



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

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THE MISSION TRAIL

JULY, 1975

The Conversion of a Gambler, Cowboy and Prisoner

Radio Broadcast for June 22, 1975

Good morning, friends. I am so happy to be coming your way again, with the Word of the Lord. Listen: "Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon." Isa. 55:6-7. Let me give you this personal testimony of W. B. Hall, the converted gambler, cowboy and prisoner, of many years ago. I quote:

"I was born and reared on what was at that time known as the West Texas frontier. The early part of my life was spent with the cowboys. While yet in my youthful days, I learned to gamble, drink whiskey, and participate in horse-races, and I lived a very sinful life. While young I became disgusted with religion and knew very little about the teachings of the Bible until I was twenty-eight years old. The majority of professed Christians I met in those days would slip around and drink with us boys, and should we meet one who was trying to practise what he preached, he always left the impression that he had something that was a real burden to him.

I really enjoyed what we boys called the "butterfly life," until I woke to see that it had been misrepresented to me. Surely the way of the transgressor is hard. I lived the life of a cowboy, working with cattle and horses four or five months each year. The remainder of the time I spent in what we called "having a good time."...I said to my-

self, "A man who works and gambles is a fool." So I decided to give up one, and I lived the life of a professional gambler...

On the morning of the 8th day of January I killed a fellow gambler. This man was a desperate character, was under bond for shooting a man, and was looking for trouble when I killed him. Feeling that I had done a good thing for the community, I walked about a mile to the sheriff's home and gave myself up. In less than three months I was tried and sentenced to hang, and I lay under the death-sentence for nineteen months, and lacked only three months and five days of spending ten years behind prison-bars. Only the good Lord knows what I suffered.

I did not feel that I was a murderer when I went on trial, but I was one at heart when the death-sentence was read to me. I cursed God, the professed Christian world, and myself for letting attorneys appeal my case, for I would rather have been hung than spend six

months in a dungeon waiting for the Supreme Court to pass on my case. Oh, what a load of sin and guilt there was upon me! I really thought God hated me, but... I soon found God to be a God of love and mercy, and when I found all earthly help had failed, I began crying out to him to have mercy on me a sinner, and when I met the conditions laid down in the Bible, God for Christ's sake forgave all my sins and spoke peace to my soul. All my burden of sin and guilt was rolled away, and I was made a new man in Christ Jesus.

I tried to read the New Testament before my conversion, but it was the most uninteresting book I ever tried to read. But after God spoke peace to my soul, the Bible was a new book to me, and I found it was the bread of life for which my hungry soul had been starving for twenty-eight years.

The remainder of my time in prison was spent in reading and studying the precious Word of God. After I had put my trust in the arm of flesh (lawyers) for over six years, God opened my spiritual eyes to see and to know that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever, and that I was worshiping the same God that delivered the three Hebrew children out of the fiery furnace, Daniel out of the lion's den, Peter, Paul and Silas out of prison, and that if I would take my stand upon the promises of God's Word, he would deliver me.

The New Mexico Supreme Court had turned me down for the last time, and my attorneys fixed up briefs to take my case to the Supreme Court of the United States. I tried to get my loved ones and friends to stop giving my attorneys money, telling them that I wanted to place my case in the hands of God, but they would not listen to me, but looked

on me as being crazy.

When my attorneys brought the briefs for me to sign, I told them that they could consider themselves dismissed, as I had placed my case into the hands of a living God. Judge Freeman, one of my attorneys, told me that unless I would sign those briefs they could do no more. I told him I was worshiping the same God that delivered the three Hebrew children out of the fiery furnace, Daniel out of the lion's den, Paul, Peter, and Silas out of prison, and that God had showed me plainly that if I would take my eyes off the arm of flesh and take my stand on the promises of God's Word, he would deliver me. Judge Freeman became very angry, and everything was done through my attorneys, preachers, and my loved ones to get me to sign those briefs; but God's grace was sufficient and enabled me to put all my trust in Jesus.

I had written a letter... asking the prayers of the people of God throughout the world in my behalf. No one but the dear Lord knows the condition I was in. I was mocked and looked on as crazy by professed Christians, officials, and loved ones. Even the poor prisoners mocked me. They would call to me: "Hall, how are you and your God getting along? Has he taken you out of prison yet?" But again the grace of God was sufficient, and I would look up and say, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

God often spoke to me through his Word, his Spirit, and through visions and dreams, and many times he opened the windows of heaven and poured out a blessing upon me until there was no room to receive it. Many times I felt the effects of the prayers of his saints.

