



Gospel Broadcasting and Publishing

The Mission Trail

Box 99

Guthrie, Okla. 73044

Willie C. Murphey and Frances E. Murphey
Home Phone (405) 282-1101

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

VOL. 21, NO. 1

THE MISSION TRAIL

JANUARY, 1985

"Think on These Things"

Radio Broadcast for January 6, 1985

Good morning, good morning, and a very happy new year to each and every listener of the broadcast. We hope that you are well and enjoying the blessings of the Lord and this year will be the happiest year of your life. Now, before we think too much of the new year let us take another look at the old year:

MEMORIES

Let us forget the things that vexed
and tried us,
The worrying things that caused our
souls to fret;
The hopes that cherished long were
still denied us,
Let us forget.

Let us forget the little slights that
pained us,
The greater wrongs that wrinkled
sometimes get,
The pride with which some lofty ones
disdained us,
Let us forget.

Let us forget our brother's faults
and failings,
The yielding to temptations that beset.
That he perchance though grief be
unavailing,
Cannot forget.

But blessings manifold past all
deserving,
Kind words and thoughtful deeds a
thoughtless throng,
The faults o'ercome, the rectitude
Unswerving,
Let us remember long.

The sacrifice of love, the generous
giving when friends were few,
The handclasps warm and strong,
The fragrance of each life of holy
living,
Let us remember long.

Whatever things were good and true
and gracious,
Whate'er of right has triumphed over
wrong,
What love of God or man has rendered
precious,
Let us remember long.

So, pondering well the lessons
it has taught us,
We tenderly may bid the year goodbye,
Holding in memory the good it
brought us,
Letting the evil die.

And isn't that the way that it should be?
If we could forget the things that caused
us problems and troubles and yet re-
member the good things that we
should, how much better off we'd be:
just as this scripture here in Phil. 4
and 8 tells us: "Finally, brethren,
whatsoever things are true, whatsoever
things are honest, whatsoever things

are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."

Now, I am sure that if we would direct our thoughts in this very positive manner of thinking on the things that are good and lovely and holy, and the things that profit us, we would be so much better off. You know the trouble today is too many folks are thinking about that injustice that some one did them, thinking about how they failed somewhere and it gives them that negative outlook on life, whereas the Lord wants us to know that there is victory for us. We can be overcomers if we will stand on his word and his promises. Oh, there is victory for the people of God. And I hope that this new year may be your very best year that you have ever lived and your spiritual victories will be great. There is victory for you if you will count it so. Whatever may have been the failings in the past, let us look at this new year with victory.

Listen now to this scripture from Col. chapter 1 and verse 13: "Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:" I am confident that there is more in this verse than I will be able to tell you within the next few minutes. But I am happy today for Christ our deliverer. Before one can experience the happiness of deliverance they must first realize that they are helpless and in darkness. And isn't that true with so many of those living in this modern age of ours? People talk about liberty of conscience. They want to do away with restraint placed on their lives by God's word. They want to have liberty to do as they please. But let me show you something.

This scripture in 2 Peter, 2 chapter and verse 19 says: "While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage." Therefore, I say if a man is filled with hatred, envy, malice, and wickedness he is in darkness, and needs to be delivered. Our text says, "Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness." Did you know there is a power about evil which gets hold of people? And they are not at liberty to choose the way they would like to go? They need to call on God for help.

I once heard about a man a good many years ago who was given to the habit of drinking and gambling. He would go to town and sell his farm produce such as a bale of cotton and instead of taking the money and buying groceries for the family and shoes for the children, he would spend much of it for whiskey and gambling. When he came home and began to recover from the effects of the alcohol, then he saw how foolishly he had spent his money. He would take his children up on his knee and talk to them like this, "Well, your old daddy isn't worth very much today. He ought to be taken out and shot." Yes, perhaps he would gain the sympathy of the little boys and girls in his home, but I want to tell you what he needed was a Saviour. He needed to be delivered from the power of drink. And instead of his children seeing him come home drunk, they would then see him walking uprightly and spending his money for the things which his family needed.

Do you know evil habits fasten themselves to a person, and they are unable to do the things that they would like to do until they have been delivered?

