



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

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THE MISSION TRAIL

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The Gospel Alphabet, Chapter Sixteen

X stands for THE UNKNOWN

Radio Broadcast for January 23, 1977

Good morning, friends, to one and all! I am so happy to be coming your way once again. May our visit prove profitable for all. In our gospel alphabet we are considering the letter X. Perhaps one may say, "Now, just what can you make from that?" Let us see. Doesn't X stand for the unknown? How may we tell or know all the problems which we will encounter from the beginning of life to the ending? But God knows it all. And so in the beginning let me give you two scriptures:

"In the day of prosperity be joyful, but in the day of adversity consider: God also hath set the one over against the other, to the end that man should find nothing after him." Eccl. 7:14. Then this one from Romans 8:38-39--"For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Notice, prosperity and adversity are set the one against the other. This means God has counterbalanced the good times with the trials and problems of life. We don't have one long unbroken day of sunshine, but the days are mingled with clouds and rain. Sometimes storms arise and we wonder what will be the outcome! We don't always know the answer which awaits, but God does. Have faith in Him.

with the fiery furnace if they refused to worship the golden image, they did not know if God would or how He would deliver them. They knew he could, but their decision was, if He didn't, they would still not worship the idolatrous image. But they found God's way and were set free again.

Life is like a smooth road upon which we travel for miles and miles. Then suddenly we come to the detour. We have had many plans and noble purposes. But there is the barricade. We didn't plan on that. How can that be? But, we cannot break through the barricade. Perhaps a bridge is gone, so the barricade is there for a purpose and that purpose is to protect us. So we take the rough road, with all the turns, bumps and dust, but eventually it will lead to the main highway again which is sometimes better than the one we traveled before. So this is making the best of the unknown X.

When the Hebrew boys were threatened

Have you not heard it said that our con-

secration to God must include all the known and also the unknown. And sometimes the unknown package is bigger than the package which is known. How true! But we put it all on the altar and trust God to work it out for His glory and our good. And He is faithful to do just that! So indeed, the prosperity does counterbalance the adversity. It is all in the way we take it, as to the outcome. May we learn well the lessons of life. Don't allow the unknown to baffle you.

One might walk down Skid Row and see the victims of disaster. No doubt each one would have their story of what happened in life. There is the one with the broken home, a death of a loved one, a quarrel, the run-away from home because he could not agree with his parents. Each has his story to tell how the rug has been pulled from under them so to speak. But isn't it strange that the same thing which dragged one down, was the lift by which another ascended to the heights of success?

So it is not altogether in the direction of the wind, but rather the set of the sails!

How could Paul have possibly known all the times he was to be beaten, shipwrecked, or to go hungry and persecuted by false brethren? That was the unknown factor of life. But he had it all on the altar when he chose Christ.

"None of these things move me," I seem to hear him say. He was committed to the gospel for better or for worse. And he knew it was going to be for better! He could say as Job, "when he hath tried me I shall come forth as gold". Job 23:10. He could also be as David when he looked back on his life: "It is good for me that I have been afflicted." Psa. 119:71.

Friends, with the back-breaking problems of our day, let us not bend so low forward that we can only see the dust at our feet, but let us hold the cross of Christ up to this lost and dying world and as the weight of our load pulls us backward we may look upward and see the stars. Then the darker the night, the brighter will be the stars. Adversity need not shackle us. History tell us that Luther translated the Bible into German while imprisoned in Wartburg Castle. Bunyan wrote Pilgrim's Progress while in Bedford jail. Madame Guyon's sweetest poems came forth as a result of her long imprisonment. So truly, "Stone walls do not a prison make, nor iron bars a cage."

Loss of health may give a deeper insight and a broader outlook on the things of God and life. Other talents are often awakened which otherwise may never have come forth. Ridicule may be the undoing of one while for another it may cause them to rise to conquer. Listen to what was said of Paul, "What will this babbling say?" Acts 17:18. But this didn't stop him. He went right on to do the will of Christ.

It is not necessary that slander should ruin your life. It didn't for Joseph. He was falsely accused but he knew he had walked uprightly, and so suffered it all until God brought him forth again. The stumbling blocks proved to be stepping stones. The death and loss of all his children did not so embitter Job as to cause him to forsake God. He said,

"The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." Job 1:21. Weeping may endure for a night, the scriptures say, but joy cometh in the morning. One may see even better when their eyes have been washed with tears.

