

From the Mailbox



- I read your newsletter regularly. I had the privilege of visiting your booth at Missionfest in Toronto. I am involved with "Voice of the Martyrs" in Mississauga and am sending a gift to your ministry and the work the Lord is doing through you. – Ron
- I accepted the Lord when I was in jail. I have turned my life around, and He is really in charge of me. I would like to start a Bible study here; it is a drug & alcohol recovery program. – David
- I am reading the LifeLight New Testament. It is wonderful! As a Christian I have learned so much from the different helps like "Who's Who in the Bible," "Ways to Read Your Bible," and "Where to Find It." This Bible is awesome, and I have been greatly blessed by reading it. God bless! – Shirley
- I would like to get the "How to Find God" NT, "The Jesus Way" Bible and the "Student Life Application Bible." I hope to reach some students at school, as well as a troubled friend. I really like your Scriptures. Keep up the wonderful ministry, and God bless! – Stacie

- I have just been released from prison, and a fellow inmate had a copy of "How to Find God." I like the format and am wondering if I could have a free copy. I will send a donation when I am able to get settled and secure employment. Thank you very much.
- I really enjoyed the last issue of your newsletter, with reports from various camps. It's heartening to know that they are still serious about sharing God's Word and leading others to Christ. Our next-door neighbours are from Slovakia. For Christmas I would like to give them a Bible in their first language (not English!). Can you help me find one? – Maureen
- I would like to receive six copies of the "Abundant Life" NT. Enclosed is a cheque for \$40.00. The balance of the proceeds may be used to purchase Scriptures for Native communities. Thanks for the newsletter. – John
- I am a born-again Christian from Kenya. I have appreciated the encouragement and knowledge of the Word of God. I got your material from a friend who lives in Canada. I would like to join your free Bible correspondence course. May God bless you. – Andrew

Let There be Light! (continued from page 1)

In Genesis, we read about how light was introduced upon the earth, which was formless, empty and filled with darkness. God spoke: "Let there be light," and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and separated the light from the darkness.

In Exodus we find the Lord guiding the Israelites by a pillar of cloud during the day and illuminating their progress by a pillar of fire at night, giving light for every step.

In 2 Samuel we find David praising God, "You are my lamp, O Lord; the Lord turns my darkness into light."

The Psalms, Proverbs, and Isaiah are all filled with flashes of victorious, eternal light penetrating the darkness. "The Lord will be your everlasting light" (Isaiah 60:1).

In Matthew, Jesus says, "The people are living in darkness, yet have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. From this time, Jesus preached: 'Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is near.'"

Jesus tells us that we are "the light of the world" and makes it clear that the purpose of His light is that it be placed on a stand (high place) so that it can penetrate the darkness everywhere.

Mark refers to reflective light. In itself, the moon has no light; it only reflects the light given to it by the sun. Neither do we have light in ourselves. We are dependent on the Son, who gives us light, and we in turn are to be reflectors of this light to the world, where many millions are still in darkness.

The true Light gives life (John 1:9).

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Light for Kids

The Legend of the Candy Cane

A candy maker wanted to make a candy that would help us remember what Christmas is really about. So he made a Christmas candy cane.

He started with a stick of pure white candy - white to remind us that Jesus was sinless. Then he added red stripes - red for the blood Jesus shed on the cross for us so He could forgive our sins.

The candy maker made the candy in the form of a "J" to stand for the name of Jesus. The shape also looks like a staff, reminding us that Jesus is the Good Shepherd.

Print this story on a pretty sheet of paper, punch a hole in the corner and attach it to a candy cane with red ribbon. Give it to your friends to remind them of the meaning of Christmas.



A Christmas Prayer
 Lord, it's Christmas, and I've got gifts for all my family and friends, but there's one very special gift still to give, a three-in-one gift, and it's for You. Lord, take my soul, spirit and body, in surrender and dedication to You. Take it and make me wholly Thine as I reflect during this Christmas season on the wonders of Your gift to me. Thank You for Your "unspeakable gift." In Jesus' Name. Amen.



THE LampLight

November 2004

The Newsletter of Canadian LifeLight Ministries

Let There Be Light!

Greg Armstrong

LifeLight Ministries has been called to a great commission – the responsibility, privilege, joy and burden of magnanimously distributing the Light, God's Word for this generation.

whose lives have been changed as a result of having received the Light, knowing that our labour was not in vain.

