



The Mission Trail

Box 99

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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Driftwood

Radio Broadcast for May 3, 1981

Good morning to all the listeners of the broadcast! I am so happy to be coming your way again. In choosing a title for this message I am impressed with two of them, so I will just give you both of them and you can accept the one you like best after you hear it or read it. First this one may seem a little strange but it is "The tempest of Euroclydon"! And the other is "Driftwood". Now, let me give you the scripture verse for the first title: "But not long after there arose against it a tempestuous wind, called Euroclydon." Acts 27:14. This occurred when Paul was prisoner and bound for Rome. The ship had encountered this tempestuous wind called Euroclydon, or perhaps in the modern day sailor language it would be better known as "levanter". But at any rate it was a fierce and relentless storm. How dreadful it must have been to cause the sailors to lose hope of being saved. They were driven off course at the mercy of the wind and the sea! They were unable to guide the ship by the sails or the rudder. This serves to remind us that we are heading into some "Euroclydon" tempests and "levanter" storms. This world is no friend to a saint of God, and if we make it to the portals of heaven it will be by the grace of God. Most of us recognize the term "driftwood" which symbolizes so many souls drifting carelessly into eternity. But more on this later. Now:

CONTRARY WINDS

I saw the morning air express
Roar over-head in threat'ning power;
Her wings were tilted in a stress
Against the south-tide of the hour.

I watched her as far down the sky
She left my wide and wondering view
Bent on her mission faithfully
And keeping on her courses true.

Her soaring move with sidewise sweep
To overcome the threat to stray
Her pilot steered in wisdom deep
To keep her on her course that day.

And so, thought I, my course in life
Of like importance is to me;
Amid the jarring winds of strife
Unmoved, unshaken I must be.

But if I keep my course, I must
Brace up to master all I meet,
And navigate with peace and trust
A valiant pathway of my feet.

Take courage then, my soul, and though
Ye cross the path of common tread
Wherein contrary winds may blow,
Oh, by the hand of God be led.

Be not dismayed, thy portion bear
With joy to know ye have a part,
And with the ransomed thou shalt share,
And end the course ye once did start!
--Leslie Busbee

Now before we get too deeply involved in this "Tempest of Euroclydon" or the "Driftwood" listen to this song: "Kept by the Touch of His Hand."

I am glad for the thought expressed in that song. We can be kept from the evil of this world by the touch of God's hand. But more on this tempest and the driftwood. Each and every child of God needs an anchor to the soul in the storms of life; because there are forces which are driving against them.

No where in the Bible do we find anything mentioned of "driftwood" or "drifting". But let me give you some definitions of "drift": the act of driving something along; the flow or the velocity of the current of a river or ocean stream; something driven, propelled, urged along or drawn together in a clump by or as if by a natural agency; as, wind-driven snow, rain, cloud, dust, or smoke usually at or near the ground surface; a mass of matter (as sand) deposited together by or as if by wind or water; a helter-skelter accumulation; something (as driftwood) washed ashore; a ship's deviation from its course caused by currents; one of the slower movements of oceanic circulation; the lateral motion of an airplane due to air currents; an easy moderate more or less steady flow or sweep along a spatial course; a gradual shift in attitude, opinion, or position; an aimless course, especially a foregoing of any attempt at direction or control; a deviation from a true reproduction, representation, or reading.

So it seems to me this word "drift" denotes a carelessness, and an unconcern. In that sense the word seems to imply a rather haphazard situation and it is uncertain where something drifting will end up. It may be on a creek bank or

a distant seashore. The ship on which the Apostle was sailing was broken to pieces and there was a lot of driftwood!

So where the Bible is silent on "driftwood" or "drifting" it has plenty to say about being "driven". Listen: "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways." James 1:5-8.

The prophet Isaiah in foretelling how some folks were going to be like driftwood said: "Behold, the Lord will carry thee away with a mighty captivity, and will surely cover thee. He will surely violently turn and toss thee like a ball into a large country: there shalt thou die, and there the chariots of thy glory shall be the shame of thy lord's house. And I will drive thee from thy station, and from thy state shall he pull thee down." Isa. 22:17-19. You may have heard the expression, "That's the way the ball bounces!" That is surely an unpredictable thing. Who knows how the ball is going to bounce? And who knows where a piece of driftwood is going to stop? It floats and drifts aimlessly. But one thing is sure: It is driven by the current of the stream. To be driven means to be forced. One verse says: "The wicked is driven away in his wickedness: but the righteous hath hope in his death." Prov. 14:32. Still another verse puts it this way: "Therefore they shall be as the morning cloud, and as the early dew that passeth away, as the chaff that is driven with the whirlwind out of the floor, and as the smoke out of the chimney." Hosea 13:3. Did

you ever notice how the smoke from the chimney is caught and driven along? It is eventually dissipated and is no more!

