



Gospel Broadcasting and Publishing

# The Mission Trail

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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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## The Great Chasm

Radio Broadcast for February 12, 1978

Good morning to all. How happy I am to be coming your way once again with the gospel. My message to you today sounds a warning note. I am sure that within the reach of the radio broadcast there are those who are in deep trouble. Things have gone wrong in life and darkness has settled all around. You may be wondering which way to go. It is my sincere conviction the scriptures will point the way:

"Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear. For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, your tongue hath muttered perverseness. None calleth for justice, nor any pleadeth for truth: they trust in vanity, and speak lies; they conceive mischief, and bring forth iniquity. They hatch cockatrice's eggs, and weave the spider's web: he that eateth of their eggs dieth, and that which is crushed breaketh out into a viper. Their webs shall not become garments, neither shall they cover themselves with their works: their works are works of iniquity, and the act of violence is in their hands. Their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed innocent blood: their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; wasting and destruction are in their paths. The way of peace they know not; and there is no judgment in their goings: they have made them crooked paths: whosoever goeth therein shall

not know peace." Isaiah 59:1-8.

We see, therefore, in the light of this very positive warning from the scriptures, that there is a path which leads to destruction. Health and happiness is far behind and the chasm widens more and more as the pleasures of sin lead to despair. And there are occasions when souls reach the point of "no return"!

As an illustration, let me say it this way: Suppose you were a mountain climber. (I'll be quick to say that I am not.) But if you were, and you would climb the mighty Rockies, no doubt there are places where you could stand on one summit and look across to another peak, but you would find that between you and the other mountain was a chasm reaching downward for hundreds of feet below creating an impassable abyss. The span at first may seem narrow, only a few feet wide, but if you tested the width by attempting to throw a stone you would find it is wider than you think. The stones would fall into the depths below and be lost from sight.



You could not leap across it, such as the noted motorcycle rider attempts to do on certain occasions. So what would you do?

This is the way sin separates from God, through the deceptions of Satan. And even when one realizes they are apart from God's will in their lives, Satan attempts to minimize the danger, making it appear only a small thing and that there is not much danger in delaying the return to the right. It appears to the sinner he can immediately, at any time step back across the chasm when it is convenient! How untrue this is! When the time comes to take the step, the place seems to have widened into a great abyss.

The strength of every effort seems to fall into the blackness of the depths below, and fears and doubts arise, while hope is faintly disappearing in the distance. That is when the soul becomes aroused and awakened to a sense of duty and need of God. Could the poor discouraged sin-burdened heart, when awakened to his condition, only realize how willing Jesus is to lend a helping hand in time of trouble, there would be a sudden change of affairs. But he must turn from the ways of sin and take an upward road, instead of the one leading downward. The one who expects to be delivered from the bondage of sin must first forsake his sins, repent and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ with all his heart.

"Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon." Isa. 55:6, 7. Now that is encouraging. And another

scripture in Mark 1:15. "Repent ye, and believe the gospel." There is another promise in 1 John 1:9--"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

These promises and scriptures ought to be enough to encourage the most degraded sinner to turn from the ways of sin, even if there was nothing else. In order to find encouragement and help for the fallen, depressed or lost, we have only to open the word of God, and there upon page after page is something encouraging to the one who desires and has determined to serve the Lord. Because the way of salvation is called an upward road, does not mean that it is an uphill road that is hard to travel. The reason the way appears so difficult to many, is because they are undecided, and are not fully persuaded to give up the ways of the world.

But let me assure you this path of life is a shining way to go. I love it. "But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day." Prov. 4:18. And again: "Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore." Psa. 16:11. That is enough to keep us all happy. And this one: "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Psa. 119:105. So as the sinner begins to turn his face heavenward and call for help from the depths of his soul, a stream of light from heaven will pierce the darkness, and while it may not lighten his sin-burdened heart until he has reached the proper point, yet, it will so dispel the darkness that the true way can be found, and hope revives.

