

"Jesus: Light of the World."

Stories, Puzzles, Jokes, Readers' Response, Serial and more...

Hi There!

Have you ever heard the saying; "The darkest time is just before dawn". I used to think it was just an expression, but do you know that the darkest time of night IS actually just before dawn. It's great to know that Jesus is the light of the world. Just like we can trust the sun's rays to start making the day lighter, so we can also trust God to shine a light into any difficult (dark) situation that we may have.

Wendy A



info@biblediscovery.org.nz www.biblediscovery.org.nz Discovery is a publication of the PSSM Bible Discovery Trust (formerly the Postal Sunday School Movement of NZ Inc.) This is an evangelical, non-denominational, Christian trust. We depend on God to supply our financial needs through the donations of interested individuals and groups. All donations are receipted and tax-deductible.

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God is Light



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Start with the shaded word. The next word must touch the last letter of the previous word in any direction. Each word must be in a straight line. The first letter of the second word is put in to help you.

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Jesus is the light

Jesus is the light that shines to the world, Shining in the darkest night; "Anyone who follows," Jesus has said, "They will have the light of life."

Chorus

Walking in the light, never in the night, Following where Jesus goes, Walking in the light, never in the night, Following where Jesus shows.

Jesus is the light to show you the way If your path is dark or dim, He will chase the shadows, brighten your way, You can safely trust in Him

Be a light for Jesus, shine now for Him, Others soon will see it too. You can help the Saviour reach to the world, Let your light shine bright and true.



ave you ever fancied getting away from it all and living in a lighthouse on an island or rugged coastline far from anywhere?

This was the choice of several families in the early days of New Zealand.

As a young nation New Zealand was heavily dependent on sea travel, but the dangerous coastline was a constant threat to ships arriving with immigrants and cargo. In the 1800s alone, there were 1500 shipwrecks and more than 2000 deaths by drowning. Something had to be done to show sailors their exact location and to warn them of the dangers lurking around the long, rugged coastline, especially at night-time. The first attempt was a simple lantern shining out to sea from a cottage window. Then, in 1859, New Zealand's first permanent lighthouse was built at Pencarrow at the entrance to Wellington harbour. Surprisingly, the first keeper was a woman

Other lighthouses were gradually built around the coastline - usually in difficult and isolated places known to be dangerous for shipping.

named Mary Jane Bennett. She was the first and only woman put in charge of a New

Zealand lighthouse.

Daily living was extremely hard for the keeper and his family. As well as manning and maintaining the lighthouse, they had to provide their food by catching fish, raising animals and growing vegetables. With no electricity until the 1950s, the women did all their household chores the hard way, as well

as teaching their children and attending to their needs.

Isolation was a huge factor with supplies coming by boat once every three to four months. Loneliness was a problem for some, along with the fear of illness and accidents. But many families enjoyed the life and developed hobbies and interests in their spare time.

Gradually the lighthouses became automated, and by 1990, no one was required to live on them.

Down through the years, the lighthouse has been a beacon of safety and hope to many a sailor and traveller by sea and lighthouses are still an important feature of the New Zealand coastline.

In the story of creation, the first thing God created was light, because God is light and He dwells in unapproachable light. Light represents what is good, pure, true and holy. Sadly, when sin entered the world, darkness overcame everything.

While Jesus was here on earth, He claimed to be the light of the world. By believing in Him we can come into the light and don't need to stay in darkness. He has shown us the way to God and how to live our lives.

Just as the lighthouse shines from the shore to give the mariner direction and safety, we can live confidently knowing that He will guide and direct us and keep us from falling into wrong ways. We in turn can then be His lighthouse, shining for Him in a dark world and pointing

One light that will never go out.

I want to tell you a story about something that happened to me a long time ago.

