



The Mission Trail

Box 99

Guthrie, Okla. 73044

Willie C. Murphey • Frances E. Murphey •

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

VOL. 16, NO. 2

THE MISSION TRAIL

FEBRUARY, 1980

Facing the Unknown!

Radio Broadcast for January 13, 1980

Good morning! Perhaps it is a little past due to be saying "Happy New Year," but I do hope the rest of the year will bring much victory and peace to each one. I am indeed happy to be coming your way once again, and it is because of the favor of God. As we face the days ahead, with all their uncertainties, let us do so with the assurance that Abraham had:

"By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went." Hebrews 11:8.

Life is like that. Here Abraham is a symbol of what happens to so many folks. Especially is this true of the youth of our day. The time was, when a boy or girl could make some plans for their lives ahead and possibly be able to carry them out, but today things are so different and so uncertain. Who knows whether one will be able to carry out plans for tomorrow? The future is like a blank wall. But since the circumstances without are so uncertain, there is all the more reason why we should hold a right spirit within. So let me especially stress four things which we would do well to keep at all times:

First, Courage: Never be faint-hearted but press against the wrong with courage. So long as we have that, we are unconquered; when we lose it, we are lost. Hope and courage go hand in hand. Heb. 6:19 says it this way: "Which hope we have as an anchor of

the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the veil." So when you are storm-tossed and courage begins to fail cast out the anchor, hope, which will secure you to the invisible God of hope.

Secondly, Honor: In a time when morals are being cast aside, virtue is being dragged in the dust of the streets, God is looking for followers who have a sense of right and wrong with loyalty in their relations. Excuses are offered and sometimes the statement is heard: "Everybody else is doing it!" Dear ones, keep your honor and let all things be done on this high plane. You will not be sorry.

Thirdly, Cheerfulness: The bright side of things is as much a fact as the dark. So often the difference between failure and success depends largely on which fact we dwell upon. Keep looking on the bright side and if the clouds come, also remember "the sun is shining just behind the cloud." And the clouds will pass away, as we keep pressing onward.

The fourth need is: Faith. With it,

Abraham faced the unknown and went through. As a pilgrim and stranger, he wandered in Chaldea and Egypt. He was involved in unexpected trials. He followed the compass, the leadings of God. His white tent shook in the wind and shone in the sunlight nowhere, now there, but he was never hopeless. He kept pressing onward believing the promises of God. Faith will take our lives out of our weak and fearful control and put them in the hands of our All-powerful heavenly Father.

And so with courage we too, can be conquerors, with honor that nothing can stain, with cheer that nothing can quench, and with faith that we are always in our Father's hands.

As we look into the new year, not knowing the dangers which there await us, let us do so with the firm assurance that God makes no mistakes. The apostle Paul said it this way:

"Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press, toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."
--Phil. 3:13-14.

Emphasis was placed on the present and the future. Yesterday, for better or worse is gone. What of today and tomorrow? Let the past sink into the background. Place tomorrow, with its hopes, its opportunities, its possibilities in the foreground. We will do well to forget old failures, except to glean from them the strength to fortify us against such failures again. We will do well to forget old griefs. It has been stated that "incurable sorrow" is a "coddled sorrow." In other words, the

sorrow which is cultivated and nurtured remains with us longer.

What shall the year bring? Only God knows. It may be much like other years for us, or it may bring calamity. There will be in it, doubtless, both joy and grief. Clouds? Likely. But clouds, before they vanish, may help to bring the rainbows of hope and victory. Rainbows are impossible without them. I like the way the noted song-writer, John Newton put it when he wrote:

THE LORD WILL PROVIDE

Though troubles assail and dangers
affright,
Though friends should all fail and foes
all unite,
Yet one thing secures us, whatever
betide,
The scripture assures us, "The Lord
will provide."

The birds, without barn or storehouse,
are fed;
From them let us learn to trust for
our bread;
His saints what is fitting shall ne'er
be denied
So long as 'tis written, "The Lord
will provide."

His call we obey, like Abram of old--
Not knowing our way; but faith makes
us bold;
For though we are strangers, we have
a sure guide,
And trust in all dangers, "The Lord
will provide."

