



*Gospel Broadcasting and Publishing*  
**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

VOL. 17, NO. 10

THE MISSION TRAIL

OCTOBER, 1981

## *“Counting the Cost!”*

Radio Broadcast for September 20, 1981

Good morning to one and all. Indeed, it gives me pleasure to bring to you some scriptures and comments on the plan of salvation. To begin, listen to this verse in Luke 14:28: "For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?" In a moment, some of God's requirements, but first this:

### WISDOM CRIETH IN THE STREETS

Lo, wisdom crieth in the streets,  
In solemn tones of warning;  
Amid the concourse loud repeats,  
The end of time is coming.

Hear, O ye craving restless throng,  
The gospel invitation,  
It tells you what you've needed long,  
The touch of God's salvation.

Young men, in all your revelry,  
Young ladies, proud and thoughtless,  
Will you be saved eternally,  
Or die forever hopeless?

You drown your souls in follies deep,  
You plunge in sin's perdition;  
Yet, wisdom cries upon the street,  
In God there is redemption.

Ye aged sinners surely know,  
Your end of time is coming;  
And youthful summers swiftly flow,  
Down to the vale of mourning.

Come old and young, come rich and poor,  
We have but one probation;  
Be wise, repent and sin no more,  
Accept a free salvation.

Now, to be more specific. It is understood that one must have a desire to serve God. Otherwise, why would he come to Him? The rich young ruler, had a desire to know more of what was required of him, but when he found out, he went away sorrowfully! How sad! It is generally understood that Godly sorrow for sin, comes before salvation, and also repentance, but confession is also required. "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy." Prov. 28:13. Many people tremble under the Holy Ghost preaching of the Word and realize their lost condition in sin, but are unwilling to confess their sins as the Bible requires.

But, the question is, to whom must confession be made? First, to the Lord. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins." 1 John 1:9. Why should confession be made to him? Does he not know all about us before we confess? Yes, he understands us altogether. But here is one reason: God has set his standard of right and wrong, thus defining sin; but

sinful men set their own standards and attempt to justify themselves accordingly. Often some people live in open violation of God's Word on some point, and yet they excuse themselves, affirming that their conscience does not condemn them. Now, when such people seek for salvation from God, while setting their own standard as to what constitutes sin, God will never hear them. They must acknowledge the standard God has set.

The prodigal son who had wasted his substance in riotous living said to his father: "I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son." Luke 15:21. He didn't make excuses, but came straight out with his confession that he had sinned. When one comes to Bible salvation, they must meet the divine standard on whatever line his sin may be.

In the second place, confession must be made to men--when they have been wrongfully mistreated and sinned against. This requirement is like bitter medicine to some who have been doing the dark deeds of Satan by wronging their fellow men, and who are unwilling to acknowledge these to the proper parties. As the object of confession to God is that we may be reconciled to him, so also the object of confession to people whom we have wronged is that a perfect reconciliation may be brought about. God requires us, as say the Scriptures, "to have always a conscience void of offense toward God, and toward men." Acts 24:16. Such confession is plainly taught by Jesus in the sermon on the mount. "Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy

gift." Matt. 5:23-24. Although this language is predicated on the ceremonies of the law, it contains a principle that is not changed by the dispensation. "The altar" was the place where the Israelites came with their offerings when they desire to approach God. Christ taught that when they thus approached God they must be reconciled with their brethren. But this is not all.

Restitution is required where applicable. Reconciliation in some cases require more than mere confession of wrong-doing. If one man has defrauded another out of twenty dollars, acknowledgement of the wrong deed may need to be accompanied by the necessary money in order to effect a proper reconciliation. This the Word teaches. "If the wicked restore the pledge, give again that he had robbed, walk in the statutes of life, without committing iniquity; he shall surely live, he shall not die." Ezek. 33:15. So God requires those who desire life to set right their former wrongs, and then to walk before God "without committing iniquity" any more.

I realize this is not popular doctrine, but it is God's Word, and must be obeyed. That class of folks who object to the part of the Bible teaching restitution just may be the ones who have some restitution to make themselves and are not willing to do it. In some cases, however, such restitution may be altogether impossible. If a man has wrongly taken so much that he is unable to restore all, it is reasonable to suppose that if he will humbly do all he can God will receive him. A text of Scripture, pertaining directly to another subject, however, may perhaps cover in principle such a case as this: "If there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not ac-



according to that he hath not." 2 Cor. 8:12.

