

...you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light — Eph. 5:8

Lighthouse Beacon

New Mexico Lighthouses of Prayer - June 2002

Lighthouse Basics

As you read the questions and responses below, make a fresh commitment to be a Lighthouse that shines God's love to those He has placed in your neighborhood, workplace, school group or association. Pray that He will motivate and equip you. Your prayers can - and will - make a difference in the lives of those you know!

Why should I be a Lighthouse?

Christians are commanded to pray for those around them. Scriptures tell us that "requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone" (1 Timothy 2:1). "Everyone" includes our neighbors, coworkers and classmates as well as family and friends.

Do Lighthouses work?

No, God works and Lighthouses are simply a tool for Him to use. He chooses to work in this world through the prayers and actions of His people. Lighthouses are most effective when we are available and obedient to Him. Then His grace is released and His power directed through us to those around us.

Who should I reach out to?

Start with those who are closest to you — a family member, friend or someone who trusts you. They are the most open. You have greatest responsibility with those whom God has put near you.

Move on to those with whom you have a casual relationship — coworkers, fellow students or neighbors. Those who are comfortable with you will most likely respond to your prayer/care initiatives.

How do I get started?

Start with a prayer of confession for any failure to pray, or care or share in the past. Then make a Lighthouse prayer list beginning with those who are relationally closest and most open to you. Make a commitment to pray for them at least five times a week. Ask the Holy Spirit for the help you will need to do this.

What if I don't see results?

Don't expect to see immediate results. Some respond quickly, others take months or years. Take a long-term view. If one person came to Christ every ten years for each person in your church, the church would double in seven years.

What will I experience over time?

Over time you will discover that God is working in you and through you. It's His power released through your prayers, His love channeled through your caring and His gospel through your sharing. He will be impacting the world around you.

You will find yourself changing too — becoming more and more like Christ — the Light of the world. Being a Lighthouse will become a lifestyle — *not something you do but what you are.*

Lighthouses at Work

People wonder if it's appropriate to be a Lighthouse in their workplace. First, and most importantly, God calls us to let His light shine in us in all situations, (see Mt. 5:16 and Eph. 6:5-9). Secondly, there is almost always someone where we work that needs the reassurance and encouragement that Christ offers through us. Here are two examples of workplace Lighthouses we can all appreciate.

No fear of flying in this plane!

"There are just so many ways to be a lighthouse in the sky. Basically it's workplace evangelism and that's where I really find my heart these days. When we think about how few hours we actually spend in

church and how many hours we give to our workplace it's essential to realize that God has not just plopped us there so that we can wade through to get to church on Sundays." —Minnesota Flight Attendant who is a Lighthouse

Get your teeth and soul cleaned!

"There's a real sense of peace over this office. In fact I really believe it is an anointing of the Holy Spirit of peace. In dental offices, people are often anxious and afraid and while that is difficult as a dentist vocationally, it does create more of an opening spiritually and to pray for people because a lot of people will say, 'I've already been praying while I was coming here, or something among those lines.'"

—California Dentist who is a Lighthouse

911 Remembered

Mission America and Campus Crusade for Christ are calling the churches of America together for the one year anniversary of the September 11th terrorist attacks. Churches across the country are being asked to schedule special services on Wednesday, September 11th to reach out to their local communities. Lighthouses are being asked to participate through prayer and by alerting their church (and others) about this opportunity. Call LightShine at 293-0743 or go to www.LightShine.net for more info.

Count It All Joy....

James 1:2-4 is familiar to all Christians, but our Lord has a way of allowing us to experience new perspectives about this foundational concept. And technology is a very effective tool to test our joy and try our faith — *especially computers!*

LightShine has been privileged to be in the "Count it all joy" classroom quite a bit this year — from phones going out, to computer software that just quit working, to computer hardware committing suicide, to our Internet Service Provider going bankrupt and taking our web page and email down with them!

Therefore, we could not produce the May issue of the "Lighthouse Beacon" because of all of our failed equipment. And our email just recently came back on line. Meanwhile, we are trying to get a new and greatly improved web page up (by the end of the month) that will include much more in the way of resources and materials to help support Lighthouses and Lighthouse Churches in New Mexico, but no promises can be made at this point. (By the way, **NEVER** delete your home page in a FrontPage 2000 web unless you really do want to destroy all of your work!)

Thanks for **your** patience and faithful support. And remember, *count it all joy!*

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