Just think of the prodigal son. He had left home. He had spent his money in riotous living. He had tried to have a good time, but he found himself at last with his money gone. His clothes were no doubt ragged, and he had no shoes for his feet. He was hired by a man of that country to feed swine or that is hogs. No doubt, it took all of this to cause him to come to himself, but when he did, he began to think of the good things in his father's house. His father's servants had plenty to eat and were well cared for, and there he was a son literally starving to death. I believe he really wanted happiness, but he had sought for it in the wrong way.

Friends, there is a way out of your darkness if you will accept it. It is the humble lowly way of the cross. A verse of song says, "If thou would'st have the dear saviour from heaven walk by thy side from the morn till the evening, there is a rule that each day you must follow, humble thyself to walk with God." It goes on to say, "Just as a stream finds a bed that is lowly, so Jesus walks with the pure and the holy. Cast out thy pride and in heartfelt contrition, humble thyself to walk with God." I want to tell you God is able to deliver people. This is not only true in the spiritual but also in the natural. Sometimes he answers prayers even beyond our fondest expectations.

Take for example Peter. When Peter was bound in prison, and it had been planned that the next day he should be brought forth and put to death, the angel of the Lord came upon the scene that night as he lay there sleeping between two soldiers. The angel awoke him, led him forth from the prison, and the iron gate which had been locked so

securely swung open of its own accord. Peter marched forth that night to deliverance. The saints had been praying, but they were astonished when the maiden went to the door and came back with the news that Peter was knocking for admittance. Some wondered if he had been killed and his spirit had then returned. Others were unable to believe because it seemed impossible, and yet the maiden constantly affirmed that it was Peter. And so it was. He was delivered from prison.

All of this came about through the power of interceding prayer. Friends, most of us have loved ones and relatives who need our prayers today. Some have children who are walking the downward paths of sin to destruction. There is a deliverer who is able to straighten out the kinks in their lives. God is calling upon us to be the intercessors. Let us be faithful even unto death. Here is a poem. It says:

NEARER HOME

One sweetly solemn thought
Comes to me o'er and o'er:
I am nearer home today
Than I have ever been before.

Nearer the bound of life,
Where we lay our burdens down;
Nearer leaving the cross,
Nearer gaining the crown!

But lying darkly between,
Winding down through the night,
Is the silent unknown stream
That leads at last to the light.

Oh, if my mortal feet
Have almost gained the brink;
If it be I am nearer home
Even today than I think;

Father, perfect my trust;
 Let my spirit feel in death,
 That her feet are firmly set
 On the rock of a living Faith.

Let us pray: Our Father, we are indeed glad that a way has been made for our escape and deliverance even when we were lost in sin and away from God. For this we are thankful. But for those who yet remain in sin, our hearts are yearning for their deliverance. Awaken them, and lead them to the light of the gospel through Christ, and to thee we will give the praise forever. Amen...

Now listen as we look forward to:

A NEW YEAR FOR GOD

New hopes are ours, another year
 Has dawned upon our way.
 The old year now has passed and gone,
 We view a brighter day.

We give to God our thanks and praise,
 And hearts of gratitude,
 For He in mercy and in love
 Has blessed our lives with good.

We cannot cease His praise to sing,
 When we His love behold,
 Which through the years has passed
 and gone,
 Has been more pure than gold.

The new year now is ours to claim,
 And in Jehovah's might,
 For Him we'll gather in the grain,
 While yet we have the light.

The night shall come when none can
 work,
 And then 'twill be too late
 To do the deed we should have done,
 We have not time to wait.

This year is new, but soon, oh soon,
 It will have fled away.
 As other years it will have
 Joined a past eternity.

So when this year shall cease to be,
 May we our task have done,
 That to God's army in this land,
 Some precious soul be won.

--Bro. Ulysses Phillips

Well, friends, it's been good to be with you. May this year be a happy year in your life and a year of victory. Do pray for us as we also pray for you. Until we meet again this is Willie Murphey saying God bless and keep you always and a very cheerful goodbye!

Testimonies

From Mo.: "Even though this year has brought a few hardships and heartaches, I feel the presence and love of our Lord even more. He has given me and my family good health for which we are very thankful. The past week I suffered a traumatic experience, but the Lord was with me. I know from experience that I now have a 'new heart' and my old self has died. My old self would have angered and fought back in many ways; but after the incident, I realized that these thoughts never even occurred to me! Praise the Lord! He is true to His word. I hope both of you have had a good year. I enjoy the Mission Trail so very much and the pure truth."

