



The Mission Trail

GUTHRIE, OKLAHOMA

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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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. . . It is indeed a great pleasure to be back with those who listen to radio station XEG of Monterrey, Mexico. This is THE MISSION TRAIL Broadcast of Guthrie, Oklahoma, and, of course, Willie Murphey coming to you once again for our Friday evening visit. It seems that the days are swiftly passing by and before long now Christmas will be here and then shortly thereafter, the year of 1965 will be gone forever.

We certainly hope that each of you are well and enjoying the blessings of the Lord. We also hope that each of you may redeem the time which we have remaining to work for eternal souls and that we may make the best use of all the time which we have available on our hands.

Please notice now a scripture in Matthew, chapter 20 and beginning at verse one. I quote: "For the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which went out early in the morning to hire labourers into his vineyard. And when he had agreed with the labourers for a penny a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And he went out about the third hour, and saw others standing idle in the marketplace, And he said unto them; Go ye also into the vineyard, and whatsoever is right I will give you. And they went their way. Again he went out about the sixth and ninth hour, and did likewise. And about the eleventh hour he went out, and found others standing idle, and saith unto them,

WHY STAND YE HERE ALL THE DAY IDLE?"

Here is this parable of the labourers in the vineyard, we see clearly the conditions existing in the world today. In fact, even in the temporal work which many have to do, they find it very difficult to obtain those who are willing and ready to work with their hands. Yet all the while, there are those who claim to be looking for work, and yet they are unwilling to accept the job which is offered to them.

Now let me offer a suggestion here that what more able-bodied men and women need is not an offer for others to supply their needs without them turn-

ing a hand, But what they need is a desire great enough to cause them to accept a job of work and to be busy in helping to supply the needs of themselves and of their families. Now, of course, I am only speaking of those who are able to work. This would not include those who may be sick or unable to hold a job.

Now take a look at this scripture in Proverbs, chapter 24 and beginning with verse 30: "I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding; And, lo, it was all grown over with thorns, and

nettles had covered the face thereof, and the stone wall thereof was broken down. Then I saw and considered it well: I looked upon it, and received instruction. Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: So shall thy poverty come."

We see then that one may have accumulated a little inheritance and have a nice home with a garden spot and many of the conveniences of life, but if these things are neglected, it will not be long before the roof on the home is leaking, the plumbing is faulty, the grass needs cutting, and the weeds are taking the vegetable garden. Then the stone wall begins to tumble down and before long the general state of affairs is one of neglect.

Now if this be true in the natural, how much more is it true in the spiritual. Notice once again as we quote this scripture beginning at verse 32. I quote: "Then I saw, and considered it well: I looked upon it and received instruction. Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: So shall thy poverty come."

Even as these things bring forth a lesson which we should observe, we should also consider how true this is in the spiritual realm. A little neglecting of your soul, and you will find it drifting too far from the deep spiritual things of God. Then again a little neglecting of the Lord's work, and you will find yourself careless and drifting with the tides of the world.

But now let us go back to our original text and consider it well. I quote once again: "Why stand ye here all the day idle?"

Today as never before, we should make the firm decision that we will not be slothful; we will not be careless, we

will not be neglectful about the most important things of life and that is to care for our souls and the souls of many others who are perishing around us on every hand.

For those who labour in the great kingdom of God, there is a reward offered. It is not a reward of materialistic gain. It is not a reward of the fame of the world. It is not a reward for the praise of men, but it is a solemn promise from the throne of the eternal God of heaven.

And to better illustrate, let me use the words of the Apostle Paul when he said in II Timothy 4:7 and 8, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but to all them that love his appearing." For this reward we continue our work for God with the expectation that heaven will surely be worth it all.

Here is Kathleen with a poem for you.

Whatever Is Right, He Will Pay
by Bro. Byron R. Wittenborn

Why stand ye here idle, all day?
Go ye! Into the vineyard, right away.
The grapes spoil on the vine, ere they
can be tread into wine;
For the laborers are so few, and there
is so much to do.
Now, whatever is right, He will pay.

Go ye! Out on a mountain today.
Bring back that poor sheep gone astray.
It's out there in the cold, away from
the fold;
But the shepherds are so few, and there
is so much to do,
Now, whatever is right, He will pay.

Oh! Lift up your eyes to behold,
 The ripe grain all turned to gold.
 With heads bending down, it falls to
 the ground;
 But the reapers are so few, and there
 is so much to do.
 Now, whatever is right, He will pay.

Oh! Pray ye the Lord of the harvest
 To send laborers into the field.
 For reapers are much needed, to
 gather in the yield.
 Oh! the laborers are so few, and there
 is so much to do.
 Now, whatever is right, He will pay.