When Satan appears to shut up our path,
And fills us with fears, we triumph by
faith;
He can not take from us (though oft he
has tried)
This heart-cheering promise, "The
Lord will provide."

He tells us we're weak, our hope is in
vain,
But when such suggestions our graces
have tried,
This answers all questions: "The Lord
will provide."

No strength of our own or goodness we
claim;
Yet since we have known the Savior's
great name,
In this, our strong tower, for safety
we hide:
The Lord is our power, "The Lord will
provide."

When life sinks apace and death is in
view,
The word of his grace shall comfort us
through;
Not fearing or doubting, with Christ on
our side,
We hope to die shouting, "The Lord
will provide."

In speaking of facing the unknown let us be reminded of the prophet Daniel. Often a dark crisis in human affairs brings with it the burst of light, and someone or something points the way of deliverance. Think of the three tests which Daniel went through. First, there was the test of his discipline over his body and the flesh. He purposed in himself that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat nor with the wine which he drank. Dan. 1:8. Now this happened in the land of captivity. How unusual, but it really worked. God blessed him and he was given wisdom. But he did not follow the way of least resistance. The pressure was great against the flesh.

Secondly, Daniel had a test of his mind. He was called upon to interpret the king's dream. The magicians and astrologers could not tell the dream nor

show the king the interpretation thereof. Daniel and "his mind" was put to the test. Now, Daniel did not rely wholly on his mind, but resorted to his friends who believed in prayer and together they looked to God for the answer. God gave it, and neither Daniel nor the otherwise men of Babylon (if we might call them such) were put to death as the king had threatened. In the king's dream Daniel beheld the kingdoms of the world pass and disappear until at last "...in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever." Dan. 2:44. What a wonderful kingdom!

And thirdly, Daniel was put to the test of his spirit and faith. His enemies planned to have him fed to the lions... all because of their jealousy under the pretense that he called on God in prayer rather than on the king for his help. It is true Daniel did call on his God, but Daniel was a man who would not swerve either from the right or the left when he was convinced that it was God's will. Listen: "Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime." Sure enough, he was thrown into the den of lions, but his God shut their mouths and delivered him.

In the struggles of life, it is so easy to become restless. The natural tendency is to flee and get away from it all. The Psalmist put it this way: "And I said, Oh that I had wings like a dove! for then would I fly away, and be at rest."

Psa. 55:6. Who doesn't grow weary with the battles and struggles of life? David longed for wings to carry him to some haven of rest. Others have felt the same. But the truth is that solution does not lie in fleeing from our troubles. Sometimes it is far better to face them head-on and ask God for the answer. If we are put into the test and flee from it, we may expect it to be right there when we return! Better to find, as we usually can, some new meaning or opportunity in the daily task.

But when faith and courage fail, some are driven to drink, or yield to despair, or as we might say, "end it all." Others turn to drugs, which are certainly not the answers needed. In an hour of cowardice they cast away reason, conscience, and right will. This is selfish because of its effects upon others, foolish because worse than the things fled from. Better to face it manfully, see what can be made out of the wreck, or quietly accept it, knowing that if we have made a good fight there is no disgrace. Flight does not rid one of remorse. But there is a way of escape, God's way, made and provided. Bring your sin to the cross. Confess it. Humbly ask for pardon. Christ has relieved thousands with troubled consciences. He can also say to you, "thy sins which are many are forgiven."

Our Father, bless all the listeners of the message. In some way bring hope to their troubled hearts, that they may know they can face the unknown of the new year with faith in Christ and you will bring them through with victory and thine shall be the praise through Christ. Amen.

May I take this opportunity to say "thank you" to each and every one who has helped us to send out the Word. Surely

there is Life and happiness in the Living Word of God. We find it so. If we may be of some spiritual help to you be sure to let us know. Until we meet again this is Willie Murphey saying God bless and keep you always and a very cheerful goodbye!

