



"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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God's Messages to the Seven Churches ■ Part 2

Radio Broadcast for March 16, 1980

Good morning to one and all. To continue with the last broadcast on the messages to the Churches let me repeat the scripture: "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the Churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it." Rev. 2:17.

Let me assure you that all down through the ages since the coming of grace by Christ, there is an abundance of grace for everyone who will pay the price to go through for God! Each can be a winner. But there is also a solemn warning to all. Listen:

THE BREAKERS ARE AHEAD

Friend sailor, does the balmy breeze
Now softly fan life's silent seas--
A gentle calm instead
Of frowning skies and boistrous waves,
When king of tempest madly raves?
The breakers are ahead.

Your little bark so softly glides
O'er rising and departing tides;
No thought of danger now.
The sky so red assures you well,
No rising surfs around you swell,
No frown upon your brow.

Thus cradled on the rocking deep,
So recklessly you fall asleep,
Without a sigh or care,
Without preparing for the storm,
No thought of danger or of harm,
Without an uttered prayer.

Thus on life's vast unfathomed sea,
Where every human form must be,
Are multitudes asleep.
Without provision, on they sail;
All warnings are of no avail--
They slumber on the deep.

The sinner with his hardened heart,
Without a compass or a chart,
Is drifting to and fro;
But fast the current bears him on
To broad seas, with landmarks gone,
But where he does not know.

Ah! sinner friend, the trackless sea
No place of safety has for thee;
The breakers are ahead.
Now fast the darksome clouds of sin,
To burst forth in the tempest's din,
Are gathering o'er thy head.

The night is coming by and by;
No light shall pierce the sable sky,
No guiding stars so fair;
But falsely shall thy fleeting bark
Be guided in the awful dark
To regions of despair.

Dashed by the breakers you shall fall,
Not one to hear your wailing call

Or lend a helping hand
Too late! you've reached the other shore
Where darkness reigns forevermore--
a Desert home and land.

Take warning, then, and heed the Guide
Who every rock and wave has tried,
And wills to see you through.
He bids the raging storms be still;
The waves and winds obey his will.
He's calling now to you.

Friends, just think of all the dangers we might be spared if we gave heed to the warnings of the Lord. We are continuing to deal with the Seven Churches of Asia Minor and the messages the Lord sent through the Apostle John on the Isle of Patmos... I want to give you a little more of the historical record and what happened to each of these congregations. Previously, we looked at Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira and just briefly Sardis. God through the Spirit commended those which were steadfast and gave a call to repentance to those who were slipping and had lost their first love. The call went out to Sardis: "Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God." They were told to: "Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent." So they also needed repentance anew. Listen again:

"Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments:" In the report of Lindsay he wrote that he was "deeply disappointed at the statement I received there of the Church of Sardis. I trusted that in its utmost trials it would not have suffered to perish utterly, and I heard with surprise that not a vestige of it remained. With what satisfaction then did I find on the plains of Sardis a small Church establishment;

the few Christians who dwell around modern Sart were anxious to settle there and erect a church, as they were in the habit of meeting at each other's houses for the exercise of religion... about five years ago they built a church upon the plain, within view of ancient Sardis, ... The place has gradually risen into a little village, now called Tartar-keny;" He reported there was this small congregation of about forty. Also: "I cannot repeat the expression of gratitude with which they received a copy of the New Testament in a language with which they were familiar." More recent information informs us that Sardis was the ancient capital of Lydia, on the river Pactolus, ... Under the Persians it was a magnificent city on the commercial route from Asia to Europe. But the glory of Sardis has departed!

Next we come to Philadelphia, which is no longer known by this name. But now it is Ala-Shehr". Lindsay wrote in his report: "It was gratifying to find at last some surviving fruits of early zeal; and here, at least, whatever may be the loss of the spirit of Christianity, there is still the form of a Christian Church; this has been kept from the 'hour of temptation,' which came upon all the Christian world. There are here about one thousand Christians, chiefly Greeks, who for the most part speak only Turkish." Of course, we know that God is looking for more than a form of religion. He is looking for the saints to worship Him in spirit and in truth.

But the message God gave to Philadelphia was: "behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not defiled my name..." Again, "Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temp-

tation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth." So indeed, God has preserved in this city of Ala-Shehr, formerly Philadelphia some believers which Lindsay reported received the Greek Testament with great thankfulness. It is a place of some importance, carrying on a thriving trade by caravans, chiefly with Smyrna.

