

Look At What's Comin'

This Morning! Church Wide Christmas Dinner

Following the morning services, let's gather in the Fellowship Hall and enjoy dinner together. All are invited to stay, eat, and fellowship together. **Let there be no big rush to leave, since there will be No Evening Service.**

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.
\$ 1,240 has been given so far. Thanks so much! \$ 3,900 needed

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 68
General Offering \$ 6,555.00
Missions 1,144.00

For the
LORD
thy God
is with thee
whithersoever thou goest



MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

Friendship Baptist Church

2209 E. Pawnee, Wichita, Ks. 268-0269

Ray Melugin, Pastor

Dec. 17, 2017

Hark, The Herald Angels Sing

That is the title and the first words of the beloved Christmas carol, but not the original title, or first lines of the song.

First published in 1739, Charles Wesley's words for the first lines were, "Hark, how all the welkin rings, Glory to the King of Kings." So, what does "welkin" mean? It's a word taken from the Anglo-Saxon language meaning, "The Heavens, or Skies," which is akin to the heavenly hosts announcing the birth of Christ to the shepherds on that first Christmas morn.

This is how Wesley begins his Christmas hymn. Note his progression through verse one: "God and sinners reconciled" He tells us that Christ came to bring peace between God and man. II Cor. 5:19 tells us, "...God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself." Reconcile means, the act whereby two warring parties (you and God) are brought together in peace. Rom. 5:1 says, "Therefore, being justified by faith, we have peace with God, through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Verse 2 tells us Christ, the eternal King of heaven, worshipped by angels, and arch-angels, lays aside His glory and is pleased to " dwell" with mankind. "Late in time behold Him come..." 400 years after the last prophet had given Israel the promise, Gabriel the angel announces to Mary and Joseph, and the shepherds, that God's promise is going to be fulfilled. After over 400 years of silence from heaven, God breaks the silence with an announcement that begins the New Testament...the birth of Christ.

Verse 3 gives us two other names of Christ: "Prince of Peace," and "Sun of Righteousness" from the prophets Isaiah, and Malachi. The verse ends with Jesus reason for coming: "Born to give them second birth."

In 1753, Wesley himself changed the opening words to ones we sing today. In following years, other changes were made, and verses dropped. In 1782, it was published as we know it.

*We Cannot Do Without Our
Missionaries*

Jim and Mary Blume
Papua New Guinea

Dear Praying Partners,

Thank you for your prayers. We had a very fruitful trip back to the field. The first event was a productive mission conference at Wau Baptist Church. We met with some of the Bible school alumni who came from various parts of the islands. Bro. Dominic is our second foreign missionary graduate. He is going to Guadacanal in the Solomon Islands. Mount Hagan Baptist Temple is his sending church. It is encouraging to see the Biblical principles of the Great Commission in action. These local churches are carrying the gospel to unreached areas.

The Wau High School that has a thousand students allowed me to give a short devotion and prayer at their graduation. Stan has taken over my long time religious instruction class.

Teaching a modular course on the book of Hebrews took a week and a half. It was great fun to see the truth of Christ's "better priesthood," and "better covenant," finally "dawn" upon the minds of these students. Pray that these men and women will go on to be wonderful witnesses for the Lord.

Another great event was to be a part of the ordination of Bro. Biru, pastor of the Free Grace Baptist Church. He graduated from the Bible school about fifteen years ago.

Shalom
Jungle Jim