



*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

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THE MISSION TRAIL

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## A STUDY OF THE CHARACTER OF PETER.

Broadcast for August 25, 1985

"He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep. John 21:17.

Good morning to each and every listener of the broadcast. I am so very happy to be coming your way with some of the Word of the Lord. I have chosen to discuss the life of the apostle Peter. I believe our love for the Lord can be strengthened by looking at this wonderful character. He had his moments of weakness in the flesh but the Spirit gave him plenty of grace to overcome the flesh. This he did! Consider:

Some people seem to think that Peter was a cowardly man, and one who made somewhat of a failure in life, but this is not so. Although he was weak in the flesh, yet he was strong and determined in the Spirit. Here lay the foundation of his success. When he failed in the flesh, his courageous determined spirit revived him at heart and caused him to take courage and continue in the faith. Many a good person, through his own weakness falls beneath the standard of his purpose for a season, but still retains a deep love and reverence toward God. Peter was one of this sort, and though he made many blunders, mistakes, and failures, yet he made a wonderful success of life, and sealed his testimony by his death.

We first learn of Peter as a fisherman on the sea of Galilee. Jesus walking by one day called him, and immediately Peter forsook all and followed him. Not long after this he allowed an act which showed himself to be quite an impulsive man. This weakness, though quite prevalent in the human race nearly always leads its occupant into forwardness, which usually results in shame, and shame brings discouragement. Peter was in a boat with the disciples, and seeing Jesus walking upon the water he became anxious to do likewise. This act could only be performed by faith. However Jesus at Peter's request called him, and he started. He walked for a short distance, then became fearful, and doubting, he began to sink. Immediately he called upon Jesus to save him. Jesus put forth his hand and caught him, and said unto him, "O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?" The other disciples also saw and heard all this. However, Peter does not seem to be discouraged yet, but rather continues in good hope and faith.

Not long afterwards Jesus was teaching his disciples and some of them said,

"This is an hard saying, who can hear it? . . . From that time many of his disciples went back and walked no more with him." Jesus said to the twelve, "Will ye also go away?" It was Peter who answered, "Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God." John 6:66. Here is a wonderful thing--a truth which makes the apostle even stronger than his human weakness. He knows now that there is but one way and one faith. Doubtless, he concluded that if he makes a failure of this he makes a failure of all; so, taking heed to the words of the Master he counts the cost. He decides that if by his human weakness he should err from the truth or fall by the wayside, there is but one thing to do, simply to retrace his steps and continue in his faith; for there was but one way by which he can hope to enter into life eternal, and he knows that it is he who endures unto the end that shall be saved.

Another time Jesus was addressing a company of people, telling them he must suffer many things of the elders, chief priests, and scribes, and finally be killed. But Peter, being rather forward, rebuked him saying, "It shall not be so unto thee." But Jesus turned and said unto him, "Get thee behind me, Satan: for thou art an offense unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men." Matt. 16:23. What a strong rebuke this poor man received so soon after he had forsaken all to follow his Master! He no doubt thought he knew better than the Lord, and that those things would not be. But now before all he is put to shame and told by his Master that he is an offense unto him. However, it seems that even this did not discourage

Peter. Perhaps he thought within himself, "If the Lord will only bear with me in this thing, I'll prove my love and wisdom in the future." So on he goes with good courage.

Now after this Jesus took with him Peter, James and John, and led them up into a high mountain apart by themselves: and he was transfigured before them. And there appeared unto them Elias with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. And Peter answered and said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here: and let us make three tabernacles, one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias. For he wist not what to say; for they were sore afraid." Here again the apostle shows himself weak, for most men when they know not what to say know enough to say nothing even as did the other apostles. However, Peter's natural disposition and manner often ruled and brought him to shame, yet not to discouragement.

Not long after this when Jesus was teaching his disciples he said to them, "Verily I say unto you that a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven." Then Peter answered and said, "Behold we have forsaken all and followed thee, what shall we have therefore?" Here already is another manifestation of the apostle's human disposition. He makes himself more forward than any other of the disciples, though he is only an ignorant and unlearned man. His inquisitiveness seems to give him no rest until he knows all the whys and wherefores about matters. About this time it appears that Jesus recognized the weakness of Peter's humanity, and realized that Satan would try him on many lines because of this, so he called him and said unto him, "Simon, behold Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as



wheat: but I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not." Luke 22:31. Surely this was consolation to poor Peter who already had made so many blunders.

