

Look At What's Comin'

Dec. 17th Next Sunday / Church—Wide Christmas Dinner

Following the morning services, let's gather in the Fellowship Hall and enjoy dinner together. Bring neighbors, friends, and family. Ladies please help by bringing salads and desserts.

A—L bring salads / M—Z bring desserts
(no evening services)

Dec. 24th, Sun. Christmas Eve

One morning service beginning at 10 a.m.

First, let's meet in our Sunday School Classes at 10 a.m. for taking the attendance, announcement, offering, etc.

After that, we'll assemble in the auditorium for one big service. We have planned a different congregational song service, with extra special music. Let's have a great crowd, so please be a part, and invite other's to come with you!

No evening service on Christmas eve.

Dec. 31st New Years eve Sunday. Morning services at regular Times, with **No Evening Service**

Jan. 12th, (Friday) Finance Meeting 6:30 p.m. (tentative)
Deacons and Trustees

Jan. 21st, (Sunday) 6:00 p.m. Annual church business meeting

Special Christmas Offering will be used for a new chair lift.

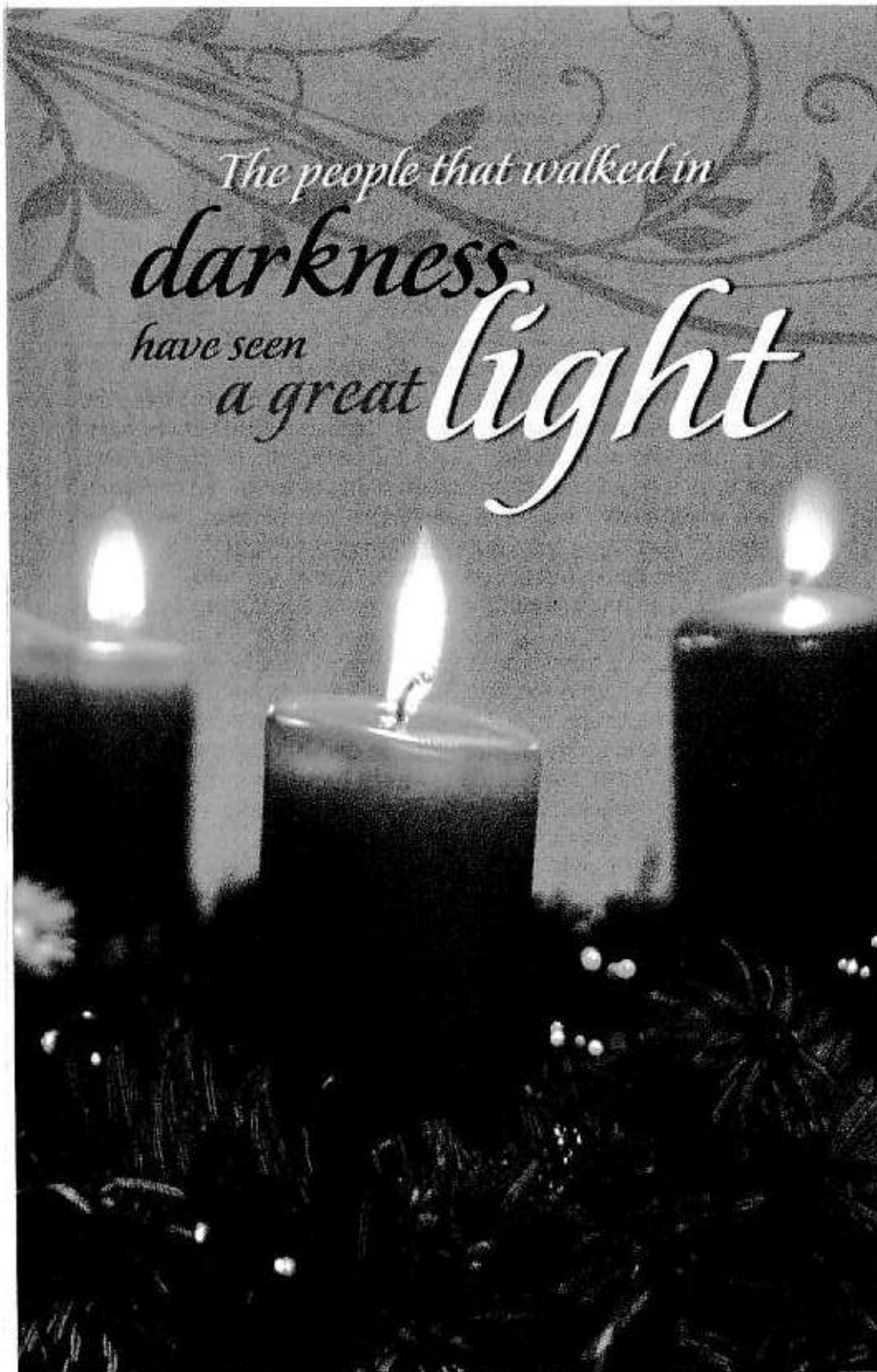
Schedule of Services

Sun. Sch. 10 am / Worship 11 am
Sun. Evening - 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Evening - 6:00 p.m.

Last Sunday's Report

Attendance	78
General Offering	\$ 5,059.00.
Missions	1,810.00

The people that walked in
darkness
have seen
a great *light*



MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

Friendship Baptist Church

2209 E. Pawnee, Wichita, Ks. 263-0269

Ray Melugin, Pastor

Dec. 10, 2017

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Well, what about this little town? Is there just one thing in the Bible that is connected with Bethlehem? Most know only one thing about Bethlehem....it's the birthplace of Christ. And this is as it should be, since the crowning event of the centuries took place there, the place where the Son of Man "humbled Himself" and "took upon him the form of a servant."

The name *Bethlehem* means "house of bread" in Hebrew. It is an ancient storehouse for grain for that area of Israel. It all makes sense: Jesus, the "*Bread of Life*" came to this world through a town whose name means "*House of Bread.*"

Bethlehem is located 5.5 miles straight south of Jerusalem, at an elevation of 2,700 feet above sea level. Just by her location, she is a city of strength. In the 20 centuries of time, since Jesus' birth, many little towns in Israel have disappeared. Only relics remain. But Bethlehem is a thriving city, and a very busy city this time each year.

