



Gospel Broadcasting and Publishing

The Mission Trail

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Guthrie, Okla. 73044

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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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Suppose

Radio Broadcast for December 14, 1980

Good morning, friends, good morning! My thought for today is found in Luke 2:44 -- "But they, supposing him to have been in the company, went a day's journey; and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance." To suppose something, means that an assumption is made. This assumption may or may not be correct. Quite often it is not. Listen:

Suppose that Christ

had not been born

That far away Judean morn.

Suppose that God,

Whose mighty hand

Created worlds, had never planned a Way

For man to be redeemed.

Suppose the Wise Men only dreamed

That guiding star,

whose light still glows

Down through the centuries.

Suppose Christ never walked

here in men's sight—

Our blessed Way, the Truth and Light.

Suppose He counted all the cost,

And never cared that we were lost,

And never died for you and me,

nor shed His blood on Calvary
upon a shameful cross.

Suppose that having died He never rose,

and there was none with power

to save our souls

From darkness and the grave!

ANOTHER YEAR

Another year, another year,

Hath sped its flight on silent wing,

And all that marked its brief career

Hath passed from mortal reckoning.

Lord, for thy grace and patient love,

Unwearied still and still the same,

For all our hopes of joy above,

We laud and bless thy holy name.

Still bear with us and bless us still;

And while in this dark world we stay,

Oh, let us love thy sacred will!

Oh, let us keep thy narrow way!

So when the rolling stream of time

Hath opened to a boundless sea,

Loud will we raise that song divine,

"All praise and glory be to thee!"

Now, let us look at this "supposing" a little more closely. Joseph and Mary and Jesus were in the presence of kinsfolk and relatives. That was nothing new. Perhaps Jesus had been absent from them before while with relatives. And here they had all been to Jerusalem, so when they didn't find Jesus, they supposed that he was with the relatives.

But how wrong they were! Assumptions are sometimes right and many times wrong!

After being given the key to my sister's flower shop some years ago, I went by early in the morning to pick up some flowers. I was desperately trying to unlock the door when a man came by and put his key into the lock. Immediately the door swung open, but how astonished, surprised and embarrassed I was to find that I was in the Cleaning and Pressing Shop next door to the flower shop! I supposed I was at the right door, but I was wrong! How nice that the manager accepted my apologies!

Then think how Joseph and Mary felt when they could not find Jesus among the relatives. He was not in the logical place where they thought he was, but back in the temple about his Father's business. This supposing can get one into much trouble! There was one man, a jailer, who almost killed himself because his supposition was wrong.

"And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed. And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled. But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here." Acts 16:25-28. God was working and the jailer must have felt a certain amount of guilt from the way the prisoners had been beaten and were being treated. So he just decided to rid himself of any further com-

plications and guilt. He was in too big of a hurry, but Paul called to him and showed him a better way...the way of salvation which he gladly accepted.

Sometimes to be mistaken brings bitter tears and heartaches. But the truth will enlighten one to a better way:

"Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardner, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away." John 20:15. What real joy came when Mary discovered that Jesus was alive and speaking to her. Her fears turned into joy!

It is easy to look at others who suffer adversity and suppose that they are being rewarded for their sins. This may give one a false sense of security. Listen:

"And Jesus answering said unto them, Suppose ye that these Galilaeans were sinners above all the Galilaeans, because they suffered such things? I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." Luke 13:2-5.

In so many words Jesus was saying, "You think these folks were the greatest of sinners, but that is not the case. Everyone is called to repent, or they will perish!" In Eccl. 8:11 we find these words: "Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil." One

can be lulled into a false sense of security because they suppose things are not what they really are!

During the holiday season great emphasis is placed on the verse, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Sometimes that even gets turned around to say, "Peace on earth to men of good will." But that is not what the scriptures say. It says, "on earth peace, good will toward men." God has good will toward all men. But men are in a state of hostility with Heaven and with each other. The carnal mind is enmity against God. He who sins wars against His Maker. Then when men become reconciled to God, through the death of his Son, they love one another. They have peace with God; peace in their own consciences; and peace with their neighbours; good will dwells among them, speaks in them, and works by them. But listen to what Jesus himself said concerning peace:

"Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division: For from henceforth there shall be five in one house divided, three against two, and two against three. The father shall be divided against the son, and the son against the father; the mother against the daughter, and the daughter against the mother; the mother in law against the daughter in law, and the daughter in law against her mother in law." Luke 12:51-53. He whom we love the most is he whom we study most to please, and whose will and interests we prefer in all cases. If, in order to please a father or mother who are opposed to vital godliness, we abandon God's ordinances and followers, we are unworthy of God's favor.