I had to take a plane trip from Boston to New York City. I got on the plane, and everything began to progress in the usual way. We got clearance from the tower, moved away from the gate, rolled out onto the tarmac, and then stopped moving. And we sat there, and we sat there, and we sat there. Finally, I looked out the window and what I saw was absolute darkness. There wasn't a single light on in the airport. All the lights had gone out. Then the pilot came on the speaker system and told us that not only were there no lights in the airport, there were no lights anywhere in the city of Boston, anywhere in the state of Massachusetts, or anywhere in the New England region of the United States

It was the "Great Blackout of New England." That whole corner of the United States, where sixty or seventy million people lived, was suddenly without light. So, I had to get off the airplane and find my way back to the house where I had been staying. There were no street lights. Traffic was jammed up at every corner. No electric trains were working. There was very little security protection for the people on the streets. Elevators in skyscrapers stopped wherever they were. People had to walk down from the top of the highest buildings in the world, up to one hundred floors, to get onto the street to get home. Restaurants couldn't serve meals. Shopping malls and movie

theatres went totally dark. People couldn't get to the hospitals.

Best-selling books were written about this great blackout. There was even a comical movie telling the story. And for years and years afterward, the people of that area shared with each other their personal experiences of where they were when the lights went out. That's how powerful an impression the darkness made on them.

People Trapped in Darkness. Now, dear people of God, there are many people in this world, perhaps countless millions, who live their whole lives in darkness. Why? Because they are living without the light that has come into the world. They are living without the light whose name is Jesus Christ.

I'm not just talking about places like Africa or China where there isn't a strong Christian tradition. I'm also talking about the West. In Europe and the Americas, the light of Jesus Christ is fading. In Ireland, for instance, for the first time in its history, people are saying that young people aren't coming to church. And in the United States, statistics show how relatively few come to give God Almighty even one hour of the 168 hours he gives us every week.

We had better take notice of this fact because we have the job of getting the light back on. We have to get the light of Jesus Christ shining brightly again in human hearts. And we have to start with our own hearts.



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1 Fri	Acts	15:36-41;16:1-5	
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4 Mon	Acts	16:25-40] •
5 Tues	Acts	17:1-9	
6 Wed	Acts	17:10-15] •
7 Thu	Acts	17:16-21	
8 Fri	Acts	17:22-34	
9 Sat	Acts	18:1-11	
10 Sun	1 Thess	2:1-9	
11 Mon	1 Thess	2:10-12] •
12 Tues	1 Thess	2:13-16	
13 Wed	1 Thess	2:17-20;3:1-5	
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21 Thu	2Thess	3:1-5	
22 Fri	2Thess	3:6-18	╡ ;
23 Sat	1 Kings	2:1-4;2:10-12	╣,
24 Sun	1 Kings	3:1-9	
25 Mon	1 Kings	3:10-15	-
26 Tue	1 Kings	5:1-6	'
27 Wed	1 Kings	5:7-12	
28 Thu	1 Kings	5:13-18	-
29 Fri	1 Kings	6:11-22	;
30 Sat	1 Kings	7:51-8:13	-
31 Sun	1 Kings	8:14-21	_ '

















Leaders' Response

"Hey kids this is YOUR page - so send in (original materials) your favourite joke, one of your own poems or

Email: info@biblediscovery.org.nz or write to us: 888 New North Road, Mt Albert, Auckland

Let Jesus Christ Discover the desire you have, to have Him in your life. He will Inspire you, Save you from evil, Conquer the devourer for your sake, make you an

Overcomer since you will experience Victory in all you do. You will surely

Restore all that the devil might have taken from You. By Ogunkoya Omolade Toyin, Nigeria.





A Prayer

Thank you that you loved me at times when I didn't even know. Thank you that you continue to pour your love on me, when I search for love by someone and somewhere to fit in. Thank you that you comfort me when I am sad and lonely. Thank you that you disciplined me, when I am rebellious and rude. Thank you that you understood me when no one else could. Thank you that you love me more than anyone else. Thank you that you are faithful to me, even when I am not. Thank you that you always have time for me and want to spend more time with me. Thank you that you died for me, for the separation between you and me. Thank you for your words, the truth that unlocked all my confusion. Thank you for you Lord, Just the way you are.

