



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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Salvation By Choice!

Radio Broadcast for August 23, 1981

Good morning, friends, good morning! How happy I am to be coming your way once again with a short gospel message. We might compare the preaching on the air to the first verse of the 11th chapter of Ecclesiastes: "Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days." How true! We never know who all or how many may be listening, perhaps some for the first time. It is my sincere prayer to God that His Spirit may accompany this message.

And we are taught to sow not sparingly. Listen: "In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand: for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good," verse 6. So it is our commission to carry out God's commandments. It is not for us to know how much good we may do.

But the thrust of my message today is that we get and keep salvation by choice, not by compulsion. The mission of Jesus was "to save his people from their sins" Matt. 1:21. It is an evident fact and plain to see that man is universally lost in sin. But the good news is that there is a way of restoration to holiness provided through Christ. This rests upon his atonement. He has done his part. On the cross he said: "It is finished." But now the question is: Will mankind accept the conditions for salvation? It is not forced on anyone. One must of their own accord and choice come to Christ to experience the joys of salvation. Included in this package of redemption are many many "benefits."

MY PRECIOUS SECRET

I've a secret in my bosom
That the world can never know,
In each trial reassuring,
As the moments onward go.
Only those who do His will
Can its priceless value tell.

Round me sweep the waves of sorrow,
And their surgings press the soul;
With this secret still before me,
Tempests rise and billows roll.
Secret of undying love
Lifts my heart to worlds above.

At our comrades' fading sunset,
When their spirits pass away,
But for this most precious secret,
Here my soul could scarcely stay,
In accents sweet I then can hear,
"He thy mansion will prepare."

Fade life's transient dream of splendor,
Let my soul in Him confide:
For I know no hand can sever
If this secret in me 'bide.
Keep my heart and I shall be,
"Thine through all eternity."

So really, dear ones, the peace of mind and heart is worth more than all the world. But back to this point of each person being responsible for their salvation. Again, I say it is by choice. All its offers and promises are made to the individual himself for decision, and all the blame for its neglect or rejection is laid upon him. "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest." These are the words of the Savior in Matt. 11:28. Again, "If any man thirst, let him come unto me and drink." John 7:37. Isn't that fair enough? But listen to the words of Jesus, through the disciple John on the Isle of Patmos: "Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him." Rev. 3:20. And this one, "Whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." Rev. 22:17. Jesus said of some: "Ye will not come to me, that ye might have life." John 5:40. And of Jerusalem Jesus said: "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem . . . how often would I have gathered thy children together . . . and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate." Matt. 23:37, 38. In Hebrews we find these words: "How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation?" Salvation is the most important subject in the world. It should concern every one of us, for without it our souls will be lost in a never-ending eternity. And since it is offered to us on condition, how important it is that we understand these conditions in order that we may approach God in an acceptable way and receive this greatest of gifts!

To a person in sin, I would say one of the first things you need to realize is, that you are lost! "Your sins have separated between you and your God." Isa. 59:2. This separation is represented as death. See Ephesians 2:1.

But even this knowledge does not stir many from their sleep of death. This is because their hearts have become "hardened through the deceitfulness of sin." Heb. 3:15. They sink into the darkness of a sinful night, until, in many cases, there seems to be "no fear of God before their eyes," or until they appear to lose all consciousness of "the exceeding sinfulness of sin." How sad! Yet it is true, nevertheless, that many reach the state where sin does not appear to them so very bad, and righteousness does not appear very good. Their standard of conduct is not determined by God's revealed Word, but is regulated wholly by the terms of human expediency. If they can succeed in keeping at least a fair reputation among men, or in conforming to the general standard of conduct observed in the particular circle of society in which they move, they seem entirely satisfied; as though there were no God in heaven who takes account of their sinful actions, thoughts, and desires. In order for them to be saved, such people must become awakened from their sleep of sin, or else 'ere long the thunders of judgment will arouse the stupid soul when it is too late! And let me be quick, to say I use that word "stupid" being fully aware of its meaning: "slow of mind, unthinking, irrational, lacking intelligence or reason, dulled in feeling or sensation." What more can I say: "marked by, or resulting from dullness." Stupid implies a slow-witted or dazed state of mind. I say it is time for folks to wake up and begin seeking the Lord.

