



Gospel Broadcasting and Publishing

The Mission Trail

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

VOL. 20, NO. 5

THE MISSION TRAIL

MAY, 1984

“God Loveth a Cheerful Giver”

Radio Broadcast for April 15, 1984

Good morning to each and every listener of the broadcast. I don't often speak of giving, but today my thought is that "God Loveth a Cheerful Giver." And He does just that. Giving is a part of the plan of God. It is necessary and folks receive many blessings through giving. Listen to this poem:

How The King Came

Not with the sound of rattling drums,
Nor piercing bugle call;
Not with the wealthy nor the great,
Came Christ the Lord of all.

And not with any outward show,
To earth which He had made--
The King came down, a little child,
In lowly manger laid.

And why so quiet was His birth?
The angels did not know;
And so they asked that they might haste
And spread the news below.

Consent was giv'n and off they flew
On strong and rapid wing;
On Bethlehem's plain they paused awhile
To show how angels sing.

They told the shepherds of their King
Who came in peace to reign;
And then with glad and joyous song
Flew back to heav'n again.

Our King is here and reigns today,
But not on gilded throne;
He lives and reigns in every heart
That claims Him as its own.

No eye can now His kingdom see:
But those who Christ possess
The kingdom find within their hearts--
Joy, Peace and Happiness.

Then open wide each heart today
And bid the King come in;
He'll purify the trusting heart
And there His reign begin.

Now listen to this scripture: "But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver." 2 Cor. 9:6-7.

I would like to emphasize this "cheerful giver." How do you suppose God gave His Son? Was it grudgingly, or was it with cheerfulness? With cheerfulness no doubt, for He knew it was going to bring in a harvest of souls through salvation. It was because "God so loved" that He gave his son... This then, is the New Testament standard for giving -- as one purposeth in his heart and with cheerfulness! I have picked out a few scriptures and it might prove interesting

to you to know that all of our service to the Lord should be done with cheerfulness. Listen:

"Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness." Romans 12:8. There is nothing quite like bringing "good cheer" to others.

A certain quotation says: "You have not fulfilled every duty unless you have fulfilled that of being pleasant."

God's unchangeable law of sowing and reaping remains the same. Each person receives his pay in his own coin, so to speak. If you smile others will smile in return. If you frown, others will frown in return. If you sing, you are likely to be received cheerfully. If you earnestly seek the good that is in others, you will be received by loving friends, and God will pour into your lap the treasures of a full and rich return. Censure, criticize and hate, and you will be censured, criticized and hated by others. Every seed brings forth after its kind. Mistrust begets mistrust, and confidence begets confidence, kindness begets kindness, and love begets love. Resist and you will be resisted. Jesus said: "For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again." Luke 6:38. To meet an aggressive assault God's law is sure to rise up rigid and impenetrable--while yonder mountain of granite melts and floats away on the bosom of the river of love.

Good advice for one who has rendered kindness with cheerfulness, would be to remain silent, but he who has received a kindness should speak of it. Think of the times Jesus went about doing good, healing all who were oppressed

of the devil. His life was made up of bringing cheer to others. Listen:

"And, behold, they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed; and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy; Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee." --Matt. 9:2. I would say that was a happy day for that man, who was not only healed but forgiven of his sins. Again, the disciples had an experience when they needed some cheering up! "But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary." And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear. But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid." Matt. 14:24:27. That must have soothed their troubled spirits when Jesus came on the scene. Consider the account Luke gives of this incidence:

"And when the even was come, the ship was in the midst of the sea, and he alone on the land. And he saw them toiling in rowing; for the wind was contrary unto them: and about the fourth watch of the night he cometh unto them, walking upon the sea, and would have passed by them. But when they saw him walking upon the sea, they supposed it had been a spirit, and cried out: For they all saw him, and were troubled. And immediately he talked with them, and saith unto them, Be of good cheer: it is I; be not afraid. And he went up unto them into the ship; and the wind ceased: and they were sore amazed in themselves beyond measure, and wondered." Mark 6:47-51.

Before Jesus was taken away he said to

his disciples: "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." John 16:33.