How many mothers are their daughter's enemy when she engages her to comply

with the ways and customs of the world rather than the teachings of the scriptures. Jesus said "ye are my friends if ye do whatsoever I command you." Upon one occasion when Paul was a prisoner aboard ship the sailors supposed they were going to have good weather for sailing. But did they? No, just the opposite: "And when the south wind blew softly, supposing that they had obtained their purpose, loosing thence, they sailed close by Crete." Acts 27:13. But they only passed through a brief "lull" before the storm which wrecked their ship, because they "supposed" and went out to sea!

Another time the wicked Jews, who stoned Paul "supposed" that he was dead! Listen: "And there came thither certain Jews from Antioch and Iconium, who persuaded the people, and, having stoned Paul, drew him out of the city, supposing he had been dead." Acts 14:19.

But I believe that in the meantime Paul was getting a glimpse of paradise which strengthened his faith. Here is his own testimony:

"And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter." 2 Cor. 12:3-4. The apostle saw things which were too much for him to speak. This must have been an encouragement to him as long as he lived. He knew whom he had believed, and it was more than supposing! On the day of Pentecost great multitudes were mistaken as we see in Acts 2:15: "For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day."

Jesus spoke of some laborers who sup-

posed they were going to be paid a greater amount than what they had bargained for. This was not the case:

"But when the first came, they supposed that they should have received more; and they likewise received every man a penny." Matt. 20:10. But to finish this off with the scripture in 1 Tim. 6:5 listen to this one where Paul spoke of those who thought or supposed that earthly gain was godliness:

"Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself." 1 Tim. 6:5....

Our Father, another new year is before us, a road which we have never traveled before, so we ask for grace and wisdom to travel it with the blessings of the Lord. Bless each listener and may the year of 1981 be the best year of their lives. Keep us in the will of the Lord whatever the cost for we ask it in Jesus name. Amen.

HIS UNFAILING PRESENCE

Another year I enter
And it's history unknown;
Oh, how my feet would tremble
To tread its paths alone.

But I have heard a whisper,
I know I shall be blessed;
"My presence shall go with thee,
And I will give thee rest."

What will the new year bring me?
I may not, must not, know;
Will it be love and rapture,
Or loneliness and woe?

Hush! Hush! I hear His whisper,
I surely shall be blessed
"My presence shall go with thee,
And I will give thee rest."

Testimonies

From Wash.: "I didn't get to go to the assembly meeting at Jefferson, Oregon. I was in a car accident Oct. 11. I got my collar bone fractured on the right side, and my shoulder was still pretty sore, but had planned to take in the last part of the meeting, but my brother passed away so didn't get to go to any of the meeting. I sure did miss it. The Lord surely blessed me during the healing of my collar bone, etc."

--Sister Violet Thomas

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From Calif.: "I am still saved today and encouraged to press on until the Lord calls me home. The Lord has surely been good to me. He heals my body when I am sick and helps me in every way."

--Sis. Katie Gaines

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From Calif.: "Oh, our redeemer liveth, praise God. Happiness and peace, and joy dwell in the heart that is yielded to God. His blessings are rich--and with no sorrow added, praise the Lord. Just a short note with a small offering. Time passes so swiftly and there is so much to be done. Oh, that more souls would get saved. Surely the end of time is close as we hear about earthquakes, wars, and rumors of wars."