During David's time (2 Sam. 23) Bethlehem was occupied by a garrison of Philistines. It was later fortified and strengthened by Rehoboam in 2nd Chronicles.

Bethlehem was first known as Ephrata, which means "fruitful." The word "*little*" in "*O little town...*" probably comes from the book of Micah: "*But thou, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah...*" 700 years before Christ, Micah tells us where He would be born....in Bethlehem. (Micah 5:2)

As Jacob was coming back to Israel, from Padan-Aram, where he had lived for 20 years, he passed by Bethlehem. This was where Rachel, his beloved wife, died during child-birth. Her tomb is still located there today.

From the book of Ruth, she and her family were from Bethlehem. The Church of the Nativity, and the shepherds fields makes this city one of the most visited sites in Israel.

*We Cannot Do Without Our
Missionaries*

**The Cepec Family
Missionaries to Trinidad & Guyana**

The church has supported the Cepec family for about one year.

Blessings

The month of October was the highlight of our year! Thank you so much for your faithful prayers and support, and for making it possible for us to be in Guyana at this time. Our first week there was spent with our pastor and ten people from our home church. It was great to work together with them and to introduce them to these precious people that we have come to love.

It was also a great blessing to be with other missionaries in the area. At Faith Baptist Church, we were able to take part in a crusade to reach young people, and participate in their youth revival. I was able to preach and teach God's word during this outreach.

Back Home

Our family flew back to the States on Oct. 30th. On November 1st, we drove to Deland, Florida for a missions conference. Shawn had a little stomach bug when we got back to the States, but said it was worth it to be able to be there on the mission field.

Health Issues

While dealing with cancer, my doctor has finally labeled it as stage 4, and started me on chemo treatments again. I am on chemo treatments, along with another immunotherapy medication. I am also taking other natural supplements. We have no plans of quitting now and desire only to continue raising our support so that we can get back to the field. Please continue to pray for us. Thank you for your part in the Lord's work in Trinidad and Guyana.

The Cepec Family