Really, that is exactly the purpose of the preaching of the gospel. To awaken souls to their need of a Saviour. "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of

soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and open unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do." Heb. 4:12, 13. When a person realizes the fact that the condemnation of God is upon their conscience and soul, so that even their secret purposes of evil are recorded against them, and that for all such evil intentions, as well as sinful acts committed, they must suffer the pangs of torment -- the guilt, the remorse, the horrors of hell itself--that person will then realize what an awful thing sin really is in God's sight.

If a person becomes thus awakened to their need they are in a good condition to cry out as did the jailer, "What must I do to be saved?" Acts 16:30. One must desire salvation in order to obtain it, and they must decide to pay the Bible price, in the way of meeting the required conditions as set forth in the Bible. Just a mere knowledge of the nature and extent of sin is not sufficient; there must be in the soul genuine godly sorrow. The sinner must give up the love of sin, despise sin because God does, and feel keenly a sense of sorrow for all the sins he has committed, "for godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death." 2 Cor. 7:10. Here godly sorrow is contrasted to the sorrow of the world. Under certain conditions men guilty of sin feel very sorry, but it is when they are caught in their sins and are about to suffer the just consequences of their wrong-doing. So the robber sentenced to imprisonment may weep, yet if he were free and knew that he could commit the same deed again without being found out, he would do so. This kind of

sorrow does not produce heart repentance. But godly sorrow is a realization of the soul's guilt in the sight of God accompanied by a deep sense of regret for the wrongs committed. This kind of sorrow worketh repentance. The term "repentance" includes also a sense of personal guilt, of grief over sin, hatred toward it, and a resolute turning from it. So we might say all the conditions of salvation may be properly termed as repentance. But perhaps the most outstanding thing about repentance is the forsaking of sin. "Repent ye therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out." Acts 3:19. Isaiah 55:7 says it this way: "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon."

This includes evil habits of every description, no matter how long standing, as the drinking of beer, wine and whiskey; also lustful indulgences which may be done secretly. All unnatural, filthy, and evil habits must be utterly forsaken; then God will deliver the individual from their power. People who think they have received the divine favor without the forsaking of their sins, are deceived. It does not matter if they have prayed every day and asked for forgiveness, they are not saved while continuing to do the works of sin; and unless they come to the point where they actually turn from every wrong, and are saved from the past, they will be lost in hell with all the non-professing sinners. This may seem strong, but certainly it is no stronger than the Word of God. Listen: "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me." Psa. 66:18. If we excuse sin in our hearts and lives and expect to continue in it, we may pray as long as we live,

and still be lost. In Mal. 2:13 we read of some people who were "covering the altar of the Lord with tears, with weeping, and with crying out," and still he would not regard them, for their hearts were not right.

Our Father, out there within listening range of this station there are no doubt some folks who are really miserable... this because of their sins, which they are not willing to give up. In some way cause the words to find receptive hearts and grant them mercy through Christ as they sincerely seek for forgiveness and peace in Jesus name. Amen.

Thank you, friends, for a few moments of your time. Until we meet again, this is Willie Murphey saying God bless and keep you always and a very cheerful goodbye!

Testimonies

From Okla.: "Yesterday we went over two hundred miles out in the field giving out literature visiting the sick and shut-ins... we visited in the St. Anthony hospital in Oklahoma City, too... Oh, there is so much sickness and death. We sure need to live a ready life at all times. I want to live to help save this world. Out of all we do and say it is only going to take the life of purity and holiness... Continue to pray that the Lord keep me strong in body, soul, and mind and spirit to be a faithful worker in the vineyard of love. The Lord still works in mysterious ways His wonders to perform." --Sis. Lizzie Jordan

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From Wash.: "God has been so good to me. I don't deserve all my blessings, but I am so thankful. I'll be 87 next May. I sure would love to see all of you again... Thank you for your prayers." --Sis. Bessie Metcalf

From Kansas: "I listened to you on KGGF this morning and enjoyed it very much. I used to listen to you some time ago, but just got too busy and kinda' lost out. I hope to listen more often in the future. I have lots of company on weekends and I had a big garden and I did quite a lot of canning and fixed vegetables and fruit for the freezer. I was almost to Guthrie a week or so ago with a friend who was going to see her aunt who had surgery at the Kingfisher hospital. I thought about you when we were down pretty close to Guthrie."

