

MUSH TO LIFE



Step Up to Life®

by Elmer Murdoch

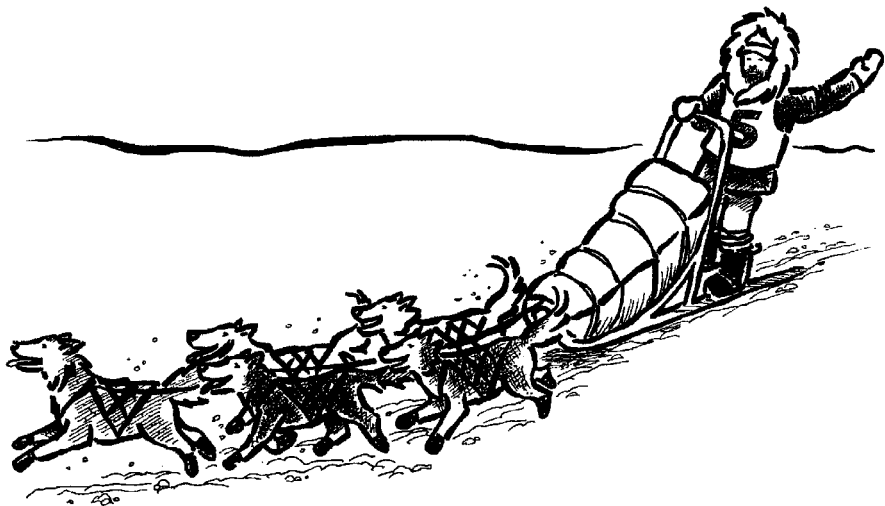


HERE'S YOUR RACE INVENTORY

You are in the race of life. You are a nice person or a bad person, or something in between. You may be a “party animal” or a home body. Or you like sports, family and apple pie. Perhaps you're living on the edge of something dangerous, or even illegal. You've considered quitting but haven't yet. You might be single and happy, or enjoying a good marriage, good health and be debt-free. Yet there is still an empty spot in your life. In your quieter moments, you wonder what it is. Could it be a void in the spiritual part of your life?

Everyone is in this race.

Check out the check points to find out where you are.





UNCONCERNED CHECK POINT

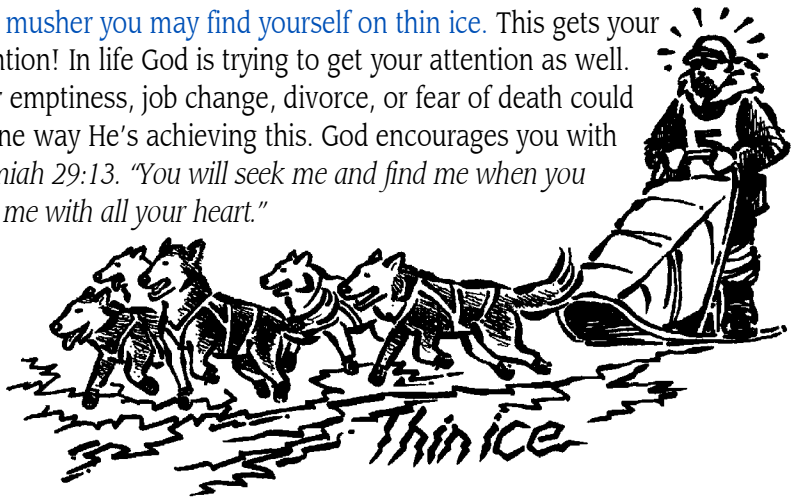
Here's the count down. I try to be decent, live a good life and let others live theirs. I go to church once in a while but don't have any real interest in spiritual matters. This man is spiritually sleeping. *Ephesians 5:14* says, "Awake you who sleep...and Christ will give you light."





CONCERNED CHECK POINT

As a musher you may find yourself on thin ice. This gets your attention! In life God is trying to get your attention as well. Your emptiness, job change, divorce, or fear of death could be one way He's achieving this. God encourages you with *Jeremiah 29:13*. "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."





