



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. 21, NO. 3

THE MISSION TRAIL

MARCH, 1985

THE HOLY BIBLE.



HE Bible Contains—The mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, doom of sinners, the happiness of believers.

Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable.

Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practise it to be holy.

It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you.

It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword, and the Christian's character.

Here Paradise is restored; heaven, opened; and the gates of hell, disclosed.

Christ is its grand subject; our good, its design; and the glory of God, its end.

It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet.

Read it slowly, frequently, prayerfully.

It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, and a river of pleasure.

It is given you in life; it will be the standard of truth in judgment, and will be remembered forever.

It involves the highest responsibility, rewards the greatest labor, and condemns all who trifle with its holy contents. Selected

"A Cheerful Countenance"

Radio Broadcast February 17, 1985

Good morning, friends, good morning! I am indeed happy to be coming your way another time over KGGF, Coffeyville, Kansas. Today I want to bring some good will and cheer, so I have chosen to talk about "A Cheerful Countenance." But before I really get into this subject let me first remind you that:

HE MAKETH NO MISTAKE

*God's way may seem so long and slow
My heart may throb and ache,
But in my soul I'm glad I know,
He maketh no mistake.*

*My cherished plans may go astray,
My hopes may fade away,
But still I'll trust my Lord to lead
For He doth know the way.*

*Tho' night be dark and it may seem
That day will never break;
I'll pin my faith, my all in Him,
He maketh no mistake.*

*There's so much now I cannot see,
My eyesight's far too dim;
But come what may, I'll simply trust
And leave it all to Him.*

*For by and by the mist will lift
And plain it all He'll make,
Through all the way, tho' dark to me,
He made not one mistake.*

It is most comforting to know that God indeed, makes no mistakes. We can safely trust His wisdom as well as His power. But now this:

A CHEERFUL COUNTENANCE

"A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance: but by sorrow of heart the spirit is broken." Prov. 15:13. How true! To the weary soul, laden with cares and sorrows of life, what is more invigorating than a cheerful countenance! When the enemy comes in like a flood and your soul is struggling to keep your head above the dashing wave, as it were, how are you made to feel by the presence of a smiling face and a

cheerful "Good Morning"? And then to the poor heart who has met with sorrow and disappointment till his life seems not worth living, to the despondent one who is void of the comforting love of the Savior, does not a bright, cheerful look from the face of a Christian loom up before him and cause a radiant gleam to shine far down his pathway? So little of heaven's perfume does the sinner get that the Christian's life should be so saturated with sweet, heavenly odors until his very presence will cheer the fainting soul. This world does not need our frowns and sorrows. They have enough of that. We have only to open our eyes and look out on the faces today and see what they are groping after, cheerfulness and happiness!

"A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance"--then it is an experience that affects the heart. It first gets into the heart, then there is no trouble about the countenance. Get the right cause, and the effect is sure: you will not need to try to have a cheerful look, but that is the result of a merry heart. You only have to let sorrow creep into the heart, and the spirit is broken.

We are not urged to be cheerful when our walk is along a cool, shady nook or blooming flowers. Then our pleasant surroundings arouse within our hearts the desire to sing and be happy. It is when we are passing over the slippery way that we are urged to be cheerful. You remember that when Paul and his

crew (related in the twenty-seventh chapter of Acts) were sailing upon the rough sea they were toiling and working to their utmost ability to guide the ship in the desired direction, but to no avail, for they were "exceedingly tossed with a tempest." And not just one hour nor several hours were they thus rocked in nature's cradle, but for three long days. Even the sun and stars refused to show their brilliant faces for many days. The night was dark, the ship was rocking and tossing here and there. They thought they never would see land again. All hopes were gone, and they despaired even of life. No doubt, their hearts were sad by the thoughts of that cold, deep, troublesome ocean so soon being their beds of rest. It was then that an angel ministered unto Paul, and after his departure that Paul exhorted them to be cheerful, for no lives should be lost. I fancy that I can see the expression change on their faces by the comforting words of Paul. After a lengthy fast they refreshed their bodies by taking meat, and then were cheerful and happy, even while the storm was raging. Christ told his disciples that in this old dark world they would meet with many perplexities and tribulations, but he exhorted them to be cheerful through it all, comforting them by the thoughts that he overcame all of these things before he left them.