Now let me give you the story for the inspiration and the moral of this entire message. I visited in the home of a friend who lived along the mighty Mississippi River. He showed me his conversation piece, "The Cat". It was a piece of "driftwood" which he had framed and it was hanging on the wall of his home. There were the cat's eyes and with a little imagination one could see the pet cat framed in the driftwood. He had numerous antique relics recovered from the "dump pile" near the railroad track. But perhaps one of the most impressive driftwood works of art was the footstool made of black walnut wood and the top of the stool was made of beautiful white webbing recovered from the river. Pieces of nylon rope had been thrown into the river from the barges and he had woven it into a strong support for a seat cover. It was a beautiful and useful footstool!

Now the moral is this: God is working through Christ the mediator, and "he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them." Heb. 7:25. So He can take a worthless piece of humanity drifting out into the great unknown and change that course in life. He will give purpose and meaning and make your life worthwhile. It is not necessary for you to drift or slide. The psalmist wrote: "Judge me, O Lord; for I have walked in mine integrity: I have trusted also in the Lord; therefore I shall not slide." Psa. 26:1.

Finally, if one refuses and continues his downward drifting this scripture

will be so applicable: "Why then is this people of Jerusalem slidden back by a perpetual backsliding? they hold fast deceit, they refuse to return. I hearkened and heard, but they spake not aright: no man repented him of his wickedness, saying, What have I done? every man turned to his course, as the horse rusheth into the battle. Yea, the stork in the heaven knoweth her appointed times; and the turtle and the crane and the swallow observe the time of their coming; but my people know not the judgment of the Lord." Jer. 8:5-7. Until we meet again this is Willie Murphey saying God bless and keep you always and a very cheerful goodbye!

Letter of Encouragement

From Mo.: "Dear Friends, This truly is a good day the Lord hath made, Psa. 118:24, and we rejoice for all His many blessings. This also is cotton planting time, a busy time of year. How we do trust and pray God to bless his children's efforts to earn their living by the sweat of their brow, as they earn it in an honest, upright way. He always does give us what He sees He can trust us with and what we can use & need to His glory--I am sure. So I guess we should just pray "Lord help us to be contented with whatever you bless us with." He is so good to us. We have had no more problems since you and Bro. Tommy came to pray for us over a year ago. Louie and I both were needing a healing touch, especially so we could come home. He surely heard and answered. We have been on the go for the last five weeks and really enjoyed being at Gale when you folk were there. Also visiting with our loved ones in Alabama, being in Shawnee and at Myrtle and Springfield for services. We appreciate God's protection. Keep the good work going there."

--The Marlers

LEST WE FORGET!

In memory of his death and resurrection
 In that last hour with anguish riv'n,
 Praying for a world that was unforgiven
 While unconcerned the world slept on,
 Not knowing His life would soon be gone,
 'Twas a bitter cup He drank that nite,
 While His own disciples fled in fright.
 On the cross He hung where all could
 see,

And there He died for you and me.
 Oh! let me ne'er forget, dear Lord,
 Thy consecration there
 Beside that rock, that cold dark rock,
 That last long anguished prayer,
 And as that stone rolled from the tomb
 Dispelling death and darkest gloom,
 We know your prayer was not in vain
 And that we too, shall live again.

--Grace Jones

Testimonies

From Kans.: "Greetings in the love of Jesus. We are happy to report we are still on the amend. The Lord has been so good to us. We surely want to serve him better ... We were happy to have Sis. Ruth with us yesterday (April 12). She brought a good message on us being directed by the Spirit of God. How needful it was to the young as well as the old. It sure pays as he will always direct us to our good."

--Bro. Ralph and Sis. Inez Beisly

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From Oregon: "Thank the Lord for the sunshine this a.m. but we thank Him for the showers most of the nite up here in the mountains as the forecasters are cautioning about water use this summer. The world out of this kitchen window of the mobile home our landlord furnishes us to live in is filled with diamonds in the pine branches (God's raindrops in the sunshine)... We do praise our dear Lord daily for answering prayers for us and our family... Yours in His love,"

--Bill and Doris Busch

From Calif.: "Good morning. The sun is shining and it looks like a pretty day. The almond orchard has been in full bloom. They are going to have a big crop this year... I read Mission Trail and it was good ... Sis. Davenport's picture was good. Yes, she was mother to everyone and was wonderful to me when I was at Fresno camp meeting, so helpful to me... Set by me and helped me with my dinner... so kind and helpful to me... The enemy is on my trail but praise the Lord I'm still saved and sanctified and pressing onward to heaven."

