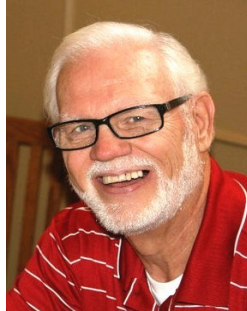


A PUBLICATION OF EVANGELICAL FRIENDS CHURCH MID AMERICA

FOLLOWING A STAR – ARRIVING AT A STABLE

I was just reflecting on some of the Biblical stories of Christmas and how most of them are simply “unbelievable” in a human sense. For instance, here are three persons of royalty (Magi/Wise Guys) on a mission from the area east of Jerusalem, seeking to find another “king” whose presence was marked by a visible, shining star. After consulting with Herod, they moved on to Bethlehem, the “poor” section of the neighborhood. And following the star, they found the one they were looking for in a very humble place in that city, worshipped Him and presented their gifts to Him. Un-be-li-veable!



What happens when you follow a star and find a stable? What happens when we often find that the result of what we were looking for turned out to be much different than what we expected? Matthew details for us a summary of events surrounding this visit (Matt. 2:1-12). He does not tell us, and perhaps did not know the conversations that took place among the three men. We can only imagine what some of those might have been like. Were they skeptical about Herod’s directions and requests? Did they express their disappointment after arriving in Bethlehem? Did they argue about the divine warning as to whether to report back to Herod or whether to go back home?

All we know is that they rejoiced with great joy when they found the child, they presented their gifts, worshipped him and they went home in a new direction. What? After following a star and finding this humble baby, surely they were disillusioned. But no, they rejoiced at this answer to prayer. And instead of going home the way they arrived, they went a different direction. Is it hard for you to rejoice when the circumstance is not what you expected? Were you looking for something great only to find humility wrapped in a blanket?

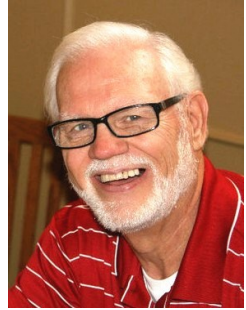
This season, let us play the role of the “We three kings of orient are...” Find the King of Kings in your circumstance; find a way to rejoice greatly in what God is doing and find a new direction that leads you from that place to the place of fulfillment in life.

–David Robinson, General Superintendent

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LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

Kevin Lee (Faculty, Barclay College) will teach the next course, "New Testament," at the January 2nd session of the Church Leadership Institute for Ministry. This session will address "The General Letters and Revelation". The live video session will begin at 7:00 p.m. and conclude at 9:00 p.m. A time of fellowship and refreshments at the sites will begin at 6:30. Contact Dave Kingrey dkingrey@efcmaym.org with questions.

SALTSHAKER

Saltshaker 2012 Burundi – Kibimba Hospital is scheduled for June 26—July 11, 2012 in Burundi, Africa. The Friends of Kibimba have partnered with Saltshaker to provide this opportunity for high school, college, and adults to serve. Application and deposit due December 15th. Info can be found at friendseyouth.com.

OTHER NEWS IN MID AMERICA

- Please pray for the students and adults participating in Friends Student Conference 2011 which will be held December 28—January 1 at the Hyatt Regency Wichita. This year's theme is "STOP".
- The first tournament of the 2012 Jr. High Bible Quiz season will be December 30th at FSC at the Hyatt in Wichita, 8:30 am to 12:00 pm.
- Wichita Area is hosting a special celebration service at Iglesia Amigos Wichita on Saturday, January 14th at 4:00pm. This will be a time of sharing in worship and testimonies and will include the dedication of their new addition to their building.
- All of those in EFC-MAYM involved in missional ministry are invited to a "Campfire" gathering for networking, encouragement, prayer, coaching, and support. This event will be Sunday, January 8th, 5:30-8:30 at Northridge and will include a supper. Contact the Ministry Center for more details.
- You can still give towards the Run for Missions 100-mile fundraiser to support the EFC-MAYM Missions Scholarship Fund until December 31st. \$16,600 has been raised so far in 2011.

COMING SOON IN EFC-MAYM

Friends Student Conference: December 28-January 1, Hyatt Regency Wichita, KS

Jr. High Bible Quiz: Friday, December 30th at FSC

Home Missions Board Meeting: Saturday, January 14th

Bangladesh Mission Trip: January 19-28, 2012

Jr. High Bible Quiz: Saturday, January 28 at Argonia Friends

Elders Board Meeting: Saturday, January 28

Spring Invasion: March 10-17 and 17-24, Coahuila, Mexico

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www.efcmaym.org
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