You may have heard it said that some people are just naturally cheerful, while others are of a despondent nature. While this may be true in some respects, yet by diligent effort and careful cultivation of the things that tend to develop cheerfulness, and by the help of the Lord, we can be able to overcome despondency. The pictures that we view cast a shadow before them. Satan is in the picture-business. So also is Jesus. Satan's pictures, being dark and gloomy, will cast a shadow

over your life if you look upon them. But bright are the pictures that Christ presents to view. They will cheer you, make sunny all your way. Be careful where you look. This is one way we can cultivate cheerfulness. Never allow the devil to bring up past failures to discourage.

Let us be like the apostle Paul: "forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Phil. 3:13-14.

Yet there is the past! Oh, how many regrets there are, how many things have happened which we would gladly recall! But the past is past; no thought or endeavor of ours can bring it back to us again; it is gone forever. What a load of sorrow we sometimes bear of which we could be relieved (at least in part) if we could learn to look upon the past as past, and know that vain regrets will neither redeem the past, brighten the present, nor help the future. Are you mourning over the past? Have you made mistakes that have nearly broken your heart, and you feel that life is not worth the living? But, oh, it is worth living. You can profit by past failures and make a glorious success. No matter what your faults have been, or how badly you have blundered, be thankful that you have now learned a better way, instead of wasting precious time over that which you cannot help. Remember the old adage, "Failures are stepping-stones to success."

Life is short and time is fleeting. All of us have made mistakes, but shall we let them discourage us? Would it not be better to rise with new courage, thank God and our friends for pointing out our defects, and make these les-

sons a means of a nobler life, greater success and more glorious victories...

*That little word unkindly spoken,
That tender heart so nearly broken,
Those loving words we might have said
To lift a weary, fainting head--
It was not done, oh, vain regret!
But can not we the past forget,
Bravely wipe the tears away,
And live a better life today?
Oh, let us rise in strength and power,
And let no shadow dim the morrow.
Oh, may we ever courage take
And just forget each past mistake!*

Keep the "bright pictures" hanging very prominently upon memory's wall, and take down all others. Let us be instrumental in lifting the load from another soul by a merry heart and a cheerful countenance. Now before I go . . .

A THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Is anybody happier because you passed this way? Does anyone remember that you spoke to him today? This day is almost over, and its toiling time is through. Is there anyone to utter a kindly word of you? Did you give a friendly greeting to the friend who came along, or a churlish sort of "howdy" and then vanish in the throng? Were you selfish, pure and simple, as you rushed along your way, or is someone mighty grateful for a deed you did today? Can you say tonight in parting with the day that's slipping fast, that you helped a single brother of the many that you passed?

Our Father, bless the message to the good of every listener and for that which is accomplished we will surely give Thee the praise in the precious name of Jesus. Until we meet again this is Willie Murphey saying God bless and keep you always and a very cheerful goodbye!

Testimonies

"When we live for God we have the promise of His blessings upon our lives here in this world and then the glorious hope of meeting the Lord in peace, the one that loved us and died for us, there to dwell with him eternally with the redeemed of all ages, there to enjoy a glorified body that is not subject to pain or decay." --Bro. T. V. McMillian

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From Wash.: "Greetings to you in the dear name of Jesus. We surely appreciate the Lord and all His love and mercy to us. We are trusting Him to guide us in this life. His word says He is the author and finisher of our faith. Heb. 12:2. We are having a cold winter, not much snow or rain. We have had the driest January in the history of western Washington, so the weather man says. We hope you folks are well. I am real good this winter."

--Sister Violet Thomas

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From Miss.: "Dear people of God, it's been quite a while since I have written, but I do appreciate the Mission Trail, and the many who share their joys and sorrows. It is a privilege to be able to hear from the saints, and to know that even sorrows and troubles are constant visitors in our homes, that God's grace is sufficient in every time of need. We've tried and tested His promises and know they are true."

--Sis. Olen Williamson

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From Ore.: "I love that song that says, I'm so glad I belong to the family of God -- for I do and have never had a dearer one. They think like I do and we're all walking on the same highway. It's narrow but it's straight and it is never over crowded, since it is not a popular way. So we get plenty of fresh air and sunshine--Heavenly sunshine."

--Sister Grace Jones

From La.: "We trust all is well with you. We surely appreciate God's goodness to us. At this time last year I was going through a real trial of affliction. I will never forget God's mercy to me. I want to love Him more and more. . . We recall too, hearing some of the first messages over the air. We pray the Lord will continue to bless and keep this work going as long as He sees best. What is done needs to be done now. Time is closing in fast."