About that same time Jesus said to his disciples, "All ye shall be offended because of me this night, for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered abroad." Peter answered, "Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended." Jesus said to him, "Verily I say unto thee, that this night before the cock crow thou shalt deny me thrice." Then came the soldiers and laid hands upon Jesus, and took him. And Peter stretched out his hand and drew his sword, striking a servant of the high priest's, and cut off his ear. This was an impulsive, carnal act which displeased the Lord, so he reproved Peter in the presence of all the people, and told him to put up his sword. Matt. 26:52. Doubtless this experience brought some degree of discouragement and shame to the apostle, but still he plods along, realizing that this experience is making him wise. He is learning that in many ways a man's hindrances and discouragements come not directly from the enemy as one might suppose, but rather through his own human weakness.

When Jesus was led away Peter followed him unto the high priest's palace, and went in and sat with the servants to see the end. He is putting forth a bold effort to fulfill his testimony to his Master that he would follow him even unto death. Soon they began to persecute Jesus and to falsely accuse and ridicule him. They smote him with the palms of their hands and spoke all manner of evil against him. Poor Peter saw all this and courage failed him.

When one said unto him, "Thou also wast with Jesus of Galilee," he denied it. Soon another said, "This fellow was also with Jesus of Nazareth," and again he denied saying, "I do not know the man." After a while others came and each said, "Surely thou also art one of them; for thy speech bewrayeth thee. Then began he to curse and to swear, saying, I know not the man. And immediately the cock crew. And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. Then his heart was filled with great sorrow because of the miserable failure he had made. Already the word of his testimony was broken. But still at heart, he loved his Master. Doubtless, he remembered that shortly before this he had been warned by Jesus to pray lest he should fall into temptation; but instead of praying, he had fallen asleep. Oh, if he had only prayed! Perhaps he then remembered that Jesus had said, "I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not." What wonderful words of comfort. Must he then fail in this great test? No, his tender heart of true love for the Master was broken up, and when he could stand it no longer he went out and wept bitterly. (See Matt. 26).

However, about this time Christ was crucified and those were dark days of disappointment for all the disciples. In Luke 24 we find that according to the scriptures Christ rose from the grave on the third day, and one of the disciples to whom he revealed himself was Peter. It seems that Jesus, in his great mercy and compassion, looked upon Peter as one who at heart had dearly loved him all the time, but through weakness and fear was driven to deny him, even contrary to his own convictions. At heart Peter really loved the

## Testimonies

"For thou shalt be his witness unto all men of what thou hast seen and heard."

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From GA: "Greeting Bro. and Sister Murphey, This leaves me about the same, still trusting in God every day. I trust all of you at publishing place and abroad are doing nicely."

--Bro. Friendly Green

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From OK: "Today still leaves me saved and thanking the Lord for the many many blessings He blesses me with. The Lord gave me a safe trip to visit my family in Calif. and back - - - I'm not feeling well in body. Remember me in your prayers." --Sister Mary Brown

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From MO: "Greeting in Jesus name. I enjoy the Mission Trail very much. We cannot get you on radio except on certain days when the air is just right. We are still on the Lord's side. He has always been so good to us. We wish each one could know the Lord in free pardon of sin to enjoy this life and in the life after death. I find the Lord sweeter every day and am determined to go all the way with the Lord. Yours with prayers," --Art and Linda Johnston

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From CA: "Greetings dear saints in the name of Jesus. I thank God for saving and sanctifying me. I am still saved and have a greater desire to praise and serve God. I thank you for the lovely calendar, and in July's paper there is a poem, called 'Service'. I thank the Lord for it. It seems it was sent to and meant for me. I can read it and be so uplifted. Because it seems I am not doing enough for Him. I desire your prayers for me, in my preparation here, for my long home with my Lord. May God richly bless you both in this ministry." --Sister Ezella Gant

From KS: "How I appreciate your messages. I get them in bed, so comforting; strength, courage to press on to the mark. Our spiritual need is greater today than ever. It is alarming how so many are choosing to be entertained by the world in place of walking in the light. It seems we are in such a mad rush today, no time to stop and realize where we are. How precious is God's Word. A little gift."

