



The Mission Trail

BOX 101

Guthrie, Okla. 73044

Willie C. Murphey • Frances E. Murphey • Kathleen E. Murphey • Patsy M. Murphey

"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 pleasant greeting once again to all the listeners of radio station XEG. This is THE MISSION TRAIL broadcast of Guthrie, Oklahoma coming to you with another gospel message. My name is Willie Murphey. We hope that each of you are well in both soul and body and that God has been supplying all your needs according to his riches in glory.

We are indeed thankful for the privilege of having a part in the great work of God. We would like for our new listeners to know that we print this weekly message and we are glad to send it to you each week free of charge if you will write us and let us know of your interest in receiving it. We appreciate the response and cooperation of the Lord's people in helping us to spread the gospel both by radio and by printed copies.

Here is a verse of scripture which I believe we would do well to set up as a standard for our lives. It is found in I Corinthians, chapter 12 and verse 31. "But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you

A MORE EXCELLENT WAY."

In this 12th chapter of I Corinthians the apostle has given some good instructions regarding the gifts of the Lord's church. He mentioned how that there were apostles, prophets, teachers, miracles, gifts of healing, helps, and so forth. Now all of these things help us to make up the one body of Christ which is his church in the world today. Then the apostle mentions the more excellent way. In the 13th chapter of I Corinthians he speaks of charity or, we might say, divine love which make all of these gifts in His church operate smoothly.

I am reminded of an automobile which has many delicate and accurately fitted parts in it. Each part is necessary and has a particular purpose to

perform. But one thing is a must in this highly complicated and well engineered car. It must have a good supply of oil if the parts are to operate freely and smoothly. The oil serves as a lubricant and prevents friction to a great extent. Without its use a well engineered car would soon amount to a very little more than a pile of rubbish by the roadside. The engine would be in smoke and the driver might be seen leaving his car endeavoring to hitch hike to the next station for help.

Even so, for God's people to be successful and operate smoothly as a working unit, they must use the "more excellent way" which is the divine love of God in their hearts one for another. Without it all the other gifts of the spirit

will not be effectual in accomplishing the service which God has designed for His people.

Listen as I read to you a few of the characteristics of divine love. I will begin in I Corinthians, chapter 13 and verse 4. It says: "Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit."

Friends, doesn't this sound to you like it would be an excellent way. Now I don't mean that because you love someone you would never reprove them or correct them. This is not true love anyway. Parents who fail to instruct and correct their children in the proper way to go often find to their own sorrow and disappointment, the child goes astray and brings many sorrows to their hearts.

God loves his people, but because of his love for them, he is faithful to warn and chastise every son whom he receiveth. However, just as God has a purpose and motive for his chastisement, even so, we should have a reason and a constructive purpose when we point out to another his faults.

Listen to this little poem entitled:

CRITICISM

To criticize is easy
As you pass along life's road.
It is easy to condemn and sneer
When another bears the load.
But if you know an easier way,
Then lend a helping hand;
Do not let a worker sweat

While you criticize and stand.
To criticize is easy
As you pass along life's road;
But a better and a nobler way
Is to help to bear the load.

In other words, to better explain it, we might put it this way: There is such a thing as constructive criticism. By constructive criticism I mean as we point out in another a fault or an error, we should be able to show them how they could improve their lives to become a more useful vessel for the Lord. It is our duty to show them a "more excellent way". First, I believe that we can do this by example.

Let us be the one to first show by our own lives the way that our brother should live. That within itself is an inspiration to another as they see the pattern so plainly laid before them. If we are unable to show them a better way, then I am of the opinion that we are not in a good position to offer criticism. Therefore, such criticism might be termed as destructive criticism. This type of criticism often proves very harmful and detrimental to one's welfare and spiritual life.

Consider the scripture reading from Colossians, chapter 3 and beginning with verse 12. It says: "Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long-suffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful." Then by all means we should remember this verse from I Corinthians 16:14. It says, "Let all things be done with charity."

