



Gospel Broadcasting and Publishing

The Mission Trail

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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

VOL. 13, NO. 1

THE MISSION TRAIL

JANUARY, 1977

The Gospel Alphabet, Chapter Fifteen

W stands for WORK

Radio Broadcast for December 19, 1976

"And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it." Gen. 2:15. Good morning, friends. It is time for the broadcast again and we are back on the gospel alphabet. We will discuss that further in just a moment, but first another scripture: "And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast harkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat of the herb of the field; In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return." Gen. 3:17-19.

Now for a few comments. By now you may have guessed we are back on the gospel alphabet and we are down to the letter W which stands for WORK. What a word! Would you like to do away with that word--work? I believe some folks would like to. But it is one of the established rules and laws of God for mankind. In fact, I think it is a wonderful law. It makes for happiness, health and provides much pleasure to those with a desire to accomplish things. Life would really be dull without it. What if there was nothing to do but sit and wait for death to take us from this life! That would be no challenge. And if that were the case, then why life at all? But work is the law of existence! It is the rule by which the body, mind and soul is made better.

The story is told of a young man who applied for work at a small factory.

The owner told him that he did not have enough work to keep another employee busy, and that he was sorry but could not use him. But to this, the young man replied, I am sure you have. You don't know what a little bit of work it takes to keep me busy. What a pity! And I am sure this young man was well on his way to failure in life. The rule is you cannot get something for nothing. ...not for long that is. The supply soon runs out. The ultimatum is given: You must work or go hungry.

So one of the most important things one should learn to do early in life--is to work. Work is no disgrace. As a teenager I chopped cotton, not the most pleasant thing to do, and it so happened I didn't have a lot to do of this type of work. I have picked cotton. One day I worked for a neighbor for two gallons of syrup. This work was in the cane

field in Louisiana. How many folks do you suppose you could get to work on the farm these days? Maybe not many, but some. Otherwise more folks might be going hungry than what are doing so now.

Isn't it strange how folks early in life develop ambitions and have great desires to do certain things. One of my ambitions as a young man, was to learn printing and to be a "linotype operator." And so at the end of my junior year of high school I hitch-hiked some 50 or sixty miles or more to get a job in the printing business. Well, I didn't get the job in the "big town," but I did get the lowly job of sweeping out, smelting metal, and running errands and associated jobs in my own home town weekly newspaper back where I lived. But that was a start, and it led to the fulfillment of that boyhood dream. As a result I have set thousands of lines of type on the "linotype" both in the commercial shop and also in the busy daily newspaper shop where the deadline had to be met. But all of it took work. It was a challenge and required skill and perseverance. However, success brought with it a reward and satisfaction.

One of the great jobs of all time was assigned to God's people in rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem. This was in the days of Nehemiah. Maybe you have read of this success in the book of Nehemiah. The key to their accomplishment is round in eight words: "For the people had a mind to work." Nehemiah 4:6. How could they have done it without work? Never!

1 Thess. 4:11 outlines three things which are essential: "And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you." Now this says to be quiet, not noisy, and to

mind your own business, not the other fellow's, and to work with your own hands -- not expecting or demanding hand-outs. Of course, this would apply to people who are able to work.

The Bible outlines three alternatives to work. Which one of these would you like to do? 1. Work or beg. Luke 16:3 says: "I cannot dig; to beg I am ashamed." Maybe it would be better if more folks were ashamed to beg and then they would dig! Is that too strong! 2. Work or starve. Listen: "If any man would not work, neither should he eat." 2 Thess. 3:10. And certainly we would not want to see anyone starve to death. We would rather see them work. And 3. Work or steal. But the scriptures say: "Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labor." And that means work.

Very little comfort is found in the Bible for lazy folks. Jesus himself must have learned carpentry as he grew into manhood for he worked. Paul worked with his own hands for his needs and the needs of those with him. He was a tentmaker. Now allow me to bear down a little harder. Listen to these scriptures:

"Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise." Prov. 6:6. And again, "He also that is slothful in his work is brother to him that is a great waster." Prov. 18:9. And again from Prov. 21:25--"The desires of the slothful killeth him; for his hands refuse to labor." What a pity!

There are three things needed for a healthy body: rest, food and exercise. So we might say you need sleep, food and work. Eccl. 5:12 really puts this in perspective: "The sleep of a laboring man is sweet." It is quite possible

if you quit work your health may deteriorate. It has been said that an idle mind is the devil's workshop and to some extent this is true. If the mind is idle many ills of the body can be imagined. So, even though you may retire from one job, never, never quit work! There is still much to do for the Lord and souls.