Now in order to be victorious let us consider some of the qualities necessary to carry us through these detours:

Examination: The disciples learned that one of them would betray Christ. They each asked: "Is it I? Matt. 26:22.

Courage: When Peter and the other apostles were persecuted and told to teach no more in the name of Jesus, they replied: "We ought to obey God rather than men." Acts 5:29.

Prayer: When facing opposition resort to prayer as Nehemiah did: "Nevertheless we made our prayer unto God." Neh. 4:9.

Work: Ruth gleaned in the fields, which eventually brought great success and blessings to her and the whole world besides. Read it in Ruth 2:3.

A forgiving spirit: Jesus said: "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." Luke 23:24.

Faith and perseverance. Job said in the face of all his loss of children, wealth and health: "Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him." Job 13:15.

Adjustment and determination: After David lost his son, he said: "Wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me." 2 Sam. 12:23.

And so, my friends, on our journey from here to the great reward God has promised to the true and faithful, we are bound to find some detours. When we do, let us not despair, but take courage and press onward and upward, knowing that all things work together for good to them that love God. Listen to:

A PSALM OF LIFE

Tell me not, in mournful numbers,
Life is but an empty dream!
For the soul is dead that slumbers,
And things are not what they seem.

Life is real! life is earnest!
And the grave is not its goal:
Dust thou art, to dust returnest,
Was not spoken of the soul.

Not enjoyment, and not sorrow
Is our destined end or way;
But to act, that each tomorrow
Find us further than today.

Art is long, and time is fleeting,
And our hearts, though stout and brave,
Still, like muffled drums, are beating
Funeral marches to the grave.

In the world's broad field of battle,
In the bivouac of life,
Be not like dumb, driven cattle!
Be a hero in the strife!

Trust no future, howe'er pleasant!
Let the dead past bury its dead!
Act--act in the living present!
Heart within, and God o'erhead!

Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sand of time--

Footprints, that perhaps another,
Sailing o'er life's solemn main;
A forlorn and shipwrecked brother,
Seeing, shall take heart again.

Let us, then, be up and doing,
With a heart for any fate;
Still achieving, still pursuing,
Learn to labor and to wait.

Testimonies

From La.: "Greetings from the cold south, thankful for the sunshine tho. Guess you all know more about the cold weather than we do. We have a lot to be thankful for. The Lord is with us and that's the greatest blessing anyone can know... We appreciate the Mission Trail broadcast and paper and all your efforts for the Lord. We do want to be a help in getting the gospel out to others. Time is getting away so fast and there are so many souls yet out in sin and darkness. I do want to be more alert and take advantage of every opportunity to do or say something that will help somebody. We are thankful for what the Lord has done for Kenneth. He isn't any worse. We desire your continued prayers, for we are expecting complete healing. The Lord has done so much for us in the past years. We want to give Him thanks and praise always." -- Bro. Kenneth, Sis. Virgie Flynn and Kevin.

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From Ohio: "We thank the dear Lord for His mercy and love to us. We are still holding on, still trusting Him for soul and body. He sure is good to us. ... Well, Bro. Willie, we don't have too many here now since Bro. & Sis. McCoy and Bro. & Sis. Sam Abbott moved away. But we are having services with the few. Jesus said, "where two or three are gathered together in My name there am I in the midst of them." We must press against the adversary the devil. He sure is loose trying to destroy every one he can. Bro. Key brings some good messages for the few here. We sure do thank the Lord for him. He is a blessing to us ... keep sending the Mission Trail. We sure like to read every message and the testimonies... We give all our love to the saints there in Guthrie."

--Bro. Bill and Sis. Essie Abbott

From Ohio: "I was reading the Mission Trail paper today, and enjoyed the Fifteenth chapter, radio broadcast -- W stands for work, and this made my day. This morning I had attended a meeting in an aging program for the elderly in our county, session No. 1 Physical Problems and needs of the elderly. Speaker was Charles Sinsabaugh a M. D. at Licking Co. Memorial Hospital. And I feel this man was honest in sharing his medical experience. He told us cigarettes caused cancer; cigarettes was a drug, also coffee and animal fat should be eliminated much as possible. And he said idleness, cigarette smoking, coffee drinking, and too much animal fat, (and also alcohol drinking) caused a lot of physical problems. And he talked on needs too. So we had break; Session No. 2 "Telling it like it is," a panel of senior citizens discussing their experience; their needs--physical, emotional, spiritual, their place in church and community. It seems they discussed on physical, emotional, and hardly any on spiritual. This is what the world needs more than anything, is to activate in spiritual, and let the natural take care of itself. So I was moved by so little on spiritual. Then I came home and read about work in paper, and I would like to have a few extra copies of the Mission Trail broadcast, Dec. 19, 1976 to share with some of the clergy in and around our area."