One evening while I was lying alone in my little dungeon, 5 1/2 by 9 feet, reading my Bible, the dear Lord opened the windows of heaven and poured out the greatest blessing ever bestowed upon me. I could not understand it at first. My little prison cell was just filled with the glory of God, and I thought of the time when the wicked king looked into the fiery furnace and said, "Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt, and the form of the fourth is like unto the Son of God." With the blessing came a light brighter than the sun. No electric light could have lighted up that little dungeon as it was that evening. No, it was lit up by the presence of my dear Savior and Deliverer. Praise God forever and ever! Soon afterward everything was calm, and I would look up and say, "Father, what does it mean? Why should unworthy I be so wonderfully blessed?"

A few days later I received a letter from a sister in New York which began something like this: "Dear Brother: Hold on to God. Prove true to God. Stand on his promises and put all your trust in Jesus. The congregation at this place set aside a day for prayer and fasting in your behalf, and God has witnessed here with his Spirit that he is hearing prayer and that he is going to deliver you."

I counted back and found that the very day this congregation in New York were praying and fasting for me was the day God so wonderfully blessed me. I then remembered how while Peter was in prison the church prayed for him, and the dear Lord answered and delivered him.

Well, praise the Lord! Soon after this when it seemed from an earthly view that the world was against me, affairs among the authorities suddenly changed

to my favor, and the prison-doors swung open...and I walked out a free man. Hallelujah to our King!"

End of quote. Let us pray. Our Father, we are glad there is mercy and pardon for the wicked when they are willing and ready to repent, forsake their evil ways and call upon God for mercy. Bless each listener of the broadcast. Continue thy work of saving souls, sanctifying believers and healing of bodies for we ask it in Jesus name. Amen.

To those who may be listening and you would like to write us requesting some spiritual help or prayer for a special need that you have, please feel free to do so by addressing your letter to The Mission Trail, Guthrie, Okla. Until we meet again, this is Willie Murphey saying God bless and keep you always and a very cheerful goodbye!

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Testimonies

From Mo.: "I wonder if I put the title of a song I've been looking for a long time I might could find it...the title is "I am a child of the king". It's an old song. Over 50 years ago while I was at an old fashioned altar while they were singing this song God spoke peace to my heart. I came up from that altar shouting the praises of God. I wonder if I wasn't happier than a bird. I promised the Lord I'd live for him the rest of my life. I want to keep my promise. Now I'll write the chorus of this song so if any one has it or could find it I would be glad.. "I am a child of the King What a wonderful thing. I am a child of the heavenly king. Of his love I'll ever sing and I'll make his praises ring, I am a child of the king"... Will close for this time. Keep remembering us."

--Sis. Katie Gibson

From Jamaica: "Dear brother Willie and Sister Frances, Again it is our Great pleasure to send you warm greetings of Christian love in the name of our wonderful Father and His Son Jesus. We have received your letter of the 9th April and are indeed happy to hear that you arrived at home safely. It was more than a pleasure to have had yourself and Sister Frances spending a few days in our home and participating in our different services. We trust that even if we depart this life before you, that will not prevent you from returning. We believe that there is some work for you to accomplish here and we pray that the will of the Lord be done. Yes, our fellowship was sweet and those with whom you came in contact enjoyed meeting you. Mr. Dunkley expressed how you were just as one of the members of his family. Your coming here has helped to encourage us. Brother Miller, the pastor whose assembly we visited at Nine Turns, feels how much he would love to visit a camp meeting over there and asks approximately how much the fare would be. A sister whose healing for whom we prayed the Sunday you were here, said she has been healed from something which appeared to have been growing in her nose. We always pray for you and the work you are doing there for the Lord. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth visited our island a few weeks ago . . . Leaders, Prime Ministers, etc. Heads of Government for all the Commonwealth countries were present for the conference which they say was a great success. Pray for our island. We want to see her advance not only temporally but spiritually also. Please accept greeting from the assembly here. "The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth to show himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward Him." --Israel and Olga Smalling

From Okla.: "I am still happy in the Lord and praise Him for his many blessings to us, and for the strength He gave me that I was enabled to attend most of the Guthrie camp meeting which I enjoyed very much. . . I was having trouble and could not retain my food but special prayer was offered for me and he heard and I have been able to retain food since although the 4th of June I took severe cold. . . and have been having quite a fight of faith. . . So please pray with me for victory over this. . . I do love the Lord and His work."

--Sis. Nellie Poulos

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From Mich.: "I've been wanting to let you know that we enjoy the Mission Trail. I'm sorry I haven't written before now. . . As I read the article the Day of Miracles is not past, I believe I should testify about our little girl Tammy. It wasn't too long ago she was taken real sick. . . She could keep hardly anything on her stomach, it even got down to water. I'd give her a drink, and it would come right up. And she just wanted to lay in bed or on the couch, and that certainly isn't like an active 2 year old. Well, this went on for 2 days, and the 3rd day I began to cry because I love her and I didn't know what to do for her. . . I got down and really cried to the Lord. I told him how I was determined to trust him, and please undertake and heal her so she can eat. I felt led to have her anointed with oil as we hadn't done that yet. So I called her grandmother. . . I asked her if she would come over and pray with us and to bring the anointing oil. They both came over and she anointed Tammy and we all prayed for God to please undertake. . . Praise God! He surely healed that baby. . . I want him to know that I'm thankful, that's why I wrote this testimony."

