



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. 6

THE MISSION TRAIL

JUNE, 1984

Some Truths About the Bible Church

Radio Broadcast May 20, 1984

Good morning to each and every listener of the broadcast. I have chosen for my subject "Some Truths of the Bible Church." How important this is! to each of us! Do you believe God has a church? Jesus said: "...upon this rock I will build my Church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Matt. 16:18. Then we need to know how to identify and to recognize the true Church of God.

THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT
Men speak of a "church triumphant"
As something on earth unknown;
They think us beneath the tyrant
Until we shall reach our home.

Thank God for a church triumphant,
All pure in this world below!
For the kingdom that Jesus founded
Does triumph o'er every foe.
--Daniel S. Warner

Oh! can not the great redeemer
Prevail over Satan here?
Or must we remain yet under
Confusion, pressed down in fear?

We consider the Bible to be the infallible Word of God, the inspired account of what God says to the people of all ages and of all times. It is the standard of the life and conduct of God's people. It is the message of God to all the world, touching on every need of human life.

He built on a sure foundation,
And said that the gates of hell
Against her divine munitions
Can never indeed prevail.

The Bible is very emphatic in its teaching on the subject of the Church of God. It teaches that there is nothing more for which Christ died than for his church. He died to "sanctify and cleanse" the church that he might "present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing," Eph. 5:27. Among the greatest things God says in his Book is that which he says about his church, the church of God which is his body--that great number of born-again Christians both in heaven and upon the earth. He said about his church: "Upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall

Then how can you say, dear people,
You can not be kept each day?
The infinite arm is able;
His word has not passed away.

'Tis not in the church of Jesus
That people yet live in sin,
But in the dark creeds they're joining
And vainly are trusting in.

God's church is alone triumphant,
In holiness all complete,
And all the dark powers of Satan
She tramples beneath her feet.

not prevail against it." Matt. 16:18. Now what rock or foundation is that? Look at Psalms 118:22: "The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner." Who was refused? Jesus, who became the corner stone of God's salvation, the pillar and ground of the truth! This is further brought out in Isaiah 28:16: "Therefore thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste."

Acts 20:28 goes on to explain: "The church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood." And Col. 1:24 says it this way: "For his body's sake, which is the church." In 1 Cor. 12:27: "Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular. And God hath set some in the church..." In these and many other texts we are informed that Christ is the builder of his church. Christ built the church, which is God's and not man's. While the church has both a human and a divine aspect, yet in its nature and workmanship it is exclusively divine. Paul tells us more of this divine rock upon which the church is built: "And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ." 1 Cor. 10:4. So, Christ built his church and made it divine. It is a glorious church without spot or wrinkle.

In this glorious church Christ is the ruler. Listen: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom,

to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this." Isa. 9:6-7.

Now, who is the head, and where are the headquarters? We find that in Col. 1:18: "And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence." He keeps the records and writes the names of the members down in the book of life in heaven. Does that sound unrealistic? Then listen to the words of Jesus to his disciples: "Notwithstanding, in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven." Luke 10:20. All those whose names are registered in the book of life are saved. Christ is the door and the only door of entrance into his church. "I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture." John 10:9. All the members come into the church through repentance and faith in his shed blood and are saved. You cannot become a member of the church of God by natural birth, nor by water baptism, nor by observing human forms and ceremonies, nor by church joining. The only way to become a member of God's church is by spiritual birth. You are made a member by being born again, by being saved and becoming a saint. You cannot be a member of the church of God without being a Christian, and you cannot be a Christian and not be a member of the church of God. Consequently all the members of the church of God are saved, born-again Christians.

God adds the members to the church by an application of the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, his Son, as the result of

repentance and faith in God and our Lord Jesus Christ. Listen: "And the Lord added to the Church daily such as should be saved." Acts 2:47. It needs to be emphasized that no process of church joining can make one a Christian. You cannot become a member of the church of God through formal church joining. In fact, anything you can join through human ceremonies is not the church of God. The moment you become a Christian, a child of God, that moment you also become a member of the church of God. The idea that one can become a member of the church through church joining is contrary to the Bible doctrine and teaching.

When one is saved from sin, a definite change takes place in his life and conduct. His life thereafter bears witness to the fact that he has been made free from sin. But there are many church members in whose lives no such change has been effected. They live as they always did; they do all the things they did before ever making profession of Christianity. Mere church joining does not change a person's nature. The Bible does not teach church joining of any form. Where in the Bible does it say that you must join the church and be saved or you must be saved and join the church? Where in the Bible does it teach formal church joining of any form? Rather, the scriptures teach us that the Lord adds those who are saved to the church. "But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him." 1 Cor. 12:18. This was the means of becoming a member of God's church in the early morning church age, and it is the standard for becoming a member of God's church to the end of the grace dispensation. The means of becoming a member of the church of God then was salvation through repentance and faith

in the Lord Jesus Christ, and this means remains unchanged today.

