



Gospel Broadcasting and Publishing

# The Mission Trail

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THE MISSION TRAIL

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## "Cause and Effect"

Radio Broadcast for week of September 17, 1972

Good morning, friends. What a pleasure to be coming your way once again. We appreciate those who from week to week tune in the Mission Trail broadcast. And thank you, for writing and letting us know of the blessing it proves to be in your lives. My text today is a short one. It is just one single verse found in Proverbs 26:2--"As the bird by wandering, as the swallow by flying, so the curse causeless shall not come."

I believe there is something for us in this verse if we can understand it. First, consider the birds. Especially, let us focus attention on the sparrow. Did you ever notice how they flit about the house from place to place? They don't often stay long in one place. Even as they pick up a few crumbs from the ground, they are constantly on the alert. And they can be gone in a moment of time.

The marginal reading in my Bible says it this way: "Or the curse that is causeless lighteth not." In other words the curse does not stay without a reason.

Then one of the commentators had this to say: "As the bird... is taken often for the sparrow; but means generally any small bird. As the sparrow flies about the house, and the swallow emigrates to strange countries; so an undeserved malediction may flutter about the neighborhood for a season: but in a short time it will disappear as the bird of passage; and never take effect on the innocent person against whom it was pronounced."

This is all the more proof that "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? Psa. 27:1 I like that. There is the positive assurance that God is going to care for his own. The third verse goes on to say: "Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident." Then the fifth verse shows how he is going to be protected: "For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock."

But let us return to the swallows. Remember now, these birds represent a curse. And the assurance is that they will not come without a cause. First, let me describe a swallow. I understand there are about a 100 species of this type of bird. This includes the martins which are so common in this country. They are found in many countries except the polar regions and New Zealand. Swallows are noted for their swift, graceful flight and regular mi-

gration. They are characterized by long, narrow wings, notched or forked tails, and feet usually unsuited for perching. In other words, they don't sit perched on a tree limb or wire very long at a time. They are especially suited for flying. Their short bills and wide mouths are adapted for catching their insect food on the wing.

It seems to me that would be symbolic of evil spirits which are ever ready to devour their prey. This same thought is brought out in 1 John 4:1--listen: "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world." So you see, there are many of these false prophets with evil spirits going about seeking whom they may devour. And their appearance is as the angels of light.

When "the Lord said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it." Job 1:7. So, you see, he was looking for whomsoever he could devour and deceive.

Did you pay attention to that description of those swallows? Listen: "Their short bills and wide mouths are adapted for catching their insect food on the wing." In other words, they have a big mouth and they don't have to stop to catch their food. They just open their mouth and catch their prey on the fly. Isn't that typical of some preachers? I am not speaking of the true prophets of the Lord but those who are deceivers. They just open their mouths wide and catch their prey while still in flight. They may be here today and gone to morrow.

The apostle Paul described them this

way: "For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision: Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake." Titus 1:10-11.

Another characteristic of the swallow is their forked tails. (I mentioned this earlier). They are especially suited for flight. They can very gracefully handle themselves in flight. For the most part swallows have iridescent black or blue plumage. The common barn swallow of the U. S. . . . has a deeply forked tail; the male has steel-blue back plumage, a reddish-brown forehead and throat, and pinkish under parts. Other species include the North American tree swallow, bank swallow (or sand martin) and cliff swallow, all with slightly forked tails.

I wonder if that forked tail might not have some significance too. Do you suppose they could go either way, to the right or left in their flight just as gracefully? The people of God, know there is but one way to go to reach their destination. Sometimes it is upstream and sometimes uphill, but the way of the cross leads home. James says: "A double minded man is unstable in all his ways." James 1:8.

Now, before I leave the thought completely, let me make a few more comments on the "curse causeless shall not come." Just like these swallows have a place to which they return so sometimes God allows certain things to befall those who have utterly rejected him. Here is the scripture for that: "He, that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy." Prov. 29:1. Then here is another one: "Be not deceived;



God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." Gal. 6:7.

That is why it is so important for each of us to search our lives to see if we are really in the center of God's will for us. There was a reason why the ass which Balaam was riding turned aside from going the way he chose. She thrust herself unto the wall, and crushed Balaam's foot against the wall. The reason was because the angel of the Lord stood in the way and was displeased with the way of Balaam. The curse of the Lord does not causeless come. Remember that.

And now this poem:

WHO SHALL BE ABLE TO STAND?  
The Spirit expressly is heard;  
Lo, he speaketh again and again  
Of the perils that come in the time of  
the end,  
When wicked professors will seek to  
defend  
The creeds and commandments of men.  
Beware, precious soul! Stand alone on  
his word;  
Beware, lest you fail of the promised  
reward.  
Oh! who shall be able to stand  
'Gainst the tempest that threatens  
today?  
For the false and deceptive are waxing  
more strong.  
And only a few of the numberless throng  
Are willing his word to obey--  
Are willing to honor each precious  
command,  
To sit at his feet or be led by his hand.  
Oh! who shall be able to stand?  
False spirits are seeking their prey;  
Oh! how many poor victims, now  
halting in fear,  
Will make their escape when the trumpet  
they hear,

And come home to Zion to stay?