--Sis. Opal Williams

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From Okla.: "Greeting in the name of Jesus. I'm still saved and living for Him. I'm going all the way with Him. I don't mean to stop shorter than heaven. He has done too much for me. I can't stop now. The world in sin is lost and people are getting worse all the time. But my only hope is built on nothing less. If I do the thing that's right I'll live longer and go farther. The Lord has been good to me and brought me through many things which have caused me to deepen my trust and confidence in Him. Continue to remember me soul and body."

--Sis. Lizzie Jordan

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From Mo.: "I feel led of the Lord to write my testimony that someone will get good from it. I went to the eye doctor. He said I had a stroke in my eye. He said I had to have an operation... I put my trust in the Lord. I went to the altar and laid everything on the altar and the minister prayed for me and anointed me. The good Lord healed me in answer to prayer. I can't praise him enough. I had other things on my body. The dear Lord healed me many times.... He is a present help in time of need... Keep me on your mailing list. I want to thank you for The Mission Trail paper."

--Sis. Edna Blacksher

From Okla.: "We are so thankful we can report victory over the powers of the enemy. God in His love and mercy is caring for us. When clouds thickly gather and hide from my view, the face of my Saviour, His eye pierces thru; He keeps me from being by Satan beguiled. Securely I am resting for I am His child. We love all the dear saints and appreciate all their prayers. We surely want to prove faithful to our Lord until He calls us home."

--Sis. Verlene Williams

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From Kansas: "I am thankful to the Lord for giving me the determination to keep pressing on. I mean by God's help to go to the end with him. I have a deeper stir than ever before to be sure that I keep God first in my life every day and to do all to stand. I mean to be humble enough to back-track if necessary so that I can be sure that I have done all to stand, because I want God to stand with me now and forever. I need your prayers."

--Sis. Elizabeth N. Freeman

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From Kansas: "Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift, a gift of love to our souls and the precious gift of His direction in our lives. It is not in man to direct his own ways or his path of life; we need God to put His hand into our lives and guide us into the right paths. Thank God for His dealings with man, collectively, and with me, individually... Let us pray for one another and be watchful and be strong in strength that God gives. May the Lord bless you and keep you in His care."

--Marilyn Eck

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From Okla.: "Trust you are both well and enjoying God's many blessings. I am and thank Him daily for His dealings with me. He is so so good to me."

--Maude Hornbeck

From Kansas: "Well, another Wichita meeting has come and gone and it had a great impact here. The saints here had prayed much for the meeting and the Lord so wonderfully answered our prayers... If you could say there was a theme in a meeting, well, I would say it was "Be sure you are ready." Almost every minister that preached exhorted to be ready to die and prepared for the judgment... I want to go to heaven real bad and I mean to humble myself along the way so God can take me there by His power and grace."

--Sis. Shirley Knight

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From Guthrie: "I surely thank and praise the dear Lord for all His many blessings to me. He is better to me than I deserve. He is my all in all. Without Him I'm nothing and without Him I can do nothing, but thank God, He tells us we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us."

--Sis. Emma Dilley

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From Pa.: "Greetings in the most wonderful name of all, Jesus, our Lord and Savior, the One who does abundantly more than we could ask or think. He is so precious to me and I couldn't live without Him. I want to give you the good news. I got a Senior Citizen apt. I will be moving by the end of this week. I just told the Lord if He wanted me to have an apt. let it be so, and He did. Praise His Name! ... He promised to supply all our needs. Please pray that I may be able to witness and lead some of these elderly ones to the Lord. That is my desire, not go their way, playing cards, bingo or something else of this world."

--Sis. Eva Cox

--o--

From Ga.: "Hope you and all there at Mission Trail are well. I am still striving to enter in at the strait gate. Praise the Lord." --Friendly Green

From Minn.: "This finds me well in soul and body, going on in the Christian way; for Jesus said I am the way, the truth and the life. No man cometh unto the Father but by me. Great are His tender mercies. He has been so good to me and all the saints!...I am now in my 95th year."

--Bro. Andrew Senti

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From Colo.: "Thanks be to Jesus. I am glad I ever learned he would help us. I love him and want to be at my best for him while he leaves me here. I just thanked him the morning of my 82nd birthday for his goodness to me for 82 years. I hope I can be what he wants me to be the 83rd year."

--Sis. Addie McEndree

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From Pa.: "Thank God for sparing each one of us... We know it is only the love and mercy of God we are permitted to live. Oh! how fast time rolls over into eternity, how sinful and wicked people are in these perilous times. It is a very deceptive age. (No God fear). We never lived in such evil times. The price of every thing is alarming and still going higher. Thank God he is just the same in whom is no variable-ness or shadow of turning. We thank him for his precious Word and the exceeding rich and precious promises. They are yea and amen to every one that believes."

