



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

VOL. 12, NO. 5

THE MISSION TRAIL

MAY, 1976

## The Gospel Alphabet, Chapter Eight

O stands for OPTIMISM

Radio Broadcast for April 11, 1976

Good morning, friends. I am so glad to be coming your way again by means of radio. Every opportunity to witness for Christ is a privilege. Listen to this scripture and then I want to tell you the subject: "But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity. Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Phil. 4:10-12.

Did you notice that statement: "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." It sounds to me like Paul was what we would call an "optimist"! You see, we are back on our gospel alphabet and dealing with the letter "O". And even though I cannot find this word "optimism" anywhere in the Bible, surely "O" stands for optimism. It can be defined as the disposition to look on the bright side of life, and to expect the best to happen. And surely by us being on God's side we can expect the very best to come to pass as we do his will.

It is reported that Abraham Lincoln took this view of life: "I am not so much concerned about God being on my side. The thing that concerns me most is whether I am on God's side."

So the question for us to settle is not whether God is going to help us through

life and fulfill our desires, but are we going to allow God to work out his will and purpose in our life? And if so, then we have every reason to believe and expect the very best to happen for us. Back-sets and reverses are to be taken only as breathers, so to speak, as we better prepare ourselves to accomplish greater things for God and lost souls. With a heart of faith and knowledge that we are on God's side, we can all be sure of victory.\*\*\*\*\* Turning from your doubts, and grasping the promises you can be filled with hope and confidence. The song says: "Hope has brought us through the dangers and temptations of the past, and we fear not those to come. By her blessings we'll go forward while this mortal life shall last, then we'll joyously go home." Dear ones, keep looking for better things! God has them in store for his saints. There is no defeat to the child of God. In life or in death we

are winners with Christ. It is worth more than gold to have the right attitude and look on the bright side of life. Surely the joy of life overbalances the pain and sorrow which accompanies it. The storm clouds are used to form the rainbow. And it takes the night time to show the stars!

The man of one talent had the wrong outlook, so he hid his talent because he was afraid. For this he was condemned by his master! Faith in God will cause one to keep trying and not give up.

I remember one time when I was driving an old worn-out model "A" Ford car pulling a loaded two wheel trailer behind. In this trailer was ten squares of asbestos siding. The road led from Shreveport, La. to Guthrie, Okla., a distance of approximately 400 miles. Well, I started early in the morning and was making good progress with my worn-out car until traffic slowed my speed, which was not too great to begin with! Then the engine ran low of water and began to heat. I added water, but then the motor began to knock. A piston was evidently broken and it started knocking. Soon it was firing on three cylinders. There were only four to begin with. That meant one-fourth of my power was gone.

As I weighed the circumstances, I saw that I had very little to lose by driving on as long as the engine lasted. This I did hoping and praying that God would see me through. Night came on and for many miles the old Model A crawled up the hill knocking as if it would be the last hill it would ever climb. But one by one we covered the miles until late at night somewhere around the midnight hour I was filled with joy as the old car and the heavily loaded trailer pulled into my own yard at home! With God as

my pilot we had safely made it through! I wish you could have seen the grooves worn in the sides of the cylinder walls by the pin after the piston was destroyed!

A right attitude and a mind to work will cause us to accomplish God's will for us. The enemies of the Jews made light of Nehemiah and those who built the walls, saying "if a fox go up, he shall even break down their stone wall." But here is the secret of their success: "So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to work." Neh. 4:6. So you see, they had faith.

Dear ones, it is true that we are not permitted to view life's road from beginning to end. Some things are wisely kept from us by the wisdom of God. There are hills to climb and valleys to cross. Sometimes the shadows of despair seem to hover around us. But let us encourage you to have faith in God and toil on. In the words of the poem concerning Columbus, let us sail on and on and on. May it be with you as the words of that encouraging song:

"Roll on, ye changing seasons,  
Or turbulent seas of sin;  
I've found a blessed shelter  
And glorious peace within.  
Peace, peace, glorious peace,  
Like tranquil waters flow,  
Streaming down over my heart,  
Made white as the driven snow."

