

Lighthouse Beacon

New Mexico Lighthouses of Prayer - January 2002

Excerpts from - "**Everything Changed!**" by Dr. Alvin VanderGriend
(Dr. VanderGriend is the National Facilitator of Lighthouse Ministries for Mission America)

Norm was challenged in a Lighthouse seminar to start praying for his neighbors. One person he decided to pray for was John—a hard core character whom he thought would be "impossible to change." But by the third week of praying, things began to change, both for John and for Norm as God's love for John worked its way into Norm's heart as he prayed.

After Norm had prayed for seven weeks, John started going to church, read a book about Jesus Christ that Norm gave him, and accepted the Lord. Soon he joined a church, reconciled with his wife whom he had divorced and was remarried to her. Prayer changed John, changed his attitude, changed his marriage and changed his life for all eternity.

Prayer changed Norm too. "God has taught me an important lesson," he said. "I cannot expect God to change my neighbors until I change my attitude toward them. I am grateful that through prayer God not only changed John's life for eternity, but He also changed me."

PRAYER changes things! Through prayer you can have a remarkable influence in your world. God opens closed hearts, conveys healing, brings peace to nations and restores broken relationships. Things happen when we pray that wouldn't happen if we hadn't prayed.



CARE changes things! Everybody needs love. Atheist Madelyn Murray O'Hare repeatedly wrote in her diary phrases like: "somebody love me," "won't somebody please love me." Because God loves us and fills us with His love, we can be channels of His life-giving love to those around us.

SHARING changes things too! As believers share the good news with unsaved persons, God's saving power breaks the stranglehold of sin. What our society needs today are more Christians who will pray for, care for and share Christ with those who live and work around them. That, more than anything else, will change our world and establish the kingdom of God. That's what Lighthouses are about—living a praying, caring, and sharing lifestyle that changes our world for good!

As we begin a new year, reaffirm your commitment to be a Lighthouse. Start the year with prayer for your neighbors – praying that God would bless them in the coming months and that He would open doors in 2002 for you to show His love to them and to share your faith in Him. Look for spontaneous openings to get to know your neighbors better and demonstrate God's love through acts of kindness and through sharing about Jesus. God is able – let's be willing!

"Let your light shine so that others may see your good works and glorify your father in heaven." Matt 5:16

Share the Good News!

Why Should I Become A Lighthouse?

First Timothy 2:4 tells us that God, "wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth." Verse one commands believers to pray that this will happen. Being a Lighthouse allows you to be used by God to fulfill the deepest desire of His heart—to save people from an eternity apart from Him.

God has given you a unique place of influence among family members, friends, co-workers, classmates and neighbors. Some of them don't know Christ. Your prayers will release God's grace in their lives. Your hands and feet will minister the loving care of Christ to them. Your words will point them to Christ. God can use you!

Sharing Resource: Campus Crusades for Christ has a web site to help you develop your Christian testimony so that you can easily share with others what God has done in your life. Visit www.5clicks.com to learn more.

Jesus Shines in New Mexico

Each Christmas season, Prison Fellowship Ministries sponsors a special outreach to children of those who are in prison. This nationwide movement is called Angel Tree and many New Mexicans participate by buying, wrapping and delivering gifts to the children of those who are incarcerated in the jails and prisons of our state. It is an outreach of love that has changed many lives – not only the children's, but also the parent's.

This year, LightShine Ministries was contacted by a long-time Lighthouse sup-

porter who asked what it would take to give a "Jesus for Children" video to families receiving Angel Tree gifts in New Mexico. Through special arrangements with "The Jesus Video" group, over 450 videos were purchased and included in Angel Tree packages from 10 churches.

By God's grace and provision, one Lighthouse provided the real "reason-for-the-season" to thousands of New Mexicans! What a wonderful example of Matthew 5:16 and a reminder that there are always opportunities for sharing Jesus in our dark, hurting world. Let it shine!

Upcoming Events

Remembrance Project

Mission America and Campus Crusades for Christ are moving forward with their efforts to distribute 100 million copies of the "Fallen But Not Forgotten" across the USA. Our prayer is that every home in New Mexico would receive one of these booklets by Easter 2002 (~600,000). Please encourage your church, pastors, and business leaders to participate in this awesome outreach event. Call LightShine at 293-0743 or check www.LightShine.net for more information. Let's all join together to deliver the message of Jesus to every home in New Mexico this Easter!

Prayer Training

LightShine Ministries will conduct a three-hour prayer seminar at Heights Christian Church on Saturday, January 19th, starting at 8:30 AM. The seminar is free, but registration is requested. Please call 293-0743 for registration or more info. Please join us for a fast-paced training about how to elevate the power of prayer in your life!

Evangelism Conference

The Evangelism Division of the Baptist Convention of New Mexico will hold a statewide evangelism conference called "JESUS Name Above All Names" February 4-6 at First Baptist Church in Albuquerque. Call 293-0743 or 924-2314 for more info.