

Christmas Lights



Washington Street Mission

As I reflect on all the lights at Christmas, I think first of the bright light surrounding the angels announcing the birth of the Savior to the shepherds and of the star of Bethlehem guiding the wise men toward the same Savior.

Then I think of the passage from Isaiah that is quoted by Matthew as fulfilled in Jesus: "The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light."

I am also reminded of an old Gospel song that we often sang in our little church when I was a child:

*Brightly beams our Father's mercy
From his lighthouse evermore,
But to us He gives the keeping
Of the lights along the shore.*

*Let the lower lights be burning!
Send a gleam across the wave!
Some poor fainting, struggling seaman
You may rescue, you may save.*

Written by Philip Bliss (1838-1876), the song was based on an illustration he heard in a sermon by famed evangelist D. L. Moody (1837-1899). Describing a shipwreck in Lake Erie, Moody stressed

the importance of the warning lights along the shoreline. If the lights had been shining properly, he claimed, the tragic wreck would have been prevented.

Like those lower lights, for over 100 years Washington Street Mission has been pointing people away from danger and toward the safety and security of the Savior. Especially during the Christmas season, we sense a responsibility to let our light shine brightly in the darkness.

But we need your help to keep the Mission's light shining. Please pray for us to be faithful witnesses.

Pray for the people who come to the Mission for coffee and a quiet place each weekday morning, for the men who spend time at our transition house, for the children who have been tutored and taught at the Mission, for the families who receive free clothing. Pray that each person will see the Savior clearly in the Mission's light.

And please give generously. Each gift, no matter how small it may seem, will make a difference. Together we can keep the light burning.

May Our Light Shine Brightly and Point Clearly to Jesus the Light of the World this Christmas

“Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

Matthew 5:16

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