Remember, dear ones, "we walk by faith, and not by sight." 2 Cor. 5:7. And so faith increases, confidence will help steady your nerves and direct your steps. It will keep you from fainting and giving up. The writer said in this way: "I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living." Psa. 27:13.



Perhaps you have heard the expression, "As long as there is life there is hope." And so it is. It gives us the opportunity to redeem the failures of yesterday. Ephesians 5:16--"Redeeming the time, because the days are evil."\*\*\*\*\* And another thing to remember, as you give of your best to the master, expect the best to come back to you. For the scriptures do say: "Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days." Eccl. 11:1. Now, may we consider for a moment some of God's great men who had difficulties, but in spite of them, lived their lives to the glory of God. Moses was slow of speech. Exodus 4:10. Joseph was despised of his brethren and sold into slavery, Gen. 37:23-28. The apostle Paul had a "thorn in the flesh" 2 Cor. 12:7, but it didn't stop him from preaching the everlasting gospel. He was bound but the gospel wasn't! Fanny J. Crosby became blind at six weeks of age. But think of the wonderful heritage of gospel poems and songs she left by which she is remembered. These dear soldiers did not bury themselves in self-pity! Oh, the tragedy of those who seek pity instead of grace.

Did you ever notice that many deaf and mute people who can neither hear nor speak, are not the ones seeking for pity and sympathy, but they look for and obtain jobs, making themselves useful in many industries. And to the surprise of others, sometimes make better workers than those who can hear and speak. They can work in high noise areas and it doesn't bother them at all. They can talk on their fingers and hands and never utter a sound, so again the noise about them doesn't hinder them in the least. Clouds protect our vision from too much sunlight. Then what we really need to do is turn our clouds inside out and see the silver lining.

## Testimonies

From Okla.: "We greet you in the sweet name of Jesus. I love him for all He has done for me, most of all for searching me out of the depths of sin, saving my soul and putting a new song in my heart, even praises to His great name. Of late I've been searching and digging in the word of God, that I may enjoy greater depths of his will and live blameless before Him. I've thought so much of Luke 1:5 & 6 speaking of Zacharias and Elizabeth, "And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless." Seems they were in spiritual condition to receive or have a miracle done for them. Then of course we recall God blessed them with a child. Is it not that way for us that when we live righteous and blameless we can receive blessings from Him? We have had 12 patients with flu this week. All are doing better now. Bro. McMakin is pretty weak and frail, suffers greatly at times. Still remember us all to God in prayer..."

--Sis. Malinda Penner

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From Ark.: "We trust the Lord to bless you in every way; would love to see you! ... We have tried to get your broadcast over the new station KBOA but guess we are too far away. We have surely been enjoying studying our ABC's in the Mission Trail, "The Gospel Alphabet." Your little paper means so much to us. We thank the Lord for it and remember you each day in prayer. Some of us here have had the flu. The Lord has been so good to us in time of need. We are all encouraged to be faithful to the Lord and live each day as he would have us to, so that our lives can be a blessing and not a hindrance to those looking on."

--Dub and Nellie Henderson

From Ohio: "Greetings in the name of our Lord, who will keep us as the apple of his eye, and hide us under the shadow of His wings. We are praising the Lord this morning for his graciousness to mankind, and the abundant life for his children. This letter is long overdue, ... We have had some very serious cases of sickness here in congregation. Bro. Ralph Posey is still in bed part of the time, yet, much better than he was a few weeks ago. We truly appreciate your prayers ... I do appreciate the little paper, Mission Trail. I am enclosing small sum to help in your courageous efforts to herald the truth of God's word, by air and by the printed page... Time goes by so fast, winter is past, now, spring again. We wonder where the time goes so fast, almost camp meeting time again. In the language of the psalmist, "Lord so teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom." In Christian love," --Sis. Hazel Clark