--Jerry, Marsha and Tammy Corteway

From Ga.: "The majority of the people now have no respect for God, for themselves nor for anybody else. Brother Murphey, I am doing more fasting and praying than I've ever done. I tell you it's praying time now. I pray thru the night and day, no time to rest and all of this sin in the world far and near, our loved ones too. I am shedding tears and praying so much...pray for the success for our revival meeting."

--Sis. P. R. Bowers

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From Mo.: "I am so thankful the Mission Trail teaches the blessed truth of Jesus. My dear mother sister Mary Adams who passed away gave me my first Mission Trail. I enjoy it so very much. When it is delivered I don't lay it down until I read each and every word. I enjoy the poems very much. I read one most every Wednesday at prayer meeting...Pray for me that I will always be in the center of God's will."

--Sis. Kay Dossenbach

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From Kansas: "One day my heart was so heavy I asked God to give me the very place in the Bible to read. He gave me Gal. 6th chapter and the 9th verse stood out to me. I decided when it is well doing we are pleasing God, but our failure is we are trying to push God. His time is right and mine is wrong. I remembered Darius told me one time, not to be weary in well doing. I said, "yes, but I am." I remember to tell God, not my way Lord, but thine, so as to make certain I'm not fighting for my own way. I'm determined by the grace of God, to be found spotless and blameless before God when he comes."

--Sis. Mamie Norcut.

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From S. Car.: "I cannot thank the Lord enough for what He is to me. I am sure enjoying this good way of salvation..."

--Bro. Eddie Driggers

From Mich.: "It is a pleasure to meet the saints as we don't get to see many of them. We are not able to travel and get to any of the meetings. Bro. and Sis. Murphy Allen stopped by last Thur. a week ago and spent the night with us. They were on their way to Portage to have a few meetings. We were glad to have them stop by and visit with us a while...we enjoy the little paper and the testimonies in it...I can't understand why people will reject the truth when it is the only way that leads to heaven. It's the good way too."

--Floyd and Ether Hines

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From Kansas: "We were praying for God to give you a safe journey to Jamaica and back which He did. We just finished reading Mission Trail which we received today. We are in a continual trial most of the time. But we are not of them that "draw back unto perdition but of them who believe to the saving of the soul." We don't have it made, Bro. Willie, until we are in Father Abraham's bosom in the paradise of God!"

--Bro. Homer Fee

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From Mo.: "We love the Lord and love His children everywhere. We are thankful for the Word and the blessings of the Lord. Truly we rejoiced too, when we received our showers of rain. We do thank the Lord for the good rain and for our gardens."

--Sis. Lena Bowman

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Minn.: "Just a few lines to let you know that we are thinking of you and also praying for you. We do enjoy to read the Mission Trail, too bad we can not get it on the radio. We are so glad you had a safe trip to Jamaica. It was very interesting to read about it in the Mission Trail. We are hoping to see you at Monark Springs this summer. May God bless and keep you encouraged and well."

--Sis. Johanna Zacharias

From Oregon: "I am thinking of a little story I read about two brothers. Each lived alone. One brother wanted an olive tree so he planted the little tree and when he thought the tree might need water he prayed to God for rain. So rain came and watered his olive tree. These brothers lived in the Egyptian desert. Then he prayed for some warm sun to swell the buds. The sun shone out. The tree still looked feeble and the old man thought frost would be good for it so he prayed for frost and the frost came that night. Next he believed a hot southerly wind would help the tree, and after prayer the south wind blew on his olive tree, but it died. Later he went to see his brother and by his door stood a beautiful green olive tree. He asked, "How come that goodly plant there, brother?" "I planted it and God blessed it and it grew." Said the first, "So, brother, I too planted an olive tree and when I thought it wanted water I asked God to give it rain and the rain came and when I thought it wanted sun I asked God and the sun shone. Also I prayed for the frost to come to strengthen the tree and frost came. God gave me all I asked for my tree as I saw fit, and yet it is dead." "And I, brother," said the other one, "I left my tree in God's hands for He knew what it wanted better than I." To me this is a good lesson not only to let God have His way in the weather, but in all that concerns us. Make Him first in our life. God knows what is best." --Sis. Bea Spaur

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From N. Mex.: "Trust all is well with you each one and every thing is going smooth with the Mission Trail paper. I get so much good out of it, love to read it. Thanks so much for your prayers. We are better. He is better than when I wrote you last. I also am well of a hurting in my back so thank the good Lord..." --Sis. Ruth Doolittle

