



The Mission Trail

Box 99

Guthrie, Okla. 73044

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

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THE MISSION TRAIL

JANUARY, 1975

"I Shall Go Softly All My Years..."

Radio Broadcast for January 5, 1975

HAPPY NEW YEAR! And a cheerful greeting to all the listeners of the broadcast. Indeed, we are happy to be coming your way once again. I have chosen for a text a scripture from the book of Isaiah. In chapter 38 and verse 15 we find these words of Hezekiah: "I will go softly all my years..." I want to tell you more of this a little later in the broadcast, but first this poem:

ONLY A FEW SHORT YEARS

Only a few short years of life
 In which to work and pray;
 Only a while to wage the strife,
 Till comes the close of day.

Only a little of anxious care,
 Before the long relief;
 Only a struggle short to share--
 The battle of life is brief.

Only a while to sympathize
 With care-crushed souls in need;
 Only a while to hear their cries
 And do a kindly deed.

Only some wakeful hours to spend,
 Till comes the long repose;
 Few times a kindly hand to lend
 Or share another's woes.

Only a few short years, O God!
 Not one of them is mine.
 May my actions, thoughts, and words,
 Prove I am wholly thine!

"How long is my span of years?" I couldn't tell you, not to be exact, that is. Hezekiah thought there were not many left for him after Isaiah came and told him to set his house in order, for he was going to die and not live. But he did a wise thing. He turned his face to the wall and began to pray. God heard that prayer and added to his life fifteen years. I am convinced the Lord would add years for a lot of folks these days if they would call on Him. No doubt many die before their time because of their sins and loose living. But, at our very best, with all the years one may accumulate here in this life, they are going to be just a few compared to long eternity!

Listen to the words of Jacob (this is after he had gone down into Egypt with all his household and Pharaoh wanted to know how old he was): "And Jacob said unto Pharaoh, The days of the years of my pilgrimage are an hundred and thirty years: few and evil have the days of the years of my life been, and have not attained unto the days of the years of the life of my fathers in the days of their pilgrimage." Genesis 47:9.

Now, from the words of Hezekiah: "I will go softly all my years..." I would like you to notice two things -- First: "all my years". Well, one might ask,

One might think that an hundred and thirty years was a long time, but Jacob didn't seem to believe that way. He thought his pilgrimage had been real short and he had experienced a lot of trouble. His forefathers had lived longer than he.

Jacob realized a fundamental truth of life. Oh, that we all might grasp it. Life at its very best is short on earth. Psalms 90 and beginning with verse 9 goes like this:

"For all our days are passed away in thy wrath; we spend our years as a tale that is told. The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away." So the emphasis on "all my years" is, that these years are short.

Be they threescore and ten or fourscore, they soon pass away as a tale that is told. Jacob's life was made up of sixscore and ten and he still thought those years were short. In reality they were. They pass like a tale that is told. James expresses the brevity of life in this way: "Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away." James 4:14.

I believe that most folks would agree with me that the years of life pass quite swiftly. As a child they seemed to move so very very slowly, but not any more. Instead they seem to pick up speed as you start down hill.

Job experienced much trouble and he said: "When a few years are come, then I shall go the way whence I shall not return." Job 16:22.

This brings me to the second part of Hezekiah's declaration. Let me give it to you again: "I will go softly all my years..." To me this means Hezekiah resolved to be careful in his living. Psalm 90 and verse 12 shows the importance of this:

"So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom." True wisdom teaches us there is coming a reckoning day. This is the judgment which comes after life: "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil." Eccl. 12:13-14.

There are two other places in the scripture worth mentioning in connection with this message where the expression "softly" is used. This same Jacob who had told how few his years were, made a statement after his meeting with his brother Esau. Jacob was such a different man than what he was while practicing deceit in the years gone by. Listen to what he said:

"Let my lord, I pray thee, pass over before his servant: and I will lead on softly, according as the cattle that goeth before me and the children be able to endure, until I come unto my lord unto Seir." Genesis 33:14.

I like the careful life Jacob was now living. He was walking softly before his brother and before the Lord. The fear of God was before his eyes. There had been a change in his life. This called for "walking softly" the remaining of those swiftly passing years.

Then there was Ahab, that wicked king,

whose wife Jezebel was responsible for the death of Naboth. The prophet of God, Elijah found him in the vineyard of Naboth and told him the tragic ending which was coming to him, his wife and his posterity. Remember, Ahab was a very wicked man. "But there was none like unto Ahab, which did sell himself to work wickedness in the sight of the Lord, whom Jezebel his wife stirred up." 1 Kings 21:25.