Oh! then, let his judgments go forth  
in the land,

Else none of the weak will be able to  
stand.

Refusing his Word to uphold,  
Although heralds once valiant in war,  
On the carcass of those who refused  
to obey,

Behold, the foul vultures are feasting  
today;

Their hapless estate we deplore.

Then, guard well the truth by his watch-  
men foretold;

Take heed that you enter no false shep-  
herd's fold.

Oh! who shall be able to stand

If his judgments we cease to proclaim?

If the precious are left with the filthy  
and vile,

The Master, methinks, will be weeping  
the while,

For his bride will be bearing the shame.

Oh! purge out the dross at the Spirit's  
command;

Then all of the pure will be able to  
stand.

Let us pray. Our father, bless the mes-  
sage to the good of every listener. May  
the truth find its way into receptive  
hearts, bringing deliverance and victory  
and thine shall be the praise through our  
Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Let me remind you this message has  
been brought your way by The Mission  
Trail, of Guthrie, Okla.

And now this song "Thou Shalt Be First"  
The singers are Lynn and Alma Carver,  
Arnett and Genevieve Carver.

Until we meet again this is Willie Mur-  
phey saying God bless you and a very  
cheerful goodbye!

## Testimonies

From Ala.: "I greet you in Jesus sweet name. I hope this finds you all feeling good in body and soul. We are all very well; sure enjoyed seeing you both at the meeting this summer. God has been so good to me. I want to praise him each day. I have some very special unspoken requests, that I would like for you all to pray with me about. I know God answers prayers... In Christian love,"

--Sis. Pearlene Whitson

--o--

From Ga.: "...greetings of love to the saints scattered abroad. I do thank the good Lord for how wonderfully he has blessed me since I came home from California. O, I enjoyed very much the revival meeting June and July with Sis. P. R. Bowers and Bro. James Green and Bro. Friendly Green and the good people of their community. It was lovely to be out in the rural district, seem to get more fresh air. I also stayed with the Florida saints. I went home with them and I spent the entire month of July..."

--Sis. E. B. McNair

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From Ore.: "I greet you in Jesus dear name, can thank the Lord for victory in my soul, and thank the Lord for what he has done for my body. I still need strength, but I am trusting the Lord for the strength I need day by day... We are so glad for the river through our place so we can pump water to irrigate garden, lawn and orchard from it. We sure have a good garden, beans, corn, beets, carrots, cucumbers, spinish, peppers, cabbage and tomatoes, so we just live out of the garden and that is what we both like. You probably got about Sis. Carrol of Tenn. passed away Aug. 29. She has gained that home she was striving to gain--at rest, no pain, nor sorrow and no more death, praise the dear Lord."

--Sis. Emma Busch

From Okla. : "...Surely we are in the last days and in very perilous times. We are praying earnestly for the approaching ministers meeting as we feel there is great need for wisdom and guidance... Recently I had a dream which is proving to be a great help to me. I dreamed I was left in a meeting house alone (church was over and everyone had gone on out). It was my responsibility to lock the door after I went out. I was aware that the building was all locked except one back door. As I approached it I saw someone pass on the outside. Then instead of locking it immediately as I had thought to do my attention was diverted into another "seeming needful channel." When I looked again I was again inside the building desiring to lock it and go home but the entire side of the building was gone and a group of strangers standing near began to move into the building. I thought I would have to wait for them to get out before I could close it up and they weren't in any hurry about getting out. I woke up. The Lord gave me understanding that this could apply to different things in the spiritual life but the particular application that was impressed now was concerning doubts. At first all that I would have needed to have done was to have locked one door, but I failed to do it. The one person I saw at first was outside the building and they represented a doubt, but one that hadn't entered into my mind and heart. By failing at first to close the door and lock it, the result was multiplied trouble, the side of the building gone and a group of persons representing more doubts that could enter freely and more time involved--time just wasted... I can readily see what happens to our experience if we fail to get victory over just one simple doubt and lock our hearts against it. Pray for us."

--Sis. Fern Stubblefield



From Ill.: "We had a good meeting last Sunday--not as the world would call good, for I am sure they would look upon our small attendance with disdain; but we all were encouraged and felt better by meeting, singing, praying, and reading God's word together. We can always claim the promise "where 2 or 3 are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst."...

--Sis. Thelma Sprague

--o--

From Colo.: "Well, I'm home again, had a nice trip about 4,000 miles... stayed well and enjoyed it all, saw many beautiful scenes. We went to Niagara Falls, into New York state, Lansing, Chicago, Detroit and spent 1 night in Canada. God made a beautiful world... Bro. and Sis. Wollert were just here. They bought them a house here in town. They are having it remodeled, will be glad when they get moved in, think her asthma will be better when they get away from the fields and weeds... Glad we got to be at Guthrie camp, hope it will be so we can come for all of it next year..."

--Addie McEndree

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From Calif.: "...I am so very shaky today and my hand cramps so I can scarcely hold my pen--wearing out in body but growing in spirit, how precious to love and serve our God. Rom. 11:33. ...I was born four miles from Neosho, Mo. July 29, 1881. What a different world we live in today. Surely our Lord will soon come. By His grace I will be ready."