The last of the seven Churches of Asia Minor is that of the Laodiceans... Let us hear the warning given to this church: "I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked;" Rev. 3:15-17.

It seems from history accounts that God really did spue the Laodiceans out of his mouth for Lindsay's report says: "Eski-hisar, close to which are the remains of ancient Laodicea, contains about fifty poor inhabitants, in which number are but two Christians, who live together in a small mill; unhappily neither could read at all; the copy therefore of the New Testament, which I intended for this Church, I left with that of Denzili, the offspring and poor remains of Laodicea and Colosse. The prayers of the mosque are the only prayers which are heard near the ruins of Laodicea, on which the threat seems to have been fully executed in its utter rejection as a Church."

Let us take a lesson from the warnings given to each of these ancient Churches. ... The people and cities had their opportunities. And so do we!

Now we see the judgments of the Lord such as Jesus spoke against the holy

city: "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate." Matt. 23:37-38. How desolate must be the fields which have once received the truth then turned back unto their former ways of sin. And how desolate are the souls once redeemed who have gone back and followed the Lord no more.

Listen to Peter's admonition: "For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire." 2 Pet. 2:20-22.

Jeremiah lamented the condition of those who had turned from the Lord in his day: "Yea, the stork in the heaven knoweth her appointed times; and the turtle and the crane and the swallow observe the time of their coming; but my people know not the judgment of the Lord." Jeremiah 8:7-8.

I love the promise given to the church of Pergamos: "To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it." Rev. 2:17. It seems that some of

the ancients had a custom when one wanted to bind their friendship to another, they would take a stone, cut it in half, each inscribe their name on one piece and then exchange pieces. In this way a permanent friendship and pledge was given to the other. This is so true with our pledge to the Lord. We are bound in an everlasting covenant to Him and can claim all the good promises of the Father. I am so glad that He is mine and I am His! If you have not made this covenant with Him, do so this very moment.

Our Father, we ask now that you would take the words of the message and make them a blessing to the listeners and readers. Awaken the ones who sleep the sleep of death. Encourage each believer to hold fast to the promises and thine shall be the praise through Christ. Amen.

Thank you, dear ones, for a few moments of your time. Do be with us again next week, same time, same station, and if we may be of some help to you in a spiritual way 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 Okla.: "The Lord has been so good to me. Often I wonder just how I would ever get along without him. Surely would never want to try. We had a wonderful week end. Saturday night the singing was so good. Singing the hymns in our song book was a blessing to my soul. We had a nice crowd... Then yesterday the Lord blessed us with a good day in the Lord, one that will long be remembered... The camp meeting there will soon be here. I plan, Lord willing, to attend part of it." -- Sis. Floy Woolery

From Okla.: "This morning my soul was blessed as I remembered and meditated upon the life of Joseph. His was a life of faithful service, to God and mankind. First we read of his faithful obedience and service to his father in going to check on his brothers' welfare also the welfare of the flocks. This put him in a position so that his brothers took advantage of him and sold him as a slave. Next he served in Potiphar's house, having gained the victory over his brothers' unjust treatment toward him. I'm sure he did for the scripture says, "And, the Lord was with Joseph and he was a prosperous man." I'm sure he gained the victory or God could not have blessed him. Then as he continued to serve God and Potiphar faithfully, Satan devised evil against him and he was thrown in prison. "But the Lord was with Joseph and shewed him mercy and gave him favor..." He served God and mankind in prison until fully prepared for a higher place of service. Then he served as a ruler over Egypt just under the king. It brings to my mind the scripture in Col. 3:23-24: "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily as unto the Lord and not unto men knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of inheritance; for ye serve the Lord Christ." May the Lord truly bless you in your labors for him. "For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints and do minister."

--Sis. Fern Stubblefield

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From Ga.: "Dear publishers of Mission Trail paper: We are both 83 in a few days and can't get out to go any where. I enjoy the paper... He has been in bed for 3 years July the 4th... I am thankful to the Lord that I have been able to help take care of him since he came home." --Sis. S. R. Sloan

From Wisc.: "Leslie Adams and his family have been with us since Tuesday the first of April. Just left this morning at 7:00 for Rockford on his way home. Had a real nice time. They spent one day, April 3, with Duane La-Veau's. It snowed 5 inches here but as they went toward Shell Lake they got out of the snowstorm. Today our snow will be mostly gone again. We like to see spring come. We enjoy the paper and the good things of the Lord. We are living in such an evil time. We wonder if Sodom was worse. I have wanted to see the year 1980. We are living in momentous times. The Lord could come any day. Well, I am not saying when. Hope to see you at camp meeting some where this summer. We are both well and busy every day. I never had a cold all winter. Elsie had one for a week and a half."