No amount of cheating and stealing can bring the happiness that work does. The ones who find most satisfaction and happiness in life are the ones who have a goal and work for it. Those who are idle have more disturbances and problems than the person who is busy working. Listen to Paul's admonition: "For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies." 2 Thess. 3:11. Let me give you the next verse: "Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread." You see, these busybodies have many frustrations and need to go to work.

Now, a final scripture with a warning: "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work." John 9:4. How true. Dear ones, let us value the privilege of work and be busy for the Lord while it is day. Souls are perishing daily without God and salvation. Listen now to:

THE GOLDEN HARVEST

By H. R. Jeffery

Oh, why should I be idle,
While there's so much to do?
The wheat is ripe to harvest,
And the laborers are few.

Oh, why should I be idle?
The morning sun is high
And soon it will be sinking
Low in the western sky.

No, I shall not be idle,
For in God's word I see:
No idlers in my vineyard:
Go thou and work for me.

I'll be no longer idle,
But faithful I will be;
I'll go and work for Jesus,
I hear him calling me.

Why stand ye all day idle?
There's harvesting for all;
Oh, grasp the flaming sickle,
And heed the Master's call.

The laborers are few,
And still there's much to do;
The wheat is ripe to harvest,
And the laborers are few.

Our Father, we thank you today for the privilege of doing something for God and souls that are lost and perishing. We pray that you would give us a vision of thy work for us continually that we may not falter or fail in doing that which is your will for us. We pray that you would bless the listeners of the broadcast today. Give them a real desire to live for God and be up and doing while it is day. We pray your blessings may rest upon each one and for that which is accomplished we'll surely give you the praise in Jesus name. Amen.

Testimonies

From La.: "We enjoy the broadcast each Sunday morning and reading the Mission Trail so we will be glad for you to continue to send it to us. The dear Lord blessed us with a good assembly meeting..." --Elva and Neva Joiner

From N. Y.: "I'm still saved and going on in the Lord, still trusting Him for soul and body, still a bit weak, but pressing on by God's help and grace. I'm writing to tell you the little Mission Trail paper is so enjoyable I would not want to be without it. So do put my name on your 1977 mailing list. God bless you in all your good works, is my prayer ... continue to pray for me. I want to meet the Lord in peace. Pray that I keep true to Him in all things. His return is near. Yours in Christ,"

--Sis. Ella Mae Hemphill

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From Kansas: "Once more it is the time of year we celebrate as the birth of our Lord and Savior. We listen to you and enjoy your message on Sunday morning over KGGF, enjoy it very much. Since it is winter time and cold weather we are generally just finishing breakfast. Many of the things you mention about your childhood days I know too, what you are talking about. I was born and spent the earlier part of my life in Arkansas around Paragould and east of Paragould, also lived around Gainsville (there is no longer any trace of Gainsville). I have chopped a little cotton but not a whole lot, but picking cotton was something else, picked cotton every fall. Once my dad raised a sorghum cane field. We stripped the leaves off and tied in bundles for fodder (cow feed). I will never forget how the cane blades would burn my face and neck where ever they touched. To add to the memory there was a little green caterpillar looking worm except where he touched made me to forget about the burning where the blades touched my neck. I was 76 last Thursday Dec. 16, still going strong by God's grace and mercy. ... May God bless you with many more years of bringing his message to the people."

--J. E. Estopy

From Colo.: "I am still on the Lord's side and serving Him the very best I know how and Jesus is with me and helps me over many a rough place. I couldn't get along without Him and don't want to try."

--Sis. R. A. Tombleson

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From Mo.: "I has been some time since I wrote you all, being sick, losing husband and I am so nervous and very shaky. I hope you can read these few lines. The Lord has been so good to me. I have felt the saints' prayers. I believe prayer is what brought me through. Oh, how good and merciful our God is. I hope you all are well. I am better but still need prayer. I know you all are busy getting ready for meeting. I sure would love to be there... Please keep Mission Trail coming my way. I enjoy your program on radio when I can get it. Give all saints my love..."