When the apostle Paul was in trouble he relied on the comfort and strength of the Lord. His enemies were seeking his life, but his time had not come. Listen: "And the night following the Lord stood by him, and said, Be of good cheer, Paul: for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome." Acts 23:11. Another time he was aboard ship and the storm was at sea. Listen to him talking to the sailors: "And now I exhort you to be of good cheer; for there shall be no loss of any man's life among you, but of the ship." Acts 27:22.

Then in verse 25 he came to their rescue through some "good cheer"--"Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me." And finally, in verse 36: "Then were they all of good cheer, and they also took some meat."

There is nothing quite like "good cheer". Listen to what the writer in Proverbs said: "A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance: but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken." Prov. 15:13.

Do not keep the alabaster box of your love and tenderness sealed up until your friends are dead. Fill their lives with sweetness. Speak approving, cheering words while their ears can hear them, and while their hearts can be thrilled and made happier. The kind things you mean to say when they are gone, say before they go. The flowers you mean to send for their funeral send to brighten and sweeten their homes before they

leave them. Let us learn to anoint our friends while they are yet among the living. Post-mortem kindness does not cheer the burdened heart; flowers on the casket cast no fragrance backward over the weary way.

And speaking of cheerfulness, may I remind you this has much to do with contentment. The apostle said, "...for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content." Phil. 4:11. Again, "But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content." 1 Tim. 6:6-8. A final scripture on this contentment: "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." Hebrews 13:5.

Let me but do my work day to day
In field or forest, at this desk or loom,
In roaring market place or tranquil room
Let me but find it in my heart to say,
When vagrant wishes beckon me astray,
This is my work; my blessing, not my
doom,
Of all who live, I am the one by whom
This work can best be done in the right
way!

Then shall I see it not too great, nor
small
To suit my spirit and to prove my powers
Then shall I, cheerful, greet the labor-
ing hours,
And cheerful turn, when the long
shadows fall
At eventide, to meditate, love and rest
Because I know for me my work is best.

It has been written: "That happy state of mind, so rarely possessed, in which

we can say, 'I have enough,' is the highest attainment of philosophy. Happiness consists, not in possessing much but in being content with what we possess. He who wants little always has enough."

Now a scripture of warning: "Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment." Eccl. 11:9-10. You see, one may let their own heart "cheer them" but the question is: have we cheered others? What have we done to lighten their load? What have we done in spreading the gospel in the white fields around us? These are solemn thoughts.

LIFE'S MIRROR

There are loyal hearts, there are spirits
brave,
There are souls that are pure and true;
Then give to the world the best you have,
And the best will come back to you.

Give love, and love to your life will flow,
A strength in your utmost need;
Have faith and a score of hearts will show
Their faith in your word and deed.

For life is the mirror of king and slave,
'Tis just what we are and do;
Then give to the world the best you have,
And the best will come back to you.

Our Father, we rejoice in the great
victory which came through Christ.
We pray for those who have burdens
and problems at this time. Give them
deliverance in Jesus name. Amen.

Until we meet again this is Willie Mur-
phey saying God bless and keep you al-
ways and a very cheerful goodbye!

Testimonies

From Tenn.: "We wish to express our thanks and appreciation to the Lord for the blessings of salvation, for the joy and peace of sins forgiven and for his abiding presence and power to keep us day by day, his many promises, love and concern for our every need. May the Lord bless and direct you in the work there, as well as others who are burdened for lost souls and are giving themselves as active, obedient servants in preaching, teaching, exemplary living and for being a light in this world of darkness, sin and trouble. We appreciate and love those pioneers in the faith who by the power of God overcame many obstacles, sacrificed much, stood true and faithful that we might have this great heritage of redemption through Christ our Saviour. He is the solution, the cure for every sin. We want to be true and faithful, do more for the Lord and walk humbly before him each day that we may receive grace and help for every need. With Christian love,"

--Bro. Charles B. Williams

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From Wisc.: "Greetings in Jesus name. Well, here we are, first day of spring but it looks pretty wintry--is snowing this morning... We are getting along in years. I am going on 88 and Elsie to 86. She is not too well. My health has been real good, for which I am real thankful. You know I was looking at picture of the ministers taken at Monark taken in 1966 and so many have gone on. Makes one stop and think."