--Bro. & Sis. Frank Dietrich

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From Calif.: "Greeting in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose, and grace, which was given us, in Christ Jesus, before the world began. But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, and by fully believing and obeying this gospel, my soul is rejoicing in full salvation this morning, reigning over sin in this time world...of ourselves we can do nothing, but the Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want...my soul is rejoicing for the wonderful benefits his vicarious death has made possible for mankind, and praise the Lord that included me...I'm striving to keep my soul enriched by the promises of our Lord, and the secret of abiding is beautiful."

--Sis. Hazel Clark

From Calif.: "Hope this finds you both keeping well... We have had a lot of rain out here this year. I enjoy the Mission Trail... Lord willing I plan to be at the Guthrie camp meeting this year. Was sorry to hear about Sister Taylor's death... keep me on your mailing list..."

--Sis. Nora Smith

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From Okla.: "God has blessed us to see another spring opening up. Many have gone to their reward during the winter season. I have many things to thank and praise Him for. I do feel closer to Him this year than ever. He has been so patient with me. It is truly my desire to be just as patient with others. May God richly bless the work you are doing. Do pray for us as we endeavor to do His will. 'The eternal God is thy refuge and underneath are his everlasting arms.' Deut. 33:27. This gives me great consolation. Pray for us."

--Sis. Theresa Gaines

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From Va.: "Thank you so much for the Mission Trail paper. It's a real blessing to me... I'm isolated and haven't been able to attend any services now for some time, due to bad health. So please put me on your prayer list for body and soul."

--Sis. Lillian Bohannon

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From Ill.: "Intended to send this several days ago and here another week has gone--moving us right into spring. I'm not finished with all I had planned to get done this winter, but I'm ready for spring anyway. Hope you both and all the family are well and happy in the Lord. He is surely good to us and by His help we are trying to follow and obey Him, to be more like He would have us to be. We always appreciate reading what the Lord is doing for His people. We have some petitions before Him, so remember them and us in your prayers."

--The Reineking

From Okla.: "We are so thankful we can report victory over the powers of sin and darkness. God in His love and mercy is caring for us. 'When clouds thickly gather, and hide from my view, the face of my Savior, his eye pierces thru: He keeps me from being by Satan beguiled, Securely I am resting for I am His child.' Oh how wonderful to be a child of God. We want to express our appreciation to the many dear saints that remembered us on our 50th anniversary with so many beautiful cards, letters, phone calls and gifts. We have tried to acknowledge every gift. But there was one \$5 gift that got separated from the card and envelope and we never could remember who sent it, so we are now acknowledging your kind remembrance and may God bless the giver and every one who came through the cold weather to share our happiness. We were truly happy to see each one. It was a wonderful day for us. How good the Lord has been to us, one of the family of God. We love all the dear saints and you have proven your love to us. We want to prove faithful to God until He calls us home."

--Bro. & Sis. Albert Eck

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From Calif.: "Greetings in the name of our Blessed Lord who loves us and died to save us and blesses all who believe on His name. I am happy today that I am a believer. So many that once believed have turned away unto the things of the world. The world has nothing to offer but distress and vice of all kinds. How sad. I recall a poem from my younger days that holds true today: 'Vice is a monster, of such hideous mien to be hated; needs but to be seen, But seen too oft, familiar with its face, we first endure, then pity, then embrace.' May the Lord help us is my prayer. Christian love,"

--Sis. Amy Hunter

THE ROSE

It is only a tiny rosebud--
A flower of God's design;
But I cannot unfold the petals
With these clumsy hands of mine.

The secret of unfolding flowers
Is not known to such as I--
The flower God opens so sweetly
In my hands would fade and die.
If I cannot unfold a rosebud,
This flower of God's design,
Then how can I think I have wisdom
To unfold this life of mine?