As most of us prepare for winter's cold, Peter Loewen prepares to again drive the thousands of kilometres to bring God's Word and hope to communities in northern Manitoba and northeast Saskatchewan. Once the winter lake roads have frozen over, Peter goes to the most remote First Nations Reserves to place Scriptures in the hands of children in schools.



Again we are coming close to Christmas, the most wonder-filled time of celebration and reflection of the birth of Jesus, and the beginning of the Light. In Luke 2 we find the beautiful story of an angel appearing to shepherds tending their flocks at night.

The distribution of light involves sacrifice. The wax and wick of candles are consumed as they deliver heat and light into the darkness. A modern lighthouse projects its powerful life-saving light high above the cliffs, reaching out to ships and those on board, through the dense fog, warning them of danger ahead. In order to do this, the lighthouse consumes electricity.



The Message translates the word *light* as "God's glory blazing around them," for everybody worldwide to see. The NIV says, "...the divine light shone around them." The most beautiful translation of this phrase is found in the KJV and NLT: "The radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them."

We at LifeLight thank you for partnering with us through your financial support and faithfulness in prayer, and we look forward to your ongoing generosity, enabling us to continue bringing "God's Word to this Generation." May God richly bless you as you are faithful to His will!

**Glory to God in the highest heaven,
 And peace on earth for all those pleasing Him.**

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LifeLighters are people from all walks of life with a burning desire to extend the Light to others. They are willing to make sacrifices in order to bring the life, hope and radiance of the eternal Light of the Scriptures so that none should perish in darkness.

LifeLight Ministries needs the on-going generosity of your financial support and your faithfulness in prayer to rain down on the many hearts where His Word has been sown in love, so that it will take root. And in the day of Christ we will rejoice together, as we see the faces of the many people



Greg Armstrong is the LifeLight Ministries Regional Representative for Winnipeg. He and his wife, Janet, attend the Eastview Community Church in Winnipeg.

GOING SOUTH?

Many Canadians have the privilege of spending all or part of our cold winter in the warm South. Others have the opportunity to participate in mission trips. Many of them take Spanish Scriptures with them to distribute to spiritually hungry people they come in contact with. Most of them come back with exciting stories about their experiences, and many of them say they wish they had taken more Scriptures with them.

**Don't miss this opportunity!
 Get your Bibles today!**

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From Dan & Norma Koop

The Big Parade!



For LifeLight Ministries, the 2004 Corn and Apple Festival in Morden, Manitoba, began with the set-up of the tent on Thursday evening. Each morning we put our Scriptures out on display.

The big parade took place on Saturday and, for the first time, LifeLight had a van and a golf cart in the parade, advertising our Scriptures, as well as the Golf Tournament.

Many people came by the booth during the Festival and looked at the Scriptures, admiring them and visualizing how they could be used to reach out to people in spiritual need.

We thank the Lord for the Scriptures that were taken and the donations that were given. Once more LifeLight Ministries got exposure, and Scriptures were picked up to be distributed.



News Nuggets

- A man told the story of how his wife had received a New Testament and began to read it and how it changed her life. "I was upset," said the husband. "I did not like it at all. Then she started attending a Bible study, and I got really mad, but she would not give up. Finally the Holy Spirit got hold of me and I gave in. What a change in our home!" These are the stories that keep us going and the reason we make our financial needs known so more Scriptures can be given away.
- On a recent trip to Alberta I met with a number of pastors who had never seen our Scriptures before. They were so intrigued by the variety and their attractiveness. A few of them asked, "Can you come for a breakfast meeting in February? We will invite all the pastors and Christian businessmen in the area so we can get the Word out and the money coming in."

Golfers, Donors, Sponsors



Ian Nairn (Promise Keepers) and the team from Décor Cabinets.

September 16 turned out to be a beautiful day when fifty golfers ventured out on the greens of the Minnewasta Golf Club in Morden, Manitoba. In the afternoon it clouded over briefly, and then we had a crash of thunder after the 12th hole. I thought this was it, but there was no more thunder. The golf club manager was out with the air horn to warn us all to come in. As I prayed at that moment, the Lord seemed to say to me, *Don't worry, I have everything under control.* So we continued and played all eighteen holes. *Thank God for giving us such a lovely day!*

The day finished off with a delicious supper, and then the prizes. There were prizes for everyone, and they were well deserved. Peter Loewen fascinated us with stories of Scripture distribution, and Greg Armstrong brought a challenge from God's Word.