After this prediction of judgment which Elijah brought, here is what the scriptures say of Ahab: "And it came to pass, when Ahab heard those words, that he rent his clothes, and put sackcloth upon his flesh, and fasted, and lay in sackcloth, and went softly." verse 27. I say that was a good thing to do. He began to walk softly. It brought results in the sight of the Lord. Listen: "Seest thou how Ahab humbled himself before me? because he humbled himself before me, I will not bring the evil in his days: but in his son's days will I bring the evil upon his house." verse 29.

And speaking of swiftly passing years, may I remind you that this month of January, 1975 will complete ten years of gospel broadcasting since The Mission Trail was first begun in 1965. How wonderful they have been! And how quickly those days, months and years have past. And yet, how glad we are that God called us, we listened and obeyed. For all that has been accomplished we give thanks to the Lord and to you, who have also made it possible by your prayers and support. As we begin the new year together let us walk softly before the Lord. Our Father, we thank thee for thy blessings of the past. We are deeply indebted to thee and to our brothers and sisters in the Lord who have stood by in the trying

times as well as in the times of rejoicing. And now, we ask thee for an extra supply of grace for the duties of the new year, both for ourselves and all those who love the Lord. Bless each listener in the way which they have most need and thine shall be the praise through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Thanks to you who have taken the time to listen. To those who would like to write us may I say you may do so by addressing your letter to The Mission Trail, Guthrie, Oklahoma. So, wherever you may be hearing this broadcast in your homes or scattered throughout the roads on the highways or wherever in your car, may God bless and keep you. Listen now as the Loftis sisters sing. Until we meet again this is Willie Murphey saying God bless and keep you and a very cheerful goodbye!

Testimonies

From Calif.: "Oh, how good it is to be alive and feel well and be happy. Most of all to know my name is written in heaven. Some times I overflow with joy. Like this morning picking seven boxes of fuerte avocados to take to a little fruit stand. Everything looks green, sky clear and lots of sunshine after the almost 2 inches of rain. Enjoy the Mission Trails and always so anxious to read the messages from you and the testimonies from the dear saints. Today there was the lovely poem on the front cover and inside the congratulations to us on our 50th wedding anniversary... We are very happy and appreciate all these years together. God is very much alive and so good to all of us. We were up to Whittier to be with Mama. (Annie McKinney) on her 96th birthday. We thank the Lord for letting us have and enjoy our precious dear mother..." --Sis. Lucille Allen

From Va.: "... where would we be without Jesus? Tonight finds me still pressing on. I love the Lord with all my heart and soul. I am seeking him with all my heart. I want to be ready to meet him. I feel it won't be long. I want to stay in the middle of the circle, not on the border line. I want to live this life all the way... No use playing games with God. We must stay in his boundaries. I long to please him. I have a determination to make heaven my home. I am oftentried but the trials are good for me. I thank God for them. Pray for me. I have miles to go and miles to go." --Nancy Wagoner

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From Pa.: "Greetings of love in Jesus dearnameat the close of another year. We are thankful for all of God's blessings to us. We enjoy the Mission Trail. Sorry we cannot hear the broadcast. May God richly bless you all for your labor for him." --Mrs. Paul Slifer

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From Mo.: "We are all well, trust you are also. The Lord has been good to us of late. Our oldest boy (Danny) hurt his back and he couldn't get around very good for about 2 days and Friday when he came in from school he said it didn't hurt at all. He also cut his thumb with the hatchet (pretty bad) and the Lord has healed that too. (altho he is losing his nail). We could just go on and on and tell of all the good things the Lord has done for us. We do thank the Lord for all, and most of all we thank God for sending his son to die for us that we might have eternal life. We still think of you folks and the good visit we had there last summer. We appreciate all the saints so much. We'd be happy to have you visit us any time. We get so hungry some times. The only preaching we get to hear is the first Sunday of each month."

--Bro. Leslie Adams, Sis. Eula & boys

From Kansas: "Glad to report victory thru the blood of Jesus. We have had some strange trials here of late; but we are glad to know the enemy is still shooting at us. We have known that song "The Solid Rock" No. 51 for a long time. We know every verse by heart. In fact, I can't say I know any other song all the way thru save Song 51... But God really blessed my soul here a week or two ago, as I read and sang that song. As we go thru the trials and tests of life we realize we must be anchored to the Solid Rock Christ Jesus or we cannot make it thru to heaven. It is my daily prayer to keep standing on that Solid Rock, since all other ground is sinking sand. Yours in Christ,"

--Bro. Homer W. Fee

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From Illinois: "Just a few lines this morning to let you know we still love the Lord and mean to go right on with him by the help of God. It sure was good to talk to you both the other nite. It is good to talk to God's people some time so far away and it seems like it is in the next room... The Lord has been good to us this year and it is almost gone. Hope all out there are well and enjoying the Lord... will close for now with God's love and may He bless all of His children everywhere."