This earthly existence is a temporal one, as we know. Beyond this life is an unknown region and existence, lighted up by the Bible. Heaven is described as a state and place of happiness and eternal joy. Most folks want to go there when they die. Hell, the Bible says, is a place of torment and woe. It is not a place one would desire to go. Salvation will save us from sin, and furthermore, it will prepare us for heaven. A great many people sin more or less every day, walk in forbidden paths, do things they ought not, leave undone things they ought to do, and yet expect to taste the blessings of the heavenly home. What an unreasonable expectation! Heaven is a holy place. It is God's throne. No sin can enter there. Man is naturally a sinner, and hence, unfitted by nature for heaven. Salvation is that which prepares and fits us for heaven. We must be holy to enter heaven. "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord." Heb. 12:14. This eternal truth should be traced indelibly upon the mind of every mortal. Yea, it should be the substance of his belief until he is as holy as the Word of the dying Lamb of God can make him.

Joining some church will not fit a soul for heaven. You might be a member of every church in Christendom and still be a sinner and miss heaven. You may have signed a sort of promise to serve God, but it will take more than that to fit you for heaven. You may have said that you believe on Jesus and have been baptized, and still be in sin and not fit for heaven. Oh, that men everywhere could see the futility of such beliefs! Oh that men could see that nothing, absolutely nothing, but God's salvation

can save them from sin and fit them for heaven!

Morality will not save you; being a good citizen and paying your debts will not redeem you; no, you are lost, eternally lost, unless you come to the blood and be saved. Neither your friends, your companion, your parents, nor any one else can save you. Only Jesus can save. Will you be saved just now from all your sins? Settle it now for all eternity.

Our Father, we pray for each listener of the broadcast. Salvation has been provided for them. Help them to make that decision and be saved for now and all eternity in Jesus name. Amen.

Thanks, friends, for a few moments of your time. Be with us again next Sunday at the same time and station. Until we meet again, this is Willie Murphey saying God bless and keep you always and a very cheerful goodbye!

Testimonies

From Calif.: "We send greetings of love in Jesus dear name. Praise the Lord for victory through Christ our Redeemer. We are glad to know that the Lord always proves to be a present help in time of need. We are having real summer weather here in May. We did not have much winter, just one frost and no rain to speak of since last September. It is very dry and hot here. We hope you dear ones are enjoying the spring weather there and the Lord is blessing you spiritually and physically." --Bro. & Sis. H. P. Huskey

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From Ohio: "Our hearts are encouraged to press on with victory. The devil is a defeated foe! Thank the Lord! Pray for us as we strive to make Heaven our home." --Kenny & Mary Abbott

From Calif.: "God is blessing us richly here. This would be a miserable world to live in without God's mercy and love bestowed upon the human race. May God bless each of you as you labor for him to spread his gospel in this world that is so full of wickedness in people's lives. We surely want to keep measured up",

--Sis. Letha Reece

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From Okla.: "I am able to walk, thank the Lord. He has brought me a long ways and I'm looking for Him to see me through. I surely desire your prayers. ... I'm still staying with my daughter and her family as I'm not able to do for myself and they all are so nice to me."

--Sis. Mary A. Brown

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From La.: "Greetings of Christian love this 'Mother's day' afternoon. We enjoyed a very nice day with our family. We trust you are both well and encouraged in your work for the Lord. We enjoy the 'Mission Trail' very much. I'm enclosing a little offering. The Lord has blessed and answered prayer for an affliction I had on my body, for which I am so thankful. I have a few prayer requests." --Sis. Veva Myers

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From Pa.: "I am so glad I'm a part of the family of God. What peace He gives. We are having rainy and cold days now, but the trees are getting their green foliage and the beautiful flowers. Only God can do it. Praise His Name! ... I am so thankful I had a Christian mother to teach me the right way. I feel sorry for children today, who are just left to stray like sheep. Not all, but many. How sad. I want to do all I can for our Lord to help people see their need of Him. That is why I send this offering to you. I can't go myself, but you can go forward to win souls. God be with you thru each day and may many find God and want to live for Him. ... Yours in Him," --Sis. Eva Cox

From Okla.: "I am happy to know that God is love. 'O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever. Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy;' Psa. 107:1-2. The Lord is truly good. I am happy to be saved. I love the saints..." --Sis. Eva Penner

