



Gospel Broadcasting and Publishing

The Mission Trail

Box 99

Guthrie, Okla. 73044

Willie C. Murphey • Frances E. Murphey •

"LIFT UP YOUR EYES, AND LOOK ON THE FIELDS; FOR THEY ARE WHITE ALREADY TO HARVEST." — JOHN 4:35

VOL. 14, NO. 2

THE MISSION TRAIL

FEBRUARY, 1978

"Hold Fast"

Radio Broadcast for January 15, 1978

Good morning, friends, and I still say a Happy New year to you! The thrust of my message today is based on the scripture: "But that which ye have already hold fast till I come." Rev. 2:25. It is important that each one stand by their God-given convictions and hold fast to the Lord. Listen:

The book of the new year is opened;
Its pages are spotless and new;
And so, as each leaflet is turning,
Dear children, beware what you do!

Let never a bad thought be cherished;
Keep the tongue from a whisper of guile
And see that your faces are windows,
Through which a sweet spirit shall smile.

And weave for your souls the fair garments
Of honor and beauty and truth,
Which will still with a glory enfold you
When faded the spell of your youth.

And now with the new book endeavor
To write its white pages with care:
Each day is a leaflet, remember,
That is written, then turned--beware!

And if on a page you discover
At evening a blot or a scrawl,
Kneel quickly and ask the dear Savior
In mercy to cover it all.

So when the strange book shall be finished,
And clasped by the angel so tight,
You may feel, though the work be imperfect,
You have earnestly tried for the right.

And think how the years are the stairway
On which you must climb to the skies;
And strive that your standing be higher
As each one away from you flies.



First, let us discuss and consider well the result of those who begin in this Christian life and fail to hold fast. And then I would like to do whatever is possible to encourage everyone to take deeper root and really get a firm hold on the things of God. Listen to the warning to the Church of Sardis:

"Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God. Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee." Rev. 3:2-3.

The scenes along the pathway of a careless and sinful life when viewed in the light of eternity present a dark picture, sketch the scene where you may. As we look and behold the awful wickedness throughout the world, we almost shudder to think of the horrifying sight a picture of the future will bring to those who have lost out with God, or who have never attempted to serve Him. Pen cannot adequately describe it; the artist cannot sketch it fully and tongue cannot express the depths of the wailing among the lost throughout eternity in the infernal regions from whence there is no returning.

Someone might say, "Why picture it so dark? Have some sympathy for the poor souls; God is not so unjust as to serve people in that way." Such expressions may be given by those who are on that road and are not willing to follow the ways of the Lord. But God makes the way to heaven so plain, and sends conviction to the heart of every sinner, showing the error of his ways; shows him the penalty of a life of disobedience; points him to the Savior of the world; marks out the way and leaves it for the sinner to choose which course to take. It is a matter of choice of he chooses the downward road of sin, and that road if followed will land his soul in the torments of hell. It is a well known fact that people generally do not like to hear much about hell-fire any more. But it is better to hear about it

now, and heed a faithful warning, than to have to spend all eternity in its never ceasing flames.

Many of the prominent and popular folks of today are trying to do away with hell altogether, and try to console the people by preaching smooth falsehoods that there is no future punishment, or that there will be a time when all people, nations and tongues will accept the Lord and enjoy heaven; or that God is too good to inflict any future punishment upon evil doers. Such preachers will suffer the same fate as those who follow their teaching. They may be "holding fast", but it is to something that will not endure the judgment shock. Listen:

"So are the paths of all that forget God; and the hypocrite's hope shall perish: Whose hope shall be cut off, and whose trust shall be a spider's web. He shall lean upon his house, but it shall not stand: he shall hold it fast, but it shall not endure." Job 8:13-14.

There are great numbers of preachers and professing Christians who will be greatly surprised when they are called before the great Judge to give an account of their pilgrimage here below. Matt. 7:21-23 says: "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

We dare not take preachers for our guide, because they may lead us astray. The Word of God is our guide, and Christ our example, and wherein preachers or

professors of Christianity fail to measure to the Bible standard, we should not follow them. We should only follow preachers as they follow Christ. But the things that will ease the guilty conscience and cover sin are more readily accepted today by the masses of people rather than the truth of the gospel. The Word of God is plain, and it is true, and blessed are they who obey it and walk in its statutes.

Listen to this warning coupled with a promise: "Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown. Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name." Rev. 3:11-12.