Sometimes there is another factor involved -- forgiveness. This is a case where the matter is reversed: instead of the seeker's having wrongs to set right, others have wronged him, and he has treasured up in his heart feeling of bitterness and enmity toward the offenders. Unless such feelings are given up, they will forever bar the soul from reconciliation with God; for he absolutely refuses to deal with us until our relations with our fellow men are of the kind set forth in the scriptures. Hear the words of Christ: "If ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses"; but "if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you." Matt. 6:15. 14. Jesus set an example of the proper attitude toward enemies. When dying on Calvary's cross, he did not call down upon his persecutors the fiercest destruction from heaven, but tenderly prayed, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." The salvation of Jesus Christ leaves no place in the human heart for that which is sinful; therefore every bad act must be forsaken, as well as every evil affection -- bitterness, hatred, and enmity. Meeting these conditions alone will not save men of themselves, but it prepares the way so that when humble hearts are willing to measure up to the standards, the sweet peace and joy of heaven can come into the soul.

The seeker having met these conditions has access now to God, by asking for the pardon that the soul craves and seeks. He is instructed to: "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." Matt. 7:7. Also, "The same Lord over all is rich unto all that call

upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Romans 10:12. In other words, it is time for him to pray. Prayer is the key that opens heaven's door. At this point faith comes into action. Listen: "Repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ." Acts 20:21. When the penitent jailer cried out, "What must I do to be saved?" the answer was quickly given, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved." Acts 16:30-31. But if the heart is rebellious and unwilling to measure to the requirements laid down in the Word, saving faith will be impossible. We read of one class of people who repented not, that they might believe. Matt. 21:32. But obedience to the word places us on believing grounds, where prayer and faith become perfectly natural. Then "if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Rom. 10:9-10.

Now look at this penitent, seeking, forgiving soul! Salvation, the grandest theme of the gospel story, is delivered unto him or her into the "earthly vessel"! What a treasure! Centuries before the coming of the Messiah, the prophet Isaiah predicted his coming and wrote, "He will come and save you." Isa. 35:4. The angel of God announcing his birth said to Joseph concerning Mary, "She shall bring forth a Son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins." Matt. 1:21.

Again, the time has come for me to say goodbye. As brothers and sisters in the Lord, let us remember we are in

this battle together! We desire your prayers as we also pray for you. We share this great hope together that some day we shall be free from the earthly cares and burdens which press us day by day. Now, we walk by faith, but then we will need no faith, for we shall see the Lord as He is. And thanks to each and every one who help us send forth the broadcast.

Our Father, we come to thee humbly seeking thy blessing and favor upon the words of the broadcast. Cause it to reach those who may be cast down by the adversary. Give them new hope to repent, confess, and make restitution, thus finding the peace in their hearts for which they long. For we ask it in Jesus name. Amen.

Until we meet again this is Willie Murphey saying God bless you richly and keep you always. A very cheerful goodbye!

## *Testimonies*

From Pa.: "Greetings in that blessed name above every name! The One who takes care of the smallest details and the big problems too. Praise His name. I am so glad He healed my body and I am getting stronger each day... Time just goes on and on, but some day it will end and we will meet our blessed Lord and enjoy that heavenly home with Him forever more." --Sis. Eva Cox

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From N. Mex.: "Trust all is so well with you this Wednesday morning. We have been having pretty weather. The picture of dear sister Marie was so good. I sure appreciate it, also the beautiful things said about her. They were so true... May the Lord bless you both in the service of the Lord is my prayer." --Sis. Ruth Doolittle

From Okla.: "On June 1, 1981 I seemed to be feeling pretty good, worked in the garden, afterwards cooked a big meal for our son and his family. After supper I had almost finished my dishes when I began to feel awful tired and sick. I called my husband who had already gone to bed. I tried to get ready for bed but got real sick and started vomiting and went unconscious and that was about all I knew for awhile. I turned blue and got cold and had cold sweats all over. It looked like death was near. Husband was holding on, but gave me to the Lord to have his way. I woke up about the middle of June and couldn't realize the month was half gone. I asked for Sister Margaret Eck. She came right away. I had lost about twenty pounds as I wasn't able to keep anything down, not even water. Prayer was offered continually from the time I took sick... The three days Sister Eck stayed with me I began to take a little nourishment and held most of it down... I had smothering spells and my chest hurt severely and I was so weak in body. One night Bro. Young came over in last of June. He anointed me. They had prayer and I was healed. I am now gaining weight and can eat anything I want. Praise the Lord for His goodness to us. He must still have something for me to do and I surely want to do it. Pray for me."