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From La.: "The Lord bless each of you this morning, richly with his great love, the abundance of grace. I am so thankful he said he giveth more grace. I so often tell the saints that the devil can't keep me out of heaven because the Lord promised to give me power over all the powers of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. Oh praise our God. Trust you are both well, and fighting the good fight of faith. I am striving to be a good finisher. And be able to say as our brother Paul, 'I have kept the faith, I have finished my course, and I am now ready to go.' Brother and sister, it is going to mean everything to have that kind of true testimony. The brethren are working endeavoring to have the needed preparation of things, to have our camp meeting, but much remains to be done." --Sis. LaVern Manuel

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From Okla.: "Sunday was Mother's Day, also my birthday. I was 81 Sunday. I sure do thank the Lord for permitting me to yet be here. I know it is his mercies to me. When you get to traveling on 80th street you will find it is different from all others... pray for me." --Sis. Mentie Nurse

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From Kansas: "The Lord blessed in our meeting in different ways... Four did get saved and we hope they will hold fast this time. Well, the camp meetings will be starting this month and we hope to be able to attend several if the Lord so blesses." --Sis. Shirley Knight

Guthrie: "The Lord is my shepherd. He supplies all my needs. I can't thank him enough for all he does for me. Heaven is where we have started, and I surely want to make it, with victory in my soul" --Sis. Emma Dilley

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From Okla.: "Greeting again in Jesus. I am so grateful for all He means to me. I praise Him for health and strength each day. What a blessing to know He knows our needs and does for us what He sees is best... What a mighty God we serve." --Sis. Edith Cramer

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From Calif.: "I went to bed, but couldn't go to sleep. I realize more each day that the good Lord helps me and here of late He seems to help me out more all the time. He has especially helped me health-wise... I miss the saints more than anything. I am so thankful for good health. I will be 80 if I make it till the 28th of May and I think I will by the help of the good Lord. Keep praying for me and remember my children... Love and prayers for you and the work you are doing."

--Sis. Edna Murry

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From Texas: "Greeting of love in the precious name of Jesus Christ our Lord... We sure have a beautiful world to live in since spring has come, so many beautiful flowers. My roses are so pretty: iris, pinks, pansies, blue-bonnets. If heaven is any prettier I sure do want to see it. The trees are green and pretty. If we just didn't have a devil to battle with it would be heaven on earth. He's still slipping around trying to deceive and trick all he can. I'm glad the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin, and we can watch and pray. The good Lord knows all our needs and will supply them according to the riches in glory."

--Sis. Nellie Lovell

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren

DEAR ABBY: Some time ago you devoted an entire column to the drug problem. I was so impressed I gave it to the principal of the Mason City (Iowa) high school, who in turn made copies and gave them to other school officials.

Please run it again, Abby. It's needed even more today.
— R.H.H., MASON CITY

DEAR MR. H.: I agree. And here it is:

DEAR ABBY: Recently a 17-year-old Florida boy pleaded guilty to possessing hallucinogenic drugs. He also had been charged with violence toward a Miami Beach police officer.

Judge Alfonso Sepe sentenced the youth to one year in the county stockade and four years' probation. The comments of the judge so impressed me that I ordered the transcript from the court reporter so that I may read it to my own children.

Your column is so widely read I am sending you the "lecture" Judge Sepe gave that boy in the presence of his grieving parents. Please publish it and give it the national forum it deserves. — MRS. A.L. CATES, MIAMI, FLA.

DEAR MRS. CATES: Rarely do I devote an entire column to one letter, but I agree, this is worth it:

"Judge Sepe spoke directly to the youth and said, "Do you know who is going to serve that year? Not you; your mother and father will serve that year.

"That is what's wrong. THEY get sentenced. They get sentenced for a lifetime.

"You serve a year. Your body is in the stockade for a year, but their souls are tormented for a lifetime. Why? Because you are a selfish, spoiled boy, that's why.

"There is no punishment in the world that I could inflict upon you that could in any way compensate for what you are doing to your mother and father. I have not spent 5 cents raising you. I didn't know you from Adam. But your mother

and father have put their lives, their hearts, their sweat, their money and everything else they have into bringing you up. And now they have to sit in this courtroom and listen to a total stranger who had nothing to do with your upbringing scold you and put you in jail.

"This is at a time when phony kids your age are yelling, 'You adults have your alcohol, we want our drugs; you have polluted our water and our air, you have polluted this and that,' and all the rest of the garbage that comes out of your mouths.

"Meanwhile, you put yourselves above everybody else. I feel sorry for you.

"I want you to think of this for one year, and the reason why I say it:

"If you are sick, a doctor will treat you and he won't be on drugs. The lawyer who represents you won't be high on drugs, and the people in whose custody you'll be won't be on drugs.

"Your astronauts are not on drugs, and your president is not, and your legislators are not.

"And your engineers who build the bridges that you drive across and the tunnels that you drive through are not on drugs, and those who build the planes that you fly in and the cars that you drive are not.

"Neither are those who build the bathrooms that you stink up with your lousy, rotten drugs.