--Mrs. Grace Dexter

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From Okla.: "I send greetings to you in the name of our blessed Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the one and only name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved. Oh, what perfect love and a tranquil mind we find in Him. I do trust that God is blessing and answering prayers as to your financial need. I continue to pray for you and the bereft family that God will comfort you and lift the deep sorrow. In one place the scripture tells us, 'The Lord is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him.' What a blessed privilege it is that we can cast all our cares upon the Lord knowing he careth for us. He looks with great compassion to see all our troubles and needs. He knows, he understands and he cares. He is abundantly able to succour and deliver. Do remember to pray for me."

--Sis. Elnora Conley

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From Ark.: "Thanks for God's promises and privileges we have extended to us. I am trusting this finds all of you having encouragement and strength for adjusting which isn't easy. The loss affects all of us... To me the camp meeting was precious. I only missed Monday and Thursday." --Sis. Lou Bray

From N. Mex.: "I thank you so much for telling me to pray for Sister Marie. I sure did remember her. Thanks for telling me when she passed away. I sure do miss her so much. I always addressed my letters to her. She always wrote me the best and encouraging letters. I know she is loved very much by everyone but Jesus loves her more."

--Sis. Ruth Doolittle

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From La.: "Greetings of the great love of God, which is greater far than pen, or ink can ever tell -- to really stop and realize it is God's love that saved my soul, and all that are, and ever will be. I'm striving to keep myself in that love. It seems about every day is a day of battle (since I'm afflicted in my leg, as every step I take is pain) but I'm also endeavoring for every day to be a day of victory in the grace and love of God. My purpose of heart is to reach the end of this race with victory, and realizing we never know when, where or how the end will come, so the great challenge is to see to it, we lay hold on eternal life, thru God's all-sufficient grace, keeping constant victory ... the Lord bless and comfort all your hearts."

--Sis. LaVern Manuel

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From Minn.: "I am in good health for which I thank the Lord and am walking in newness of life. We do not know what tomorrow will bring. I am sorry to hear of the passing of Sister Miles, who is absent from the body but present with the Lord for evermore."

--Bro. Andrew Senti

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From Calif.: "Today finds me saved and encouraged to live for the dear Lord. My heart goes out to you in the loss of Sis. Marie. Your loss is heaven's gain. I am more determined to live for God than ever before."

--Sis. Esther Thornton

From Guthrie -- "The Lord is good to us to give us rest. I appreciate the Lord's dealings with me. He is my all and in all. I want to please Him in every thing I do."

--Sis. Emma Dilley

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From Calif.: "I saw Sis. Marie Miles' picture, was saddened and shocked to hear of her passing. She was loved by many people and I know many tears were shed ... Sis. Patsy and Bro. Clifford Smith came to see me ... they sang a sweet song, prayed and talked. It was so precious and up-lifting."

--Sis. Opal Williams

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From Ga.: "I was pleased to get the paper today, but so sad to hear of the loss of the saints. I enjoyed Sister Marie's writings so much. I know many people will miss her... I have been real sick... I am thankful to be able I can be up long enough to fix my food. I need the prayers of all the saints."

--Sis. Ray Sloan

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From Calif.: "Greetings in the Lord. Again we can thank him for his keeping power. It's campmeeting season again. It doesn't seem that we will be coming in that direction this year, but we pray that the meetings in that area will be successful."

--Bro. and Sis. E. V. Davenport

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From La.: "We were made sad to hear of Sis. Marie's death ... I know how lonely it feels to lose our loved ones. But she left such a beautiful example and we know she has gained her victory. ... I sure enjoyed a message today on tape of her preaching on sowing seeds and she told her experience of how the Lord lead her to teach children in her garage when her boys were young and how she was blessed in beginning the children's Sunday School paper."

--Sis. Elva Joiner

From Ala.: "Greetings once again in the precious name of Jesus. Today finds me yet saved and happy in the Lord. I do hope this finds you both well. ... I have a special request for prayer. So pray for me..."

--Sis. Irene Richardson

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From Calif.: "Surely we miss our dear Sis. Marie and feel we will miss her more as time goes because of her work ... it surely is a loss to the church but God in his love and wisdom knows best ... she had labored enough and suffered enough so he took her up higher."

--Bro. Gene and Sis. Loretta Harmon

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From La.: "The physical blessings are wonderful, but the spiritual ones are still more so. Many times the physical bodies will go down and we can't do much about our health, only as the Lord sees fit to restore it, but when it comes to the spiritual side of our life, (our health spiritually) it pretty much depends on us. It all has to come from the Lord, but it depends on how much we love Him and want Him first in our life. Then as we do as He said, seek Him and His righteousness first, He will give us the strength to come against the enemy of our soul, being an overcomer in our spiritual life, then adding these temporal things to us as He sees best."

