



Lighthouse Beacon

New Mexico Lighthouses of Prayer - September 2002

1st Century Lighthouses

They joined with the other believers and devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, sharing in the Lord's Supper and in prayer. Acts 2:42 (NLT)

Today, Christian Lighthouses tend to be only one or two people, or a family. But that was not the case with 1st Century Lighthouses. Their homes lit up their community because when many Believers came together, neighbors witnessed firsthand the love of God shining from those Lighthouses. Perhaps we can learn from them. Early Lighthouses devoted themselves to four things when they met: 1) the Apostle's teaching; 2) fellowship; 3) the Lord's Supper; and 4) prayer. We also need to be fully developed for our *Prayer, Care* and *Share* attributes to be most effective. Lets look at the early Lighthouses to see how their priorities should still apply to us today. — KC

A TEACHING LIGHTHOUSE

Always be ready to give an answer when someone asks you about your hope.

1 Peter 3:15b (CEV)

This verse reminds us that if the light of Jesus is truly shining in us, nonbelievers will ask us about the hope and peace and joy they see in our lives. Are you ready to *Share* that hope with them? The Apostles taught their followers about Christ and the Christian walk so they could *Share* their hope with others. Today there are many resources available to teach you to *Share* your hope (*check out www.LightShine.net for more info*). Also, ask your pastor to recommend materials that would be most appropriate for your Lighthouse.

A FELLOWSHIPING LIGHTHOUSE

They worshipped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity—all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill

of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their group those who were being saved. Acts 2:46, 47 (NLT)

The early Christian Church at Jerusalem worshipped daily in the Temple and met in member's homes for the Lord's Supper, for sharing their meals and for praise filled fellowship. What was the result? The Church grew daily as the Lord added new believers to their group.

These principles still apply today—Christians need to meet regularly in a local church for worship, teaching, equipping and discipling. But we also need the kind of close, relational fellowship which is possible only through small groups. When these groups meet in believers' homes, the result is a growth of brotherly love and a powerful statement to the surrounding neighbors (*see John 15: 17, 13:35*). Have you considered letting your Lighthouse be a point of fellowship for believers so that God can use it as a testimony of love to your neighbors?



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

A WORSHIPPING LIGHTHOUSE

And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me." Luke 22:19 (NKJV)

Lighthouses need to remember that it is Christ in and through them that accomplishes His work. The Lord's Supper is a wonderful way to remember our Lord's sacrifice and that He is still in charge. Ask your pastor about having a Communion Service for a Lighthouse gathering in your home. You can also sing hymns or have a time of testimonies and praise for your Lighthouse worship. Most importantly, remember the price that He paid for you and that He is still on the throne.

A PRAYING LIGHTHOUSE

After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly. Acts 4:31 (NIV)

Prayer should be the starting point (*but not the ending point*) for all Lighthouse activities. Prayer is an important tool for Lighthouses because prayer, combined with God's Word, helps us draw closer to our Father and to be like-minded with Him. God uses prayer to give use His desires and to lead us in His paths. Be sure your Lighthouse seeks His will and direction through effective prayer. He will bless your Lighthouse as you respond to His leading you in prayer.

We're Back!

The web page for LightShine Ministries is finally back up again. Please visit us at www.LightShine.net to view the latest in resources and materials for your Lighthouse. You will also find a signup page to register your Lighthouse (or Lighthouse Church) both locally and with the national Lighthouse Movement database. And now you can download Lighthouse materials and archived copies of the Lighthouse Beacon, as well as search for a New Mexico Lighthouse Church near you. You can also request to be connected with other Lighthouses in your local neighborhood through the signup page.

Please let us know what you think of the web page and any changes or additions you would like to see. It is our goal to make it a welcome, useful tool for your Lighthouse!

911 REMEMBRANCE SERVICES

The time is quickly approaching for 911 Remembrance Services. Orders for resource kits and "Fallen But Not Forgotten" brochures need to be placed ASAP.

A FREE Resource Kit is available online at www.911Remembrance.com with helpful materials to assist in preparation for a powerful, Christ-centered remembrance service on Wednesday evening, September 11 or Sunday, September 8, 2002. Click on "HOST A 911 REMEMBRANCE SERVICE," then "Resource Kit." The kit is available in both ENGLISH and SPANISH. (*Be sure to have your church register on the "Host" signup page so that people can know that your church is participating.*)

September 11th Remembrance Church Services Goals:

- Christians invite friends and neighbors to a local church service on 9/11/2002.
- Churches will remember those who died and offer hope to those who live.
- Churches will have the opportunity to demonstrate the relevance of the Gospel.
- Those who attend will be given a clear invitation to worship and Sunday School at the church on the Sunday following September 11th and into the fall church year.

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