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From Miss.: "Thank you for keeping the Mission Trail coming my way... It grieves our hearts to see so many precious never dying souls, on their way to an endless eternity without God, selling their hopes of a home in heaven for the trivial pleasures of this world for a season. The harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few. How sad!" --Sis. Olen Williamson

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From Calif.: "We are praying for a deeper, closer walk with God as it is going to mean a very close walk with him to gain heaven... We desire to do all we can for the Lord, as the word tells us to redeem the time because the days are evil. We are praying that our Lord will give each one of his badly afflicted children a touch of the master's hand. We enjoy the Mission Trail..." --Sis. Letha Reece

From Jamaica: "Dear Bro. Murphey: Good day. The time has come for me to write you this letter. I am happy about the matter, that I am able so to do. First of all, I am asking you to forgive me in not writing before... I thank you very much for sending me a copy of your Mission Trail from time to time. I have great pleasure in reading them. My soul is wonderfully blest as I read the testimonies of the dear saints of God." --Bro. W. J. Bailey

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From Okla.: "I greet you in the name of Jesus who said: "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men." Matt. 4:19. I thank God you also heard that call and are obeying it by preaching-- not only from the pulpit--but also on radio. May God bless and reward your work for Him with the salvation of many souls and encouraging and giving spiritual light and understanding to many others. I enjoy and appreciate the radio message on Sunday mornings..." --Sis. Vera Forbes

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From W. Va.: "Recently we came to W. Virginia to be of help and service to the Lord in the little group here. We thank the Lord for his blessings both personally and in traveling so many miles from Oregon to here. He is our all in all and we mean by His grace to be faithful to Him and His cause... Our address, until further leading otherwise will be, "--Bro. & Sis. Dan Kroker 117 Mound Ave., Fairmont, W. Va. 26554

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From Okla.: "I can still report victory in my soul--enjoying salvation. I have proved it is good for youth, middle age and down to old age. He will not fail, but is a very present help in time of need... I am so glad for the privilege of serving such a great Saviour." --Sis. Nellie Poulos



"There is nothing like trusting the Lord young or old, sick or well."

--Leslie Adams

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From Okla.: "Greetings in the name of precious Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We do hope that you are well and progressing in the work of the Lord. I am still very weak but gaining slowly in strength by the help of the Lord. We thank you and all the saints abroad for your prayers during my illness. Please continue to pray for me. I enjoy the Mission Trail. Please keep it coming as that is all I can do--read. May God bless you and the work there."

--Sis. Rilla Wadley

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From Oregon: "We are rejoicing in the sweet assurance of God's love and care today...as we look back over the years we can praise the Lord for the Comforter...Well, today I know what it means to have Him with me, not only with me but abiding in my heart...I have had a great sorrow. The dear Lord took my dear sister Mildred home the 9th of March. We had been praying for her and the saints were praying also, but God did not see fit to heal her so we know He does all things well and we do not sorrow as those that have no hope. That is why in sorrow we can rejoice and pray that the rest of the family will be drawn closer to the Lord. Some are saved and some are not. I did not feel like making the trip back at this time of year. All I could do was talk by phone and pray for them here...Bro. and Sis. Wilson came. They had a beautiful flower...my heart was comforted. Bro. Wilson sang "What a Friend we have in Jesus", then had prayer. I appreciated all this so much...I must close now. I did not think I could write. I am a little nervous and feel weak in body. So do remember me."

--Sis. Bea Spaur

From W. Va.: "This finds us very much encouraged, and so thankful we know the Lord. The Lord has been teaching and showing us several things lately. We sure do love the Lord. He is so good to us. Some here have the flu, but the Lord is caring for them. The Lord has really been blessing in the congregation here...We do desire your prayers. We need some help from the Lord. We have a lot to learn...Christian love & prayers."