--Joyce Hall

--o--

From Okla.: "Dear folks at Mission Trail, Please accept this little gift and keep my 'Mission Trail' coming. I look forward to it each issue. I enjoy reading it more all the time... Thank you and I wish you a wonderful Christmas and a healthy happy new year."

--Lynnia B. Smith

From Calif.: "... I thank the Lord daily for His blessing, and giving us plenty to eat and a good warm place to live, when so many poor people are starving in so many places. Above the daily blessing, I thank Him so much for giving me a praying mom and dad, that taught us the true way, and they lived it before us. I surely thank Him for saving me, and that He keeps a desire in my heart to do His will and love Him more all the time. My daily prayer is, 'Dear Lord, help me to live each day, where your approval will be upon my life.' I want to keep a burden for my brothers and sisters and be able to help them pray for their needs. I ask Him often to help me keep a real burden for my unsaved loved ones and all lost souls. I surely do love the Lord and His dear children, and I'm very much encouraged to fight the battle on until the crown is won."

--Hazel Savage

--o--

From La.: "As this Christmas season approaches, we think how sad that the celebration of our Lord's birth is stomped in the dirt (so to speak) by the world in general. We do so appreciate salvation and what Christ's birth means and want to please God in every way we can. It takes denying self (what I want and what I think), but look what we receive in return--riches for rags! We trust God's richest blessings are yours now and always."

--Gerald, Connie and Darin Flynn

--o--

From Okla.: "I want to say thank you for the beautiful calendar and how I enjoy the Mission Trail paper and listening to the broadcast over Coffeyville. What an inspiration to me. How great God is to help supply our need. Enclosed is a little offering. I still want to be on your mailing list."

--Mrs. J. C. Johnson

From Ore.: "Once again Ostis and Evelyn Wilson send our greetings at this holiday season and warmest wishes for a very joyous Christmas and a very happy and prosperous New Year to all of our friends and loved ones out there every where. It hardly seems possible but that time is here again. First of all our hope and desire is that the peace and joy sang out by the heavenly host on that night nearly two thousand years ago may fill all of your hearts and homes during this season of the year when we commemorate that most memorable event in human history when Jesus, the Saviour of mankind, came to earth to accomplish His great work of redemption. But that same Christ Christ who was born in that Bethlehem stable so long ago lives today in the hearts of all who believe in Him as Saviour so that we may in His Name announce the same glad tidings of joy and peace to all believers in Him that the angels announced to the shepherds on that night of His birth."

--Bro. Ostis and Sis. Evelyn Wilson

--o--

From Calif.: "Greetings in the Lord. We do praise the Lord for His goodness to us. Another year is nearly past and so goes our life. We do want to spend it to the glory of God. Only what's done for Christ will last. We wanted to let you know that we would like to receive the Mission Trail. Thank the Lord for the testimonies and articles of encouragement through the printed press... Pray for us."

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

--o--

From Ill.: "I want to write and let you know I look forward to the day Mission Trail arrives. I sit down and read it from cover to cover. It doesn't seem it has been 20 years... Thanks so much for the calendar. God bless and keep you..."

--Eleanor White

320 North Second
Guthrie, OK 73044
December 6, 1984

Dear U. Willie, A. Frances, & Mis. Trail Readers,

Greetings to each of you in the name of Jesus. We thank the Lord for the Word of God and the Holy Spirit discernment between right and wrong. It is a wonderful thing to understand the BIBLE and be free in the truth. (John 8:32)

We have thought so much lately about the baby Christ child and how that he grew up perfect and pure. No one ever found any fault in Jesus but at the age of 33 years, he was judged and condemned by the inward sins of his accusers. Jesus Christ's perfection mirrored their imperfection so greatly that they desired his death. Truly, He was a perfect, supreme sacrifice unto God, His Heavenly Father.

If Jesus gave his all--even His earthly life--for us, then how can we hold back any sweet tidbit for our own selves? (Heb. 13:12) Surely we do not want to come up short before the throne of judgement.

Please continue to pray for us that we will have spiritual wisdom in the future days ahead. We love the saints of God every where and encourage each of you to press forward in the name of the Lord! Amen!

Love and Prayers to All,

Dwane & Connie Sorrell
Dwane and Connie Sorrell

From La.: "Dear ones, the calendar is lovely. Thank you for it and the message it carries for each month along with the beautiful and tranquil pictures which show the handiwork of a great God! Thank Him for blessing you through these 20 years of sacrifice and service. How He blesses me and keeps me encouraged to press on and to try to brighten the corner where He has placed me! Trials come and go. We read the word of God daily, but when we are going through trials, we search the scriptures for special comfort.

