



Gospel Broadcasting and Publishing

The Mission Trail

Box 99

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Willie C. Murphey • Frances E. Murphey

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THE MISSION TRAIL

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Concentration

Radio Broadcast for week of April 30, 1972. (See back page for list of stations)

"Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Phil. 3:13-14. Good morning, friends. It is surely a pleasure to be coming your way once again by means of radio as we do each Sunday at this time. I hope after our short visit you will be more encouraged to press on for the Lord in these trying times.

Notice especially this one particular part of that scripture: "This one thing I do." Isn't that short and to the point? Here is a man with a purpose in life. Where there is no clear purpose there is not likely to be much strength of character. And where there is no strength of character there is only a remote possibility of success. So then, it is one thing to declare a purpose, and another thing to stick it out to the end. What we need is a clear and unswerving purpose of heart to do God's will and then the weaving of the everyday circumstances of life will help us carry out that purpose of heart.

Let me put the definition of success in the words of another who has said that success is finding the will of God for your life and then doing it. This means then, that once the purpose is found, using every bit of skill, will power and patience we can command, we should relate to it all the circumstances and events of life in such a way that they do not foil but aid and assist the principal aim. So let me ask you this question: What is your purpose in life? Do you have one? Is it to obtain large sums of wealth? Or is it to be the president

of some big company or to gain popularity and honor of the world? If so you may be able to obtain these things. However, sometimes people set their stakes too high and don't reach their goal. And as likely as not, their hindering causes come from their own failure to concentrate their utmost strength. But this matter of serving the Lord and being found faithful to his call is a large order indeed. Furthermore, it presents a real challenge. You see, there are so many things to hinder. And only a few people are willing to take the way of the cross.

Do you remember the parable of the seed which was sown? There were several types of ground. Some seed fell by the wayside where the fowls came and devoured it up. Some fell among stony places, and even though it sprang up, the sun caused it to wither away because it had not much earth. Then there was the seed which fell among thorns. This cause of failure is really heart-touching to me. It was choked out not all at once, but just little by little. It came up and grew and no doubt the prospects looked good at one time, but as time went on more and more the

thorns choked out the grain. Isn't this just so true in life? Barrenness comes so slowly that one is hardly aware or able to discern that anything is wrong. It is like the deadly carbon monoxide gas. First it makes one sleepy, perhaps their eyes burn a little and sting, but then they lose consciousness and drop off into sleep from which they are never awakened in this life.

Or it is like being frozen to death in the Arctic, after a drowsiness comes over the one who has been exposed to the sub-freezing temperatures. And again, we might say it is somewhat like they tell about the frog. They say a frog can be placed in a pan of cold water and put on the stove. Now, remember, this is while the frog is still alive. If the water is gradually heated he makes no effort to escape and is boiled to death right there in an open pan without ever jumping out.

Now, I don't know how true that is, for I have never tried it. But it does make sense.

But I will say this: It is the trivial things of life which cause many to fail of the grace of God. His doom is brought about by the trifling things which are so small. These little things don't help him on to God. His life is more like a brush pile rather than a tree which has the limbs and branches all fastened to the trunk where they are growing. In a brush pile there are many branches and limbs from trees, but they are really not a part of a living and growing tree. Little notes jotted down on pieces of paper are handy if you can find them when you need them. But if they are bound into a volume and indexed they are worth a lot more because they will be easily found. Then they help the author carry out his central purpose.

Referring to the one who wrote: "This one thing I do," we find the apostle Paul had learned to be content in whatsoever state he was in. He had learned to make all things work together for good to serve his purpose in life. He had the skill and wisdom and courage and patience to make his life's hardships serve the central purpose. And that purpose was to press toward the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Even the sound of his chain became a summons to others to follow him as he followed Christ. Even like Jesus himself, Paul knew his meat was to do the will of God and finish the appointed work. We really need this text for inspiration. I am glad it is in the Bible. And we need all the help we can get to concentrate our efforts and make them count for God.