--Sis. Paul Slifer

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From Mo.: "We have been gone down to the Rio Grande Valley in Texas.... Home always looks good to us. We love to make trips, but don't care to stay away too long. How impressed we were with the shallow experiences people have. How little they know about the Word of God and how unwilling they are to learn. It makes us very aware serving God is a serious business."

--Mary Lela Taylor

From Oregon: "This world is in such an awful, wicked condition of utter darkness, and a great need to let the Light of our Lord Jesus Christ shine out every place, at every opportunity. We see much evil displayed on every hand. I went in to some places where very ungodly posters were on display, and talked to the managers about how, not only the publishers were responsible for the crime and sin these things cause, but that those who sell them were too. One tried to defend them by saying, it is what the people want and if they didn't sell them, they would go elsewhere to get them. The Lord helped me to speak boldly to them, that in the day of judgment they would have blood on their hands. One place removed them, but not the one who argued for them. It seemed to me, that the greatest efforts we could make against evil, is like trying to empty all the water out of the ocean with a thimble, then I was reminded of how the Lord fed five thousand men, besides women and children with a little boy's lunch, and had twelve baskets left over. Courage has renewed and faith increased. We MUST do what we can and commit all to God, knowing our labours are not in vain in the Lord. Therefore, we must never be ashamed or neglect to cry out against evil, and let the Lord use us as He will."

--Sis. Virginia Taylor

--o--

From Calif.: "How good our Saviour is to us day by day. Without the Lord tell me what would I do? He is our joy and peace. We used to sing a song, "Sweeter as the years go by." This would be a very unhappy place to live without Jesus. What we do for him we must do quickly as all conditions point toward his coming soon. We must watch and pray continually against all evil forces. I want to be about my father's business..."

--Sis. Letha Reece

at press time

we understand:

50th Anniversary!



Bro. Chalmer and Sis. Doris Bowers commemorated their golden wedding anniversary in the home of Mr. & Mrs. Coy Bowers April 5. Of that day she wrote: "The Lord did bless and we had a very happy and perfect day."

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We offer our congratulations to Mark and Lori (Montgomery) LaCroix who were married in the park in Guthrie April 18. We wish them happiness!

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From Wisc.: "The Lord has blessed us with another big healthy boy, Aaron Lamech, born March 20, '81. I've had 7 out of our 9 children at home and the Lord has been our helper in every situation, whatever the need was ... Remember the work here. We plan to build in the spring, Lord willing, a church building and school combination."

--Duane, Sue LaVeau and family

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Congratulations to Dwayne and Connie Sorrell on the birth of their daughter, April 3.

Oklahoma State Campmeeting begins in Guthrie May 22 and continues through Sunday, May 31. Come praying!

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Lord willing, we the saints at Hoffman, Okla., will have a singing Saturday night, May 9th at 7:30 p. m. at the chapel. Everyone is invited to come be with us both Saturday night and Sunday.--Bro. Woodrow Warren, pastor, 810 N. Porter, Okmulgee, Okla. 74447. Phone (918) 756-6425. Submitted by Sis. Lorene Payne.

--o--

From Calif.: "This is to let you and the saints know I am still encouraged to press on. I lost my husband February 9th, but the Lord has been so good to me. You all please pray for me that I keep saved...Your sister in Christ,"

--Jettie Mae Phillips

--o--

"Sis. King passed away yesterday at 7:15 A.M. She went quietly, had very little pain last few days of her life. I was very close to her and I will miss her so, yet I rejoice for her as she has gained the eternal prize. Everyone loved her and she was a staunch soldier of the cross--a pillar in this church."

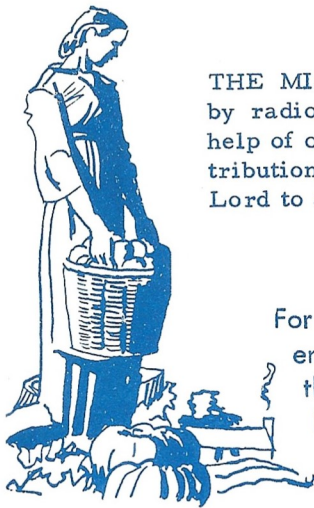
--Grace Jones

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It is with sorrow we announce the passing of Bro. Claude Johnson, Hennessey, Okla., on April 11. Funeral was held in Enid Tuesday, April 14.

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Our sympathy is extended to Sister Loretta Harmon upon the death of her mother, Sis. Wattenburger.



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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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