From Okla.: "Greetings of love to all in Jesus' name. He has been so good to us and we endeavor to trust Him all our days. We have not been too well of late, please remember us in your prayers. So much wickedness in this world; we need to constantly pray for all the saints' children and keep...looking up in the straight way and trusting in our dear Savior to the end. We love God's people." --Alferd and Martha Classen

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From Ark.: "I'm in my house and so thankful for a house here. I've had a hard time pulling thru all of this and still working at it...I can't express my inward feelings of gratitude and appreciation for the cards, letters of love and encouragement during this trial of faith. Friends and brothers and sisters in the Lord have really understood and stayed close by. I trust God will bless them real real good. God's family is a closely knit union. I'm so happy I was born into it." --Sis. Lou Bray

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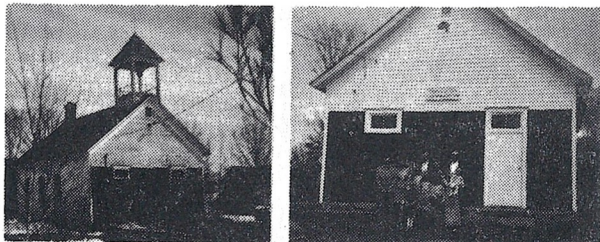
From Wisc.: "Greetings in Jesus name. We think of you and all the good folks down that way. Trust you are having a good meeting. Wish it was not so far so we could be there and enjoy it too but age is catching up with us. When I think of driving two days coming and 2 going it just seems beyond our range. I am glad I went every opportunity we had so now we have no regrets. Surely we are living in perilous times and we need to follow the Lord closely or we will be side tracked. May the Lord give you a good meeting and bless you real good...Greet all the dear ones for us in Jesus name." --Bro. & Sis. Dietrich

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"Do remember Brother Beisly (Ralph) in prayer. He has been in bed almost 2 months now and can not be up only a few moments when it is necessary."

--Sis. Wildenna Huffman

at press time
we understand:



BEFORE

AFTER

1904 School building remodeled for Church of God chapel Shell Lake, Wisc.

From Wisc.: "We are grateful for the privilege of having met so many of the saints that are scattered through out the country...I am enclosing some pictures. One is the church bldg. since it was painted so you can see what the men have done...We have the bldg just about completed. Need to sand the floors and fix outside toilet. We have been praying that the Lord would send a minister for special services...It seems that outside help at this point would be very beneficial. We felt it should be someone who could stay for an indefinite number of days, whatever would be needed...Duane feels that the Lord definitely wants him to preach here. Remember him in this responsibility." --Duane La Veau, Sue and family

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From Ark.: "We're really enjoying Bro. Jim and family. The nicest thing that could have happened. They have a nice place in Pea Ridge and of course that suits Ronald and Janice...He got a job at Springdale (drafting) the next day after he got home from Guthrie and went to work the following Monday... please pray for me." --Sis. Lou Bray

Chicago: If it is the Lord's will I expect to return to our old home in Louisiana about the first of October and I am looking forward to seeing you and many others more often if the good Lord permits time to go on and we are able to get about." --Bro. Albert Green

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Alabama: "We are here in Jasper, Ala. at Sister Pearline Whitson's place in a tent meeting. The Lord has surely been pouring out his spirit upon the services, and three have gotten saved already... Lord willing we will be moving to Green Bank, W. Va. as soon as we get home from this meeting... Our tent meeting starts the 20th of June and we are expecting quite a few to come... please keep praying for us."

--Bro. & Sis. Mart Samons, Gen. Del. Green Bank, W. Va, 24944

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From Mo.: "It was so sad to hear about Sis. Slinkard's passing. She was so precious. She was a real saint of God, a real example. Oh how I pray and desire to be strong in Lord like I should."

--Sis. Berniece Rumpfelt

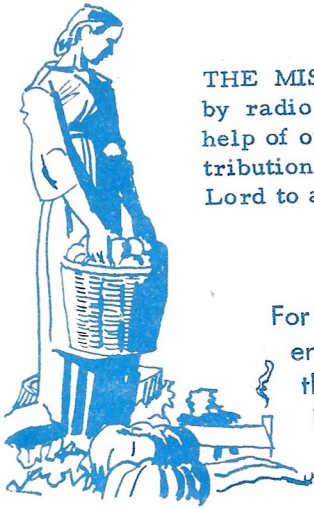
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"My eyesight is poor. I need your prayers. God bless all the dear saints."

--Bro. Frank Kutra

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Our heart-felt thanks once again to all those who remember us regularly with their prayers and offerings thus making it possible for us to send forth the gospel. We are looking forward to seeing many of you at the Monark camp meeting July 18-27.



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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