



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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... We're happy to be coming to the listeners of radio station XEG once again with the gospel message. We hope that all of you are well and enjoying the blessings of the Lord during this holiday season. This broadcast is brought to you each week by THE MISSION TRAIL of Guthrie, Oklahoma. My name is Willie Murphey.

If you live within driving distance of Guthrie, Oklahoma, plan to come and enjoy the assembly meeting with us which begins today. We are expecting a large number to attend these services which will last through Sunday, January 1. This would be an excellent way to spend the Christmas holidays.

We extend our personal and heartfelt thanks to those who have made it possible for us to continue this work for the Lord throughout the year. We feel deeply indebted to God and His people for those who have taken a keen interest in our efforts to publish His word. As we approach the new year let us dedicate ourselves to the task before us of spreading the true gospel throughout the world. God is counting on all of us to be faithful.

Listen now as I read you this scripture from Revelation, chapter 3 and verse 20.

"BEHOLD, I STAND AT THE DOOR, AND KNOCK:

if any man hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."

I like the thought expressed in this verse that Christ is ever-present and standing at the door of every heart knocking for admittance. Even though this verse was written many years ago it is still appropriate even in our day. But let us go back to the birth of our Saviour and notice the very humble manner in which he entered the world.

In St. Luke, chapter 2, I will begin reading with verse 4. "And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the

city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David;) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her first born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn."

I wonder upon how many doors Joseph knocked before he finally found the stable in which they spent the night. I wonder what were the reasons given to him by the inn keepers and how they

must have felt when they told him there was no room for them in the inn. O, I realize that there were many strangers in the city of Bethlehem at this season of the year. They were there to pay their taxes and, no doubt, the streets were crowded.

But I wonder what might have been their reaction had they known that God in his infinite wisdom had chosen their city on that night for Christ to come into the world. Do you suppose that, had they known it was Mary, the mother of Jesus, the promised Messiah, whom they were turning away from their door, that they would have made some provisions for her admittance into the inn where she might have been sheltered from the night air?

Well, perhaps this is true. They might have made provisions had they known the importance of the events which were to take place in Bethlehem on this night which was of so great importance. But the fact is, they did not know the times and the seasons of their day. Even so, it is also true that today many are turning away the spirit and power of God which will bring peace and satisfaction into the hearts of those who will open the door to the spirit's knocking.

Listen once again to the text, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock." It is highly possible that there are some hearing this broadcast tonight who can feel the pleading of God's spirit. It is indeed good news of peace on earth and good will toward men which hear the gospel message.

Surely, if we only knew the times and the seasons which the Father has placed in our hands, we would realize the importance of our day, and, no doubt, it would stir our hearts to be up and about our Master's business even

more than we have ever been in the past. Now listen to this poem:

FEAR NOT

While shepherds watched their flocks
by night,
All seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around.

"Fear not," said he, for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled mind;
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind.

"To you, in David's town, this day
Is born, of David's line,
A saviour, who is Christ the Lord,
And this shall be the sign:

"The heavenly Babe you there shall find,
To human view displayed.
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
And in a manger laid."

Thus spake the seraph, and forthwith
Appeared a shining throng
Of angels, praising God, and thus
Addressed their joyful song:

"All glory be to God on high,
And to the earth be peace;
Good will, henceforth, from heaven to
men,
Begin and never cease."

--Selected

In thinking along this line of a door to be opened I am reminded of this verse in I Corinthians, 16:9. It says: "For a great door and effectual is open unto me, and there are many adversaries."

Just as the gospel knocks upon the door of the hearts of men and women, even so, I believe that we should also be seeking doors by which we may enter with the gospel message. Here

the apostle stated that a great door was open unto him, but there were many adversaries. We are surrounded with opportunities on every hand which we may use to witness for Christ. Are we entering these doors which are open unto us continually?

We are indeed happy to be using this open door of radio by which we proclaim the saving grace of our Lord. If there was ever a time when we needed to do this, it is now. We ask you to pray with us that we may be effectual in turning the hearts of many from darkness to light.