--C. M. Waller

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From WA: "We sure do thank the Lord for salvation. Like the song says, 'He is with me still.' Thank the Lord. We were privileged to attend the Jefferson campmeeting in June. The messages were all good for our soul. We just finished reading 'Pilgrim's Progress' for the fourth time over the years. It sure behooves us to be more careful of everything we say or do. The Word says whether we eat or drink do all to the glory of God." --Sister Violet Thomas

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From KS: "I just want to thank you for your message on the air every Sunday morning. You can sure get a lot into a fifteen minute broadcast. Keep the good work going. In Christian love,"

--J. E. (Joe) Estopy

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From OK: "Greetings in Christ Jesus our Redeemer. I am happy to know love in Christ Jesus. Thank you for the Mission Trail letter. God bless the work of God in Jesus name. I am sorry but my cassette recorder does not play Coffeyville so I miss the message on Sunday mornings now. '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. God bless you in the work of God. Pray for us and the beloved."

--Sister Eva Penner



From AR: "This has been a lovely day, precious service this morning with a fair attendance. The good rains we've had has brought things back to life. It's been warm, but who has suffered? I'm still encouraged and thankful for another wonderful campmeeting. God has manifested his love and mercy to us in every way, every day. Schools will soon be beginning and children are getting anxious. It means new clothes, books and things, maybe new cars, motor bikes and the like. Time travels on. However the picture changes as some move out; new ones moving in. The destiny depends on the choosing. Let me be more and more like Christ. I feel to truly work to this end and need your prayers. God is rich in mercy and his love is great. To see our loved ones change would mean so much. At the most, we can cast our bread upon the waters. Well, thank you for each radio program and the Mission Trail paper. The Lord bless and reward in abundance." --Sis. Alalue Bray

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From CA: "We are glad we can say we still have the victory in our souls altho the enemy tries hard to discourage us. We are so glad that the power of God is so much stronger than his that he leaves the battle every time. Praise the Lord."--Bro. and Sis. Huskey

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From TX: "These few lines leaves me still saved and sanctified. pressing my way to the glory world. I can't sleep much at night. I need your prayers. My mouth is bitter every morning when I wake. I was sorry to hear of Bro. Carver's leaving us. Our loss surely is heaven's gain - - - I can't preach but maybe I'll help get the word to some hungry soul. I sure hope so any way. Pray for us to have a meeting here - - - Christian love,"

--Sister Nellie Lovell

From MO: "We are so thankful for His love and mercy to us. We surely desire to be faithful to live a consistent life and keep on a even plane and be out 'utmost for Him.' I think often of Florence Nightengale's saying, 'The night is given us to take breath - - - to drink deeply at the fountain of power. The day, to use the strength which has been given us to go forth to work with it till the evening.' We surely desire to hear those blessed words, 'Well done.' - - - Love,"

--The Glen Inmans

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From AR: "Greetings of love to all in Jesus name. I love him so much and have the desire to please him and continue on to the end of the race. I got to go to the Myrtle camp meeting and really enjoyed every service. There were lots of good singing and preaching. It was wonderful to go \* \* \* Pray for all of us down here. I have a special request for prayer. The Lord has helped me greatly. I went up for prayer at the meeting. I have been so happy this evening reading and singing here alone. \* \* \*"

--Sister Nellie West

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From WV: "I enjoyed the meeting at Monark. I was so strengthened in my soul. I had faced some severe battles in the past year and so many precious lessons were learned. The messages I heard at Monark blessed me in a special way this year. Surely the Lord knows just what we need."--Sis. Nancy Wagoner

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"Dear Saints of God, I would appreciate your prayers. I am looking to God to keep the victory over sin, flesh and the devil. He is a cunning enemy of truth going about to deceive souls and hinder the good work of God. Our God is the victor. Holding fast to the end,"

--Sis. Julia Llewellyn

## *"Think on These Things"*

### OUR TREASURES

Why does God want our treasures? Because he wants our hearts. "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

God demanded Abraham's treasure, knowing that if Abraham gave it up willingly, he would withhold nothing else. When the test came, the good old patriarch proved that he loved God above all else; he was willing to obey God in the face of every loss. This was all that God wanted. When perfect obedience was rendered, the treasure was spared. In Abraham's heart sacrifice was made and after this, his son was only loaned to him.