Some people try to do too many things to be successful at any of them. Did you ever know anyone like this? This matter of serving the Lord requires a specialist. That means hard work and concentration. It also means consecration. A specialist in any line of work needs to learn what ever he can about his particular field of study. Some people like to hunt with a shotgun, while others prefer a rifle. Now a shotgun may cover a wider area, but a rifle will penetrate deeper and pierce farther into the target because the power is concentrated and not scattered at random.

So now, let me ask you, what is your main purpose in life, and do you have the power and ability to carry that purpose to a satisfactory conclusion? I say you can succeed in living for God above all the obstacles that come, but it is going to take a concentrated effort and some things may go unfinished while you work at the main project.

One thing is sure as you travel the seas of life--you are going to need the Bible. This great book, the Bible, is a compass to those seeking a passage through this life. Shape your life to the course it indicates. Feed on its truths every day. It is food for the soul. The Bible is an unspeakably wonderful book. It contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of life, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Read it to be wise. Believe it to be safe. Practice it to be holy. It gives light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler's map, the soldier's sword, and the Christian's chart. Here heaven is opened and the gates of hell described. Christ is its theme, our good its design, and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet. Read it slowly, frequently, prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, a river of pleasure, and a garden of flowers. It is given us in life; will be open in judgment and remembered forever. It involves the highest responsibility, rewards the greatest labor, and condemns all who trifle with it.

Let us pray.

Our father, bless the message to the good of every listener. May thy truth not fall into stony and hard hearts altogether, but cause some of it to find good and honest hearts where it will spring up and bring forth fruit for thy sake and thine shall be the glory through Christ our Lord Amen!

Thank you friends, for a few moments of your time. If we may be a help to you with some spiritual problem be sure to let us know. Address your letter to the Mission Trail, Guthrie, Okla. We appreciate so much those who have helped us keep the message going forth on the air and through the mail.

Here is a song "Home of the Soul" The singers are Bobby & Dorall Forbes, Leslie Busbee, and yours truly, Willie Murphey.

Until we meet again this is Willie Murphey saying a very cheerful good-bye and may God bless you everyone.

Missionary Report

From Mexico: "I trust that all is well with you, soul and body. I can, by the grace of God, report victory over sin, and joy and peace in my soul. The enemy is so clever and is working overtime to try to hinder us in living for God. How wonderful it is to let the Holy Spirit guide us and show us the dangers out ahead of us. I haven't answered letters for quite awhile, because of the preparations for the campmeeting here in Ejido Patzcuaro which started the 28th of March and lasted until the 2nd of April. We worked many days and long hours, to get done. The campmeeting is now in the past, but we feel lasting work was accomplished through the Holy Spirit. The Lord certainly blessed us with beautiful weather. A week before the meeting it was very hot, but during the meeting it was almost cool... There was some altar work, but we felt we could see conviction on many faces that didn't yield to God. The meeting was well attended, but yet there were so very many from here in Patzcuaro who didn't come to any of the meetings... I feel more of a burden for souls, and am asking the Lord to show me how to be more of a soul winner for Him. Do pray for us here that we will be led by the Holy Spirit, and that He can use us in His service. We certainly appreciate your love and concern, and every prayer you have prayed. May God bless you in every way..."--Edith Cole, Box 1425, Calexico, Calif. 92231.

Testimonies

From Kansas: "Again, the time has slipped by so fast...I can't keep up with time. It seems like time follows so closely behind me I can't keep far enough ahead to do the things I feel like need to be done. Thank God for the good rain we have had--showers of blessings, spiritually and showers of rain in the natural sense. Truly, I have felt this week like I have been fighting the battle of Armageddon. It is a real battle with the devil. He has been hard after me as he is with everyone, but praise God, He has given me the victory. The devil has been pressing me in the still of the night when I would awaken and not able to sleep, but the Lion of the tribe of Judah has broken every chain and gives me the victory again and again... The book 'How to Resist the Devil' has meant so much to me. When the devil presses me so hard I read some of it and receive instruction on how to resist the devil and through the blood of Jesus and by His Word, I do resist him and he is a conquered foe. He was cursed in the garden of Eden and when God speaks he has to go... Yours in Christ,"

