



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

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THE MISSION TRAIL

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“Remove not the Ancient Landmark” - - Provs. 22:28

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Good morning to every listener. I hope all of you are well and enjoying the good blessings of the Lord for soul and body, also that this message will prove as interesting and profitable to the listeners as it has been to me in preparing it. There are so many thoughts and scriptures which apply that it is somewhat difficult to know just where to start. So as we look to the Lord and the leadership of the Holy Spirit, I think I will be like the surveyor who seeks out a landmark from which to start and begin with this verse in Proverbs 22:28, "Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set." In a few moments I want to deal with the spiritual and scriptural aspects of this, but first, let me set forth the perimeters of my subject in the natural sense. In other words before we put up a building we need a foundation. I am acquainted with a young man whose occupation is a surveyor. I think this work would be most interesting. In fact, when I get to talking to this friend of mine and asking questions, it is hard to find a place to quit. There are hills to climb and valleys to span and miles, rods, yards, feet and inches to measure. And let me tell you, accuracy is required, for there are times when a foot or two or even a matter of inches generates a controversy which lasts for years and sometimes, even a lifetime and beyond. Listen to the words of this song:

BACK TO THE BLESSED OLD BIBLE

Back to the blessed old Bible;
Back to the city of God;
Back to the oneness of heaven;
Back where the faithful have trod;
Back from the land of confusion,
Passing the wrecks and the creeds;
Back to the light of the morning;
Jesus our captain leads.

Back to the blessed old Bible,
Saints of Jehovah, rejoice;
Jesus is calling his people
Back to the land of their choice.
Often our fathers have sought it
While we in Babel abode;
Now we have found the fair city—
Church of the living God.

Back to the blessed old Bible,
Leaving confusion and strife;
Fleeing from Babel to Zion,
Back to the joy of our life.
Over the mountains we wandered,
Looking in vain for the right;
Now in the evening we've found it—
Truth of the Gospel light.

Back to the blessed old Bible;
Back at the Master's call;
Back to the words of our Savior,
Loving, obeying them all;
Never in sects to be scattered,
Never again to do wrong;
Unity, holiness, heaven,
Ever shall be our song.

Now, if you will, bear with me for a moment and let me go back and pick up a few thoughts concerning this business of surveying. At the same time I would like for you to keep in mind this scripture in Prov. 22:28, "Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set."

It matters little how accurate and precise a surveyor may be. He may have the best instruments the profession affords. His study of math and trigonometry may have been polished in the schools of highest learning, but there is one thing required before he can proceed with his work and that is, he must find a landmark or stake or establish a starting point. This point is usually a pre-determined thing. He doesn't go and just set up a point of his own choosing and begin measuring off land across some field. If he did this there is a good possibility he might be confronted by an irate landowner carrying a shotgun. In fact this is not beyond the realm of possibility, even if he is beginning from a pre-determined point set up by the U. S. government!

With this thought established, let us proceed while keeping in mind, if I appear to be treading on enchanted territory, I do so by the authority of the scriptures, the Word of God. In 2 Tim. 2:19 we find these words: "Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity." The Father delegated to the Son of God, the power and wisdom to lay the foundation of His Church. "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." Isa. 28:16. So there is no need for us to try to run, or hide or get away from the truth. Let us approach it with awe and caution and reverence. This foundation is solid and fortified enduring forever.

There is a three-story building in our city having a date on it of 1893. I take it that this was the year of construction. Of late, there has been considerable interest in restoring some of these ancient buildings and much work and money is being spent in putting this building into like-new original condition. In other words, it is being restored to its original beautiful appearance. The brick has been sand-blasted and looks good. Windows are being replaced and the wood-work painted. There is a basement below being restored, with walls below the level of the sidewalk. But I have wondered about the foundation. How deep is it, how good, how strong? Evidently the renovaters believe it is good enough and strong enough to continue supporting this structure for it has for many years. Without a good foundation, it would be much wasted time and effort to polish the outside, then to have it crumble and fall into a pile of rubble!