Listen to this prayer request which the Apostle Paul made in Colossians, chapter 4 and verse 3. He said, "Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds."

Friends, God is counting on us to enter these open doors with His word. Let us ask ourselves the solemn question, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" Then as we answer it honestly, let us be willing to arise and enter the doors which are open before us praying that Christ may give us utterance to speak his word boldly. Let us spend a moment in prayer.

Our Father,

We open our heart's door to thee with the invitation for thee to come into our lives and control us and lead us continually in the paths of righteousness. Then, we pray that you would open other doors which have been closed to the gospel message of thy word. Move upon hearts that we may all take advantage of the open doors before us and thine shall be the praise for we ask it in the name of Christ our Saviour. Amen

Friends, if you have enjoyed the message today, we would be most pleased to hear from you. Also if you would like to have your name added to our weekly mailing list to receive the printed copies, you may have it added to our list without cost or obligation on your part. Simply address us this way: THE MISSION TRAIL, Guthrie, Oklahoma.

Listen now to the song "Never Ending Joy" as sung by Bobby Forbes, Randall Flynn, Dale Doolittle, and Melvin Doolittle.

Be sure to be listening for THE MISSION TRAIL next Friday night at 10:45. Until then, this is Willie Murphey saying, may God's richest blessings be yours and a very pleasant goodnight!

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GOOD NEWS

Midst Judah's hills one starry night
To a little shepherd throng,
From heaven's portals angels came
To sing their lovely song.

Good news, glad tidings, and great joy
The angel did proclaim;
For unto you a child is born,
And "Jesus" is his name.

You'll find him wrapped in swaddling
clothes,
Laid in a manger low.
And to the town of Bethlehem
The shepherds then did go.

Inspired by that heavenly song
That rang throughout the hills
Of "Glory be to God on high"
And "Peace on earth, Good will".

Let men of every race and tongue
Help keep the music rolling;
Of "Peace on earth, good will to men".
The Saviour's name extolling.

--Ulysses Phillips

AT PRESS TIME WE UNDERSTAND THAT:

Our hearts were filled to overflowing last Sunday after the services in the little congregation in Anthony, Kansas when they presented us a lovely basket of canned fruits, vegetables, and meat. This token of love is much appreciated.

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The response to our request that each reader return to us the coupon containing their name and address has been good. Some have sent offerings for the work of the Lord which we appreciate. However, others have felt that they were not financially prepared to send a contribution. Let us be quick to assure you that this is perfectly all right if you do not send any offering. We want you to return the coupon anyway if you desire to remain on our mailing list for 1967.

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The assembly meeting begins here in Guthrie today.

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From Oklahoma: ". . . We enjoy your little paper so much. . . I can see a little better. Pray for me."

--W. W. Crawley and wife

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From La.: "We had a good day in the Lord last Sun. at the all day services in Shreveport." Ben & Sybil Goldsberry

From Arkansas: ". . . We had a wonderful service Sunday. Bro. Abbott preached in the afternoon. . . . I am thinking of the wonderful meeting you'll soon be in, in Guthrie. At least remember us in prayer. . ."

--Sister Lou Bray

--o--

From Ohio: "Dear Ones, We greet you in the lovely name of Jesus today. So appreciative of our privileges in the Lord--to live and work for Him. Bro. and Sis. (Curtis) Williams were in our morning service today and he is improving in health. We thank the Lord for this."--Bro. & Sis. Gordon Humphrey

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From Missouri: ". . . though we have had to be at home much, our desire is as keen as ever to go forth in the Master's service to reach the isolated and those in need of spiritual help for soul or body. . ."--Darius & Evelyn Gibson

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From Arkansas: ". . . I heard your program over XEG on a Fri. night, 10:45 p.m. and enjoyed it. Please send me your paper and sermons in print. God bless you--I hope to hear you again. . . Keep up the good work till our dear Lord calls."

--Mrs. Clara Wright

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