



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

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The Backslider

Radio Broadcast for week of March 21, 1971 (See back page for list of stations.)

Good morning, friends. As unpleasant as it may seem here is a verse which is ever so true. Are you familiar with the 14th verse of the 14th chapter of Prov. ? Listen to it, "The backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways: and a good man shall be satisfied from himself." Now the Bible doesn't mention "backslider" very many times. In fact, to my knowledge "backslider" appears only the one time in the Bible. Of course it speaks plenty of times about "backsliding" or "backslidings". To me this indicates someone who is losing ground, or slipping backward. It would more or less indicate losing interest or not being very enthusiastic. I think when it gets to the point in life that living for the Lord becomes a druggery it would be well for that one to make a self-examination. And besides, don't you know it is going to be a hard thing for you to convince someone else of the value of serving God if you are just barely keeping your head above the waves?

Listen to this verse from Jer. 12:5, "If thou hast run with the footmen, and they have wearied thee, then how canst thou contend with horses? and if in the land of peace, wherein thou trustedst, they wearied thee, then how wilt thou do in the swelling of Jordan?" That is something to think about, isn't it? If we are barely able to keep saved ourselves, then how is the Lord going to use us to be a light-house for that man or woman who is really down in the gutters of sin? I really believe that the Lord has an abundance of grace for us and that he is able to make us more than conquerors through him that loved us. We don't have to live on a dry bread crust and a glass of water in a spiritual way, when the Lord has a table spread for us. We can really be eating the good of the land and I want to tell you that I am enjoying some of those good things of the Lord. I hope

you are too.

I am convinced that there are some folks who have completely gone back on the Lord and given up their experience which they once had. It seems to me they are about like the prodigal son who left his father's house. There he was down in a far country. He was away from home and in trouble. Perhaps his clothes were tattered and dirty. He probably had no shoes on his feet. His friends were all gone. That is a typical example of a backslider, isn't it? He really needs to come to himself, arise and return to his father.

But there is another class of folks. I don't believe they have completely given up the Lord. The trouble is they want to hold to the Lord and their own ways and the ways of the world at the same time. Now this will surely get you into

trouble. If one's ways do not please the Lord, then it would be much better for that individual to give up their ways and accept God's ways. In other words, that person is in the process of "back-sliding". You see, so often folks lose their vital Christian experience by slow degrees, a little here and a little there.

Do you remember what the scripture says about Lot? He had been blessed abundantly by his association with his Uncle Abram, but his decline began to come when he chose to "pitch his tent toward Sodom". I don't suppose he moved down to Sodom all in one day, do you think so? It was probably a gradual process. It might even have been weeks or months before he finally was actually living in Sodom. Here is what I want to say to that person who is day by day drifting further and further from the Lord and the truths which they once so gladly embraced. Oh, let me tell you what I'll do. I'll just use the words of the scripture here. This verse is found in Rev. 3:2, "Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God." Friends, you can't serve two masters. There is no need to try. Why don't you just settle it once and for ever that you are going to stay with God and let the world go however it will. Listen to this poem:

THE BACKSLIDER

Once I was happy; salvation was mine;
Heaven seemed round me with glory
divine;
Deep in my soul was a fountain of joy,
Pure and unfailing and free from alloy;
But I have broken my promise to God,
And in my sin o'er his mercy I trod;
I have been captured in Satan's dark
snare,
Led to the brink of eternal despair.

I can no longer this great burden bear
When I remember sweet moments of
prayer,
When the dear Savior seemed ever
so near,
Whispering softly: "There's nothing
to fear;
Only keep trusting; I'll never forsake.
Only obey, then no harm shall
o'ertake."

But I have wondered so far from
the light;
I am an outcast and roaming tonight.

Pleasure allured me and whispered:
"You'll find

Joys that are greater and friends
far more kind;

If you but follow me where I will
lead,

You shall have pleasure and solace
indeed."

But when I followed she led me astray
Far from the light of that glorious day
Where Jesus' presence had filled me
with light:

All, all is darkness and misery tonight.

Since from the Savior I wondered
away,

I have no pleasure by night or by day;
Thoughts of the future so fill me with
dread

Even in laughter my spirit is sad.
There is a weight that is crushing
my soul;

Over me ever the dark billows roll--
Waves of such darkness that shut out
the light--

Oh, I am wretched, so wretched
tonight!