Psalms 11:3 asks the question thus: "If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?" The fact is, there are some folks who would like to destroy the foundation, and remove the landmarks. In Job 24:2 we find this: "Some remove the landmarks; they violently take away flocks, and feed thereof." And yet, we are cautioned, "Remove not the old landmark; and enter not into the fields of the fatherless:" Proverbs 23:10.

The Israelites were given very definite

warnings concerning the landmarks. Listen: "Thou shalt not remove thy neighbour's landmark, which they of old time have set in thine inheritance, which thou shalt inherit in the land that the Lord thy God giveth thee to possess it." Deut. 19:14. And even more than this, there is a curse pronounced upon those who do: "Cursed be he that removeth his neighbour's landmark. And all the people shall say, Amen." Deut 27:17.

On the positive side of the ledger look at the blessings that come to those who obey and abide in the old paths: "Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk ye therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls." Jeremiah 6:16.

Now, having said all of this, let me go to the very core of this message. We are living in a world of changing styles and fashions. What was good for parents, is no longer considered to be the "normal" of our day. I am aware of many improvements which add to our standard of living, but at this point I am not particularly dealing with this issue. That which concerns me now is the moral issue of our day. At times certain decisions are made by the supreme court which are considered to be "landmark" decisions because they affect so many other cases. There are some moral and spiritual issues at stake which must not be removed if we would continue to enjoy the blessings and favor of the Lord. Let me enumerate a few things which I consider to be ancient landmarks for the saints:

No. 1--God's people are "called out" of confusion and sectarian movements. These man-made religious movements are referred to in the symbolic language of

Revelation as Babylon, and the voice from heaven says, "Come out of her, my people." It is not God's will that his saints be unequally yoked together with unbelievers.

No. 2--God's people are not of the world. This is plainly pointed out in the scriptures. The moral fibers of the world have fallen apart. Permissiveness is rampant. Sexual activity among many unmarried folks goes unrestrained and abortions are common. The issues of right and wrong are clouded and many don't seem to know the difference.

No. 3--God's people are humble folks. This includes all manner of conversation and conduct. In this age of pride and boasting, it means much to take the humble way of the cross and set an example, and firmly remain "unspotted from the world." God's ministers refrain from accepting titles as "doctor" and "reverend". I am shocked with amazement to see aged women, evidently seeking to appear young again, dressed in the gayest of fashions, including jewelry, short hair, pants and plenty of make-up paint!

Am I treading on uncharted ground? Do I intrude into your private affairs? Then let me just say that here I stand on these "ancient landmarks" and humbly request that those who believe otherwise come forth and prove by the Word of God that these things are not so!

No. 4--The Bible teaches the younger to respect the elder, this being a two-fold responsibility, one resting upon the young and the other resting upon the elder.

"Thou shalt rise up before the hoary head, and honour the face of the old

man, and fear thy God: I am the Lord." Lev. 19:32. The modern trend is so often the reverse. Many have failed in their example and are now subjected to robbery, beatings and killings.

No. 5--"The just shall live by faith", and this doesn't mean by political maneuvers to gain the wealth of the world. Need I say more? Then let us go back to the landmarks of the Bible.

Our Father, we humble ask that Thy Word may be honored and find receptive hearts who will hear and live!

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

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WAIT AWHILE

When the hours pass so slowly
As you wait on the relief,
And life's burdens seem so heavy,
And your heart is filled with grief.

Do not then become discouraged,
Neither give up in despair,
Just remember that the Saviour
Always hears and answers prayer.

Perhaps you have need of patience
And must wait a little while
Till the cloud of trouble passes
And the sun begins to smile.

Christ has said, "I will go with thee"
When thou pass through fire and flood
There shall nothing come upon thee
Only what is for thy good.

Sometimes we're tried as by fire,
Then again deep waters flow;
But remember Christ to follow,
Where he leadeth let us go--U Phillips

BLESSINGS IN DISGUISE!