A truck driver became blinded by the



snow storm and stopped on the road. The storm continued to rage; his truck was covered in a drift. He was unable to even open the door. So for five days he was sealed below this blanket of snow. He could hear the planes roaring overhead. The snowmobiles raced across the top of the truck. On his CB radio he could hear the outside world, but could send no message himself. He thought within himself, "If anybody could find me my brother will!"

In the meantime his brother was indeed looking for him. This brother knew the road the truck was to travel. He with other help searched behind and ahead of the drift. But there was no sign of the lost brother. Finally, as he stood near the spot of the buried truck, they heard a pounding deep down inside the truck. They began to dig and as the truck was uncovered, there stepped out the lost brother. How happy they both were! We, too, were lost and unable to make our way home, but Jesus came that we might have life and have it more abundantly. Who then would fear to step out upon the promises of his word, with the confidence that he will fulfill that which he has promised? The great trouble with people is, they want to "feel" that they are saved before they are willing to make an effort to believe it. The Lord doesn't save by feeling, but it is through faith that we are saved.

Then in order to go at it in the Bible way to get saved, one must first be real sorry that he has sinned against God; sorry enough to determine by the help of God to forever forsake sin, and make all wrongs right as far as possible. When this point is reached, then confess to God and ask his forgiveness, and exercise faith, believing that he does it because he says so in his word. And it is through faith that we are kept.

If it was by feeling that one is saved, perhaps it would be rather an "up and down" life. The way to do, is to look unto Jesus, who is the author and finisher of our faith, and move out upon his promises and obey his word, and when we have done what he requires of us, then the Word must be believed because God has said it. When we have done our part, we can then believe the work is done whether we feel any change or not. The feeling and change come after believing, not before.

Along the path of life there is a place which marks the course of the traveler on the road to eternity. There is a line drawn by the word of God between sin and salvation. On the one side are the blessings of God, on the other is his wrath. On the one hand are the gentle leadings of the Holy Spirit on to greater blessings and glory; on the other is the enemy of souls dragging his victims down to eternal ruin by his deceptions and cruel oppressions. When the innocent one steps over this line to follow the deceptions of the enemy, it is a far more sad undertaking than is generally considered, and too often forever proves fatal. It may at first be but a comparatively small thing, and no intention of spending a whole life in sin; but when sin has once entered the heart and left its stain where innocence before reigned supreme, a blighting influence remains; a different spirit controls the inward impulse of the heart, and the mind is led into forbidden ways, and conscience smitten, like Adam when he had disobeyed God, such a person is ashamed to hear the voice of God.

One sin will lead on to another, and so on until little by little Satan has the soul so completely bound that the heart becomes hardened, and the conscience seared; and sin is as a sweet morsel



until times of adversity, trials and trouble. But the sorrows and troubles, even in the most disastrous times, are scarcely a foretaste of the results of such a life in the great coming harvest.

On the other side of the line is something of far greater value than rubies, or the wealth of nations, and the riches of mines. It is the peace of God in the soul, darkness swept away; and when trouble and oppressions come, there is a blessing comes with them, and the sweet gentle Spirit of Christ to comfort and lend a helping hand in time of need. Yea, "he that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty." Psa. 91:1. Remember, there is hope for you, if you will turn unto God; but you must do your part, make the decision and begin to call upon God for help.

Our Father, bless the word as it goes out on the air waves to every soul tuned in. Give each one a willing heart to do thy will. And as they walk in the light, cause the peace of God to shine upon them even more and more unto the perfect day. Also we pray for the afflicted. May the healing virtue of God make them every whit whole in Jesus name. Amen.



## Lessons of the Year

For I learn as the years roll onward  
And leave the past behind,  
That much I have counted sorrow  
But proves that our God is kind;  
That many a flower I longed for  
Had a hidden thorn of pain,  
And many a rugged bypath  
Led to fields of golden grain.

The clouds but cover the sunshine,  
They cannot banish the sun  
And the earth looks but the brighter  
When the wearisome rain is done.  
We must stand in the deepest shadow  
To see the clearest light,  
And often from wrong's own darkness  
Comes the very strength of right.

The sweetest rest is at evening  
After the wearisome day,  
When the heavy burden of labor  
Is borne from our hearts away.  
And those who have never known  
sorrow

Cannot find the infinite peace  
That falls on the troubled spirit,  
When it finds a sweet release.