--Bro. Jim Kutra

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From Calif.: "Well, another year has almost past and gone into eternity, bringing us closer to the end. We look back and wonder if we have done all we could. It seems we do so little and yet we want to do so much. May God help us all to do what we can for souls and the cause of God as the time is slipping away so fast... surely trust the Lord to bless in a special way in your meeting... Much love,"

--Bro. Gene and Sis. Loretta Harmon

From Idaho: "If only people would keep Christ in Christmas this world would be a much better place to live. I am so glad that it does not make a great deal of difference just what day Jesus was born--the thing that counts with me is that I have experienced the "new birth" and have eternal life... Trust that the Lord has been supplying all your needs according to His great riches in Christ Jesus. We know that they are ours if we will just live for Him and put Him first in all that we do. We have had a very profitable year and the Lord has blessed in every way that we have needed. Working with the dear Senior Citizens --of which I am one--has been most rewarding. It seems that it is next to missionary work... we would appreciate your remembering us in prayer as the Lord brings it to your mind... Well we trust that you and yours shall have a very special holiday season and a blessed New Year. Yours in Christ,"

--Sis. Ruby Marken

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From Oregon: "One day when something happened that hurt someone the little rhyme that my granddaughter learned when she first started to school popped into my head:

Once there was a mouse trap,
Baited with a piece of cheese.
It tickled so a little mouse
It almost made him sneeze.
Said Old Rat, "There's danger where
you go."

Said the little mousie, "I don't think you
know."

So he crept in softly, nobody in sight.
First he took a nibble, then he took a bit.
Snap! went the trap, quick as a wink
And caught the little mousie
Because he didn't think.

We surely need to think and not do something that will hurt some one or the work of the Lord. We want people to be saved not hindered."

--Sis. Hilda Nielsen

From Okla.: "I'm so thankful to be in the care of one who knows and cares and one who understands altogether, for my trust is in the Lord for both soul and body. I can't go back on the Lord for He has done too much for me. I am His child and He careth for me. I am living to live again in the glory land. I have things to come up against in this life. I meant to go through; to go shouting into heaven some of these mornings. I don't mean to fail Him on any line. I do still have some requests I want you to put before the church that the Lord will work out for my good and His glory... Give all the saints my love and pray the Lord bless me to attend the assembly meeting."

--Sis. Lizzie Jordan

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From Mo.: "I awoke thinking of Heb. 12:2 -- also 3. I considered what the author of our faith was--seems that's how it all begins and we know through Jesus' blood and faith in his name--no one can fail. No, there is nothing I can see but victory in Jesus and through his blood. Do pray that life will be even as I understand and talk about. I am, Lord willing, coming to assembly meeting, hoping to stay several days and get what's needed to go on daily rejoicing and able to make good decisions and plans about daily work, especially home duties, and in doing what I can in telling the gospel story."

--Bro. Leslie Adams

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From Pa.: "Greetings in that most wonderful Name of all, Jesus, Wonderful Lord. He is so precious to me, for when I call He is there, no matter how small or how large the problem. He watches over me while asleep or awake and I do praise Him for all of His goodness to me. I wouldn't want to live without Him... I still say God has the control of the universe no matter what man may do..."

--Sis. Eva Cox

From Okla.: "I have enjoyed the broadcasts so much this year. Each message has been a personal blessing ... May God continue his blessings upon you and your labours of love in his service. One of my daughters has been critically ill but was spared of death by God's mercy. She gave her heart to God two weeks ago. Please pray for her and request prayer for her that Satan doesn't take advantage of her as she goes back to the job and among acquaintances. Have a happy holiday and may the Lord bless you through the coming year."

--Sis. Theresa Gaines
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From Texas: "Greetings of divine love in the precious name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who died that we might live. Praise the Lord for the wonderful divine love of God in our hearts today. There is nothing like it. It's joy unspeakable and full of glory ... I'm so glad I've learned to trust him and thankful to the good Lord, we don't get too old to learn more about him, and enjoy the wonderful blessings he has in store for us. I'm still saved and sanctified, pressing on toward the heavenly goal."

--Sis. Nellie Lovell
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From S. Car.: "We are up and thanking the Lord for what he means to us. I am thanking him for sparing me this long. I am almost 73, will be this 18th day of December, if I live. I am striving to make it in ... I feel better some days and some days I can hardly get along, but I say Lord you know all things and all things are in your hands ... so I desire the prayers of all the saints to pray for me that I will be all he wants me to be."

--Sis. Minnie Boulden
--o--

From Pa.: "In these days of trials and heartaches we need the truth of the Bible. My humble prayer is to be ready when Jesus calls."

