

GUIDING LIGHT



PENTECOSTAL MESSENGER | JANUARY 2024

A Note from the Editor

1 Peter 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

The Lord is reaching into this dark world with His marvellous light! He is calling us out of the darkness into His wonderful light and not only that. He is making us witnesses. Witnesses of what? Witnesses of who He is in all the Earth! The Saviour! The King of Kings! The Matchless, Holy One! The light of the World. The world will look at you and realize that only God could take these broken pieces of your life and create something so beautiful. But that's not all! This light that shines into our lives points to His return! The Lord promised us in His Word that He is coming back. It won't be long now.

We've gone through the stretching and growing pains, the sleepless nights, the restlessness, knowing that any day now ... He is coming back for us! We have experienced the fatigue and pain, and now all around us we are seeing the changes that God said would happen. The story is the not over. He has been pouring out His Spirit on millions of people around the world and as the Day of His coming gets closer, we are seeing an amplification of people receiving that promise! We are seeing a multiplication happen which is why, now more than ever, as a church we need to do whatever we can do to prepare to receive the revival that He is sending.

We reflect His glorious light into the darkest parts of this world, showing everyone we come in contact with that what we did for us, He can do for them. So keep the light shining. Keep sharing the testimony of what He's done for us when you were in darkness.

God bless,
Rev. Mark Robertson
Editor of the Pentecostal Messenger

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The Pentecostal Messenger

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Atlantic District Purpose Statement

The Atlantic District of the United Pentecostal Church International commits itself to the following two-fold purpose. 1. To enlist, educate and endorse our membership for ministry. 2. To perfect, edify and unite that ministry for revival, world evangelism and discipleship. We will endeavour to fulfill this purpose with wholehearted acceptance and application of the Apostle's Doctrine and the Articles of Faith of the United Pentecostal Church International.

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings in the name of Jesus,

We would like to wish everyone a very Happy New Year! We hope that you had a refreshing and joyful holiday season. We are looking forward to being a part of what God is going to do throughout the Atlantic District in 2024 and are believing for a mighty move of God in every province, city, and town.

As we move into this new year, we encourage you all to set aside some extra time for prayer and fasting. Seek God's face and come into alignment with where God is leading His Church in the coming year, as well as how He desires to use you to fulfil His purpose throughout this year. Pastors, take this time to seek God and create a vision or theme for your church for 2024. Saints, position your hearts to support and advance the vision of your local church alongside your pastor. I echo the words of Paul in 1 Corinthians 1:10, "I appeal to you, dear brothers and sisters, by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, to live in harmony with each other. Let there be no divisions in the church. Rather, be of one mind, united in thought and purpose." As we unite together for one purpose, there is no limit to what God will accomplish in our midst.

For those desiring to upgrade your **ministerial license**, please take note that you should finalize your preparations for your licensing during the month of January. Applications must be submitted by the end of the month (keep in mind that all applications are now completed online at [www.anglican.ca](#)). The official licensing and licensing upgrades will take place in Fredericton, NB, on March 11-12.

We encourage you all to enter into this new year with an expectation for God to *suddenly* do something miraculous in your life, your family, and your church. In the book of Acts, we see four distinct examples of

the Lord doing something *suddenly* in the lives of saints and sinners. In Acts 2, we see evidence of a sudden personal miracle for those that were gathered together in the upper room on the day of Pentecost. In Acts 9 and Acts 22, we read of the sudden illumination that took place in Saul's life on the road to Damascus. In Acts 16, we see an example of sudden freedom being given to Paul & Silas as they prayed and sang praises to God in the prison. In Acts 28, we read an account of a sudden testimony that Paul experienced while on the island of Malta.

God is willing and able to do a *sudden* work in your life. Position your heart to be ready for a *sudden* encounter with Him.

Yours for the kingdom,



Rev. B.E. Carter M.A.C.M.

Atlantic District Superintendent

As well as being the Atlantic District Superintendent, The Carter's pastor Mission Point in Saint John, New Brunswick. He also serves as the President of Northeast Christian College in Fredericton, NB.





