



# 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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. . . A very warm and hearty new year greeting to all who are tuned to radio station XEG. This is THE MISSION TRAIL broadcast of Guthrie, Oklahoma and Willie Murphey coming to you once again for our weekly visit. We hope that each of you are well and happy to begin this new year with a firm decision to spend it in the service of God.

It will soon be a full year since we began our first broadcast on XEG. To those who have helped with their prayers and offerings to send this message forth, may we personally say a very hearty thank you. Only time and eternity will reveal the full results of our labors of love. Surely we appreciate those who have stood by with their support. And we are hoping that this new year of 1966 will bring yet a greater harvest of souls as we lift up our eyes and look on the fields.

Today I would like for us to consider the fact that we are the stewards of God, and that we should make good use of our

## TALENTS.

"For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey." Matthew 25:14,15

In this scripture we see the liberality of God and how that he so freely gives to each one talents and abilities which he desires to be used for his glory. No doubt, there are some listening to my voice at this moment who are enriched with gifts and talents which make them capable of understanding and accomplishing many things in this life. There are some who have spent many years going to school and learning trades and earning college degrees,

and they are well fitted to make decisions and choices which they meet day by day. Then there are others whose abilities are limited. Their opportunities in life have been very few. Their chances for success do not rate very high. Sometimes poverty or sickness or misfortune overtakes them, and it seems that their accomplishments in this world are barely enough to be recognized by their fellow men.

But here is the thing which I want you to know. God has left the care and keeping of his gifts and treasures in our care. To some he has given many talents; to others only a few, and to some, perhaps, not more than one: but regardless of the number of our talents, we must remember that they are loaned to us to be used. Whether we have



many talents or few, yet, we shall be held responsible for the disposition we make of them.

Think how much more responsible one is who is well educated and so capable of meeting the problems of life. One might be prone to think that these accomplishments are all his own, but this is not true. If you have accomplished anything in life, it is only because God gave you the ability to do so. This should be recognized and acknowledged. To disregard the giver of all good gifts is presumptuous and will cause one to think and become self-sufficient. This only leads to disaster.

But on the other hand, when we are aware of the fact that every good gift and every perfect gift is from above and cometh down from the father of lights, with whom is no variableness neither shadow of turning, then we become even more capable to carry out the purpose and plan of God in our lives. And as we put to good use our talents, they will increase more and more. This is true whether we have one talent or five.

We received a Christmas card this past year which had a beautiful painting of three candles burning brightly on the front of the card and on the back of this same card the following printing was found. "This greeting card is the reproduction of an original oil painting by Richard Bauer, a polio victim paralyzed from the neck down. With heroic determination this completely self-taught young artist trained himself to paint with a brush held between his teeth. His work has won enviable fine arts awards."

Think of it, friends, a man who was paralyzed and could not use his hands or his legs, yet through practice and experience he painted a beautiful pic-

ture which has won the admiration of many of those familiar with fine arts. Look how limited was his ability, and how great were his handicaps, nevertheless he put his talent to use and came forth with a masterpiece.

Or we might well remember Helen Keller who was born in 1880, and recall the fact that because of scarlet fever, she was deprived of both sight and hearing at 19 months of age. And yet she was not without talent, for through her perseverance, she has never ceased to amaze the world by learning to speak and using her talents to make contributions which will long be remembered by those who knew Helen Keller. One of her books is entitled, "Let Us Have Faith".

Then, too, we should not forget Frances Jane Crosby, the famous hymn writer. At the tender age of 6 weeks she lost her eyesight. But do you think she was willing to leave her talents undeveloped? Most certainly not, for she became the author of such noted hymns as "Pass Me Not, O Gentle Saviour", "I Am Thine, O Lord", and "Safe in the Arms of Jesus". These songs have been sung around the world because she used her talent.

And though she was blind to the natural things of beauty in this world, I am sure, she was not near-sighted when it comes to seeing the beauty of the things of God, for it was she who wrote that long-to-be-remembered verse which says, "visions of rapture now burst on my sight".

Now let us take a look into this 25th chapter of Matthew and go a little further. In the 21st verse we find these words: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things."