Lord, in my misery to thee I will turn;
My weak petition from thee do not
spurn;

Take this great burden of guilt all
away,

That is so heavy by night and by day;

Give in my soul the sweet peace
 as of yore,
 When all my sorrows and griefs
 Jesus bore,
 When he did save me from sin's awful
 blight;
 Restore me again to thy favor tonight.
 --Selected

I recently heard a missionary tell of the deplorable conditions a certain tribe of Indians was in who lived in South America. They fought, they killed. Immorality was practiced to the Nth degree. And they were in a miserable state until a few of them found the Lord. And how it did change their lives. They had different interests, those who found Christ. Then there were some smiles. Happiness and contentment had come. She used her rich experience and knowledge of these Indians to warn the young people of our day. She said if you do only the thing you want to do, it will lead you to the place you don't want to be in. This is the substance of what she said and I thought it was well expressed. If folks insist on living an unrestrained life, it will most certainly lead them to the place they don't want to be in.

Shall we pray?

Our heavenly Father,

We are happy that there is an abundance of grace for every one of us who will pay the price to live for God. Speak to the heart of that one who is discouraged and faint-hearted. Give them renewed strength to press the battle on to victory. Bless each listener of the broadcast in the way which they need most and thine shall be the praise through Christ our Lord. Amen

Here is a song, "Drifting". The singers are Lynn Carver, Arnett Carver,

Troy Gentry, and Manuel Mitchell.

Friends, isn't that a solemn song? I hope that it may be an encouragement and a blessing to each and every one of you to draw close to the Lord.

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

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Testimonies

From Ore.: "Trust this finds you all well and your bad weather cleared up again. It's been snowing big wet flakes most of the day here but didn't accumulate too much as most of it melted. May the Lord ever guide you in your efforts for Him both by radio and printed page." --Sis. Mary Kroker

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From Mich.: "We hope and pray that all is well there. Ether is not a bit well. She is so weak and trembly and suffering so from diabetes. I am in fair health. . . The weather here has been a few degrees below normal all winter. We have had snow on the ground all winter except around 4 or 5 days. We had so much rain then that it melted the snow and caused high water. Five roads here in the county were closed for several days because of high water. At no time was the snow deeper than 6 or 7 inches except where it drifted. Ice got to be at least 20 inches thick on lakes around here. . . How we wish there was a congregation of the real saints here. Please pray that our children and grandchildren will get saved. We call our in-laws our children for they are married into our family. Ether and I desire your prayers. We remember you in our prayers each day. We certainly enjoy the Mission Trail."

--Floyd and Ether Hines

From Calif.: "They found Bro. Maycock dead in his home Saturday Feb. 27. He was Connie Lawson's husband. She died several years ago. . . Our chapel looks real nice now with new wall to wall carpet and new light fixtures and fresh painted walls, etc. . . I enjoy the Mission Trail each week."

--Nora Smith

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From Ga.: ". . . thank you for the good letter and the good words of encouragement for the passing of my dear husband. Yes, the Lord is my comforter. . . I am in the hands of a good kind loving heavenly Father. He has given answer to a many prayer for me before and since my husband has left me. . . please keep me before the Lord. He is the Lord of Lords and King of Kings. Praise His wonderful name for ever. I mean to ever be true to God."

--Sis. P. R. Bowers

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From Mexico: "We feel that possibly we can have the camp-meeting during Easter week. We trust will begin now to pray for this meeting and come be with us if you are able and the Lord directs you this way. There are many needs in this village and these surrounding. Some have gone back on the Lord, others seem cold and indifferent and others are on fire for God. Please pray for me and the saints here that we can be able to help the fallen and weak ones to come to the Light of Life."
--Edith Cole, P. O. Box 1425, Calexico, California 92231

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From Ky.: "We surely did enjoy the fellowship of the saints at Senath this past weekend. The Lord blest with a precious meeting and the house was full. I think they had saints there from Okla., Kentucky, Ill., Michigan, Ark. and Mo. So I thought that was wonderful for an all day meeting. Bro. and

Sis. Fox was there from Marion, Ky. and most of their congregation. They are very precious saints. . . Mart won't be home for the next three weekends. He is supposed to start meeting in Akron, Ohio March 21st and go to the 28th. We haven't had a minister since he's been gone. Surely we do need more consecrated workers in the fields. . . Love and prayers,"