--Sis. Berniece Rumfelt

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From Calif.: "Greeting this beautiful day here. The Lord is so good to his children and I am thankful for his care and love he shows to me and mine. We have Bro. and Sister Abbott here now and get to hear some preaching. I hope your family is well and living for the Lord... Yours for lost souls,"

--Sister Gladys Ewbank

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From Mo.: "We greet you in Jesus name. We are so thankful for God's mercy throughout the past year. If it wasn't for God's mercy and blessing we wouldn't be able to make it each day of life. We were happy to hear the message on "work" Sunday morning. We know this is the truth and so glad the Bible is practical for everyday life... May you be blessed of God to be a helper sowing seed as Matt. 13:37b, "He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man." May God ever be able to work through you."

--Bro. Leslie Adams

From W. Va.: "I hope all is going well with you. I still receive the paper and enjoy it. Keep up the good work and reach as many souls as you can. We do not know how long time will last, but I am near 82 and feel my time will not be here very long. I want to be ready when my time comes to go. Please pray for me. I have wanted to see you dear people ever since I have been reading your papers. I was so glad you are acquainted with Sister Dietrich ... We correspond, but have not met since 1926. This world is big, but we cannot see all over it."

--Sis. Flora Hinzman
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From La.: "Just a few lines in the blessed name of Jesus, our only hope. Bro. Murphey, I'm now almost blind so I can't write much. I can't see the lines, but I still listen to you... I have a good garden, onions, mustard, collards, radishes ... Well, I'll go now. It's raining and cold here so dark for me."

--Sis. Lillie Evans
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From Texas: "I love the saints and my desire is to see more and more come to Jesus for their healing... I surely want my name to remain on your list for I love the word, also the good testimonies... If not busy I read it through before stopping but I can always go back and re-read it. Pray for me, that I will always walk by faith in God."

--Verlene Williams
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From S. Car.: "Greeting of love to you brother... I pray that the dear Lord will keep you with strength and health to keep on working for Him. Well, may the Lord bless and keep you through the rest of the year. I give you all of my love. I will be 83 my next birthday. I thank the Lord I am still living with good health... Pray much for me as I pray for you."

--Bro. Eddie Driggers

From Okla.: "I love the Lord and mean to press on for Him ... I desire your prayers for my unsaved family, also some other burdens and problems..."

--Sis. Lorene Payne
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From Mo.: "I trust this finds you both well and encouraged. We enjoy the paper and broadcast so much. As we drove to Alabama, to visit Marshall & Melonie we listened to our Kennett station "KBOA" as long as we could. It reached a little over 150 miles--about 125 miles from their place maybe. Too bad it can't go that much further."

--Louie and Evodna Marler
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From Tenn.: "I can report victory in Jesus, although there is so much turmoil, strife and heartaches in the world today. I have sweet peace on the inside. Praise the Lord! I find that when I am tempted and tried, and come out victorious that it brings me just a little closer to my Lord. He is so good to me. I thank Him for the growth they bring. I enjoy the little Mission Trail paper. Hardly ever lay it down until I read it through"--Sis. L. C. Rogers

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From La.: "The Lord is blessing us all with reasonable health and we are happy in serving Him, and appreciate the privilege to trust him fully for all things, including our physical needs... We trust the dear Lord is continuing to bless you and yours in every way... May you have a joyous Christmas season in the sweet rest we find thru our Saviour."

--Don, Annetta & Keith Williamson
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From La.: "We are sending a small offering to you. Keep sending us the Mission Trail. We enjoy it very much. We can't get the program on the air. When you pray remember us in prayer. May the Lord bless both of you..."

--Bro. and Sis. J. H. Brown

From Okla.: "As I sit here waiting for bells to ring, I can write a few letters. I am glad I can do a little bit to help in the vast mission field... I guess I would not be happy if I had to sit idle. I really am so thankful I can do so well each day. I truly praise God for the strength he gives me. Bless His name. Above all I am so grateful we have a mighty God to serve and call on at all times and any time he is a very present help in all times of need. I mean to be faithful to the end." --Sis. Edith Cramer

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From Penna.: "I greet you this beautiful snowy day in the precious name of our wonderful Lord. I am so glad He knows all about us and has given us such precious promises to lean on. We must never be discouraged for that is a tool of the devil and he is always glad when we get discouraged. Then he can work, but I just say like Jesus said "Get thee behind me Satan". I am still under affliction... At this joyous season of the year, we must thank God for sending His son to die in our place that we may go free from sin." --Sis. Eva Cox

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From Kansas: "I trust you are both still well and enjoying all the benefits of God. Another year has almost slipped away and we are closer to eternity. Time seems to go so swiftly and even when we think we are really trying hard we seem to accomplish so little for God. It seems that so much prosperity and leisure makes people contented in sin because the devil deceives them into thinking they are happy and doing fine so they don't need to get saved just yet. I only wish we knew how to get people awakened out of their sleep so they could run for their lives while there is still time left to do so. Also it takes a while for most people to learn how to really live for God."