--Karen Lambert

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From Okla.: "I want to thank you for your prayers. I do enjoy the gospel alphabet and I do love the testimonies too, how God is taking care of his children. But we have to have faith. Heb. 10:38--"Now the just shall live by faith, but if any man draw back my soul shall have no pleasure in him." Time is so short now. I am so thankful the Lord saw fit to save my soul. What a mighty God we serve."

--Sis. Nola Wells

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From Okla.: "I'm still saved and living for Jesus and I'm going all the way with Jesus...you remember me in prayer, both soul and body. Give my love to all the saints. This is all."

--Sis. Lizzie Jordan

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From La.: "Greetings of Christian love this morning. Do trust you are well and encouraged in the Lord. We are all doing very well at the present time. Gilbert broke his foot last week but it is healing nicely now...We still enjoy the Mission Trail paper and also the program over radio."

--Sis. Veva Myers

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From Ohio: "We are still having our Bible studies at our house every first and third Friday of each month and the saints from Dayton are helping us in these studies and this is very encouraging to us."

--Bro. Rufus Perry



From Wisconsin: "It's been quite a while since I have written, but we are still well and enjoying the many blessings of the Lord. If you would like a snowmobile ride come on up. We still have lots of snow. Most of February was mild so the snow really went down a lot but got more over the last weekend. Our driveway was drifted so we couldn't get out for service Sunday morning but got there for the evening as the snow plow came in before noon. We surely do enjoy our building for services. We had them in our home for several years which served its purpose but was crowded when others came in. The folks from Hinckley, Minn. have been here I believe three times this winter and we surely do enjoy having them. It's a real encouragement to us and we trust it is to them... May the Lord bless you as you labor for Him," --Bro. and Sis. La Veau

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From Jamaica: "Holy greetings in the name of our Saviour. I hope you and family are all keeping well in soul and body. It's a good while now since I have not written to you. It still remains that we have the same love, interest and good wishes for you all the time. We can never forget your visit to us here, and how much we enjoyed your stay. Whenever we sing the chorus "Get on the Glory Road" I just picture you both before us. We are still going on with the Lord with a firm determination to reach heaven. We are all nearing the end now, so let us hold fast. I enjoy reading the Mission Trail. It is spiritual food for my soul. Keep up the good work of the Lord... I hope Sis. Murphey is not too lonely seeing all the children are out on their own. That's just a part of life. Please convey our love to them all. Andrew is now in Grade 3A at school... Wishing you all God's richest blessings. With Christian love," --Bro. and Sis. Ferguson

From Mo.: "I'm very well. The Lord is so good to me. My faith is in God. He is a true friend. I'm praying for the work you are doing for Him."

--Sis. Lily Mae Glass

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From Okla.: "We appreciated your good letter of encouragement we received. Good letters are like a good visit. They mean so much when we have so many cares and burdens. During daddy's illness we have looked for the mail each day and many times we receive a card or note of encouragement from some of the dear saints. They are just like rays of sunshine to us. In some ways daddy seems better. We had him up a couple of times in a chair for a few minutes. We surely do thank the Lord for this much. We are looking to Him for more so be agreed with us. Mama is not well at this time. She has lost a lot of weight from not being able to eat much. She has some stomach trouble that keeps her food from digesting, probably gall bladder. God knows about it all and we are looking to him in full confidence that He does all things well. The Lord daily loads us down with benefits. We are so amazed sometimes the way he works out our problems for us."

--Lloyd and Mary Dunavan

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From Kansas: "I am still thanking and praising the Lord for my salvation. The more wicked the world becomes the more grateful we become to be in the ark of safety. I know according to the Bible we have to suffer persecution if we follow the Savior but we will also be rewarded for following him and that will repay us for everything we had to go through. So as one song says, "I've enlisted in the service till I die." I attended the singing and all day service at Tulsa and enjoyed it and the fellowship with so many saints who gathered there."