--Wildenna Huffman

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From S. Car.: "Greetings to you and all in Jesus dear name from S. C. We deeply appreciate the family of God and want to thank each one for their prayers in behalf of Bro. Abbott's badly afflicted eye. It was so red, sore and painful about 3 weeks. The sight was receding till he had very little vision. We prayed earnestly and sought the prayers of the saints. God cleared all the redness, soreness and took away the pain and he says the sight is gradually returning. O what a mighty God we serve. We are indeed glad to be here with the saints at Holly Hill."

--Bro. & Sis. Sam Abbott

THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE

In the parable, the pearl is not represented as a gift. The merchantman bought it at the price of all that he had. Some may question the meaning of this, since Christ is represented in the scriptures as a gift. He is a gift, but only to those who give themselves, soul, body, and spirit, to Him without reserve. We are to give ourselves to Christ, even as He gave Himself to die on the cross for us. We obtain the pearl of great price. Salvation is a free gift, yet it costs those who possess it their all. In the market of which divine mercy has the management, the precious pearl is represented as being bought without money and without price. In this market all may obtain the goods of heaven. The treasury of the jewels of truth is open to all. "Behold, I have set before thee an open door," the Lord declares, "and no man can shut it." No sword guards the way through this door. Voices from within and at the door say, Come. The Saviour's voice earnestly and lovingly invites us: "I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich." The gospel of Christ is a blessing that all may possess. The poorest are as well able as the richest to possess salvation; for no amount of worldly wealth can secure it. It is obtained by willing obedience, by giving ourselves to Christ as His own purchased possession. Education, even of the highest class, cannot of itself bring a man nearer to God. We can not earn salvation, but we are to seek for it with as much interest and perseverance as though we would abandon everything in the world for it. We are to seek for the pearl of great price, but not in worldly marts or in worldly ways. The price we are required to pay is our all to God. Any other price is too small.

--Selected

Stolen Goods Recovered

For many years when meeting with difficulties of any kind I have been accustomed to making my needs known to the Lord and imploring his help, and thus have frequently found aid in a mysterious and miraculous manner. Once while on my way from a large city I had to change my baggage from the boat-landing to the railroad-depot. It was very early in the morning, just at the break of day, when I left some of my parcels in the depot for a short time, until I could return to the boat to attend to some business. During my absence some one stepped in and carried off about twenty dollars worth of my goods. On my return I noticed at once that the parcel was gone. There was no one in sight, no trace of the thief. After looking about for a few minutes, I took the matter to the Lord in earnest prayer, telling him that it was his property and that it would take just as much of his money to buy the same amount of goods again, and asking him to help me find the things whether or not I found the thief. After remaining at the depot a few minutes, I went again to the boat, and about twenty minutes later, while returning, I was praying earnestly, asking the Lord to help me find the parcel. Somehow I felt it was my privilege to appeal to the Lord with importunity until he enabled me to find the lost property, and as I was placing the matter very earnestly before the throne, I believed that in some way he would fulfil his promise. I had not the least clue as to the whereabouts of the goods nor the one who had taken them, but as I walked along with my head down, earnestly praying, I said, "Lord, thou art able to help me find my parcel of goods. I will trust thee." Immediately after the utterance of these words, I

looked up and saw a man coming hurriedly toward me. As he approached he said, "Did you lose anything?" "I did," I replied. Then he made inquiry as to what the parcel contained and said, "Follow me and I will show you where it is." I followed him past the depot, across the railroad, and beyond two or three buildings. Finally we came to a new house, and as we walked behind it, he pointed underneath and said, "You will find it under there." He then explained as follows: He was a night-watchman at the factory just beyond, and he had noticed me leaving the depot to go to the boat-house, and soon after I left saw somebody with a package come from the depot towards the factory and after coming to this house that was being built place a package underneath hurriedly and run away in an opposite direction. The watchman then went to the house, drew out the package and examined it, placed it back again, and came in search of me. While some may not be inclined to give God much credit for the restoration of a parcel in that manner, nevertheless it happened according to my petitions to the Lord and just at the proper time and in such a manner as many other things have happened in answer to prayer; therefore I do not hesitate to give God the praise and glory for hearing and answering my prayer. In many similar cases I have found the Lord a present help in time of need to find things that I was incapable of finding, although sometimes I have searched diligently for the lost article, asking his direction until it was found, and giving him the praise and glory.