We must live through the dreary  
winter

To value the bright warm spring;  
The woods must be cold and silent  
Before the robins sing;  
The flowers must be buried in  
darkness

Before they can bud and bloom,  
And the purest and warmest sunshine  
Comes after the storm and gloom.

So the heart from the hardest trial  
Gains the purest joy of all,  
And the lips that have tasted sadness  
The sweetest songs that fall.  
Then as joy comes after sorrow,  
And love's the reward of pain.  
So after earth is Heaven,  
And out of our loss is gain

—Anonymous.



## Testimonies

From Kansas: "Last Sunday as I was lying in bed with the flu it was good to hear your voice come over KGGF station. I just thank the Lord for helping you to be able to stay on. I'm glad the Lord knows our hearts. I was so glad that isolated saints can tune in and hear the words of life. Of late I have been thinking about one lost soul. Jesus taught us the good shepherd that had 100 sheep and one got lost. Did he not leave the 99 and go after the one lost lamb? Did he not teach us that 1 soul is worth more than all the world. He was so concerned over one soul that he sent Philip from Samaria down into Judea for that one soul riding in a chariot. He saw that one man in the tree and he went to his house. He talked to one woman and said he had meat to eat that they knew not of. I'm afraid too many people have lost the missionary burden for that one lost soul. Too many are satisfied with far less than what the Lord has in store if they would only launch out. May the Lord bless you as you labor on for the Lord..."

--Bro. Ralph and Sis. Inez Beisly  
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From Wisc.: "How are all of you folks down there in the south? We are all doing fine up here. We've had quite a lot of below zero weather but not much snow... Surely the Lord is still leading honest souls who are looking for truth. Please pray for us as we do you."

--Bro. & Sis. John LaVeau  
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From Okla.: "I enjoy and thank the dear Lord for making it possible to hear the messages. I've been without a radio, but received one at Christmas time. I am isolated out here and the broadcast is a real blessing to us."

--Sis. Kathleen Clarkson

From Okla.: "The Lord is good to us, helping us out. I am happy to know that God loves us. It has been quite cold here, some snow. I am thankful how God blessed you and preserved you on the highways."

--Sis. Eva Penner  
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From Okla.: "I am encouraged to press the battle on. The greatest desire of my heart is to live for him who is such a wonderful Savior... May God richly bless you."

--Sis. Floy Woolery  
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From Mo.: "I am happy to say I had a very good year in '77. If '78 is as good to me as the year before, I will have no complaints. I am happy to send what I can to help with the work of the Lord. He has been very good to me and all my family."

--Juanita Wrather  
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From Okla.: "I do appreciate all of your prayers for the healing of my leg. It was about two weeks before Thanksgiving when I started to get out of bed and could hardly walk. This happened to me about two and a half years ago, and I wrote my testimony but was waiting for the numbness of my foot to go entirely away. Sometimes it would go and again it would come back. This time I am not waiting for it to go for I know God can take away numbness just as well as he can take away the pain out of my leg. That is what he has done (healed it completely)... I give honor and praise to him."

--Sis. Eva Hardman  
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From Kansas: "I am looking forward to the glorious adventure of exploring more of the kingdom of God this year. I am seeking for more boldness to be a better ambassador of Christ and invite more souls to taste and see that he is good... I mean by the grace of God to be faithful until the end whether it be of my life or the world's end!"

--Sis. Shirley Knight



From Va.: "Trust this will find both of you well in body and happy in the Lord. Thank you for your card and I do appreciate your prayers in behalf of my daughter and me ... God was so merciful to spare her life and I do thank him for it. I do pray God will bless your work in a special way. The little paper is really a treat. I enjoy it so much... Love and prayers, "

--Sis. Lillian Bohannon

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From Ark.: "...my husband and I are very well. He is 80 years old and I am 76. We read your little paper through every one we get. When I get it I read it through before I lay it down. Please keep sending it ... As ever your Bro. and Sister in Christ, "