Here are some of the 'gems' I have found: Psa. 94:22 -- The Lord is my

defense. and my God is the rock of my refuge. Nahum 1:7--The Lord is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him. Hebrews 13:5b-6-- . . . for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me. 2 Timothy 1:7-- For God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. Psalm 91:15--He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honour him . . . With such a God how can we ever complain?"

--Sis. Audrey Henry

at press time

we understand:

Our hearts were saddened by the death of Willard Esters of Jena, La. He died in the early morning hours of Dec. 30 as the result of an auto accident. We extend our sympathy to his wife, Sis. Annie and their four daughters.

--o--

Funeral for Roy Jennings was held in the Guthrie Church of God chapel Dec. 31st. He had lived in Guthrie for most of his life and will be greatly missed. He was so willing and ready to help others. Remember in prayer his wife Eldora as she is not well.

--o--

From Mo.: "My dear husband passed away Dec. 6th. As soon as I can I will write the wonderful things the Lord has done for us this past year. My husband was ready to meet the Lord. Thank and praise the Lord. Yes, I want the Mission Trail. It has been such a blessing to me... Your Sis. in Christ,"

--Sis. Lena Bowman

--o--

From Okla.: "Received your beautiful calendar today. I am delighted with the beauty, the pictures, and the scriptures that go with each month... I for one want to thank you for your labors of love in your work of faith in Jesus name. Also thank you for the Mission Trail. It is a real encouraging friend -- as it comes each month. I do want to keep my name on your mailing list... God bless and keep you happy on the holy way. I find, too, it is blessed to serve Jesus and to do His good will... In His glad service,"

--Sister Julia Llewellyn

From La.: "Yes, we remember the first radio broadcast of the 'Mission Trail' we heard coming in loud and clear, out of Mexico, back in the mid-60's. What a 'thrill' it was to hear your voice, Bro. Willie; and the broadcast and messages were such a blessing to us. Please keep the 'Mission Trail' coming. . ."

--Bro. Bob and Sis. Dorall Forbes

--o--

From KS: "Greetings in Jesus precious name and thank you for the beautiful calendar, and also the Mission Trail. We need words of encouragement sometimes when things look dark. That is when I remember our Lord works in mysterious ways His wonders to perform and I get a feeling of peace when I pray. I love the Lord and surely He must love me."

--Etta Martin

--o--

"Bro. Willie, keep the Mission Trail blazing our way. The Lord has been blessing us." --Bro. Clarence Bennings

--o--

Our heart-felt "thanks" to all the saints and our friends who remembered us on this 20th anniversary of the broadcast. The letters, cards and offerings have encouraged us to press on in the Master's service. It was wonderful to see the saints coming in for the Assembly meeting. What a privilege was ours to hear the singing and preaching of the Word. Our sincere wish and prayer is that God will bless each one as you fill your post of duty and give you

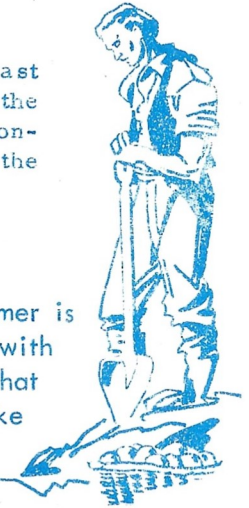
A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR!

--Willie and Frances



THE MISSION TRAIL, originating in Guthrie, Okla., is broadcast by radio and published in printed form by Willie Murphey with the help of others. Its principal support comes from the free will contributions of its listeners and readers. Those who are led by the Lord to assist may do so by sending their offering to:

THE MISSION TRAIL, Guthrie, Oklahoma 73044



For some it will come true: "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." Jer. 8:20. Let us hasten with the message which Jesus gave: "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls."

Broadcast Schedule

Listen for THE MISSION TRAIL weekly on

RADIO
STATION
KGGF

LOCATION
Coffeyville, Kansas

DIAL
SETTING
690 kc.

TIME
Sunday, 8:00 a.m.

The Mission Trail
Box 99
Guthrie, Okla. 73044

Return Postage Guaranteed

BULK RATE
U.S. Postage
11¢ PAID
Guthrie, Okla.
Permit No. 7