How do you react to interruptions? Do you become irritated when interrupted in the midst of a demanding task or involved in a conversation? Sometimes one is made to realize later the interruption was a blessing in disguise. It was so with Moses when his life in Pharaoh's court was interrupted that he might become the great law-giver and the inspired leader of his people. It was so with Joseph as his shepherd life was interrupted by betrayal into slavery in a foreign court where he rose to power and was privileged to save his people. It was so with Jesus as He was frequently interrupted by the crowds and by individuals. The secret of handling our interruptions creatively is to make them into opportunities for greater service. Interruptions force us out of the old ruts of habit in thought and action. Oftentimes they bring us into the very presence of God and change our lives as Paul's life was changed along the Damascus road when his life as a persecutor of the Christians was interrupted and he was dramatically transformed into the great Christian missionary-apostle. Do not resent your interruptions--use them.

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PRAYER ANSWERED

A religious friend gave this explanation to Norman Allen, editor of the Floyd County Times at Prestonsburg, Ky., after being cited for driving 50 miles an hour in a 35-mile zone: "I had just bought a nice, new car and was driving along, thanking the Lord I was able to own such a nice car. And while I was doing this, paying no attention to speed and the surroundings, I also asked God to keep me from being proud. I asked Him to whittle me down to size and just that very moment the state trooper pulled me to the side of the road."
--Selected

Testimonies

From AR: "We send our love and a big thank you . . . It's so pretty, getting prettier every day. Even the birds are singing above the rumbling of the traffic on busy "62". All of this reminds us of the sure promises of God, as I see the trees taking shape after a dead state--alive again ready for duty--just to prove God's love. From "death to life He lifted me", and oh how necessary to take shape (as a Christian) or shape up and keep an honest heart. Bro. Harmon is giving us a series of lessons on the 'Path', illustrated on the black board. We really enjoy it." --Sis. Lou Bray

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Make Life a Little Sweeter

O let me shed a little light
On someone's path I pray;
I'd like to be a messenger
Of happiness today!

It may be just a phone call,
A smile or a prayer
Or long neglected letter
Would lift the edge of care.

I want to spread happiness
In what I say and do;
Make life a little sweeter
For someone else; don't you?

--Sel. by Grace Jones

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From CA: "When so many afflictions assail us, we know our Lord is close by. I like to read psalms 34:19, 'Many are the afflictions of the righteous; but the Lord delivereth him out of them all. I pray you both are well, also your loved ones.'" --Helen Carson

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God often comforts us, not by changing the circumstances of our lives, but by changing our attitude towards them.

From CA: "I feel led of the Lord to give my testimony, how the Lord has blessed me. I am yet saved and mean to go on. I want to tell how the Lord blessed my grand-daughters and me on last year. We were on our way to Okla. City. My grand-daughter was driving and all of a sudden I saw her make a strange move to the shoulder. I asked her what was the matter. She answered, 'I don't know.' So here was how the Lord blessed us. We were near a gas station so she pulled in to it which was in Sayer, Okla., it being Sunday afternoon. The Lord blessed us to get a mechanic. He looked at the car and said, 'Do you know you are about to lose a wheel?' Oh, I praised the Lord. It could have happened at night or on the desert, but we were blessed to stay all night in Sayer. I need your prayers." --Sis. Katie Gaines

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From OK: "Greetings in the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Redeemer. The Lord gave a precious tent meeting here at Fairview. Thank the Lord our God for the saints that came to work for the Lord. The God of love bless them abundantly. 'O Give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.' Psa. 107:1. Also I am happy to hear the broadcast. It encourages our hearts the Bible way."

--Sister Eva Penner

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From WA: "We are thankful to be saved, chankful for Jesus and His shed blood that cleanses us from all sin. He came into the world to save sinners. We are thankful for the stripes He took upon His back for the healing of our bodies. I had some trouble with my eyes for about 2 months during the first part of this year, and thank the Lord, He healed them. We surely do appreciate His goodness to us. Christian love,"

--Sister Violet Thomas

"Think on These Things"

Our actions are sure to spell out something to others that will influence them either for good or evil. It is impossible to live without exerting an influence. We will either lead souls toward God, or away from him; toward heaven, or toward perdition.