--Bro. Rufus Perry and family

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From Pa.: "Greetings of love in Jesus precious name, the only name given whereby we can be saved. We thank God for the gift of his only begotten son to a lost and dying world, this is the greatest gift that could be given. Oh, if only more souls could see the love of God for all mankind and also his great mercy that it is not his will that any should perish..." --Sis. Cora Slifer

From Alabama: "Greetings from Alabama! Today I could say from the sunny south, but that bright sunshine is deceiving as we've been having cold days recently. Since it's already so cold out, we've been wishing for a snow. I guess you all get plenty out there? For the new year weekend Marshall and I went to my folks and enjoyed hearing of their trip to Guthrie. The best news was, of course, that Louie Don had gotten saved. That was like a dream come true as I had been so burdened for him and had imagined what it would be like to go home and find that he had gotten saved. We do praise the Lord for it! God wants to answer our prayers for the salvation of our loved ones more than we can begin to desire it... We're thankful for the many blessings of the Lord and for each one here in the small congregation that we have to meet with."

--Marshall and Melonie Whitson

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From Kansas: "We are thankful to be encouraged in the Lord. He daily loadeth us with his blessings. We have been eating of His Bread and drinking of His fountain of living water... In the storms that may come we have that upper window and He assures us He is standing by giving us the order "to hold steady as we go." That has been a precious thought to us. Also the portion of a song, "Trim your feeble lamp my brother, some poor sailor tempest tossed, trying now to make the harbor, in the darkness may be lost. Let the lower lights be burning"... We have enjoyed the broadcast over KGGF. We want to encourage you to do what you can to throw out the life line across the air waves..."

--Bro. Ralph and Sis. Inez Beisly

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From Texas: "I won't burden you with my problems for they are many. Please put me on your prayer list."--A reader

From Mo.: "We are thinking of you as joyful in the service of the Master, desiring to continue on in doing His will... So glad for every opportunity to lift up Jesus. We who are not called to preach have a place to fill, too, and then we esteem those called and qualified, very highly for their works sake. Oh that we each one give good heed to ourselves, to keep crucified (that is the flesh), for self getting in spoils it all, does it not? How we do need spiritual discernment... We've had drifting snow, recently. The country is so beautiful this morning--the brightest sunshine on all the white. We have a lovely view over the country side as we are at the very edge of the town... Kindly pray for us as we remember you. We are in close contact with people--28 apartments here. We surely do not want to be ashamed of Jesus."

--Sis. Rosella Scott

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From New York: "I'm still saved and pressing on until the crown is won. I thank the Lord for His mercy and everlasting kindness toward me... There is a great and pressing need for the gospel here. This need is urgent, and there is a great opportunity for the gospel of the Lord and Saviour in this great city, with so many false religions springing up almost daily."

--Sis. Ella Mae Hemphill

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From Okla.: "I thank the good Lord for redeeming my soul from sin, for washing me whiter than snow. If I didn't trust Him I wouldn't know what to do with my heartaches. When I go to Him in prayer he lightens my load."

--Sis. Floy Woolery

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From Pa.: "Am so thankful God has given us another year to live in. What will we do with it? We must work all we can to win the lost to our wonderful loving Savior."

--Sis. Eva Cox

From Calif.: "I am saved and sanctified and encouraged to press on for the dear Lord. Surely the Mission Trail is a blessing to receive each month. I look forward to it... To hear the testimonies from different ones is a blessing... Carry on the good work. Remember us in your prayers."

--Edward V. Davenport

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From Calif.: "Greetings of love in the name of Him who watches over His little ones. The meeting at Pacoima was blessed, several souls at altar. I attended and was with wife during the holidays. She is still gaining slowly in weight but still very weak in body... May God bless all there..."

--Your Bro. Huskey

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From Minn.: "Greetings in the powerful and holy name of Jesus who came to save us from our sins. For there is no other name given among men than the name of Jesus. This finds me well as usual and happy in the Lord. It is my desire to hold fast to the truth and walk in the holy light that God has shone around me. Time is swiftly passing away. The days go by so fast. When I see the shape this world is in I know that the Lord is right at the door ready to come. We know that when He comes it will be to judge the quick and the dead. So let us be ready with our garments washed in the blood of the Lamb."