Why stand ye here idle all day
 When there remains so much to be
 done?
 Haste ye! gather in the harvest before
 the setting of the sun;
 Oh! the laborers are so few, and there
 is so much to do.
 Now, whatever is right, He will pay.

Thank you, Kathleen, for the poem
 by Bro. Wittenborn. We are grateful
 for the interest Bro. Barney and his
 wife, Virginia, have in the missionary
 work in Mexico.

Speaking of Mexico, listen now to
 Sister Edith Cole as she tells of how
 God has been blessing them in their ef-
 fort there.

Sister Cole: "We've really been en-
 couraged in the work of the Lord here.
 It seems like we've had our battles; ups
 and downs, but the Lord has blessed us
 and we have victory today. We're
 grateful for that."

Now, suppose we listen to a part of
 one of the Spanish services as it was
 being conducted in the little newly built
 chapel.

Listen to the reading of the scrip-
 ture from Matthew 22. Here is re-

corded the parable of the marriage
 feast and the man who came in without
 the wedding garment.

Verse fourteen in Spanish sounds
 like this:

"Porque muchos son llamados y po-
 cos escogidos."

Now let us listen to this verse once
 again in Spanish as Kathleen reads it
 and gives us the interpretation in Eng-
 lish.

Kathleen: "Porque muchos son lla-
 mados y pocos escogidos" which in
 English is "For many are called, but
 few are chosen."

Yes, think of it, friends, "Many are
 called, but few are chosen." Could it
 be that there are those who have not
 heard this call because we failed to do
 our part in sending forth the invitation?

Listen now as Sister Carrie Sheperd
 said this about the work in Mexico.

Sister Sheperd: "You know, people
 come from different communities here
 to pick cotton, and we're glad to have
 new people in services on Sunday."

But once more now hear these final
 words from these devoted and faithful
 workers in the gospel.

Sister Cole: "We with you will be
 workers together in his vineyard, but
 maybe by our feeble efforts as He
 blesses us, we'll be a blessing in this
 life that souls might be brought in to
 the kingdom of God. We can truly say
 that we love you each and every one
 with Christian love, and may God bless
 each and every one of you. Lord bless
 you, Bye."

Let us spend a moment in prayer.

Our Father,

We thank thee that you have brought a revelation to your church and to your people and caused them to realize the great responsibility to be up and doing the father's will while it is day. Bless all those who have their spiritual ears opened to hear the call of God, and may thy work continue to grow and prosper for we ask it in Jesus' name. Amen

Listen to Bro. and Sister Stover

assisted by others as they sang "He Will Not Fail Me Now".

This message has been brought to you by THE MISSION TRAIL of Guthrie, Oklahoma. If you would like to have a copy of today's message in print, you may have one free of charge by sending your request. Until next Friday night at 11:00, this is Willie Murphey saying may God's richest blessings be yours and a very pleasant goodnight!

MISSIONARY REPORT

NIGERIA

The trip to Nigeria was the trip of a lifetime for us. In fact it was beyond our expectations. We found a very sweet, friendly people not far removed from heathenism. The newly converted ones, even while, we were there, were having idol burnings. We were privileged to visit in 17 Church of God congregations where we were given welcoming ceremonies and gifts of fruit, baskets, vegetables, and always a rooster. This was quite a sacrifice for these people who have so little. We feel that the church is quite encouraged because of our coming. People were getting saved and sanctified and there were some wonderful healings while we were there. They are fully trusting the Lord. Our visa was up on Sat. Oct. 16 and we left on that day. The next day was Sun. A crowd of over 700 met at the headquarters meeting where Bro. B. U. Etuk lives nearby. Over 600 observed the Lord's Supper and 117 were baptized. We feel that this is the result of the prayers of the church in America for that work there. Bro. Jackson Etuk who had 52 congregations took his stand with us and will bring all of his people, he says. Over at Benin City, Cecil baptized 19 members of the Church of God there, from the pastor on down.

--May Carver

INDIA

This trip to India was because a 40th anniversary edition of the Faith and Victory paper fell into the hands of a man who was unhappy with the religious movement with which he was affiliated. The brother does not know who gave him this paper, but it came at an opportune time. There is much ferment among the sectarian people of India. Many feel the modernistic churches are losing their sincerity. Sincere people are coming out and taking a stand for the real gospel. The time seems ripe for the gathering together into one of many who yearn for a closer walk with God and a church who is standing and upholding the truth. I thank the Lord for the opportunity I had for stepping in and visiting at this particular time. I feel that there were 35 or 40 ministers with their congregations forming a nucleus which God will be able to use for the advancement of the cause of Christ. There is much missionary work to be done yet. Let us pray that God will use and qualify and send other laborers into this ripe field.

I desire to express my appreciation for all those who so faithfully prayed for the success of our trip. The effect of your prayers were felt by us wherever we were.