--Kath and Virgie Flynn

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From Canada: "Greetings in the precious name of Jesus. We say as Samuel of old, Hitherto hath the Lord helped. We want to say that wife and I enjoy the Mission Trail paper and hope to receive it always. We are so thankful for the prayers of the saints everywhere. We praise Him our Dear Lord daily for strength and salvation. Keep the Mission Trail coming . . . The messages, poems and testimonies are always encouraging to us. Remember us in prayer both soul and body."--Bro. George and Sis. Gertrude Schroeder

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"Greetings from Arkansas: We are well, encouraged and saved, trusting the Lord for body and soul, enjoying the goodness and love of God in salvation. The song 'How Great Thou Art' comes to our mind, as we think of all that He has done to make us free from the power and control of sin. We trust that you dear ones are well and happy, and being blessed with the divine favor of God in all you do in His work. The little congregation here is keeping encouraged and all are well at present. We love and do appreciate each one, and we do enjoy being here. We are sure that it was the will of God that we moved here. Things have worked out so well." --Roy and Virginia Harmon, Rt. 2, Box 112, Pea Ridge, Ark. 72751

From Calif.: "The dear Lord has never forgotten us. He is so merciful, bless His name. And we appreciate our ministers and know they surely carry heavy burdens for lost souls. I want to thank you for the lovely calendar. It was so nice of you to take the time to send one to each saint. Thanks again."

--Bro. & Sis. Underwood

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From Ark.: "Remember me in prayer that I may draw closer each day to the Lord and do His will."

--Sis. Dorothy Critcher

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From La.: "Just a note to thank you for the nice calendar and tell you we enjoy the 'Mission Trail' and pass it on to others . . . May God richly bless you both in your work for the Lord."

--Nadine Smoot

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From Calif.: "This is the day which the Lord hath made: we will rejoice in it. Ps. 118:24. I am so thankful to be alive today and have my trust in the Lord, and I'm getting along as well in health as I am. I'm somewhat better than I was a while back, but my husband is sick yet; quite ill, but I know nothing is too hard for the Lord. Please remember us in prayer . . .

Sincerely, "

--Sis. Geneva Pierro

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From Kans.: "I have been gone or was gone through November and December, visiting my daughter and family in Houston, Tex., was there for Thanksgiving, had pneumonia while there. I recovered from it real quickly. Then went to Calif. to spend Christmas with my other daughter and family, had the flu while there. Now I am back home again. I thank the Lord for a safe journey there and back home again. It is good to hear you again on KGGF Sunday morning. Keep the message of God and His love coming."

--Joe E. Estopy

From Okla.: "How swiftly time is passing. Every day brings us nearer eternity . . . I too, am so glad I found something in this world that satisfies the soul. So many trials and problems I face each day, but we put our trust in the Lord knowing He giveth strength and grace for every battle we fight and brings us thru victoriously . . . This cold weather kept me pretty busy carrying in wood, had plenty dry wood on the back porch . . . I feed the red birds. They are so pretty, many kinds of birds come to eat. Hope this finds both well with God's loving care with you all thru the year." --Sis. Doris Bowers

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From Calif.: "The clouds have passed over and the sun is shining beautifully this morning. Elmer and I are so much better after the trial of bronchial coughing. We didn't go to bed or I didn't have a fever, but coughed at night until we couldn't sleep . . . I phoned . . . and requested prayer and that night we didn't cough at night and haven't since. Praise the Lord for answering . . . and thank you all back there in Oklahoma for your prayers. God is still on His Throne and we need the prayers of His saints. We have enjoyed wonderful health and nothing like this in about 30 years. We will be healthy happy people again and radiate happiness to others too! Usually these cold bugs pass us by, but God knows what's best for all of us and we have come through this trial with more faith and love for the Lord and his children." --Sis. Lucille Allen

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From Idaho: "Greetings in the precious name of Jesus. How good He has been to us and how thankful for His tender loving care. I am so thankful that I do not have to face the day by day battles alone, but have a elder Brother that will take care of it all."

--Sister Ruby Marken

From Ark.: "It's been so long since we have written to you and all the time we are going to. We think of you folk so often and are so thankful for you and all the others that are carrying on the good work of the Lord . . . Our health isn't very good so please remember us in prayers and pray that our family will be drawn closer to the Lord."

--Alvis and Bertha Dickey

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From La.: "May the dear Lord of Lords, and King of Kings, the Bright and morning Star, the giver of our salvation, and of all good, bless you real good through the holiday season, and all through the coming year."

--Sis. Myrtis Flynn

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From Ala.: "Greeting to you and yours in the name of Jesus Christ, Our Lord. This is to let you know that I am saved to the glory of God, and I am still standing for what I have learned from the Bible, the truth, and I mean by God's help to never go back in sin anymore. And I need your prayers. . . I am praying for you that the Lord will help you and yours to keep preaching this truth."

