

Dear Beaming Saints,

The origins of radio broadcasting are interesting and international ones. James Maxwell developed the electromagnetic theory in 1865. Heinrich Hertz produced and detected radio waves in 1885. Edouard Branley converted incoming signals to direct current in 1890. Guglielmo Marconi used the work of all the above- mentioned individuals to transmit a radio signal across the Atlantic in 1901. Early on, Morse code was transmitted because too much power was required to transmit voices.

Radio station KDKA in Pittsburgh was the first to broadcast publicly. On November 2, 1920 they broadcast the results of the presidential election of 1920. Very few, if any, had the means to receive the broadcast. The first religious service was broadcast two months later, on **January 2, 1921**. The purpose in broadcasting the church service was to test the station's remote broadcasting capabilities. Calvary Episcopal Church was selected for this honor and Reverend Lewis B. Whittmore preached the first sermon. They continued to broadcast the services until 1962.

If it had not been for one of the station's engineers being in the church's choir, one can only imagine what the first remote broadcast would have been. The expression "The Lord moves in mysterious ways" comes to mind. Regardless of the chance circumstances of the decision to broadcast from a church, history was set and on January 2, we can celebrate 97 years of beaming God's word out across the world.

As we begin a new year, I pray that all of us will think of ourselves as Christian signals ready to be beamed out to all we encounter. Indeed, some radio stations continue to broadcast church services to this day to say nothing of all the religious broadcasting beyond worship services.

Jesus told us to broadcast the Good News. In Mark 16:15 Jesus said to the eleven:

And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation".

Whether we are talking to another person across the backyard fence, or broadcasting to thousands or millions, our task is before us. We are a commanded people, we are a called-out people. Through the wonders of the age discovered through modern science, we have the ability to be beacons of love proclaiming the salvation given to us through Christ our Savior. May the rest of 2018 be a year in which you beam out God's message of redemption "to the whole creation."

(Reference: Dan Graves: "KDKA Made Religious Waves", www.Christianity.com)

Grace and Peace

Pastor Dennis