Now, if you have accepted the Lord and are willing to go His way, you may be sure there will be grace to keep and guide you. The enemy is busy these days telling folks that the way is too narrow, that it is impossible to live the life of a saint. He suggests that there are no saints any more in this world, that all of them have passed over and gone on to be with the Lord. But I declare unto you that God has some saints right here in this life as well as those over on the other side waiting the coming of all God's family! So don't be discouraged. You can live it by the grace of God. Consider this: "But Christ as a son over his house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end." Heb. 3:6. And another:

"Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens,

Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in the time of need." Heb. 4:14-16.

And still another in Hebrews: "And having an high priest over the house of God; Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:" Heb. 10:21-24.

Listen to the apostle Paul amidst the suffering of the cross and the persecutions: "...nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day. Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us." 2 Tim. 1:12-14.

Dear ones, I am persuaded that God is not only able to keep but that He will keep and deliver those who hold fast to his promises. I am reminded of the incident "Christian" experienced in "Pilgrim's Progress". I quote: "Now, when he was got up to the top of the hill, there came two men running a main: the name of the one was Timorous, and the other Mistrust; to whom Christian said, "Sirs, what's the matter? You run the

wrong way." Timorous answered that they were going to the City of Zion, and had got up that difficult place: "but," said he, "the farther we go, the more danger we meet with; therefore we turned, and are going back again." "Yes," said Mistrust, "for just before us lie a couple of lions in the way, whether sleeping or waking we know not; and we could not think if we came within reach, but they would presently pull us in pieces." Christian: Then said Christian, "You make me afraid; but whither shall I fly to be safe? If I go back to my own country, that is prepared for fire and brimstone, and I shall certainly perish there; if I can get to the Celestial City, I am sure to be in safety there: I must venture. To go back is nothing but death; to go forward is fear of death, and life everlasting beyond it. I will yet go forward." End of quote.

But the fact was, when Christian came to the lions he found they were chained. How true in this spiritual battle is that illustration. The things which we fear are only for a trial of our faith. So let me leave with you this final scripture:

"Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. Quench not the Spirit. Despise not prophesyings. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil. And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it." 1 Thess. 5:16-24.

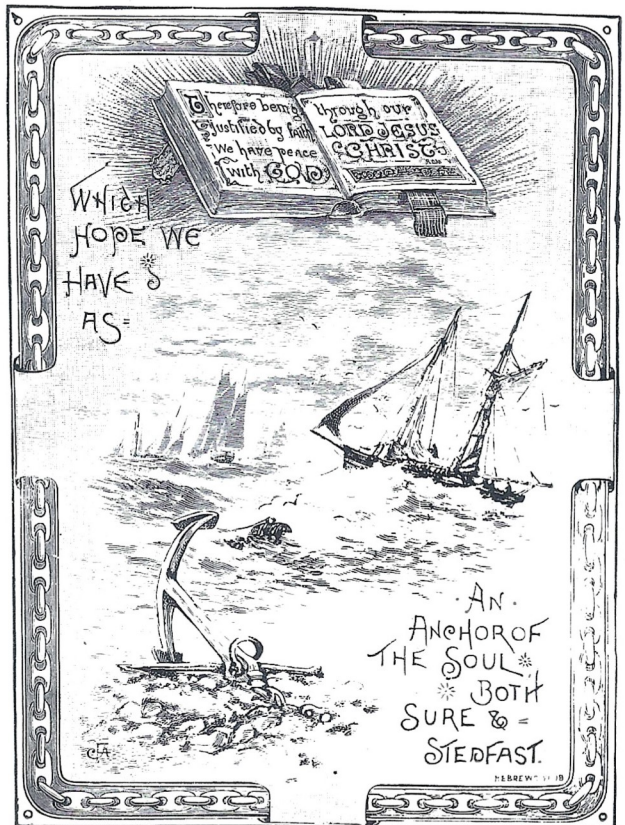
Our Father, we thank thee for this new year! We thank thee for deliverance from sin and the peace which we have

found in Christ. As the message goes out over the air waves, we pray it may prove a blessing to all the listeners. Cause the unsaved to consider and turn before it is too late and especially, we pray for the saved. May they hold fast, whatever the cost and be faithful until death and thine shall be the praise and glory through Christ. Amen.

A heart-felt thanks to all who make this broadcast possible. And so, until we meet again, this is Willie Murphey, saying God bless and keep you throughout the months and years ahead and a very cheerful goodbye!

--o--

Hebrews 6:18--"That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us..."