--Sis. Mary Halfhill

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From Calif.: "Thank the Lord for being saved and for how he keeps me saved and encouraged to live for Him. Thank the saints for their prayers. I ask you all to continue to pray for my right hand. It is still numb from the stroke I had, but I am looking to the dear Lord..."

--Sis. Lucinda Chiles

From Ga.: "Hope these few lines will find you all doing nicely. I don't guess I will get to the assemblies at all this year. We have us a church now, thank the good master...I still have my hand in the Lord's hand. I have given up all for Christ. That is all I can do. I don't see anything on this side that will hold me back."

--Bro. Friendly Green

--o--

From Ga.: "Greetings in the lovely name of Jesus who is so loving, good and kind to us all. I am so sorry seemingly that the majority of the people are so disobedient to our heavenly Father after he has done so much for us. Jesus says if ye love me keep my commandments. John 14:15. 1 John 5--tells us his commandments are not grievous. I can truly witness to the word of God. I love the Lord and I am keeping his commandments and I have found that his commandments are not grievous."

--Sis. P. R. Bowers

--o--

From Ky.: "Brother Williams flew up from Clearfield, anointed me for the hemorrhaging which had lasted for over a year, real bad sometimes. I promised the Lord when he healed me I would testify to the fact... Now it's been nearly two months. I have not had one bit of hemorrhaging... remember, resist the devil and he will flee from you."

--Sis. Alpha Baldrige

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From Colo.: "Been a long time since I have written, but I am still on the Lord's side and serving Him, and so thankful I am. I have no bad report. Jesus has been so good to me--was so thankful He gave me health and strength to attend part of the camp meeting at Guthrie, really enjoyed it and meeting God's people... the Lord has been so good to me. I want to serve Him more and more... Pray for me."

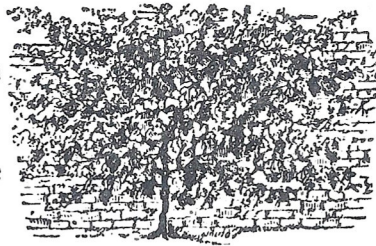
--Mrs. R. A. Tomblison



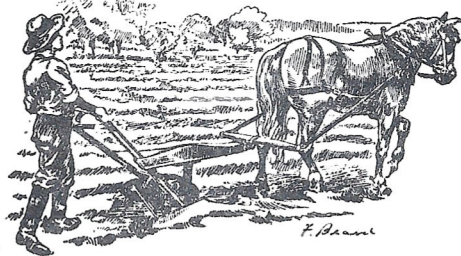
# Children's Page

READ THE BIBLE BY SYMBOLS.

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JOHN XV, 1 2.



# at press time

we understand:

## Meeting Notice

The saints of the Church of God, Coffeyville, Kansas desire a revival meeting starting on their all-day meeting day, Oct. 8, and continuing as long as the Lord leads. We are looking to God to send us a minister filled with the Spirit to break the Bread of life. These are troublesome times and we need His eternal standard of truth before us at all times. Everyone is welcome to attend these services. The chapel is located at 407 Eldridge in Coffeyville, Kansas.

--Bro. Leslie Busbee

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From Ohio: "School has started out with a very tight schedule. The teachers really have no time to themselves. The pressure is terrific. I thought this week to be a busy one, but the ones to follow will be even more so. Wednesday I was so tired I had to go to bed when getting home. I am thankful for the job, though, and enjoy the children. I have twenty-four third graders. At the end of the second day of school a teacher down the hall came in to see me. I have her daughter in my class. This teacher expressed her appreciation of my opening exercises of each day including Bible reading and prayer. She said she does the same thing, that she was in back of me all the way. I was amazed. So far in my four years of teaching I've had no opposition. This afternoon the PTA stopped by our rooms presenting us with a small potted plant. ... Remember us in prayer..."

--Nancy Sallee

From Ark.: "Jesus is so dear to me, cares for every need and does hear and answer prayer. There is so much the Lord in His tender mercy shows me every day... My desire is to trust and serve Him more. I have lost loved ones on my heart and if I am true the Lord will truly deal and convict their hearts. Our service was sweet and precious yesterday. Bro. Jim and Sis. Marilyn were here---Last night Bro. Netzley brought out a good lesson on the Lord's prayer where He was teaching the disciples how to pray... School seems to be about the same. I truly need to depend upon the Lord each day... I have a real good response on reading and prayer. I am so thankful for this opportunity to be a witness for my Lord. God is so good to me... Do remember us as a part of the body working together. We do desire to be true and a light in this community. Our love to you."

--Sister Lou Bray

--o--

From La.: "I hear your message every Sunday morning. It floods my soul... I feel the spirit and those singers are wonderful. I wished it could be every morning. It helps to start the day off right. Thank you and... singers. Keep the good works going if at all possible. ... I remain as always,"

--Mrs. Lillie Evans

--o--

Congratulations to Richard and Sandra Porter, Box 274, Willard, Mo. 65781, on the birth of their son, Timmothy Wade, born, Sept. 6.



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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