You are faithful, loyal, trustworthy, loving, honest, perfect, powerful, wise, dependable and much more. Thank you that you love me Lord. Please help me to live a holy life. In Jesus name.

Anonymous.





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It was a dreadful night. The wind blew around the old house, brushing the willow branches against the walls and rattling the iron on the roof as the rain continued to fall.

Tim climbed into bed and pulled the covers over his head. Would he ever get to sleep?

Suddenly the room was filled with light and his Mum was shaking him.

"Wake up," Tim," she said. "It's starting to flood and we need to get to Mr. & Mrs. Warren's place so we will be safe. If we don't go now it may be too late.

"Are we going in the car?" asked Tim.

"No, the road is already covered and I think it would be safer if we walk round the side of the hill."

Soon Tim was dressed. He followed his Mum and Dad and younger sister into the kitchen. Dad turned his torch on as he opened the door and switched out the house light. They put on their raincoats while the flood water glimmered a short distance away in the torch light.

"I want you to all follow closely behind me," Dad said. "We don't want anyone lost on a night like this."

Quickly they made their way across the yard, pulled themselves up the bank and then climbed over the fence that led to the hillside. Dad was leading the way with Mum and Stacey behind him, and Tim was last of all.

As they kept walking Tim thought of what the man had read at church on Sunday. The verse he'd read was about Jesus saying "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

It was scary tonight walking in the rain and darkness but with Dad leading the way and the light ahead wasn't so bad. Life could be scary too, but if Jesus was leading the way then things wouldn't

They kept going as the rain kept falling. They kept climbing until they were further away from the swirling water. Tim prayed that God would get them safely to the Warren's house.

"Mum," Stacey said, "I'm scared and I'm cold and wet.

"Don't worry," Mum replied as they came to the top of the hill, "there's the Warren's place. Just keep following Dad's light and we'll soon be there."

Minutes later they reached the house where Mrs. Warren was waiting to welcome them inside.

"Let me take your wet coats," she said. "Go and sit in front of the fire and I'll bring you a warm drink."

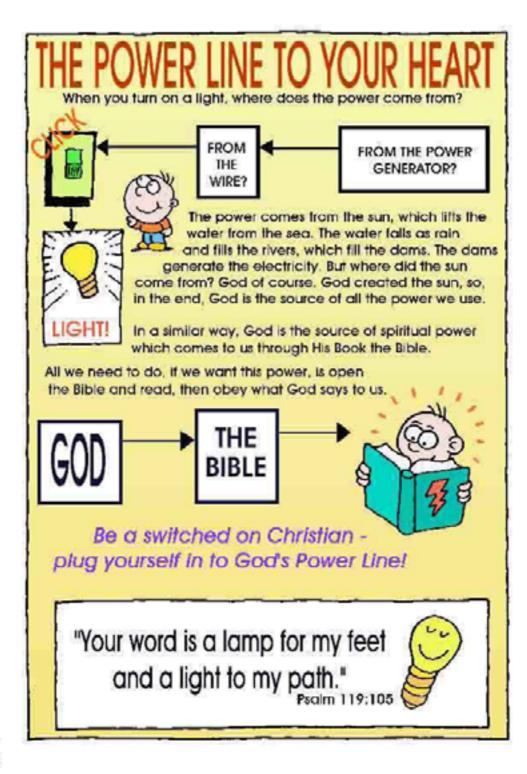
As Tim looked into the flickering fireplace he thought of the light that had led them safely to the Warren's house and he began to pray quietly.

"Thank you God for getting us here safely and thank you that I can trust Jesus, the Light of the world, to guide me safely through life."



There are clues written below to two contrasting words. In life we will choose one or the other.