A lot of work and dedication goes into planning a golf tournament, and no one showed it more than Bob Wahl! He gathered sponsors and prizes and kept my spirits high when it seemed that the work wouldn't all get done. The business community and individuals in Morden and Winkler, as well as in other areas, responded warmly as sponsors or donors of prizes, for which we were very grateful.

More than \$20,500 was raised at this event, which will be used for Scriptures to be given away in northern Manitoba. Many more people will have the opportunity to read the Scriptures in a language that is easy to read and understand, even for those who have little education. May the Holy Spirit enlighten searching hearts! A big thank you to all who helped, encouraged and made this event so successful.



Dan Koop is the LifeLight Ministries Executive Director. He and his wife, Norma, live in Morden. They celebrated their fortieth wedding anniversary on November 13. Congratulations!

From John & Marilyn Van Essen

Off to the Fair!

The Norfolk County Fair 2004 in Simcoe, Ontario, was a memorable event because this was the first year that LifeLight Ministries had a booth there. The fair was held from Tuesday, October 5, to Monday, October 11 (Thanksgiving Day). The weather was wonderful, and as a result the number of people visiting the booths was down. Many commented that it was great to see the Christian community represented at this event.

Our preparation for the fair began months earlier. We trained fifteen volunteers in four afternoon or evening sessions. They learned about the large variety of Scriptures that is available from Lifelight, our Statement of Faith, and the many ways to respond to those who would stop at the booth.

An attraction to our booth was the draw for the *Graphic Bible*, and about 375 filled out a form! Many new contacts were made with neighbouring churches and organizations.

Friday, the 13th



Every Friday the 13th, whether it's in the middle of winter, a rainy spring or fall day, or the heat of summer, a bikers rally is held in the small village of Port Dover, Ontario, located on the shores of Lake Erie. The population of Port

Dover is about 5000, so for this weekend other vehicles are not allowed in unless they have a special permission marker. We got one of those so we would have easier access to the LifeLight Scriptures during the day.

On the Thursday evening of these weekends, the area Christian bikers groups and local Christians from other organizations and churches get together for a time of prayer and praise to God. This is to be a witness to those who are already there, but mainly the purpose is to cover the area with prayer, because the Enemy will send his members there also. There was a good turnout at the meeting, with fifty people from all walks of life and from a number of different regions, including Ontario, Michigan, New York and Illinois.



We arrived at Port Dover with close to 200 biker's NTs, *Hope for the Highway*. After an hour and a half we had already distributed fifty of these and another eighty-five by the end of the day. (Last year we handed out fifty.)

As people walked by, we would say, "This is a biker's New Testament. Would you like a free copy?" Some people in a group would say "no," but then a few minutes later they would come back on their own or with only one friend and ask for a copy.

We covet your prayers for each Friday the 13th as we distribute these Scriptures. We plant the seed, and others do the watering and harvesting. Each one of us has one of these three responsibilities, and we must be ready to respond.

His name is Jesus...the best gift God ever gave humanity.

Earlier in the week, a young woman gave a donation for a booklet on grief. She asked Marilyn whether there were any other articles on the subject, and then suddenly she began sobbing. Marilyn comforted her – another way that our ministry is helping those with needs. John had the privilege of presenting the Chief of Police with a New Testament for peace officers, as well as a copy of *Answering the Call* to the Chief of the Fire Department, on behalf of LifeLight Ministries.

On Thursday evening, Marilyn came down with the flu and stayed home the rest of the week. We were so grateful for the volunteers who filled in so wonderfully. Three of these volunteers drove almost an hour to come and help us. One of them came with his large truck at the beginning of the week to help with set-up and again at the end to help clean up. This was so much appreciated.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!
– from a 3-year-old

To Manitoba and Back

We spent three weeks traveling to Manitoba and back, and we enjoyed wonderful visits. One highlight was visiting Bob and Deb Walsh and family in Sudbury. John led Bob to Christ many years ago, and Bob is now the director of a mission for street people. It was a privilege to help with bussing and to share with those precious people. It was a joy to see an obviously poor man play his mandolin for the singing during the service.

In Manitoba we attended a LifeLight Board meeting and were thrilled to reunite with many of the staff and board members.

God kept us safe during our travels. God is good – all the time! (One lasting memory was seeing a black bear along the highway!)

We wish all the friends of LifeLight Ministries a special Christmas as we celebrate the coming of our precious Lord and Saviour.



John and Marilyn Van Essen are the LifeLight Ministries reps in Ontario. They live in Simcoe.

The LifeLight of God's Word
for this Generation