Testimonies

From Kansas: "I am encouraged and determined to go all the way with the Lord. 1979 was a banner year for trials but I feel I learned much and trust I am a stronger saint because of it. I love the Lord today and mean to be obedient and faithful unto death... We only wish people would humble their hearts and denounce pride and turn to God and be made ready for Heaven. I only wish we knew the secret to getting people to understand the reality of Hell so they would be willing to pay the full price and go to Heaven. May people begin to fear God more. Perhaps the threat of war will shake some people from their sleep." --Sis. Shirley Knight

--o--

From La.: "I enjoy reading the Mission Trail so much... Please pray for me that I will be able to keep the victory. There are so many temptations on every side... thank you again, for placing me on the mailing list. God bless you," --Coni Hollingsworth

--o--

From Okla.: "Greetings in the lovely name of Jesus. I can say He has been very good to me in the last year. He has kept me encouraged and gives grace to live for Him. He has touched my body different times, especially in Oct. I had a serious affliction and God so miraculously touched me after I called for prayer. It's so wonderful to trust Him and it's a great comfort that we belong to Him. Please keep me on the mailing list. I love God's truth."

--Sis. Malinda Penner

From Okla.: "I carry the Mission Trail of August 1979 in my Bible cover. The Power of Prayer! As I read it again it is so encouraging to my heart. Then also the prayer of Jesus is so precious to study and believe. It blesses my heart. I love it. I think I can learn more and more of its fulness. Also apostle Paul in Eph. 3:14-21--"For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of whom the while family in heaven and earth is named. That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God. Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen." ... Pray for me. God bless you all in Jesus this new year 1980, also the broadcast."--Sis. Eva Penner

--0--

From Okla.: "As we begin the new year I feel that I should send in my testimony of thanksgiving and praise to my dear Savior for caring for me in the past year for good health and supplying all my needs. Truly I love him dearly. May I take this method to entreat lost souls to seek God, read his word, turn to him with a truly repentant heart. He is the answer to all your problems. Psalms 7:11 says God is angry with the wicked every day. The same God will be your friend when you turn to him with your whole heart... Your sister in the faith, "

--Theresa Gaines

From Mo.: "How beautiful, quiet and peaceful is this new year's day. After having read some in God's holy word and had prayer and meditated a little while, I walked outside into the yard and saw the beautiful blue sky, the sun shining, the wind not blowing. Everything seemed so quiet and peaceful. I thought what a beautiful new year's day. My rising thought this morning was upon God's redemption plan, which gives us hope. I thought of the scripture that said, "thou didst make me hope when I was upon my mother's breasts." Psa. 22:9. I thought of the effect of Mary's visit to Elisabeth, causing the unborn babe to leap for joy and also how that kinsman rejoiced in God's salvation while he held the baby Jesus in his arms. All of this was made possible by the power of the Holy Ghost. Then I thought of the scripture in Romans 15:13, "Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost." Then I thought about the effects of the Holy Ghost upon our hearts and lives, when we yield our hearts and lives to God's redemption plan. We can bear the fruit of the spirit as recorded in Gal. 5:22, 23. This is the way I want to start this new year and this is the way I want to finish the year and the way I want to finish my life. I know this was all brought about by God's plan of redemption."

--Bro. T. V. McMillian

--0--

From Kansas: "I like to go to bed at night and know that I have it all settled with God, with peace and love in my heart, with a determination to press on. ... I read in a paper that a mature man or woman of God can only be produced through the testings and struggles in their lives. I didn't know who wrote it but it surely was the truth."

--Sis. Mamie Norcutt

In Memory of



Bro. & Sis. Ulysses Phillips

"And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them." Rev. 14:13. It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of a stalwart "soldier of the cross," Bro. Ulysses Phillips, who died Jan. 11, 1980 in San Bernardino, Calif. at the age of 92. His companion, Sis. Ella V. Phillips preceded him in death Sept. 24, 1974. They were married May 26, 1917. For many years they lived near Dover, Okla. and attended and labored in the gospel meetings of the Church of God. In 1965 they moved to Calif. The fruits of their lives, the preaching, the testimonies, songs and poems still linger with us and inspire us to run this race with patience, which they have completed.

Be Faithful

Sometimes I get home-sick for Heaven,
When thinking of loved ones gone on,
Then the Spirit strengthens my courage
"Be faithful," the time wont be long.