--Sister Leonard Roberts

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From Wash.: "We are thankful for a nice summer and fall so far as we have lots of cloudy and rainy weather most years. We thank him for all things as he knows best. We were so shocked and sorry to hear about Sister Marie's passing, but as I said God knows best. We know she is at rest in our Lord's arms... May the Lord bless you folks in your labors of love."

--Sis. Violet Thomas



From Mo.: "How are you this morning? We are all quite well, so far as I know, and we're so thankful for God's blessings... We love to hear the Mission Trail broadcast. We pray God to bless you for all your service to his work."

--David and Marilyn Cole

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From Mo.: "We thank the Lord for His presence and blessings. We drove over to the Boley camp meeting one day -- heard a very good message on Perfection. Bro. Peoples from Fla. was the preacher. Another message I will long remember was on Faithfulness and then another text was used: If the foundation be destroyed, what can the righteous do. Latter two not preached at Boley, however. God's Word really grips the heart--brings to sober thought and we ask the Lord to help us be doers of the Word and not hearers, only. So glad the people are hearing words of truth as you preach over the radio.. "

--Sis. Rosella Scott

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From La.: "I don't know how many times I have written you (in my mind), but never got it down on paper until now, almost a year ago since I last wrote. Seems time flies too fast for one when they get up close to eighty years old. We know good intentions, not put into action, will not accomplish anything. Many will be lost forever that had good intentions, but, procrastinated too long. I have enjoyed the Mission Trail very much and enclosed is an offering to keep sending me the little paper. This last paper made me feel sad to see the picture of our dear Sis. Marie. Just to think I will never see her again in this world. I surely want to live where I will be worthy to meet her in Heaven... Pray for us that we keep faithful for it's the ones that endure unto the end, the same shall be saved."

--Sis. Effie Miller

From Kansas: "Greetings in the love of Jesus who makes our burdens light. We are thankful for the blessings that he daily gives us. Only he knows our every need and we are glad he does. Sis. Tucker and myself were privileged to attend two services at Boley camp meeting and heard the good word of God preached in simple, plain truth. It was worth our trip. We came home blessed in our souls... We enjoy the broadcast and desire the Lord to bless it to the hearers. It blesses us... The Lord is working. We are thankful he has promised us if we be faithful he would bless."

--Bro. Ralph and Sis. Inez Beisly

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From Kansas: "I have been to the state of Washington and came home Sept. 10, Thursday. Mae went with me. We went on the train, Amtrack, and enjoyed the ride. They have an upstairs on these trains. We rode in the handicapped coach... I'm sure the coach upstairs was pretty wild... I heard someone say, they are drinking and playing cards upstairs. You feel badly to go to someone's table and no one asks the blessing. God was so good to take care of us all the time. It didn't even hinder me in walking when I got off... With love, "

--Sis. Mamie Norcutt

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From Calif.: "I am really praising him this morning for his great love to me, especially for this good home he has given me. I am moved all but a few boxes the children will bring later today. I can't help but cry a little when I think of that awful place I was living in and this nice one he has given me.... I am only one block from shopping the postoffice and bank, so shouldn't I be happy? We have bus service and the fare is 15 cents or 12 rides for \$1.50. I got a letter from my niece and she said Sister Ella was better. I am so happy for that."

--Sis. Edna Murry

## FROM DAY TO DAY

A solemn proverb haunts my mind,  
With meaning deep and vast,  
The mill will never grind again,  
With waters that are past.

Take the lesson to thyself,  
Loving hearts are true.  
Golden years are passing by,  
Life is ebbing too.

Learn to make the most of life,  
Lose no happy day;  
Time can never bring them back,  
Chances swept away.

Leave no tender word unsaid,  
Love while life shall last,  
The mill will never grind again,  
With waters that are past.

--Sel. by Grace Jones

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From Oregon: "Thank the good Lord for beautiful sunshine and such blue skies, though we need rain so badly. We do have wonderful cantaloupes as we used a bit of spring water to help them along. God has blessed us with food-stuff for winter. We made a trip to eastern Oregon to see our older daughter, husband and 10 1/2 month old grand daughter. How the Lord blesses those we love. We continually see His goodness to those we pray for. May God be with all there and send comfort as the days pass."