Each of us has a work to do in this great harvest of souls. If we can not all be preachers, and give the people sermons, we can help the preachers whom God has called to this work. Also, we can all find something to do in speaking to others.

No earthly will can be of force until the death of the testator. The will that God made toward man, in his Son, was brought into effect by the death of Christ. When we will ourselves to God in the perfect consecration, it takes our death (to self) to bring the will into force.

The Word of God is the seed that produces life, but it takes the Holy Spirit to put the life into the seed, which, when it finds its way into the heart, produces salvation. It is only in the Holy Spirit that we can be of any spiritual benefit to the world or to the church. We can be an elder in the body of Christ, the Church, only when we can fill this sacred office in the power of the Holy Spirit.

All the efforts of man in himself or in the flesh, to do any spiritual good are vain, and they will surely be so manifested among the saints. There is no confidence to be placed in the flesh--the natural man. It will surely cause us to be a sad failure. How necessary it is, then, that we seek continually to walk in the Spirit, so we always can have a spiritual influence over others for their good.

If we are spiritual, we are sure to be a blessing to others about us in some way, even though for the time we are not appreciated. The time will come when those who have rejected us may seek for us, that they may obtain some of the good which they have seen in us.

If we are spiritual we are always victorious, although everything on the outside may look dark. We have a source of joy and light that can not be cut off by the clouds of earthly sorrow. If we are spiritual we are always happy, for our joy and peace is in believing, and when the world looks sad and we may fall into many temptations, we can, by faith, count it all joy.

If we are spiritual the trials of life are at our feet and our head is up above everything that may befall us. We can, over the greatest difficulty see all the promises that secure to us the victory. If we are spiritual, we will be able to detect the devices of the enemy as they are presented to us. The Holy Spirit in us knows the enemy, and will teach us the things that are spiritually discerned.

We can not make the Word of God any sharper than it is. And we must not try to take off the keen edge, for if we do, it will be of no value at all, and we will only help to deceive others as well as ourselves.

at press time

we understand:

• [WEDDINGS] •

CONGRATULATIONS and best wishes to each of the following couples as they plan and experience the joy of marriage:

Hubert Corteway and Elizabeth Forbes on May 26, Guthrie, OK.

Dwight Bock and Kim Kelley on June 22, Fairview, OK.

Herschel Eck and Jeanne Busbee on June 23, Guthrie, OK.

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1985 GRADUATES!

We received an announcement that Glenetta Lynn Inman was graduating from High School in Lee's Summit, MO. To her and all the other graduates from both high school and college, some from Christian Schools and some from public schools, we offer our congratulations and wish for them the richest blessings of the Lord as they begin their new assignments in life. We pray for all!

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CONGRATULATIONS to Sis. Milly Smith on her birthday of June 10. She will be 103. Her eyesight is almost gone and hearing is very difficult, but at times her mind is quite alert, especially in remembering the years of the past. She no longer makes it out to the meeting house there, but on a recent visit with her in the rest home in Anthony, KS, I discerned the keen interest she had for the saints to come to the rest home for Sunday School or meeting!

From OK: "This morning I was starting to write a letter and went to look on the calendar for the date and had not turned over April's page, so at the top of the page was this verse: '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.' This surely was encouraging to me. Thank you very much for the calendar. Also I enjoy the Mission Trail. Pray for me that I stay in God's divine order at all times." --Sis. Eva Hardman

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Sister Mary Bush, of Hammond, LA has been very sick, but is praising the Lord and is slowly improving. Continue to pray for her.

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From OR: "We plan to go to the Orland camp meeting which starts the 22 of May and lasts thru the 26th. It won't be long until the campmeeting in Jefferson." --Sis. Lucille Trimble

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The campmeeting season is upon us again. Oklahoma meeting begins here in Guthrie May 31st and continues over two Sundays. Monark, July 19-28. Many others are scheduled throughout the summer. We wish for each reader happiness and traveling mercy. And thanks to all who remember to help us keep the messages going forth by radio and print. We are dependent on the Lord and the support of those who have a love for the truth. Be sure to send your articles or testimonies for print by the 15th of each month!



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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