So I'll trust in Him for His leading
Each moment of every day,
And I'll look to Him for His guidance
Each step of the pilgrim way.
For the highway that lies before me
My Heavenly Father knows--
I'll trust Him to unfold the moments
Just as He unfolds the rose.

--Sel. by Floy Woolery

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From Mo.: "Greetings in Jesus precious name. I love Him and my heart's desire is to lead others to Him, our blessed Lord and Savior. Jesus came into the world to seek and to save the lost. He is now at the right hand of the Father interceding for us. Praise the Lord. We, His children, the family of God, are to carry on His work. We are the only ones He has to work for Him. Lord, help us to be faithful."

--Sister Lena Bowman

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From Ala.: "Greeting in Jesus dear name! Today finds me yet saved and determined to go all the way with my Lord who has done so very much for me. Praise His wonderful name. Enclosed you will find a small offering to help wherever it is needed. I sure enjoy the Mission Trail. May God bless and keep you all is my prayer. Your sister in the Lord," --Irene Richardson

at press time

we understand:

The Lord richly anointed Bro. Ostis Wilson in bringing forth messages to the Anthony, Kansas congregation beginning Easter morning, Sunday, April 6 and continuing through the week. His willingness along with his companion, Sis. Evelyn to come from Oregon and spend this time in services is much appreciated. We believe much good was accomplished.

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Due to illness of Dewey Dilley, he and Sis. Emma have moved from Crescent to Guthrie. Remember them in prayer.

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Special prayer is requested for Harry White who is greatly afflicted.

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Our love and prayers go out to Sis. Eva Cox in a time of great sorrow. Her husband, Clifford Cox, age 74, passed away March 11th. Sister Eva really loves the Lord and has prayed earnestly for her family. We are sure the Lord will not fail her now.

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Space does not permit to print all the testimonies. Sis. Dorothy Bridges has experienced many healings since she was saved in 1915. She is praising God for it all! Those interested in reading her personal testimony write and ask for a free printed copy: Sis. Dorothy Bridges, 400 N. St. Matt., Carthage, Miss. 39051.

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Congratulations to Robert Earl Benson and Marie Sorrell who have plans to be married near Thayer, Mo. May 10. We wish them much happiness!

"THE FURNACE"

Help us to always thank Thee--
Whether poor or in great wealth,
If our body is weak and sickly,
Or we're in the best of health.

When we're going through affliction,
Please don't let it get too hot;
Help us bear without a murmur
All you choose to be our lot.

Help us ne'er to growl or grumble,
Help us never to complain;
All God sends is in true wisdom--
Whether joy or peace or pain.

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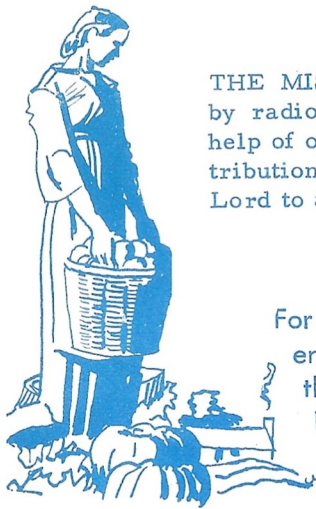
The death of Sis. Anecia Dutton, March 28, came as a surprise and shock to so many. Our hearts go out to her husband, Joe Dutton and their children; her father Bro. Lee Whitley, Marshall, Texas, as well as other relatives and loved ones. For a time Joe and Anecia helped to sponsor The Mission Trail broadcast over a station in Midland, Texas. She will be greatly missed.

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Oklahoma State Campmeeting will be held this summer in Guthrie from May 23 through June 1st. Some dormitory facilities are available as well as trailer and camper space. This is an ideal time for campmeeting at the close of school and before the summer is so far advanced. Come praying.

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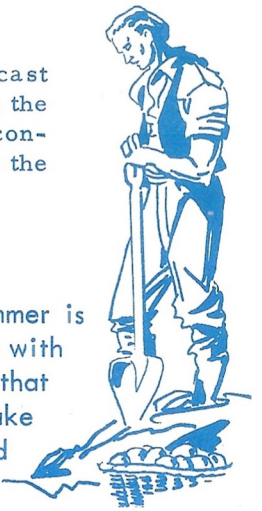
We give thanks to the Lord and each one who has helped make it possible for us to continue another month. Ask the Lord to bless the broadcast to each one.



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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

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