--Sis. Shirley Knight

From Okla.: "Here it's been over a year since you've heard from me, but I hear from you each month through the Mission Trail. Keep it coming to me for without it I'd be indeed a loser. I never lay it down until I've read it through... I pray that you will be able to spread the word for many more years. ...keep "Mission Trail" coming my way."

--Sis. Lymnia Smith

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From Okla.: "I am enjoying salvation. This old house in which I dwell is growing old I know quite well, but you see I have a reservation for a new one and I am expecting a call to move into it any time now. Won't that be wonderful! A brand new house not made with hands eternal in the heavens. Praise the Lord... I enjoy the Mission Trail and the broadcasts." --Sis. Nellie Poulos

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From Wash.: "As we meditate about his birth and the reason for him coming down here and all he did while here even to the shedding his blood for us, taking sin upon himself so we could go free, we have deep gratitude in our heart for it all and our desire and purpose is to be found worthy of it all."

--Sis. Violet Thomas

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From Oregon: "Here is one of my favorite texts, 2 Cor. 1:4--"Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God." We have had a lot of cold foggy weather, but today the sun shines, some clouds, glad to have the sunshine. There is much to pray about. We all have loved ones that need to be saved and so many are suffering under the hand of affliction. May the dear Lord help us to pray as never before and pray for me that I can still be useful in my old age..." --Sis. Beatrice Spaur

at press time

we understand:



Bro. & Sis. Israel Smalling--1973

It was with some apprehension on the morning of December 31 that I opened the telegram from Sis. Olga Smalling, Jamaica which read--"Brother Smalling died December 27th. Will be buried on January second." How we had hoped and prayed the Lord would spare him to continue his labors in Jamaica. In his letter of Dec. 7th, he had stated, "Just a few lines to let you know that Sister Smalling and I are quite sick, but I am worse. Sometimes I get down very weak...If I don't see you again I hope to meet you in heaven. Yours in Christ, Israel Smalling." And now he has made his last journey to be with the Lord. He and Sis. Smalling did so much enjoy the Monark campmeeting in 1973 and the fellowship of the saints. Upon two different occasions it was my privilege to visit them in their home and preach in the little chapel there. Remember the church at this place where he was the pastor and especially his companion, Sister Olga Smalling, Frankfield post-office, Clarendon, JAMAICA, W. I.

Sister Becky Barnes, Stoutland, Mo., who has not been well for some time, slipped away to be with the Lord Dec. 31. She loved the Lord and the saints.

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From Calif.: "I lost my companion Thursday, December 2nd and we buried him Saturday. I have hopes to see him again as I had with others of the Lord's children prayed for him to be saved at any cost and the Lord brought this thought to me, "You prayed for him to be saved at any cost and this is the cost." May God bless you in his work. Only time can heal the heartache in the loss of a loved one. He was a dear husband." -- Sis. Earl Reece, Box 144, Orland, Calif. 95963

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Attendance was very good at the Assembly meeting through the holidays in Guthrie this Christmas season and generally the weather was very favorable. Numbers were at the altar for spiritual help and two baptismal services were held.

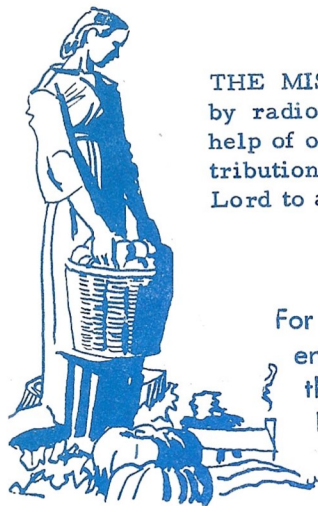
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From Mo.: "I trust this letter finds you well and much encouraged in the work of the Lord. I don't believe I have written to you at all this fall. We have been very busy and I haven't had much time to write but I still hadn't forgotten you. I still enjoy hearing the Mission Trail broadcast from Sunday to Sunday..."

--Harlan Sorrell

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Many thanks to everyone who helps to make possible this work of faith. We wish for all a HAPPY NEW YEAR!



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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