Nothing among our possessions is so valuable that God can not do without it; all the earth is his, and he has gold and silver, and all the wealth of the universe. He is not dependent on anything that we have. Not so much that he needs us and what we have, but that we need him and what he has. It is our hearts that need to be placed in the keeping of his power, so that he can come into them, and dwell there.

Our spiritual being must be prepared for God's dwelling-place. God wants to manifest the Christ-character to this dark world, so that men can see Christ in us. Within ourselves there is no power that can resist the enemy of our soul; we are too weak to grapple with the forces of sin all around us; we must necessarily have the indwelling God.

As long as we keep our hearts upon our earthly treasures, our affections are divided, and God can not possess us as he would. In that consecration of our hearts, where all our treasures are yielded to God, to be his forevermore, he comes in to take full possession, to rule and guide our lives according to his will, to be our protection against the powers of the enemy. Then we are safe in this life. Then he takes care of the treasures yielded up to him. We are still permitted to enjoy them, but they are no more our own.

In this precious state of grace, we do not feel that we have lost anything, for he has given us himself in exchange. He is of many times more value to us than anything that we may have yielded up for him. We have given him our all. He has accepted our offering and has come into our hearts to dwell there. We give him our all, he comes in and gives us his all; and where he is, there is no lack.

"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory." Col. 3:1-4. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field. Matt. 13:44.



# at press time

we understand:

## FULFILLMENT OF CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

### DREAM COMES TRUE!

After months of much work and great expense final preparations are being made for the opening of the 1985-86 school term of the Path of Life Christian School in the new two-story steel building erected on the Church of God grounds south of Guthrie. At press time plumbing is being rushed to completion and a new water well has been drilled. An enrollment of more than thirty students is expected. Facilities will provide rooms for science, typing, home economics, kindergarten class, intermediate class as well as space for library and offices and a large learning center room. Those who would like to contribute toward the expenses of the daily operations of the school may send their offerings to Path of Life School, Mary Murphey, Treas., 1210 W. Noble, Guthrie, Okla. 73044.

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### SOMETHING NEW HAS BEEN ADDED!

It's a grand daughter to the Murphey family! Congratulation to the parents, Willie and Neta Murphey on the birth of their daughter, Elizabeth Dawn, on Aug. 16th. She weighed six pounds and two ounces. Both sets of grand parents liked her!

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From Ok: "I am still looking for the return of our Lord, expecting Him any time, for we see so many of the signs being fulfilled each day - - - I still enjoy the Mission Trail. I'll be 93 next month, feel good, still do a lot of work for the needy." --Minnie Adcock

## BOLEY CAMPMEETING

We were pleased to attend the opening service of the Boley, OK campmeeting. It was a joy to share in the fellowship of the saints. The noon meal and hospitality was outstanding.

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WICHITA Autumn meeting begins Sept 13.

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CONGRATULATIONS and best wishes to Tracey Pruitt and Ruth Williams, who have announced their plans for marriage on August 31st. We wish them great and lasting happiness.

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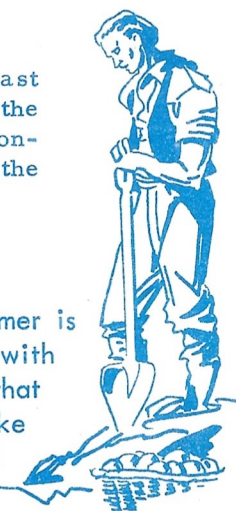
## ONE YEAR TO LIVE

If I had but one year to live;  
 One year to help; one year to give;  
 One year to love; one year to bless;  
 One year of better things to stress;  
 One year to sing; one year to smile;  
 To brighten earth a little while;  
 One year to sing my Maker's praise;  
 One year to fill with work my days;  
 One year to strive for a reward  
 When I should stand before my Lord,  
 I think that I would spend each day,  
 In just the very self-same way  
 That I do now. For from afar  
 The call may come to cross the bar  
 At any time, and I must be  
 Prepared to meet eternity.  
 So if I have a year to live,  
 Or just one day in which to give  
 A pleasant smile, a helping hand,  
 A mind that tries to understand  
 A fellow-creature when in need,  
 'Tis one with me, --I take no heed;  
 But try to live each day He sends  
 To serve my gracious Master's ends.



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  
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690 kc.

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