--Wm & Doris Busch

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From Calif.: "I enjoyed your sermon in this Sept. Mission Trail so very much. I think I'll read it on a cassette tape, so I can play it for my sons... In ...paper I received, reads, If you don't live it, you don't believe it. And so many people are sidetracked by Satan. This little caption goes well with your sermon... With love and prayers."

--Helen Carson

From Kansas: "I am glad to say that I had a wonderful summer. I was able to attend several meetings and did get many blessings and dined sumptuously on the word that was delivered in different places. We also were able to make a trip to the East Coast and then to the West Coast. Tina and I, plus three other sisters from our congregation went to the Calif. state campmeeting in Pacoima and we each were so blessed and thankful to be able to attend. The Lord blessed in such precious and varying ways and we were all able to say that we were so glad that God sent us there... the Lord so richly anointed the word that he had go forth in the meeting and we ate with ready appetites and were graciously filled... We are still glad to be saved and determined to keep faithful because we are strictly enjoying being a child of God. May the Lord bless people everywhere to get the permanent understanding that the Salvation life is necessary for all to live if they want their latter end to be good. Also that they would realize that only if you are saved are you really living because while in sin they are dead while they live."

--Sis. Shirley A. Knight

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From Oregon: "...many sad things are happening in this world. Life is so uncertain and death is sure. I will soon be 70 but it doesn't seem possible. I've been busy canning and taking care of my yard... I am quite well and busy in the service of the Lord, taking people to church and helping any way I can. ... Let us work while it is day, for nite cometh when no man can work."

--Sis. Grace Jones

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Age is the top of a mountain high,  
Clearer the air and blue,  
A long hard climb,  
A bit of fatigue,  
But, oh, what a wonderful view!



# at press time

we understand:



Bro. and Sis. Oscar Wall

It is with great sorrow of heart that we observe the passing of a wonderful saint of God, Brother Oscar Wall. Down through the years from the time Bro. and Sis. Wall lived in Arkansas, through their move to Oklahoma, our acquaintance and love for them has grown. How could we ever forget the time he was fixing dinner for Sis. Wall while she was at meeting, not knowing she invited us home with them for dinner? When we arrived dinner was forthcoming! Bro. Oscar's health has not been good for some time, but the last time we visited him during Monark meeting he was an inspiration to us. As we sang he raised his hand in praise and submission to God's will. His heart was filled with rejoicing in the Lord. Bro. Oscar died Sunday, Sept. 20 and funeral was held in Vinita, Okla., Sept. 23. The body was taken to near Kingston, Ark., for burial. Remember the family in this time of great loss and sorrow. Sis. Oscar Wall, R. 1, Box 265B, Vinita, Oklahoma 74301.

Sister Edna Agnes Blacksher was born



June 12, 1907 and departed this life Aug. 28, 1981 at age 74. She and her husband, Elmer, accepted the truth under the preaching of Bro. Robert Porter some fifty years ago. Elmer preceded her in death March 10, 1979. Sis. Edna lived in Springfield, Mo., and attended the Church of God there. She loved to walk with the Lord and talk with Him and about Him. Her smiling face and sweet countenance will be greatly missed.

tenance will be greatly missed.

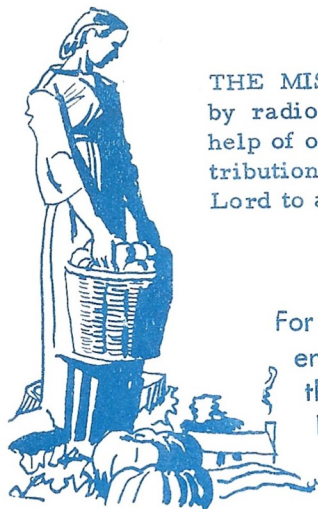
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From Okla.: "We surely thank God for love and mercy that brought me out of the horrible pit and planted my feet on higher grounds. How we thank God for His promises and privileges He has wonderfully extended to us. It was a miracle how He brought me thus far out of the car accident that I was in. I surely give God all the glory. We are thanking the saints for their prayers, flowers, letters, calls and love offering that was sent to me..."

--Sis. Verlene Williams

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Funeral was held for Glen Washburn Sept. 12, 1981 in Shawnee, Okla. Our heart, sympathy and prayers go out to his family in this time of great sorrow. Remember his companion, Sis. Marie Washburn, Box 161, Shawnee, Oklahoma 74801.



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

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