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Dear Friends,

At times PIM teachers use songs to help their young students learn. The familiar alphabet song “ABC-D-EFG” with same tune that you may know, works for children in PNG, too. Trying to get a group of early grade school children to read together in unison gets a jumbled result. However, add some music and once students get the tune, they stay together with the lyrics.

In recent years the importance of music has been discussed at gatherings of teachers at their in-service training. The teachers have shared their made up educational and fun songs with each other by singing them amongst themselves. Held during the evenings the sharing gets a bit comical. For those visiting a PIM school a teacher will often lead their students through a series of songs including a greeting song in which the visitors name is inserted. It thrills a listener to hear such enthusiastic and uninhibited singing by these students. The smiles, the bright eyes, and joy of the young singers can bring a tear to eye. Having students singing (practicing) five days a week at school many of the same songs sung in church, helps improve the music in the worship service. “All nature sings and around me rings the music of the spheres,” poetic lyrics from the hymn, “This Is My Father’s World”. Our majestic creator has by his word and power set in motion this world and everything in it. We live and breathe air which allows nature’s sounds to travel to our ears. The wind as it rustles the grass, a storm’s rain and thunder, the crashing surf, a waterfall plus the songs of men, birds, and other creatures that sing.

Yet Luke 2 reminds us of an extra special time for mankind when the sky near Bethlehem was filled with a joyous sound from an angelic host heralding the birth of the Christ child. The angels sang, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. Since the death and resurrection of Christ, the heavenly choirs can sing even more gloriously. Yet looking forward to the final act -the second coming, when by God’s grace we will be in heaven giving God praise and glory with people *from every tribe and language and people and nation*. There will be the ultimate peace and good will eternally, what a wonderful day that will be.

May we all grow in the faith and knowledge of the living God in the coming year.

Thank you for your support and being a part of building up God’s people at the ends of the earth.

Douglas Heidema