--John and Louise Matlock

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From Okla.: "We feel so thankful in our hearts today for God's wonderful gift of love to all mankind for that included us. We do thank the Lord for that peace and contentment he has given to our souls. Never can we repay him for such love but we do want to do what little we can to return our love to him. We do enjoy the Mission Trail broadcast every Sunday morning and appreciate the truth being spread to other precious souls that may be hungry for it." --Bro. Edwin Eck, Sis. Lillian and children

From Okla.: "My dear loved ones, I thank God today finds me still pressing on with the desire to go all the way. This comes to let you know I love all of you all. I thank the Lord for the Mission Trail. Please remember me in your prayers. I am some better."

--Sis. Hattie Hines

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From La.: "Greetings of much love to you all in Jesus' lovely name. We do appreciate the Missionary Trail! Very sorry indeed that I haven't written before. We are having a wonderful meeting here in Hammond but few move to altar... The Lord has been so wonderful to me. I want to do more for His cause and lost souls. Please pray for us when you remember. Love and prayers."

--Sister Carrie Sheppard

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From La.: "Christmas is past now, and we will soon begin a new year. I wish for you and yours the very best of God's blessings. I am feeling better this morning. It is raining and cold 39 degrees but I am warm, and blessed in so many ways... The church of God from Midway came to my house for prayer meeting Wednesday before Christmas and we had such a good time together. I want them to come back new year's day for prayer meeting night. I listen to the broadcast every Sunday morning. It is such a blessing to me. Bro. Murphey, I want to be more closer to God than ever. I know every day we are going closer home to be with Jesus. My heart condition, is no joke, and I know my 73 years, on this earth is God given. I have been sick a long time, but I have learned so much about God since I have been shut in. Every day I look for Jesus to come back to call his children to come up to meet him in the air; Praise God, I want to be looking for him all clothed in his glory! What a day that will be..."

--Sis. Mildred Spurlock

From Wisc.: "Oh if folks could only know what it can mean to have Jesus as a heavenly father who knows all about our problems, temptations and afflictions and not only knows but can also help us if we will be faithful and trust Him as we ought. He surely has been wonderful to us, for which we do thank Him. But we just don't know how to thank Him enough. May the Lord bless you all. Sincerely in Christian love,"

--John and Bertha LaVeau

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From Wash.: "Greetings of Christian love to you in Jesus name, the one whose birth we honor at this time of the year. We are thankful for him and all his many benefits to us. We thank him for saving our soul and keeping us in his care. He is the author and finisher of our salvation, thank the Lord. We surely do enjoy the little paper and read it from start to finish, then pass it on. We want you to continue to send it to us as long as you publish it. We are quite well this winter and hope all there are too. We had a beautiful fall and it hasn't gotten too cold so far and not much rain. May the dear Lord bless all. Love to all,"

--Sis. Violet Thomas

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From Texas: "Greetings of love from Texas way. It was good to be in meeting. Sorry to hear of Sis. Violet Watson's loss of her companion. May the Lord bless and help her and all their family... Hope we get to attend assembly meeting next week. I thank the Lord for victory in my soul. I love the Lord even more as the days go by. He has been so good to us and has protected us and our son (we requested prayer for) in such a special way. He helped us so wonderfully! We appreciate the saints prayers. I marvel at His tender love and mercy. Remember in prayer all my unsaved loved ones."

--Sis. Velda Ellis

From Mo.: "Greeting in the name of Jesus. He is so good to us... We are not having meeting here now since it has gotten cold. Our daughter Ramah and her husband have a new baby boy. He was born the 11th of Nov. Our daughters and their families were here for Christmas. We had such a nice Christmas. The Lord is so good to us. I am so grateful for his love and care. I hope you are having a good meeting there. I am thinking of the wonderful meeting that I had the privilege of attending last year at Guthrie. It was such a blessing to me to see so many young people at the altar Christmas day." --Sister Mamie Butcher

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From Mich.: "It's 1974. This year will have soon slipped away forever into the past. Our life is like a tale that is told for the time goes by us so fast. Only one life will soon be past, only what's done for Christ will last. We send greetings of love to all our friends of the present and past."

--Clarence and Margaret Brant

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From Okla.: "Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus. I am enclosing the offering for the mission work. My prayer is that God may bless you, and his work you are doing. I enjoy reading The Mission Trail and I listen Sunday mornings on the radio 8 a.m. My joy is in the Lord and I love his word and live for Him."

--Sis. Katie Priem

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From Calif.: "Greetings of love in Jesus name. We thank the Lord for salvation and his many blessings to us. God is faithful to us and by his grace we want to be faithful to him. I see how people want God to bless them and yet are not willing to put themselves out for God. I pray God will help us..."

