wisdom and power to proclaim the truth of the gospel and that it may reach honest hearts and bear fruit. Some have asked about our regular meetings here. At present we are having Sunday school each Sunday eve. at 7 p. m. and worship services at 7:30 p. m. Also meeting at the chapel the first Thurs. of each month at 7:30 p. m. I am trying to keep the other Thurs. evenings free for meetings at other places, where ever he may lead. Please pray for us as we do for you. We have several request that we are holding before the throne for answer according to his great mercy, love and wisdom, which we desire your agreement on."

--James F. Broker, 312 Frazier St.
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