--Bro. & Sis. Frank Dietrich

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From Okla.: "I have a very special request for prayer for some souls and pray for me that the Lord give me wisdom to know better how to deal with them to win them to Christ."

--Sister Eva Hardman

From Okla.: "Just hoping both of you are getting along well today and enjoying the awakening of spring and the good Lord's many blessings to us. It's a blessing to be able to look out and see the handiwork of our blessed Savior. God is so good to bestow these blessings upon us. As I write I can look out of the east window and see the yellow jonquils blowing in the air. They let us know God is everywhere. Psalms 37:39, 'The salvation of the righteous is of the Lord: he is their strength in the time of trouble.' Ps. 37:37: 'Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright: for the end of that man is peace.' 'Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.' Remember the sick and afflicted, also the bereaved ones."--Sis. Vera Mae Hawkins

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From Okla.: "Praise the Lord for victory, and for the love and mercy of our dear Saviour, healer and helper, in our every time of need... The flowers and green grass are so pretty and we think of the lovely things the Lord has made for us to enjoy. Then we think of the lost and wish they could see the beauty, but we know the only way they can is through salvation. It has been sometime since I have been able to write, until last 3 days... Pray for me."

--Sister Doris Bowers

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From Texas: "This is another beautiful day the Lord has made... Trees are getting green. My wisteria is so beautiful. Thank the Lord, I'm still on the victory side, pressing my way to the glory world to be with Jesus forever. What a wonderful glory that is set before us. Jesus endured the cross for the glory that was set before him. How wonderful will our life be up there if such a life on earth can crown our walk with him. Love and prayers, "

--Sis. Nellie Lovell

From La.: "Greetings to you on this beautiful spring morning ... everything is getting green, and some flowers in bloom... Time is speeding on; taking us to our eternal home, but oh, how sad so many, many are going down the broad road to eternal damnation... yet everyone could have a wonderful home if heaven if they would only humble themselves and repent..."

--Sis. Myrtis Flynn

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From Kans.: "I thank the Lord for this another day the Lord has given us. It rained last night and today but I refuse to complain by the grace of God. I'm so glad I gave my life to God to be saved when I was young. But at that time we didn't have the devilish things to draw us away like the young people today have... I enjoyed your message today. It made me think of how Christ had suffered for us."

--Sis. Mamie Norcutt

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From Guthrie: "I am happy in the Lord. He has done so much for us. I had been hoeing weeds. I was going to Crescent. Fondella said, 'let me have your hoe while you are gone.' She was going to hoe weeds. We both came up on my back porch, and we don't know what happened, but she fell on that hard concrete. She was crying, but got to a sitting position rubbing her knee and leg which was swollen. She said, 'pray for me' which I did. The Lord relieved it so she could get up on her feet. I helped her into her house. Before I left I prayed for her again. When I got home that evening the swelling had pretty well all gone from her knee, so we prayed again and thanked the Lord for what he had done. Saturday morning she called and wanted me to come and look at her leg. It was down to normal, no black spots. The Lord had done a perfect job and she was rejoicing."

--Sis. Emma Dilley

An Oil Well in the Kitchen

The story of the oil well in a kitchen is found in 2 Kings, 4th chapter

It is the story of a widow who was the wife of a prophet. Her husband died and she was left in debt financially. This troubled her greatly because the creditors had told her, "We are going to take your two sons and let them work for us until the debt is paid."

If the sons should be taken away they would be unable to earn any money for their mother, and she would be left without funds. What could she do?

It was such a trying situation that she went to the prophet Elisha for advice. The prophet looked at her and asked, "What do you have in the house?"

"I have only a pot of oil. That is all I have," she said.

"Well," the prophet said, "Go out and borrow vessels from your neighbors. They can be buckets, jugs or whatever will hold fluid, and bring these back to your house. I don't want you to borrow just a few, but as many as you can find -- plenty of them."