--Bro. and Sis. Keith Rich

From Ark.: "I appreciate all the prayers of everyone who has remembered my mother in prayer, as well as for me. When things looked dark, I remembered that others of God's family were praying for her and for me and the rest, and that strengthened me. "Happy is the people whose God is the Lord!" Without Him, what would sustain us in times of trouble? I did so appreciate the fact that my mother, after not being able to recognize any of us as her children, recognized my sister and me, and called us by name, and also mentioned my brothers by name. It was a miracle. She knew me, and when I was out of the room she asked for me by name. It made me so happy."

--Sister Ethel Worrall

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From Oregon: "Praise the Lord for this precious Babe that was born in Bethlehem. Let us kneel before Him and worship Him our Lord and Savior. Dear ones, may the Lord bless you in your work knowing it is not in vain in the Lord. How we thank Him today for the many blessings He does bestow on us..."

--Sis. Beatrice Spaur

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From Ark.: "Greeting in the name of Jesus. Hope this finds you all well and enjoying the Assembly meeting. I would be so glad if I could be with the saints and hear some of the good messages as they go forth... well, I believe it's time for me to send an offering to keep the Mission Trail coming and on the air waves for I sure enjoy reading it and the good testimonies of the saints. It makes me long for a closer walk with the Lord as I believe we are nearing the coming of the Lord. There are such awful things that will be before the coming of the Lord and we will need grace and lots of faith and patience to stand true to the Lord."

--Sis. Kate Dotson

at press time

we understand:

Congratulations to Bro. Manyles D. Gaines and Sis. Marie Theresa Wright who have announced plans for their marriage Saturday, January 11th in the Church of God chapel, Tulsa, Okla. The service is set for 3 p.m. We wish them much joy and happiness in the service of the Lord.

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Oregon: "We had our 60th wedding anniversary in October. Many of the saints were here. How we did enjoy it."

--Sis. Mary Stice

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We have learned that Buena D. Furman of Dinuba, Calif. died Dec. 9, 1974. She was 80 years of age and had lived in that area for many years. We extend our heart-felt sympathy and prayers to her family and loved ones in this great loss. Remember her husband: Clarence Furman, 10351 S. Alta Ave., Dinuba, Calif. 93618.

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From Calif.: "I am even more determined than ever to live for the Lord, and see the end of a Christian race. I am sorry for all the mistakes and failures I have made in the past, but by God's help and grace I will not make them again. I believe the apostle Paul said something about "forgetting those things which are behind" --Edith Reavis

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From New York: "I'm still saved and pressing on until the crown is won. I ask the prayers of the dear saints that I be all the Lord would have me be. I pray God's blessings on you..."

--Sis. Ella Hemphill

Another year has come and gone, which is now a matter of history. So has the Oklahoma State Assembly meeting which was held over the Christmas holidays. Attendance was very good and great were the blessings of the Lord. Souls were found at the altar of prayer upon various occasions, but one time was just especially impressive. After a soul-stirring sermon the altar was lined with mostly young people weeping their way to repentance and seeking a closer walk with God. Many of the saints traveled great distances and for the most part the weather was excellent.

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Jamaica: "Thank God we are fairly well and still rejoicing in Him for saving us, healing us when we are sick, and supplying our daily needs. Truly we serve a mighty God, and a loving Father... At times many discouraging features come up in our work for the Lord, but thank Him we are determined by His help not to be discouraged. Please continue to always pray for us... That God's richest blessings ever be your portion is the sincere prayer of yours in the loving family of God."

--Bro. Israel and Sis. Olga Smalling

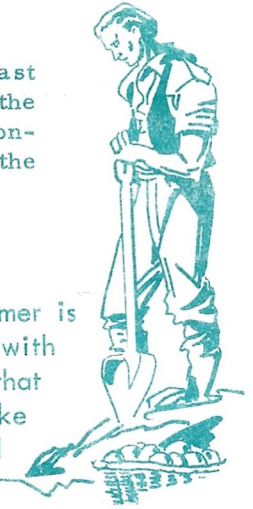
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Our heart-felt thanks to those who remembered us this Christmas season with words of encouragement, cards and offerings to help us continue in the work. Sending forth the truth is to "Cast thy bread upon the waters". The promise is that "thou shalt find it after many days." And sometimes we see results in only a few days.



THE MISSION TRAIL, originating in Guthrie, Okla., is broadcast by radio and published in printed form by Willie Murphey with the help of others. Its principal support comes from the free will contributions of its listeners and readers. Those who are led by the Lord to assist may do so by sending their offering to:

THE MISSION TRAIL, Guthrie, Oklahoma 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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