--Bro. Henry P. Effinger

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From Ohio: "We are thankful for salvation that delivers from all sin. And keeps us sinless in a sin world when we stay under the blood and trust and obey all of God's commandments. Praise His holy name. Like the poet said on page 223, 'I mean to go right on until the crown is won, I mean to fight the fight of Faith till life on earth is done.' If we endure unto the end we will receive a crown . . . We are thankful to be saved from the world and from self, because it will give us the most trouble along the journey of life. . . . We thank the Lord for the truth. That is what frees us."

--Bro. Kenneth Knight

at press time

we understand:

Homeland

*When the Father in His wisdom
Set creation in its place,
He was planning for a homeland
Far beyond this time, this space;
When He hung the stars in heaven,
Formed us from the garden sod,
Oh how much He wanted people
Who would glorify their God.*

*We were born to be immortal,
Born to praise Him, born to love.
But until we climb the stairway
To our heavenly home above,
We must walk the ways of mankind;
We are subject to decay;
We must bear the toils and testings
That so often come our way.*

*We were born to sing with angels,
Born to live among the stars;
But today our feet are earthbound,
Held as sure as prison bars;
And the lovely land we long for
Seems another world away;
But we claim the Father's promise,
"There shall come a homing day."*

*When I marvel at the sunrise,
When the world is wet with dew,
Or when evening skies are glorious
Painted red, a radiant hue,
Then I wonder why such beauty
Lasts for such a little while;
We need more of rose-red splendor,
Songs the heart sings, love, and smiles.*

*Then I lift my heart to join in
Songs these ears as yet can't hear,
And I lift my arms to praise Him
Whom the angels hold most dear.
For there comes another sunrise—
God shall have His family—
And God's creatures all shall glorify
Their Maker—as was meant to be.*

Looking Unto Jesus

"Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith" (Heb. 12:2).

What is Christ to you?

To the astronaut He is	The Bright and Morning Star.
To the builder He is	The Chief Cornerstone.
To the curious He is	The Wonder of Wonders.
To the distressed He is	The Comforter, Prince of Peace.
To the early riser He is	The Daystar.
To the farmer He is	The Promised Seed.
To the gardener He is	The Rose of Sharon.
To the hungry He is	The Bread of Life.
To the ill He is	The Great Physician.
To the Jew He is	The Messiah.
To the king He is	The King of kings.
To the lost He is	The Redeemer.
To the master He is	The Authority.
To the navigator He is	The Pilot.
To the orphan He is	The Heavenly Father.
To the prophet He is	The Fulfillment.
To the questioner He is	The Answer.
To the ruler He is	The Lord of lords.
To the sinner He is	The Saviour.
To the thirsty He is	The Living Water.
To the undertaker He is	The Resurrection and the Life.
To the victor He is	The Conqueror.
To the warrior He is	The Commander-in-chief
To the youth He is	The Counselor
To the zoologist He is	The Creator of the Universe.

Jesus Christ is the first and last, the Alpha and Omega.
He is over all and in all. Hallelujah!

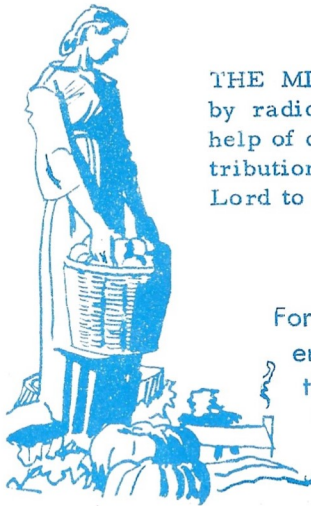
Sister Pansy Stephens is greatly in need of a healing touch from the Lord for an affliction. Your prayers will be appreciated.

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Congratulations to Tim and Pam Huskey on the birth of their daughter February 12.

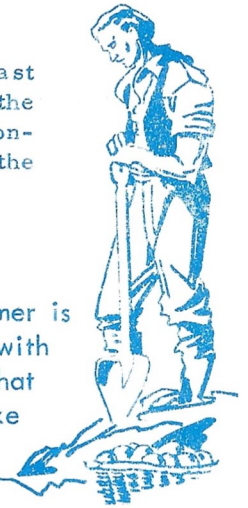
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This March issue is being mailed a little early as we are hoping to save a few dollars on postage before the new higher rates will become effective Feb. 17. We are so glad for the peace and joy of the Lord as well as food, shelter and clothing in the Oklahoma winter storms. We send along our prayers with the message. God bless all! --WCM



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

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Coffeyville, Kansas

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690 kc.

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