--Sis. Alta Flynn

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From N. Car.: "We are thankful to God for many things he has bestowed upon us. David said, 'Thanks be unto God which daily loadeth us with benefits.' This is so true in every aspect in life. Sometimes I feel many of us take for granted his rich blessings. We seem to feel that because God is God he will always be there. Then it is easy to become unthankful... Pray sincerely that I will forever be subject to the will of God."

--Sis. Ivy Lennon

From Wash.: "I had the privilege to go to the Jefferson campmeeting and also the Canada campmeeting this year. The Lord surely blessed in both meetings. I trust all the campmeetings will be as good as those were. God blessed in a mighty way ... My sister in the flesh and in the Lord, Helen Haven that lives at Albany, Ore. has had a stroke and is very bad. Please remember her in your prayers. Christian love,"

--Sis. Violet Thomas

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From La.: "It's been a long time since writing you... we think of you and remember all of you to the throne of grace."

--Melvin and Phil Flynn

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From Ark.: "We have much to be thankful for. We were able to travel over three thousand miles in two weeks under the Lord's protection and be in meeting at Pennsylvania, visit Washington, D.C., visit at Green Bank, visit at Kentucky, and be in meeting at Hammond. It's good to be saved and be able to travel different areas and visit our brothers and sisters. Before I was saved I had only been out of Arkansas twice and that was only across the line into Texas and Louisiana. Now we have a bigger family so we travel more."

--Doug and Barbara Walters and girls

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From La.: "The Lord is blessing us to keep encouraged and with victory in our soul. It is a miracle how He has undertaken for some of the afflictions on my body and I'm looking for complete healing for the others. I've had more strength these past few months than I've had for some time. Ben has raised a very large garden and I've been able to put up a lot of food for later use... The work of God means much to us and we don't have much to give but we do pray always for you and your work."

--Ben and Sybil Goldsberry

at press time

we understand:

We regret the passing of Sis. Della Harrison, of Arapaho, Okla. in July. She was in her nineties, and it was a joy to see her faith when we visited her a short time before she died. Although weak she enjoyed the old-time songs and talking about the goodness of the Lord.

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Funeral for Sis. Edna Daniels was held in Wichita, Kansas Aug. 10th. She will be greatly missed, but her life and influence for God will live on for years to come. We extend our heart-felt sympathy to her many relatives. The church has lost a pioneer soldier of the cross.

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From Mo.: "I'm still encouraged to press on. The Lord is so good to me. I'd be miserable without Him. I just got back yesterday morning from the West Virginia campmeeting. I really enjoyed the good spiritual meals out there. It's such a blessing to be with the saints anywhere... May the Lord richly bless and supply your needs in my prayer."

--LaVonda Sharp

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From La.: "Greetings of love to you this new day the Lord has given. I will rejoice and be glad in it. I love the Lord, and am seeking to know how to love Him just like He tells us to... with all our soul, heart, mind, and strength. ...I ask daily that I may eat and drink to the glory of God... I rejoiced when I read Sis. Sprague's testimony... of how the Lord timed for her the trip and blessed her to see her father before his passing..."

--Sis. Myrtis Flynn

From W. Va.: "I thank the Lord I'm still saved and sanctified and striving to gain that eternal home where we can forever be with Jesus and our loved ones. Where there will be no sorrow or trouble of any kind. What a glorious thought. Please pray for me that I'll endure to the end. Love and prayer."

--Sis. Erma Clevenger

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Congratulations to Wayne and Mary Murphey on the birth of Patina Marie on July 3rd. We are happy to have a new granddaughter.

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Congratulations to Bro. Bryan and Sis. Sheri Rich on the birth of their son, Brent, born July 31. Also Sis. Loretta Harmon informs us she has a new granddaughter, "Rachel Sara" born Aug. 12.

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With the summer mostly over and the weather turning cooler, we expect reception to improve on the Coffeyville, Kansas station, KGGF. If you live within listening range be sure to tune in the broadcast each Sunday morning at 8:00 o'clock. Tune your radio to 690 on the dial. We are now in our 17th year of broadcasting and we can surely say as the prophet, Samuel of old, "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us." Now and then we hear from a listener for the first time. In this time of compromise when many are falling away and departing from the faith it means much that each of God's ministers stand fast for the truth and fill their place in the body of Christ. Let us boldly declare the truth. Many thanks to all who are helping.



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

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KGGF

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