To hear these words spoken at the end of the journey of life will bring a thrill of joy to every weary pilgrim who has been true and put their talents to use.

But take another look, here was one man who came up with this explanation of how he had used his talents: "I was afraid and went and hid thy talent in the earth." His ability was very limited, and he was unable to accomplish much so he just failed to do anything with his talent. He laid it aside to rust out without use.

We certainly hope that there are none listening to this broadcast who will have these words for their testimony or excuse as to why they have not done more to see that the gospel has been spread into every land, and that all may have an opportunity to hear the good news.

May the Lord help us throughout this new year to do what we can to put our talents to use and to accomplish something for the Lord in whatever way He may give us to do it.

Here is Kathleen with a poem.

#### BE THE BEST OF WHATEVER YOU ARE

If you can't be a pine on the top of the hill,  
Be a scrub in the valley, but be  
The best little scrub at the side of the rill.  
Be a bush if you can't be a tree.

We can't all be captains, we've got to be  
crew,  
There's something for all of us here;  
There's big work to do and there's lesser to do,  
And the task we must do is the near.

If you can't be a highway, then just be a trail,  
If you can't be the sun, be a star;  
It isn't by the size that you win or fail--  
Be the best of whatever you are.

Now, let us pause as we lift our hearts to God in prayer.

Our Father,

We pray that the words of the message may go forth to accomplish that good purpose which is in the order of Thine own will. Help us each one to put our talents to full use for thy cause throughout this new year, for we ask it in Jesus' name. Amen

Here then is a song written by Frances Jane Crosby. She is better known as Fanny J. Crosby. It is sung by Bobby Forbes, Dorrall Forbes, Randal Flynn, and Melvin Doolittle. The title of this song is "Tell Me the Story of Jesus".

This message has been brought to you by THE MISSION TRAIL of Guthrie, Oklahoma. If you would like to have a printed copy of today's message, we shall be happy to send you one free of charge upon your request. Until next Friday night at 11:00, this is Willie Murphey wishing you each and everyone the very best new year which you have ever had, and a very pleasant goodnight!

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#### YOUNG PEOPLE'S SECTION

by Kathleen and Patsy

"I am so glad we can send victory greetings to all our friends and loved ones. We are surely having some battles, but I am claiming the victory as he has promised us. I have felt the devil's pressure so great of late, but it's only a sign of more needed grace and so I am digging . . . I wasted many years. But in a couple of weeks I will be celebrating my first anniversary back at home with the Father. You pray for me that God help me and give me needed strength when these "battles of reaping" come. Love, Doris Joiner"

"We are more than conquerors."



"PRECIOUS IN THE SIGHT OF THE LORD IS THE DEATH OF HIS SAINTS." -Psa. 116:15

In the early morning hours of Jan. 4, 1966, we stood by the bedside of Sis. Maude Christ as she made her departure to be with the Lord. She was 87 years old and has lived a devoted life of service to God for 51 years. She was well known to many saints. Her passing left a vacant spot which will not be easily filled.

### DEAR MOTHER

(Dedicated by Ernest Christ to his mother.)

Dear Mother of you I am thinking  
As I write you a verse or two  
Thanking you for the encouragement  
In teaching us the things we should do.

Thanks for the songs of Jesus  
As you united the family there,  
With prayer for the entire family  
As we knelt together in prayer.

You pointed us to Christ Jesus  
Our Saviour, Shepherd, and King,  
Who is always ready to forgive  
If we have failed in anything.

Those prayers have always been with me  
As we travel the world unknown  
And if we are really true to Jesus  
We're sure to make Heaven our Home.

Then when we meet Jesus  
And all the loved ones we know  
Oh! It will be most glorious, Then  
You and Dad can say "I told you so!"



Sis. Maude Christ, March 1964

The scripture which says: "She hath done what she could" certainly seems applicable to Sis. Christ, for she put into practice her faith.

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Dear Saints at Guthrie and abroad, We want to thank each and everyone for the many prayers that ascended to our Heavenly Father in behalf of our beloved mother, Maude Christ, during her late illness. We are so thankful for the relief she received after each session of prayer. Also for the many labors of love which was so tenderly and lovingly extended to her during her late illness.

--The family of Maude Christ

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