--Bro. Andrew Senti

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From Calif.: "Greetings in the precious name of Jesus. I am glad to be saved today and encouraged to live for the Lord. He has done so much for me. Thank God, for you all in spreading the truth. I appreciate getting the Mission Trail and the words of consolation you gave me the last time I responded, so just continue to pray for me."

--Sis. Katie Gaines

From Okla.: "I am happy to know that God is love. This scripture came to my mind now and it is written in Jeremiah 9:23-24--"Thus saith the Lord, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the Lord which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the Lord."

--Sis. Eva Penner

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From Mo.: "I'm very well and still encouraged in the Lord. He is my helper. He knows our hearts. He loves His own. I'm praying for you all and the work there."

--Lily Mae Glass

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From Okla.: "...without the Lord we can do nothing, but we are told in Phil. "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Thank God for the word of God to lead and teach us the way."

--Sis. Emma Dilley

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From Mo.: "Greetings in the Lord to you all this brand new year of 1977--now courage, new strength to move on for our Lord. Enjoy the broadcast from time to time, also the Mission Trail."

--Bro. Alsia and Sis. Dollie Sorrell

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From Okla.: "I am truly sorry to be so tardy with my writing. I did not get all my holiday mail finished. Trust your holidays were holy and happy..." "I love to serve my Jesus, a privilege so sublime". God has been so good to us up to this present time. I can truly say with the song writer, "The Longer I serve Him, the Sweeter He Grows". I will look forward to the continued visits of "Mission Trail" to my mail box. I love the letters and testimonies."

--Mrs. Chas. Kelse

at press time

we understand:

Unto a youth the gospel came,
Exhorting him in Jesus' name
To turn from sin, embrace the truth,
And serve the Lord in days of youth.

The youth replied, "I know that's right,
But I won't turn from sin tonight;
A few more pleasures I will seek,
And then I'll turn, perhaps next week."

But next week came, and still his heart
Was not inclined from sin to part.
"A few more days in sin I'll live,
And then my heart to God I'll give."

Days passed by, and months rolled on,
And still he sang the same old song,
"Not now, but later on I'll pray
For God to wash my sins away."

The months and years went by so fast;
From youth to middle age he passed,
And yet his sins were not forgiven,
Nor was his name enrolled in heaven.

From middle age to old he went;
His body 'neath the years was bent.
"His conscience once so keen to feel,
No more was stirred at God's appeal."

Procrastination, in its awful stealth,
Had robbed his soul of heaven's wealth
And so at last to sin a slave,
He died to fill a Christless grave.

O souls, behold, God says, TODAY!!
Turn now from all your sins away,
Lest you should reach your doleful fate,
And cry at last, Too late! Too late!

--Ulysses Phillips

From Calif: "We have just returned from the Pacoima meeting which was a real feast to our souls. The gospel was expounded clear and distinct under the power and influence of the Holy Spirit. The meeting was well attended."

--Bro. Ulysses Phillips

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From Tenn.: "Hope this finds all of you well and happy in the Lord's service. What a privilege to be a servant of the Most High. We appreciate your continued love and interest in the people of God and the furtherance of His cause. May He bless and encourage each of you to follow closely, as you are directed and led by his Spirit in this new year."

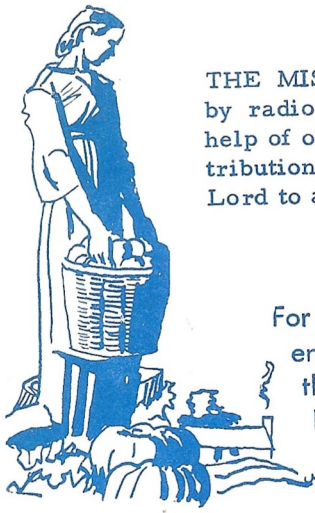
--Bro. Charles B. Williams

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Bro. Elmer Glidewell died January 17. His funeral was in Stayton, Oregon on January 19. He will be greatly missed by his companion, loved ones and the church. Remember them in prayer.

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It is with deep sorrow that we announce the death of a beloved brother in the Lord, Bro. Standley Lounds, 62. It was all so suddenly. Although he was not feeling too well he wanted to go to prayer meeting on Wednesday night, Jan. 19. This he did, but was stricken while in the prayer meeting. He was a real worker for the cause of God and his life speaks for itself. He will be greatly missed. Remember his dear companion, his children and other loved ones in this time of great sorrow. Sister Ethel Lounds, 2136 N. Rhode Island, Okla. City, Okla. 73111.



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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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