Testimonies

From Tenn.: "Trust you are both well and rejoicing in the good work of the Lord you are doing. We surely do enjoy reading the little Mission Trail... we can't get you on the radio. We so look forward to receiving it, and hardly ever lay it down until we read it through. I delight in the good sermons. I also enjoy the poems and good testimonies from all the different ones. Please keep me on your mailing list as I don't want to miss a paper... pray for me that I will take on new strength and courage and be just what God would have me to be. I feel so faint... at times. It is so hard to be isolated away from any one who teaches the Bible as you see it... I love the dear people of God."

--Sis. L. C. Rogers

--o--

From Texas: "Greetings in the blessed name of our Savior and Lord, who loved us enough to die that we might live and have that wonderful joy unspeakable and full of glory flowing deep in our souls. I'm so thankful to God for giving his only begotten son and also for him coming willingly and suffered for us, and may God give us the love and care for lost souls that we will be willing to go always with him at any cost that other souls might be saved and experience this wonderful love and joy unspeakable and full of glory. I got the Mission Trail and was fixing to go hoe and rake the dead grass from around my plum tree so when it was burned off it wouldn't hurt my tree. I could hardly lay the Mission Trail down... but I said to myself If I ever start to read it, I won't quit till I finish it. It was so pretty and warm I needed out in the fresh air for a while so I laid it down and went on. I came back and read it through before I quit."

--Sis. Nellie Lovell

STEP BY STEP

He does not lead me year by year,
Nor even day by day,
But step by step my path unfolds;
My Lord directs my way.
Tomorrow's plans I do not know,
I only know this minute;
But He will say, "This is the way,
By faith now walk ye in it."
And I am glad that it is so.
Today's enough to bear
And when tomorrow comes, His grace
Shall far exceed its care.
What need to worry then or fret?
The God who gave His Son
Holds all my moments in His hand
And gives them one by one.

--Sel. by Grace Jones

--o--

From Okla.: "Another year is gone and the year of 1978 is on its way marching right along. When I look back over the year of 1977 and think I wonder if I have done all I could for lost souls in this old sin-cursed world we are living in. I surely want to be an example as I go through this life. Jesus is our example. Surely I want to follow in His steps and do all I can for lost souls. We are only going through this world one time and only what we do for Christ will last."

--Sis. Emma Dilley

--o--

From Pa.: "I am so glad and thankful for God's great love and mercy to me, and the many times he came to my rescue. I can never thank him enough for them all: That we have this wonderful privilege of prayer given to us, knowing prayer changes things. That we can worship undisturbed and unmolested. It is truly wonderful. We know we have a very determined foe or devil, therefore we need a settled determination to resist him in the name of Jesus... Life is so very serious and weighty. Please continue to pray for me and all of us."

--Sis. Cora Slifer

From Okla.: "Greetings in the precious name of Jesus. He is one on whom we can always depend, no matter if in adversities or in calm. He has promised to never leave or forsake us and his promises are true. He has never failed me and I certainly don't want to fail him. I am truly thankful I can go to him any time day or night and his ears are always opened to our cry. I praise his dear name everywhere I go. My desire is to always please him... Your sister in Christ," --Sis. Mattie Simpson

--o--

From Miss.: "Hope you and yours are well and still serving and working for our Lord. We need to all be ready for I believe His coming is near. When I stood by the bedside of my brother in law, while he was leaving us, I thought what a sad goodbye for us, but how happy for him. He had suffered so much and left us so easy. He looked so peaceful, not a struggle or a pain that we could tell. It made my going less dreaded when He comes for me. I just hope I can go as easy as he did. There is so much trouble and heartache in the world I'm made to think of the prayer that we find in David's psalms: "Be merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me: for my soul trusteth in thee: yea, in the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge, until these calamities be overpast. I will cry unto God most high; unto God that performeth all things for me." Psa. 57:1-2.

--Sis. Grace Gill

--o--

From Kansas: "I feel real good today, in soul and body. However, I was real sick several times during the past 3 weeks. Thank God for the nice weather the past month or so. Every day brings us closer to spring and also closer to eternity. The fight of faith will be over a lot sooner than we realize."

--Bro. Homer W. Fee

SONG OF THE DECANTER.