--Jay and Nettie Warford

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From Calif.: "I am thankful I was permitted to see another year. I am in fair health, but poor hearing. I am thankful all is well as it is, as it could be worse. After much prayer the Lord led me to come to the home here. I'm glad. It's a lovely place, truly home-like. So peaceful, so much love and kindness. The stronger ones help entertain the frailer ones, reading to them, wheeling them around. We also have prayer service each day. Remember me in prayer that I keep faithful till Jesus comes again."--Sis. Amy Hunter

From La.: "We read the 8th chapter of Romans this morning in worship ... Rom. 8:37--"In all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us." This is more than victory. This is a triumph so complete that we have not only escaped defeat and destruction, but we have destroyed our enemies and won a spoil so rich and valuable that we can thank God that the battle ever came. How can we be "more than conquerors"? We can get out of the conflict a spiritual discipline that will greatly strengthen our faith and establish our spiritual character. Temptation is necessary to settle and confirm us in the spiritual life. It is like the fire which burns in the colors of mineral painting, or like winds that cause the mighty cedars of the mountain to strike more deeply into the soil."

--Sis. Sybil Goldsberry

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The work of God, and especially the Tulsa Church of God congregation has suffered a great loss in the death of Bro. Manless Gaines, the pastor. The Lord called him home Jan. 26. Funeral was Jan. 31. Remember his companion, Sis. Theresa Gaines, 2932 N. Lewis, Tulsa, Okla. 74110.

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Limited space does not permit the printing of all the good testimonies. But the encouraging letters mean much.--WCM



Sis. Cathy Wilson and mother Sis. Katie Gibson

A real "pioneer saint" and a "mother in Israel", Sister "Katie" Gibson, as she was so affectionately known was called to her heavenly home Jan. 13 at the age of 83. Her funeral was held Jan. 15 near Senath, Mo. She was a witness for the Lord for more than 55 years. One of Sis. Katie's favorite songs was "I'm a child of the King!"



# at press time

we understand:



Sister Hettie and Bro. Sam Barton



Sis. Neva and Sis. Elva Joiner

Our hearts are saddened by the passing of another dear saint, Sis. Hettie Barton of Tulsa, Okla., at the age of 84. She died Jan. 26th. She and her husband, Bro. Sam Barton, who preceded her in death in 1970, labored for many years in the gospel work, he being a minister and she a faithful helper.

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"I want to also let you know the postoffice has changed our address. It is now: Golden Rule Home, Route 6, Box 10, Shawnee, Okla. 74801... so all the Mission Trails coming to the Home or any other mail should be changed to the above address. God bless his truth wherever it goes." --Malinda Penner

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Sister Alma Smith who is handicapped desires a Christian woman to share her home. Anyone who has a burden to fill this need may write to Sister E. V. Davenport, 1406 W. Trenton St., San Bernardino, California 92411. Or call 1-(714)-887-4130.

It is with deep sorrow we announce the death and burial of Sis. Neva Joiner the week of January 23. Her heavenly home-going leaves a great vacancy in the Loranger, La. Church of God as well as in the home of her sister Elva which they shared together.

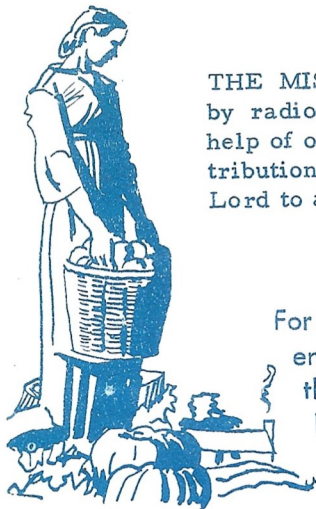
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From La.: "We have appreciated the loving kindness every one has shown to us in the loss of dear Neva. We feel so lonely without her. But we are looking to the Lord for our comfort and protection... Oh, how good the Lord is to me, receiving so many sympathy cards, letters of encouragement and love offerings. I love the Lord and want to be faithful until my end long or short. So pray for me." --Sis. Elva Joiner, R. 1, Box 188, Loranger, La. 70446.

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We are praying for our dear brothers and sisters in the Lord who are in great sorrow at this time, yet we sorrow not as others who have no hope.





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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.

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