	What God called the light (Genesis 1:5)	
	shine, for your light has come. (Isaiah 60:1)	
	Light is given to these people (Psalm 97:	11,
	of the glory of God (2 Corinthians 4:6)	
		2)
	Men love darkness because their deeds are? (John 3:19)	
	The Lord is my light and? (Psalm 27:1)	
	in a dark place (2 Peter 1:1	19)
O R		
	We should our light shine (Matthew 5:16)	
	Light has come the world (John 3:19)	
	1 John 1:5 tells us that is light	
)
	John 1:9 tells us that Jesus is the	



THE LIGHT OF HOME

It was a very dark night. I had taken my light, my carving fork and bucket and crossed to the far side of the bay to see if I could catch some flounder, when without warning my light went out. How would I find my way home?

I turned and located the light of our house then began my long trudge across the mudflats towards home. At times I would sense there was something in my path and I would dodge it, then once more I would set my sights on that distant light as it gradually grew brighter. Finally I was home.

Jesus is the light of this dark world and you can safely trust Him to lead you home to heaven. Why don't you follow Him today?



The TRUTH will set you free

"Mrs. Elliot, may I please go to see the nurse?" Zane asked lifting his arm to show the teacher the large festered gash on his hand.

"Of course," Mrs. Elliot replied as she looked sympathetically at the wound. "How did that happen?" she asked. "It looks really sore."

"I fell off the slide on the playground." Zane quickly made up a story. He hadn't expected his teacher to ask him how he got hurt. As he walked slowly down the hallway to the nurse's office, he felt bad. It wasn't just that his hand was really hurting either. By the look on the teacher's face, he could tell that she didn't really believe his story.

When it was his turn to see the



school nurse, Zane was prepared. He had made up what he thought was a better story. As the nurse cleaned the wound and put a bandage on it, she asked, "How long have you had this cut on your hand?"

Zane tried to reply convincingly, "I got hurt vesterday when I fell off my bike," but he couldn't help looking at his feet when he said it.

"Hmm, yesterday?" the nurse questioned. "Are you sure? It seems awfully infected to have happened yesterday."

Zane was afraid to tell the truth because he was afraid the nurse would call his mother and he didn't want that to happen. He was afraid he would be in b-i-i-gggg trouble if his mother found out he had broken her favorite flower vase and cut himself trying to hide what he'd done. He looked up at the nurse, "It happened yesterday while I was riding my bike."

As it happened, the school nurse did call Zane's mother. The sore was full of infection and even though she cleaned and dressed it, the nurse thought he should see a doctor. At the doctor's office, Zane stuck to his story about falling off the bike. "How did that piece of glass get in your hand?" Doctor Stevens asked.

Zane hesitated for a moment, then said, "Uh, I guess there must have

been some glass in the ditch where I fell."

Finally Zane's mother spoke up. "I think it's time for you start telling the truth Zane." She looked sternly at him. "I know you broke the vase, but I was hoping you'd own up to it by yourself. If I had known you had a bad cut, I would have taken care of it."

Zane felt himself flush in the face. He shouldn't have tried to cover things up and he knew he shouldn't have lied. "You knew? . . . How did you know?" he asked in surprise.

"Well, first of all, I saw the flowers were missing and I found them in the rubbish. I also found bits of glass on the floor that you had missed. I'm sad that you couldn't tell me the truth. Why didn't you just tell me?"

"I...I was afraid," Zane replied tearfully. "I was scared you'd be angry and punish me."

"But Zane, if it was an accident and

you owned up to me, why would I punish you? Now that you have lied you DO deserve a punishment.

Zane hung his head in shame as the doctor finished cleaning out the glass and cleaning the wound.

"I'm sorry for lying Mum," he muttered sadly.

"Thank you for apologizing, Zane," his mother responded, "I think you have punished yourself enough. That gash on your hand will be sore for quite a while and you won't be able to ride on your bike. I hope that when you feel the pain, you'll remember that the truth is much less painful than lying. When you face the truth, you only have to face it once, ask forgiveness, and then it's over. When you lie, you have to keep making up more and more lies to try to cover up the

first one, but eventually you do have to face the truth anyway."

"Yes Mum." Zane replied. "Thank you Doctor Stevens". Zane felt so much lighter with everything cleared