There was an old decanter,
and its mouth was gaping
wide; the rosy wine
had ebbed away
and left
its crystal
side;
and the wind
went humming,
humming;
up and
down the
sides it flew,
and through the
reed-like
hollow neck
the wildest notes it
blew. I placed it in the
window, where the blast was
blowing free, and fancied that its
pale mouth sang the queerest strains
to me. "They tell me — puny conquerors! — the Plague has slain his ten,
and War his hundred thousands of the
very best of men; but I" — 'twas thus
the bottle spoke — "but I have conquered
more than all your famous conquerors,
so feared and famed of yore.
Then come, ye youths and maidens —
come drink from out my cup, the beverage
that dulls the brain and burns
the spirit up; that puts to shame
the conquerors that slay their
scores below, for this has deluged
millions with the lava
tide of woe. Though in the
path of battle, darkest
waves of blood may roll,
yet while I killed the body
I have damned the very
soul. The cholera, the
sword, such ruin never
wrought, as I, in mirth or
malice, on the innocent have
brought. And still I breathe
upon them, and they shrink
before my breath; and year
by year my thousands tread
THE TERRIBLE ROAD TO DEATH."

"Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder." Prov. 23:31-32.

at press time

we understand:



Bro. and Sis. Oscar Wall

Congratulations to Bro. and Sis. Oscar Wall who will observe their 50th wedding anniversary Sunday, Feb. 12th from 2 p.m. till 5 p.m. with open house at the Northeast Oklahoma Electric Bldg. east of Vinita. Their mailing address: Route 1, Box 265B, Vinita, Okla. 74301

--o--

First Sunday all-day meeting is to be held at Myrtle, Mo. on February 5th. Next month on March 5th it is to be at Senath, Mo. All are welcome. Bro. Donald Sharp, pastor at Myrtle.

--o--

It is with deep sorrow we announce the death of Bro. A. W. Marken on Jan. 8. He had suffered much over the long period of his sickness. It is a comfort to know he was at peace with God. Sis. Marken, his companion preceded him in death Sept. 25, 1975. Remember in this time of sorrow their daughters Wilma Harris and Ruby Marken, Route 1, Twin Falls, Idaho 83301.

--o--

Special prayer is requested for Brother and Sister Ralph Sell, of Neosho, Mo.

We want to take this opportunity to thank you and all the dear ones who remembered us on our Golden Wedding anniversary with beautiful cards and good wishes. It meant so much to us. We do thank God for giving us this long life together and we desire the remainder of our life be spent for his glory."

--Bro. & Sis. E. A. Loftis

--o--

From Okla.: "Greetings, with thanksgiving to the Lord. He has spared our lives to start a new year, that we might pray more earnestly for lost souls, and that we will draw closer each day to him... We hope you all had a precious assembly meeting. I could not be there in person. Although I longed to be, my heart was there in prayer for every need to be supplied and traveling mercies for those going and coming. The Lord did bless with good weather for the Christmas holiday... I got the broadcast this morning. It came in clear and good... God bless each of you with health and strength and supply all your needs as you labor on for Jesus."

--Sis. Doris Bowers

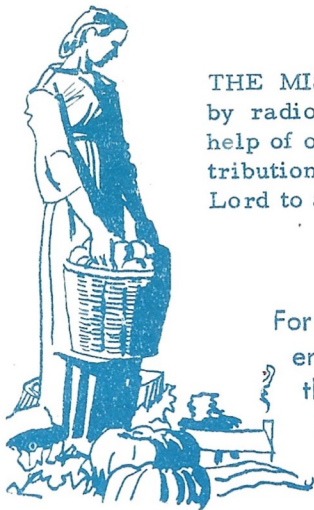
--o--

From Calif.: "What we do for Jesus we must do quickly as time is swiftly passing and it will soon be too late to work for him. We pray for our Lord to keep us faithful and each one here to fill their place in his kingdom."

--Sis. Letha Reece

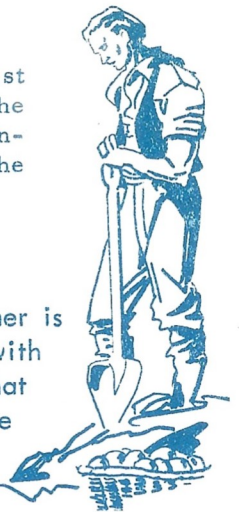
--o--

We are praying for all the readers and listeners as this new year moves swiftly on. Thanks to those who pray for us. We appreciate each prayer.



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 one of the following stations:

RADIO STATION	LOCATION	DIAL SETTING	TIME
KGGF	Coffeyville, Kansas	690 kc.	Sunday, 8:00 a.m.
KCKW	Jena, Louisiana	1480 kc.	Sunday, 7:30 a.m.
KBOA	Kennett, Missouri	830 kc.	Sunday, 8:30 a.m.

The Mission Trail

Box 99

Guthrie, Okla. 73044

Return Postage Guaranteed

BULK RATE
U. S. POSTAGE
7.5 ¢ PAID
Guthrie, Okla.
Permit No. 133