--Sis. Verna Samons

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From La.: "We greet you tonight in the name of Jesus. Trust all are well and enjoying the salvation of the Dear Lord. Our physical condition is about the same as when you were here last. We are thankful for the Mission Trail paper. We find it a source of encouragement. Christian Trials #1 and 2 seem such a blessing. I am reserving them that I may read and reread them. Will say, dear ones, we are yet in the battle. By faith we have the victory. We can yet say, Lord have thine own way and thy will be done, by his grace. Without Him it would be impossible. Enclosed find an offering to help keep the paper coming out to the world and keep the broadcast on the air. May the Lord ever bless and keep you to serve Him." --Bro. and Sis. G. A. Nichols

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From Okla.: "I wanted to write a short note to let you know I still enjoy the broadcast and little paper. Am enclosing an offering to be used as you see best. The boys have had the measles, but are over them now. Sure do appreciate God's goodness to them. Sis. Madden was some better the last I heard, but they still have someone sit up with her at night. I also understand that Bro. Madden is having trouble with his back. Pray for both of them. Sis. Barton is moved into her new home next door to Gene. She seems to like it."
--Daisy Harris

"Bringing in the Sheaves"

"Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind. And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room. And the Lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled." Luke 14:21-23

Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Matt. 25:37-40

"Over 2 years ago the Lord gave me a burden to work with some deaf mutes. I asked the Director of the Neighborhood Center, my ex-teacher, to contact the parents for me. We started working with 3 deaf mutes teaching them Universal sign language and other arts. The fruitful progress caused other mothers with retardates to seek help for their handicapped. Mrs. Tunley and I undertook the responsibility which soon outgrew the Neighborhood Center. We occupied a class room in an old school. Our enrollment of 15 students has outgrown our class room and we have obtained another room. We also have a kitchen and dining area for working purposes. I need special prayer for this most worthy cause. I feel a portion of what Job said, 'I was eyes to the blind and feet was I to the lame'. Since I have to be voice and ears for some of these deaf, I surely want to fill my place to the glory of God. Of late Mrs. Tunley had several light heart attacks, that caused the burden to become too great for me. Bro. Warren and the saints came forward and lifted the load. Sis. Zackery of Hoffman, Okla. who attends Bro. Warren's con-

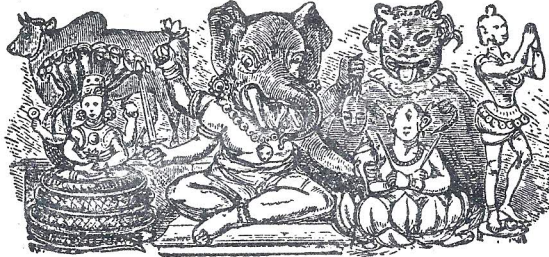


Bro. Woodrow Warren, gospel van and students

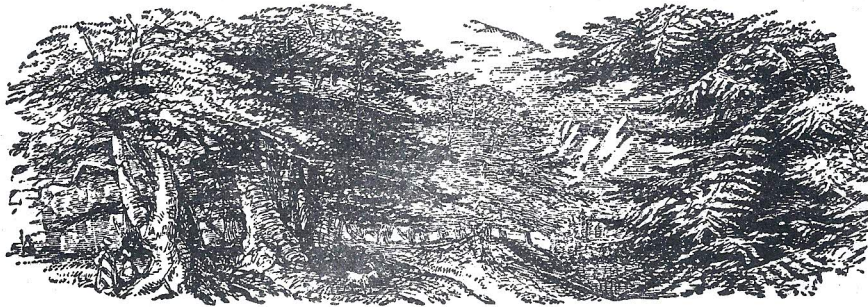
gregation has a son that is a mute. Sign language is his only way of communication because he can't use his lips successfully for a return of lip reading. My burden now is to have more time to spend with the deaf and mutes. Permanent help is what we need now. We were hopefully expecting the government to fund our program in May, which would allow us to hire a Special Aid teacher and teacher's aids. But the latest news we got was directed toward a delay. We have faith that God is going to help us some way until it's funded because we are sure God gave the burden and has progressed the school thus far. Sis. Renette Henderson brings a retardate twice per week from Beggs to our school. Bro. Warren uses the gospel van and commutes the handicapped from Hoffman twice per week and gathers a few Okmulgeans. The OK School of Retardates, Handicapped, Deaf, and Mutes, 419 East Second St., Okmulgee, Okla. 74447 is in session from 9 a. m. until 12:00 each day Monday through Friday. Pray for us." --Sis. Annie Bell Allen