I would like for you to consider the thoughts expressed in:

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- If a child lives with criticism, he learns to condemn.
- If a child lives with hostility, he learns to fight.
- If a child lives with fear, he learns to be apprehensive.
- If a child lives with pity, he learns to feel sorry for himself.
- If a child lives with jealousy, he learns to hate.
- If a child lives with encouragement, he learns to be confident.
- If a child lives with praise, he learns to be appreciative.
- If a child lives with acceptance, he learns to love.
- If a child lives with recognition, he learns to have a goal.
- If a child lives with fairness, he learns justice.
- If a child lives with honesty, he learns what truth is.

Friends, in malice and criticism let us be children, but in understanding let us be strong men of God as the body of Christ, ready to shoulder the responsibility and carry the gospel unto the ends of the world.

Surely this is the need of our land. We need more men and women who are willing to face the realities of life, accepting the challenge which God has given that we should carry the gospel unto every nation in the world. Let us be faithful as we see before us the task which is to be done. Shall we spend a moment in prayer?

Our Father,

We are indeed glad that a "more excellent way" has been provided for each of thy people to live. Help us to be so filled with the divine love of God

that we will rise above carnal strife and harsh criticism which drive men away from the greatest treasure--the gift of salvation which has been made possible for all to enjoy. Bless each one who hears the broadcast tonight and supply every need both temporal and spiritual for those who are seeking the "more excellent way" for we ask it in the name of Christ our Saviour. Amen

Here now is a song, "He Is Walking By My Side" as sung by the Carver quartet.

This message has been brought to you by THE MISSION TRAIL of Guthrie, Oklahoma. If you would like a printed copy free of charge, you may have one by simply sending us your request. And now until next Friday night at 10:45 this is Willie Murphey saying may God's richest blessings be yours and a very pleasant goodnight!

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From Louisiana: "Dear Bro. Willie, Sis. Frances, and family, Greetings in the name of our dear Saviour who has done so much for us. . . I do enjoy The Mission Trail and find much encouragement in it. The message in the September 30 issue was especially good. Surely we should realize that God's mercy has protected us from many dangers. At this time I want to thank each one who joined us in prayer for my dear daughter-in-law, Ruby who was so very ill this past summer. After the doctors giving us so little hope for her recovery, she is very much improved and back home from the hospital with her husband and three darling little boys. Thank the Lord. I am so thankful for God's mercy, and that God can work where no man can hinder. Truly prayer changes things, praise his name forever. . . I need your prayers. Yours in Christian love,"

--Sister Ada Short

AT PRESS TIME WE UNDERSTAND THAT:

From Mexico: "We are thankful to the Lord that we have a small part in seeking out His flock here in Mexico. Every once in a while we are privileged to see some found and into God's fold.

--James Huskey and family

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It is sometimes interesting to know that the gospel seeds which we sow often find lodging in hearts, even in the far-flung corners of the earth. A few lines from a letter we recently received has caused us to realize this even greater. This letter from Louisiana stated in part: "Bro. Willie, when you preached here on Sun. I took down your scriptures and sent them with a brief outline of your message when I wrote to our Nigerian minister as I often send him portions of our messages. He wrote back that he had used them to preach his Sun. message and said what a blessing they were to him and his people. In speaking of them, he wrote: 'In the contents of your letter I felt refreshed in life in serving the Lord in truth and holiness. In short the letter is rather too interesting to me. Thanks!' So you see your message reached out further than you expected. . . . Love & prayers," --Bro. Ben Goldsberry, Sis. Sybil and girls.

We regret that Sister Frances Perkins had an automobile accident this week while returning from Kentucky in her Volkswagen. The car was almost completely demolished and Frances suffered a broken collar bone. Remember her when you pray as it is reported that she was still suffering pain.

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From Arkansas: "Dear Bro. and Sis. Murphey, I just want you to know I do enjoy The Mission Trail, and I am still enjoying the blessings of the Lord, more and more all the time. I get to testify for the Lord, and it really does me good. I got to go to church and testify and am still eating good food. . . Do remember me in prayer in body. I am a lot better but expect to be much better. I always need prayer. . . Your sister in Christ,"

--Ruth Scalf

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If you have some news of interest to the Lord's people and would like it published in The Mission Trail, please see that your letter reaches us not later than Tuesday each week in order for us to print it in the following Friday edition. Many have expressed their interest in this column, and we are now mailing more than one thousand copies each week.

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