

TRUE VINE TIMES

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. ~ Luke 2:14



Update on Rachel's brother

Rachel reports that Dan continues to receive intensive chemotherapy and just had a liver biopsy this week in Pittsburg. They're determining if the cancer has spread to that area. The results should be known in the coming week and could determine how many more weeks Dan might receive Chemotherapy. Dan is tolerating the chemo as best he can. He and his family have settled in Beaver, PA (Western PA). The kids are attending in-person Christian schooling and doing well.

Angels we have on heard high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains
Gloria in Excelsis Deo

What inspires awe in you? What things cause you to become speechless when you see them? Is it the sight of a family member you haven't seen in years? Is it visiting a majestic place like a mountain or a historical place like the ancient pyramids of Egypt? The night Christ was born was the most monumental and awe-inspiring event that has ever occurred in human history, as God sent His one and only Son to earth so that we could ultimately have eternal life. There has not been an event in history before or after Christ's birth that resulted in such celebration that the angels themselves made their physical presence known and their voices heard in song. Can you imagine how the shepherds' jaws must have dropped at the sight and sounds of the angels? That moment was so majestic that we probably cannot fully comprehend what it was like because honestly, none of us have encountered such a sight.

It seems like people tend to have fewer experiences these days of complete awe. Technology has brought so much of the world to our living rooms and fingertips that we can see anything we want and feel like we are anywhere we want to be. Unfortunately, most of us probably have fewer awe-inspiring moments with God than we should. Our relationship with Him often becomes too comfortable and even ordinary. This Christmas, make an attempt to regain those awe-inspiring moments with God. Strive to make your relationship with Him something so inspiring that it causes you to rejoice like the angels did. Don't let your relationship with Him be ordinary, but rather make it extraordinary.

Christmas Cornflake Wreath Cookies

By Judie Herring

These are tasty, and easy to make. I can remember making cookies with my Mom and my Gramma Jones. (Yes, my maiden name was Jones). She taught me that the cookie dough had to FEEL just right before we baked it. And, my brother, sister and I ate a lot of dough and we're still alive. My grandchildren, MaryRose and Joe, baked many Christmas cookies with me over the years. They loved that job.



For the Recipe follow this link

<https://www.allrecipes.com/recipe/230446/frosted-christmas-wreath-cookies/>

Questions:

- Think about some awe-inspiring moments you've had with God. How have these moments transformed you?
- What changes do you need to make in your life so that you can start having more awe-inspiring moments with God?

~~The devotional above is from Bible.com~~

Matthew West - The Hope of Christmas

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=27rMrWqJsNA>



Poem by Becky Bontrager (Pat Strunk's mother)

COME TO HIM AND BE HEALED

Bring your cares, all you trouble hearted,
Sing in His presence, your songs of praise,
Ring cymbals, clap hands in gladness,
King almighty! In unison all voices raise,
Heaven sent its only son upon the sinful earth,
Deafen not your soul from hearing His message,
Sharpen your ears and listen to His silent call,
Deepen your faith to free yourself from bondage!