CONVICTION CHECK POINT

Sled dog racing has rules and the race official will check your required inventory. God has rules-the Ten Commandments. *Romans 3:20*, "For by the law is the knowledge of sin." When we lie, steal, cheat, are jealous, have sex outside of marriage or put other things before God, we break His Law. This is sin. That is why we need forgiveness from God. To be good enough to go to heaven, you have to be perfect. In *James 2:10*, James affirms this when he writes, "For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all." One sin and you are out of the race.

How's your life inventory? Is it perfect? If not, you are disqualified because God requires 100% righteousness. He will give you that in Christ. Keep on mushing to the next check point. There is hope for you.

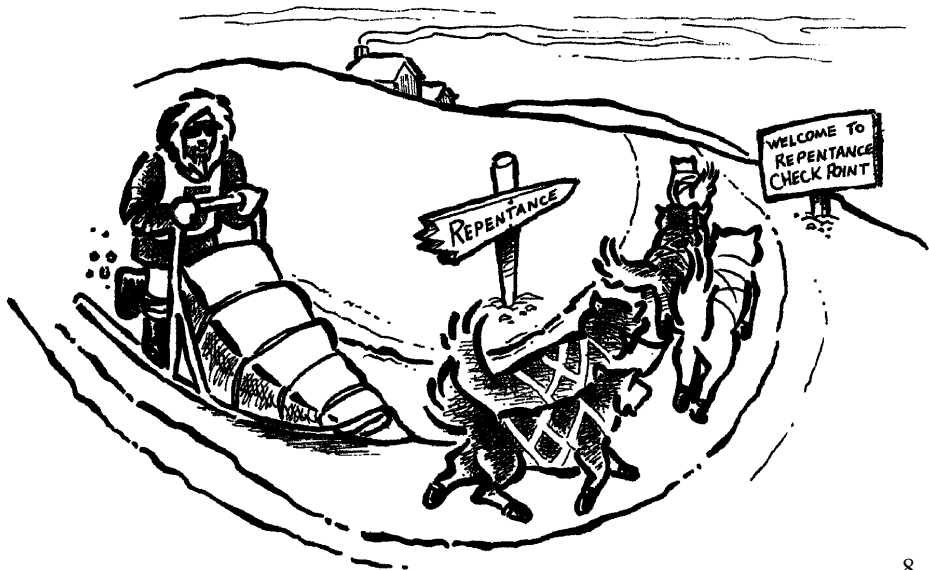




REPENTANCE CHECK POINT

When a musher loses the trail due to a blinding snowstorm, he realizes that he's lost. Here he changes his mind and heart and turns his team around to find the trail marker that leads to the repentance check point. If the musher doesn't find the marker, he is lost and could perish in the storm. That is why Jesus says, *"Unless you repent, you too will all perish."* Luke 13:3.

Repentance... is turning from running your own life, to sincerely wanting to please the Lord Jesus Christ. This leads to what the Bible calls being born again or saved. So Christ's desire for you is victory. The faith and prayers of believers cheer you toward the finish line. God is *"not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance."* 2 Peter 3:9.





SAVING FAITH CHECK POINT

Now you are making a total commitment to get to the finish line. Get there anyway you can...run, pump or ride the runners.

Jesus Christ is standing at the finish line, don't let anything keep you from reaching Him. He'll receive you with open arms. You count and were made to please Him. He'll give you meaning and purpose in this life and heaven in the life to come. Believing in Him, is more than just a mental agreement that Jesus is the Son of God, died on the cross, shed His blood and rose from the dead. All are true, but must lead you to a commitment of the heart that receives Him as Lord and Savior. *"Being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."* Romans 5:1.

This is Saving Faith. The Race Marshal is Jesus Christ who becomes Lord of your life at conversion and by His Spirit He lives in you and is the Source and Enabler of your Christian life.





FINAL CHECK

What check point are you at? Check those that apply to you today.

- I have yet to make a personal commitment to Christ.
- I am at Check Point Concern.
- I am at Check Point Conviction.
- I am turning at Check Point Repentance.
- I am crossing the finish line at Check Point Saving Faith, and giving myself to the Lord Jesus Christ.

When you make this commitment to the Lord Jesus, God by grace, can forgive your sins because of Christ's death on the cross. He welcomes you as His child and places His life and Spirit within you. *Romans 8:16; Galatians 4:6.* Your faith will grow as you read the Bible daily, pray and attend a church that preaches the Bible.

For further help contact:



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