Then he said, "Go into the house with your sons and shut the door. Take the pot of oil and begin pouring it into the vessels. As each is filled set it aside."

The mother and her sons obeyed and we can picture the woman as she went to the cupboard and took down that little pot of oil, pulled out the cork and began to pour the contents into one of the jugs. She poured and poured and soon the jug was full. Then she took a bucket and kept pouring into it until it was also full. She just went from vessel to

vessel pouring all of them full. Then she asked her son for another, but he said, "Mother, we have no more empty ones, all of them are full." Then was the oil stayed. The flowing stopped.

She asked of the prophet, "Now what shall I do?" So he told her to go sell the oil, pay the debt and live off the rest of it! She also kept her sons! What a miracle! We might justly term it "an oil well in the kitchen"!

You and I have access to God for the supply of our needs and that access comes through the power of prayer. It is recorded in John 15:7 that Jesus said: "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." For what greater storehouse could we ask?

But remember, this faithful mother came to the prophet to ask for help, and when he told her what to do, she did it! So obedience was also involved.

The oil of the supply of our need awaits our prayers. By prayer we have this access to the storehouse of heaven. We too can call upon God. The apostle Paul wrote: "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Phil. 4:19.

Again, it is written: "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..." So, do we really need another oil well when we have such an abundant "gusher" flowing from the throne in the secret place of prayer?

at press time

we understand:

In Memory

Another precious saint, Sister Dolly Sorrell went to be with the Lord on March 24. She had been staying in the home of Bro. Leslie Adams and Sis. Eula (her daughter). Brother Clifford Wilson officiated at the funeral in Greenville, Mo., March 27 and burial was made in Center Ridge Cemetery nearby. Sis. Dolly was 72 years of age.

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Funeral for Sister Maria Breckenridge was held Thursday, March 29 in Hennessey, Okla. In recent months she had lived in El Reno, but for many years she and her husband lived near Okeene.

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Think of stepping on shore and finding
it Heaven,

Of taking hold of a hand, and
finding it God's Hand,

Of breathing a new air and finding
it Celestial air,

Of feeling invigorated and finding it
Immortality,

Of passing from storm and tempest to
an unknown calm,

Of waking up and finding it Home.

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It is with deep sorrow we announce the home-going of Bro. Harry Gellenbeck, builder-contractor, who was stricken quite suddenly April 13 with a circulatory disorder from which he did not recover. He died April 15 at the age of 57. Pray for his companion and family in this hour of deep sorrow and great loss. We loved Bro. Harry.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We in the Webb City, Mo., congregation are planning a singing on Saturday, May 5th. Brother Merrill Smith is always with us on the 1st Sunday of each month. He will be here for the singing and services May 6th. All are cordially invited. --Mary Lela and Paul Taylor

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Oklahoma State Campmeeting begins in chapel on corner of Sixth and W. Warner in Guthrie May 25, continuing through June 3. Come praying.

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Congratulation!

To Julie Kay Dunavan and Timotny Flynn on their marriage of April 20th in Shawnee, Okla.

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To Pam Hale and Tim Huskey on their marriage of April 21st in Guthrie, Okla. We wish the Lord's best for both of these young couples.

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"I would like to request urgent prayer for my mother, Sis. Frank Dietrich. She's not been well for sometime now. God bless you," --Gloria Yeager

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BUT ONLY ONE MOTHER!

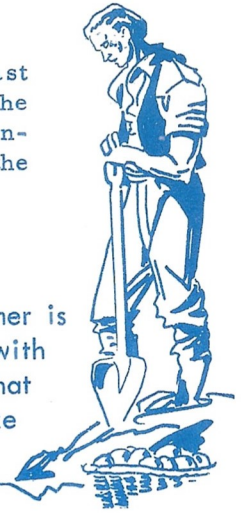
Most of all the other beautiful things in life come by twos and threes, by dozens and hundreds. Plenty of roses, stars, sunsets, rainbows, brothers and sisters, aunts and cousins, but only one mother in the whole world. "Honor thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise;" Eph. 6:2



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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