Oh what a wonderful meeting,
'Twill be in the land of delight,
Those who endure through life's journey,
And can say I have fought a good fight.

For them a bright crown is waiting,
Now held in reserve by the King,
For all those who love his appearing,
And faithfully toil on in His name.

Although the road may be rugged,
And the cross seem hard to be borne,
"Be faithful" He whispers "be faithful",
For the faithful shall wear the crown.

Then let these two words be your motto,
"Be faithful" in that you do:
For those who are faithful till death comes,
A crown will be waiting for you.
—Ulysses Phillips.

How He Runs

How goes the man of wisdom's choice?
The man that runs the way of life,
Whose eyes are on the promised prize,
That man will conquer in the strife.

He turns not to the right nor left,
But lets his eyes look on before;
He keeps control of his own self,
As victors in the days of yore.

Wisdom is his guide and rule:
He runs according to its laws,
Therefore he never weary grows,
And has no need to stop or pause.

The girdle of his loins is truth,
His shield and buckler is the same,
And starting in the days of youth,
He runs by faith in Jesus' name.

Thus he is sure to win the prize,
He can not miss; he can not fail:
But to the goal in Paradise,
Will be the ending of his trail.

—Ulysses Phillips.

at press time

we understand:

Congratulations

50th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY
February 9, 1930--1980



Sis. Margaret and Bro. Albert Eck
R. 1, Bluejacket, Okla. 74333

"We are observing it on Feb. 10th at the Welch Civic Center, Welch, Okla. from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Some may not be able to come but may like to send them a card. Thank you very much,"

--DeLoris Bradley

--o--

Congratulations to Dennis Flynn and Pamela Wall who were married Dec. 18 in Tulsa, and are making their home in Loranger, La. area.

--o--

From California: I'm sending \$5.00. We're old and retired...but my sister Grace Jones has this sent to me. I enjoy it. Hope it helps a bit."

--Mrs. Chrystal Jackson

OTHER DEATH NOTICES

Sis. Mary May, Boley, Okla., died December 29, 1979 at age 86.

--o--

Sis. Annie Bowen, 91, Boley, Okla., died Golden Rule Home Dec. 10, 1979.

--o--

Sis. Dessie LeMelle died January 12, 1980, Senior Citizen's Guest Home, Pacoima, Calif., at age 93.

--o--

Sis. Ethel White, Guthrie, Okla., died January 2, 1980 at age 80.

--o--

"I am still saved this evening and living for Jesus, and I don't mean to stop any shorter than Heaven. People are sure passing out of this world. Two of the sisters have passed from our congregation."

--Sis. Lizzie Jordan

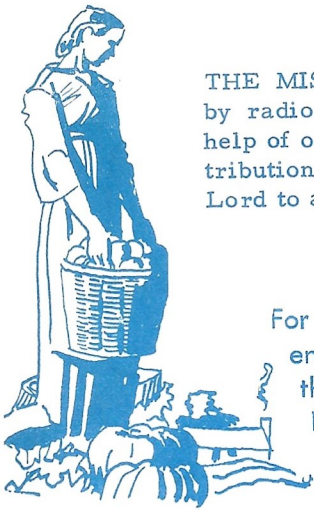
--o--

From Calif.: "Bro. Willie, late? But finally; having company now. Maybe later I write more, I hope; still very weak and frail, God knows! I have lost none of my faith in God! His way is best. I'm not mine own."

--Sis. Armilda Abbott, Senior Citizen's Guest Home, 12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, Calif. 91331.

--o--

Through sunshine and shadow we have come another year by the grace of God. Thus far our Oklahoma winter has not been so severe as it sometimes is. But the nations of the world are perplexed and in trouble with war-clouds gathering. Let us pray for the leaders of the nations and for one another while we send forth the light of the truth.



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

RADIO STATION	LOCATION	DIAL SETTING	TIME
KGGF	Coffeyville, Kansas	690 kc.	Sunday, 8:00 a.m.

The Mission Trail
Box 99
Guthrie, Okla. 73044

Return Postage Guaranteed

BULK RATE
U. S. POSTAGE
8.4 ¢ PAID
Guthrie, Okla.
Permit No. 133