Children's Page

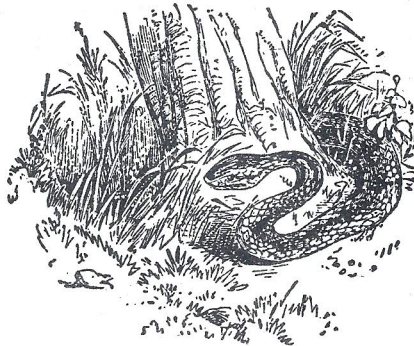
He removed the high places, and brake the



and cut down the



and brake
in pieces
the brazen



that Moses
had made:
for unto

those days the



did burn incense to it.

2 Kings xviii. 4.

at press time

we understand:

All-Day Meeting

All day meeting is scheduled for Grubbs, Ark. on the first Sunday of April, which is April 4th. You are given a very special invitation to attend, enjoy the spirit filled preaching of the Word, as well as the basket lunch at noontime. It was reported that the house was full and the Lord blessed in the Senath all day meeting this month. For further information contact Bro. Albert and Sis. Margaret Eck, P. O. Box 163, Grubbs, Ark. 72431. Phone: (501) 252-3850

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From Ill.: "I have too long put off writing to you. I appreciate the children of God and rejoice to be counted with them. I appreciate you sending me the Mission Trail and the work you are doing for the Lord. I remember you in prayer that God will continue to prosper you in His work. I am getting things ready to go to Nigeria by May 1st (approx.) depending upon getting my visa by then. I covet your prayers that God may have complete control of my life and use me to His glory. May God's blessings be upon you and family. Yours in Christ,"

--Bro. George Hammond

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From Tenn.: ". . . I believe you spend enough time with your children to bring them up in the way they should go. In the cases of preachers who fail to do that, I believe they are either not fundamentally good at heart or they fail to communicate effectively with their

children. It's a lot easier for a preacher to fool his congregation than it is to fool his family. Of course if a son sees his father preach good doctrine and not practice it, it is quite easy for him to lose respect for both the father and the doctrine."--John W. Patton Sr.

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David E. Miller died March 4, 1971. Remember in prayer his wife of Box 1536, El Centro, Calif. 92243.

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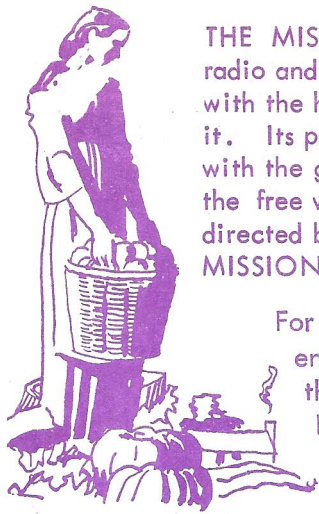
The Lord richly blessed in the meeting Bro. Mart Samons was in with Guthrie saints. Several came to the altar of prayer for spiritual help.

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Our heartfelt sympathy and prayers go out for Sis. Birdie Kroker of 190 Elma Ave. SE, Salem, Ore. 97301. It was on March 13 when she and Bro. Ed Kroker were visiting in the home of Bro. Egbert Allen in Missouri where Bro. Ed Kroker apparently had a heart attack and within a few minutes was gone. The body was returned to Lebanon, Ore. for the funeral and burial. Had he lived until March 18th, he would have been 61 years old.

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We had the privilege of being in a few services near Huntsville, Ark. in the Upper Whorton building where Bro. Curtis Williams was preaching. We appreciated so much the hospitality of the saints and even enjoyed an early Sunday morning breakfast with Bro. and Sis. Oscar Wall and family. Several of the saints from Neosho came to be in the meeting.



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
KGGF	Coffeyville, Kansas	690 kc.	Sunday, 8:00 a. m.
KCKW	Jena, Louisiana	1480 kc.	Sunday, 7:30 a. m.
WFPR	Hammond, Louisiana	1400 kc.	Sunday, 7:45 a. m.

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