--Cecil Carver

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SECTION

by Kathleen and Patsy

This past week I have been meditating upon this verse in I Thes. 5:24. "Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it."

My thoughts have been turned to how this verse goes with us from the day we are saved until the day we shall all sing praises together before our God.

When we come to the realization that we have sinned and done wrong in the sight of God, then this verse will be with us. For God has called all men to repentance. In Rev. 22:17 he extended the invitation to be saved to "whosoever will." This invitation included the whole world and God is faithful to all men and "also will do it". So let us come before God with this assurance that he will save us from all sin.

Then as day by day we live for God, we begin to feel a need for something greater, something to give us a stronger power. God has been faithful to show us what we need in I Thes. 4:3. "For this is the will of God, even your sanctification." It is at this point where we so often hesitate, for we have already been saved from all sin. Therefore, what will this sanctification do for us? Let us first consider what the word "sanctification" means. In Webster it says, "To set apart as sacred or holy; to dedicate to religion." Therefore when God sanctifies us, we wholly dedicate ourselves to God to fulfill whatever His will for us may be. Then God will thoroughly cleanse us and send the Holy Spirit into our hearts that we may be endowed with power from on high. As the Holy Spirit lives within us, he makes clear to us what God's plan for our life is and teaches us more about how we should live for God. So let us no longer hesitate here, but let us ded-

icate ourselves and all we are or hope to be to God, knowing that he is faithful and "also will do it".

As we live for God, the devil is going to do all he can to stop us, but when the trials are hard, and we seem to be in the place that Job was, trials on every hand, no encouragement anywhere, God seems to have forsaken us, but then Job said, "But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold." Job 23:10. And remember that our God who has so faithfully lead

still with us and when He sees that it is time, then will He give us the victory, and we will be able to sing, "Faithful is he that calleth" us.

As we remember our verse and keep pressing on for God, one day we shall be able to say with the Apostle Paul, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day." II Timothy 4:7-8

Don Johnson has written a letter, a part of which we would like to share with you.

"Praise the Lord! I thank the Lord that I am saved, sanctified, and encouraged to live for the Lord. I thank Him for the victory He gives me over the powers of the enemy. I am very grateful for the prayers of everyone down there sent up in my behalf. Surely the Lord won't give us anything that we're not able to bear but will "with the temptation make a way of escape." Many times the devil has brought me very low, but the Lord is always faithful to keep me from discouragement. I still desire your prayers that I will continue to do the Lord's will and be faithful unto the end."

--Don Johnson

AT PRESS TIME WE UNDERSTAND THAT:

The saints have had much work to do in recent days in preparing and making arrangements for the coming assembly meeting in Guthrie which begins Friday, Christmas Eve, Dec. 24. Help has been given by several congregations from other cities in painting benches, cleaning floors, and painting in dining hall and restrooms. Considerable work yet remains to be done, and it is hoped that this can be accomplished before the meeting begins.

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Sis. Maude Christ of Fallis, Okla. recently fell and injured her right arm and shoulder. Frances and I with Sis. Marie Miles visited and prayed with her. She seems much improved. She is looking to the Lord for her complete healing as she has for many years. No doubt, many of the old-time saints will remember her and will recall how faithful she has been to attend the meetings. Her daughter, Mildred, and her husband live with her and are giving her the best of care. She is 87 years old and upon our last visit was much encouraged in the Lord. No doubt, she would be glad to receive your letter of encouragement. Her address is Maude Christ, Route 1, Box 164, Fallis, Oklahoma.

BULLETIN--Our hearts were saddened by the death of our Bro. Clark (Jr) Porter Dec. 2, 1965.
BULLETIN--"I am here at Sapulpa congregation for meeting this week."--Bro. Herbert Probst.

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GUTHRIE, OKLA. 73044

Return Requested

The California assembly meeting begins at the Pacoima campgrounds Friday, Dec. 24. A welcome is extended to those who live in this area to come if possible and enjoy the rich spiritual blessings from God. For further information contact the pastor, Bro. Ostis B. Wilson, 12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, California.

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A recent letter from Oregon had this to say of the assembly meeting there-- "Bro. Trotter preached such a good message Sunday. I know I missed a good feast. Maybe someday I can be closer to meeting. Please do remember us daily when you pray. I do love the dear Lord and want my life to always be lived for Him." R. Hutchinson

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In a letter just received from Bro. Pat Cole he had this to say: "I was talking to Bro. Roberts, and he said Bro. Barton's throat is all right now, and he can talk. But Sis. Barton has been real sick and almost had pneumonia. They sure need our prayers. We had our all-day meeting today, and the saints from Webb City, Springfield, Tulsa, and Kansas City were here and a houseful. The word went forth in power . . ."

Your brother, Pat Cole

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