--Sis. Shirley Knight



# at press time

we understand:

CAMPMEETING begins in Guthrie May 28 and continues through June 6th. Other meetings will follow throughout the summer.

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From Mo.: "Today finds me still pressing on the upward way. Truly I want to serve Him to all I know and understand. I desire the prayers. My throat is bothering me... I think the scripture says if any 2 or three agree in anything it shall be done... I enjoy the Mission Trail so much."--Sis. Howard Boulden

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NOTE: If you cannot visit these who are in the battle of affliction a card or letter of encouragement could let them know you are praying for them:

Bro. & Sis. Willie McMakin, 209 S. Philadelphia, Shawnee, Okla. 74801; also Sis. Ruby Williamson, Star Route 1, Box 49A, Olla, La. 71465.

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From Ark.: "Thank the Lord for his goodness and mercies to us and all his creation. He daily loadeth us with benefits... We just recently received a good rain for which we are grateful to the giver of all good gifts."

--Ewell and Vera Dotson

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From Mich.: "We hope and pray you both are well and getting along fine. Ether hasn't been too well. She is feeling some better now. I was not too well. I took sick Jan. 29. I guess it was flu. I did not eat or drink anything for two days... I certainly do thank the dear Lord for healing me."

--Floyd and Ether Hines

## HEAVEN'S ALPHABETICAL PATHWAY TO PEACE IN THE HOUR OF TRIAL.



As gold is tried - 1Pet.1 :7 ; Job 23:10  
 But joy cometh in morning - Ps.30 :5  
 Cure for troubled hearts - Jn. 14:1, 2  
 Devil's part in testings - Job 1:6; 2:6  
 Everything in Father's care Mt. 6:25  
 Father in heaven knows - Mt. 10: 29  
 God's peace and supply - Phil. 4: 6,19  
 Heart searching a must - Ps. 119: 67  
 I will restore health - Jeremiah 30:17  
 Joy & security in Christ - Ro. 8:18  
 Kindness in disguise - Ps.40:1; 94:12  
 Lord's presence a comfort - Isa.43 :2  
 Magnifying Christ - Phil. 1:19 - 23  
 No chastisement pleasant He.12: 11  
 Our victory in Christ - I Cor. 15: 57  
 Purpose of suffering - Jn.9:3 ; 15:2  
 Quietness via waiting - Isa. 40: 31  
 Rejoice as partakers I Pet. 4: 12 , 13  
 Suffering to comfort others 2 Cor 1:4  
 Tribulation works patience - Ro. 5:3  
 Under His wings - Ps. 36 : 7 ; 91:4  
 Victory lies in faith - I John 5 : 4  
 When weak I am strong- 2 Co.12: 7  
 X-Ray eyes of God - Psalm 139: 16  
 Our Saviour suffered more - Isa. 53  
 Zealous to suffer - Philippians 3: 10

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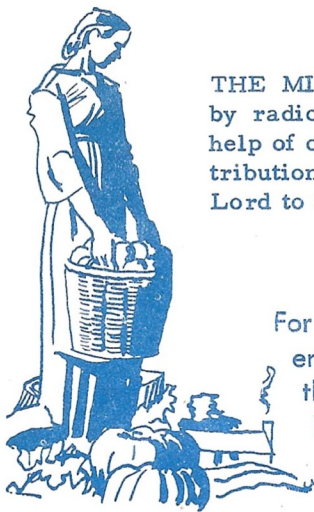
From Calif.: "Wife and I are in need of much prayer. God is near to keep us encouraged in Him. We are expecting great things as we yield to His divine will, so keep praying for us."

--Bro. and Sis. H. P. Huskey

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To those who would like to call us for an agreement of prayer we give our home phone in Guthrie (405) 282-1101.

--Willie and Frances Murphey



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.
KBOA	Kennett, Missouri	830 kc.	Sunday, 8:30 a. m.

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