--Sis. Mable Kinsey

From Oregon: "Greetings of Christian love this Holy Season, to me, the most sacred time of the year. It is like when we have toiled all week and suddenly we lay aside all our toils and cares and enter into Sunday, the day of worship to rest our tired minds and come humbly before Him to worship, admire and adore His Holy presence, to be refreshed by the Word and get our souls fed and strengthened to face the toils of another long week. So at this season we sense the Holy birth of the Christ child who came to bring us hope and freedom from sin and courage to face what lies ahead in the unknown and another year if God permits it in a world of chaos and fear which so many express with such awful things coming on the earth. Over all and above all looms our precious Saviour, calm and strong, still crying, 'peace be still' to His children and giving us the calmness we desire in the midst of the storm ... Many of the saints are being made white and tried, but he that endureth to the end, shall be saved and so God brings these thoughts to our minds to comfort and encourage us. Some of our strongest ministers are being tried to the depth these days, especially with afflictions ... May God bless you both. I enjoy the paper."

--Sis. Grace Jones
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From Oregon: "The dear Lord has surely been good to us this past year and I love Him and appreciate all of His goodness and dealings with me ... Pray for me and my unsaved loved ones."

--Sis. Ruby Hutchinson
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From Oregon: "I was pleased to receive the Mission Trail and to see the pictures of the two young girls. They were surely beautiful sweet girls and I know they have left a great vacancy in their homes but have gone to a glorious home."

--Sis. Lucille Trimble

at press time

we understand:

25th Anniversaries:

Congratulations to the following couples who reached their 25th wedding anniversaries in 1980:

Clayton and Eva Lou Gaines, Dec. 25th;
Thurman and Carol Sorrell, Dec. 25th;
Byron and Clarice Pruitt, Nov. 11th.

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We extend our sympathy to Sis. Pearl Johnson and the other family members upon the loss of her son "Buster" Johnson, who died with an apparent heart attack. The funeral service, Shawnee, Okla., Friday, December 12th.

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From Calif.: "Here we are again, praise our good Lord. He is so good to cheer our hearts... Brother, Jesus knows and cares for all his children... wife still here--but sleeps most of time... I have it all submitted to our dear Lord, so keep praying for us. We want his will in all things. Alberta is so good to come. It helps so much for her to be here. I wish I could be in the coming meeting. Give all our love... Work on, toil on. It will not be long until we see Jesus."--Sam and Armilda

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From Colo.: "I like to see people that claim to be saved look and act like it. Oh pray for me. I know I'm old fashioned but Jesus showed me how he wanted me to dress, act and not curl my hair nor wear jewelry... so I still have the desire to live as he showed me years ago. So I need your prayers. I love old time religion that saved from sin."

--Sis. Addie McEndree

Prayer is requested for Bro. Herbert Probst, who suffered a stroke at his home in Miami, Okla., between 7 and 8 o'clock Monday morning, Dec. 15. His right arm and leg is affected and it is very difficult for him to form words. Sis. Probst reports that some improvement was noted after what seemed to be a crisis through which he passed some 72 hours later. On the phone she said, "our faith is in the Lord," So they are counting on the prayers of the saints and the power of the Lord to give the healing touch. To those who would like to write: Bro. & Sis. Herbert W. Probst, 210 Lohman, Apt. 104. Miami, Oklahoma 74354.

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From Calif.: "We are grateful to know the Lord personally in this world of trouble. Surely the signs of the end of time are appearing: earthquakes in divers places, men's hearts failing for fear, disobedience to parents along with other things. Praise the Lord we can have our anchor steadfast and sure... We are constantly being warned in our congregation by our mother in Israel, Mother Davenport, that the end of time is coming. Love and prayers,"

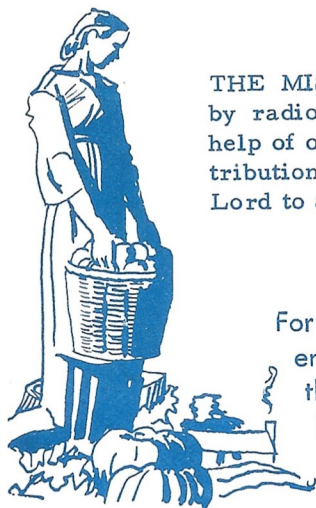
--Bro. & Sis. E. V. Davenport

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Arlon and Linda (Eck) Benson were married in Guthrie Dec. 13. We wish them much happiness.

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Many thanks to those who have made it possible for us to continue the radio ministry another year. May 1981 be a happy and prosperous year for all!



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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

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