--E. E. Byrum

Excerpt from "Startling Incidents and Experiences In the Christian life".

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"Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us. Selah." Psa. 62:8.

Children's Page

Consider the



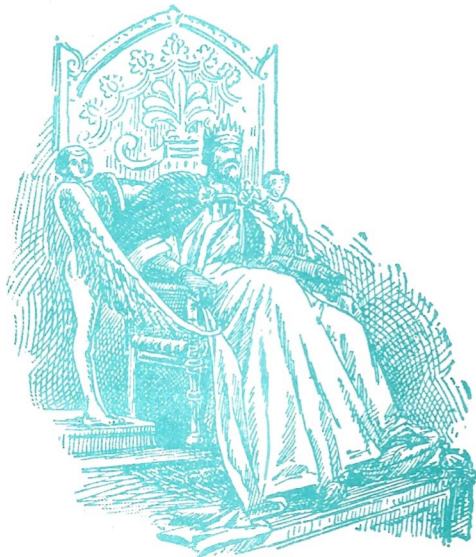
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in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

LUKE xii, 27.

at press time

we understand:

Brother L. D. Christman, Enid, Okla. was injured while wrecking a building in Hennessey, Okla. on Tuesday, April 25. He was pinned beneath a wall which fell on him and several stitches were taken on his head. At last reports he was reported to be improving. L. D. loves the Lord and his work. Remember him in prayer. He lives on Route 1, Enid, Okla. 73701.

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We extend our heart-felt sympathy to Sis. Doris Littlefield, RFD 2, Belfast, Maine 04915. She wrote, "my husband Russell Littlefield passed away 8:15 p.m. Wednesday evening April 19."

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From Ga.: "My daughter had a heart attack. I had to come home to see her and she is better, thank the Lord, but far from well. I am yet very tired of a 3 day and 3 night bus ride from Bakersfield, Cal. to McRae Ga... I thank the Lord for a mind to go all the way with him from earth to glory... I thank you for your prayer. I mean the saints everywhere--for your prayers in delivering me and my daughter from these hard spells of sickness..."

--Sister E. B. McNair

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It has been learned that James McCoy, the son of Bro. William McCoy, 621 Tyron Ave., Dayton, Ohio 45404, died Thursday, April 27th. His funeral was set for Monday, May 1. Remember Bro. and Sis. McCoy in this time of sorrow. This has been a great shock for them, but we know the God of all grace can comfort and bless.

It was good to have Bro. Roy and Sis. Virginia Harmon in Guthrie for a short time. He brought the message for the saints on Sunday evening, April 23. On Tuesday they went to Enid where they have been an encouragement to the congregation there. It seems the Lord sent them at just the opportune time. Bro. and Sis. Harmon did live in Guthrie some years ago before they moved to Overland Park, Kansas.

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Sister Annie Bell Allen and several other sisters, who came to help, spent much of the day on April 24, in The Mission Trail print shop while material was being printed for the vacation Bible school program this summer. We were glad to have them as guests in our home for the noon day meal. A good work is being done with the children and young people. I really believe they enjoyed that peach cobbler which Sis. Geneva Ray brought over for dinner too!

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From Okla.: "Just a few lines to let you hear from me. I am still living for Jesus. I am not well in body. I was pretty sick yesterday. But my trust is in the Lord... I feel better today so I am out working for the Lord today... You all pray that I will be pure in what I am doing. I feel like I want to do greater things for the Lord. Give all the saints my love. This will be all at this time." --Sister Lizzie Jordan

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We have had several requests for prayer and ask that each true child of God join with us in seeking an answer to them.



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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