"None of them have been on drugs, and this is because of people like your mother and father.

"But in the world of the future, the same may not be true. Teachers, doctors, lawyers, legislators — products of the new drug-oriented generation — may well be high as kites.

"You won't know whom to send your child to, or whom to trust your life to."

Sepe sighed and closed the case file.

"Let's see what kind of world you leave to your children," he said, "before you talk about the world that we left to ours."

WARNING

YOUR CHOICE

You don't have to go to heaven,
You don't have to live for God,
You don't have to be forgiven,
Nor washed in Jesus' blood.

When beyond the shining portals
All the ransomed meet at last,
You don't have to be among them
When the fight on earth is passed.

Though the Saviour died on Calvary,
Still His pardon you need not know;
Though His Spirit now is striving,
To the Lord you need not go.

Though a mother in her sorrow
For your soul doth plead and pray,
You don't have to be forgiven,
Need not walk the narrow way.

Though you choose the path of sorrow,
Live the life that suits you best,
Turn your back on Heavenly treasure
Vainly seek for peace and rest,

God will never make you serve Him,
Never force you to be saved;
You can go to judgment Christless,
Though your path with prayer is paved.

You can keep right on your sinning,
Turn your back on what is right,
Push headlong in perdition,
And an endless awful night.

There's no power in earth or Heaven
That can check your downward way
Unless Jesus Blood is sprinkled
And your sins are washed away.

NOTE: The above "Dear Abby" column was sent in by Sis. Edith Cramer who wrote: "Here is an article. You may have seen it. I thought it good to try & show young folks what they get in to & what trouble they make for their parents." The "Warning" poem was selected by Sis. Ruby Stover, and published in Mission Trail in 1969. --Editor.

at press time

we understand:

GOSPEL SINGING

WHY? To honor the name of the Lord.
WHEN? Saturday, June 9th, 7:30 p.m.
WHO are invited? All both far and near.
WHERE? Near Garfield, Arkansas.
HOW TO GET THERE? Pea Ridge National Park is located on US Highway 62 approximately half-way between Rogers and Gateway, some 6 to 8 miles from either town. The "Community Building" in which the singing will be held is about one-half mile south of Park and on east side of road (gravel exit). More information may be obtained from Sister Lou Bray, Phone 501 451-8619.

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CONGRATULATIONS

To Mark and Lori LaCroix on the birth of Heather Renee May 15th. We are happy for them and their two daughters.

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A Special Request

For your prayers, a 20-cent stamp and five minutes of your time, please. Put the stamp on a birthday card addressed to Maybell Ussery, Room 16, Westwood Manor, #1 Westwood Circle, Shreveport, La. 71109. Maybell is my oldest sister and will be 84 June 3. She is much afflicted with arthritis and unable to care for herself. Much against her wishes she entered the rest home April 27th. Her husband has been dead for many years and she has no children. Pray that God may work out His will in her life and bless her soul and body. Just tell her that you love her and that God loves her too. And thanks so very much to all of you from Bro. Willie

In Memory

We extend our love and sympathy to Sister Violet Thomas, Tacoma, Wash. on the death of her husband May 1st.

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Little Sister Betty Friesen bravely bore her affliction and looked forward to her home-going. The dear Lord relieved her of the suffering and called her home April 29th. A few minutes before she died she talked to relatives back in Canada. Her going was peaceful.

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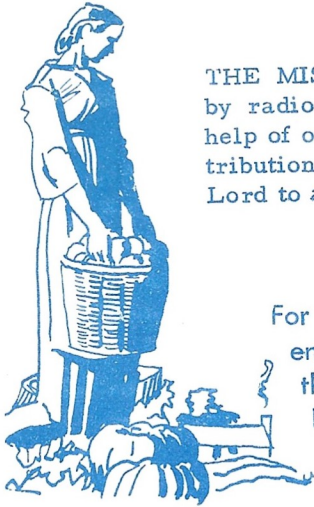
From Fla.: "I wanted to let you know Amos went to be with the Lord April 19th. I miss him so much, but I have no doubt where he is. He told me just a few days before going he was ready any time. He was called a radical here, but he didn't care for that. He stood firm on what he knew was right."

--Sis. Lovie Davis, 107 S. Sierra St., Nokomis, Fla. 33555.

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From Kansas: "We are so thankful for the grace of God that keeps us in the strait and narrow way. It's more than trying to please man. It means pleasing God and having his smiles of approval on our lives. We are thankful for the many lessons the Lord has taught us and for our parents that taught us, "thus saith the word of God." We love the truth more now than ever before. It is still the truth that will make us free ... May the Lord bless you and keep you on the air. We enjoy hearing you... Yours for the truth,"

--Bro. Ralph and Sis. Inez Beisly



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

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KGGF

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