GUIDING LIGHT

By Carolyn Hamilton

We have just completed another year and 2024 is upon us. It is a time to reflect on last year's successes or perhaps disappointments. The beginning of a New Year gives us the opportunity to start afresh in our walk with God, push back the darkness in our world and make 2024 count for the Kingdom.

The Wise Men followed a new bright star for upward of two years until it stood over the place where the prophesied Christ child was. They found the Messiah, never being deterred by those opposing the birth of the KING, the Savior of the World. There was a "New Star shining" and once they found Him, they experienced peace and perfect love.

When I think of a **guiding light**, my mind immediately goes to a lighthouse. It stands stalwart on a solid rock foundation extending perilously out into the waves. The paint on the exterior is often coarse, chipped and covered with salt crystals on the exterior indicating the magnitude of a recent storm and the attack on its very foundation. It is a beacon; it sends out a powerful beam across the waves as well as a distinct loud sound to warn a vessel that is too close to the rocky shore and in danger of shipwreck. The light is a series of several lenses strategically placed to allow a beam of concentrated light to penetrate the darkness on a thick, dense foggy night. Lighthouses reveal the perils of the sea that mariners are often unaware of, due to the darkness that surrounds them.

I recently saw this statement describing a lighthouse – "When we are lost at sea and lose hope, it is the lighthouse in our life that brings us home. When we see another in need of our support, care or guidance, we can shine a light to help guide them back home too." (Author unknown) Perhaps a vessel (a soul) has strayed off course and is now drifting due to becoming careless or neglectful of their relationship in Jesus. This should be a warning to each of us - we cannot afford to set aside The Word for even a day, or our time of intimacy in His Presence. If we do, we quickly find ourselves drifting away from the place of safety. There are many shipwrecks of lives buried beneath the waves that might have been spared that destiny if only they had stayed focused on the Guiding Light. Many a life has been lost through the burdens and circumstances of this world, or not being attentive to the warnings from the Word or Man of God.

Each year at Kingston Outreach Christmas banquet, Bro. Hamilton lights a candle and in turn each one lights their candle off of that one. The

room starts in darkness, but very soon is filled with the soft sounds of Silent Night mixed with a moment of peace and tranquility as worries and life situations are set aside in **His Presence!** The soft light of the candles dispel the darkness in the room and we see our church family and friends revealed in the soft glow of the expanding light. Each one of us is the light to the dark World around us.

We live in a world of turmoil, smog and corruption from every direction which create pressure to lower our Christian principles & values. It is so easy to listen to that voice, fall under its spell and begin to drift. It starts out so innocently – we often are unaware it is even happening until we have moved from smooth water to a strong current that we are unable to overcome. It is not a time for our light to become weak from the weights or burdens we carry! Each day Aaron, the Priest in the Tabernacle had to step into the Holy place and trim the "wick" to allow proper lighting in the room. We too, must allow the spirit of God to speak into our lives and correct our direction just as the lighthouse standing over the cliff or protruding out into the waves does today.

As we stand strong, His strength in us will be passed on ... and those around us will be drawn to seek that same light! Boldly declare the Word of the Lord! Stand firmly in the principles of doctrine! Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

Psalm 119:105

Wise Men followed the new bright star until they found their Messiah, Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in Heaven. **Matthew 5:16**

Allow the Word of God to speak into your life. Pray for Wisdom to guide this generation safely into the harbor of safety. **Jesus is coming very soon!** We cannot wait; we have a task to complete in a world that is becoming darker every day. But ... have hope my friend ... as the world grows darker, **our light glows brighter! The darker the night, the brighter the LIGHT!**

Carolyn assists her husband, Pastor Brian Hamilton at Kingston Outreach (Home Mission church) by teaching mid-week service, playing keyboard, teaching Sunday school, planning events, etc.

THE LIGHT

By Jacob Green

I couldn't even begin to express to you how grateful I am to have the life that I have. Of course life isn't always perfect and has its peaks and valleys, but when I take a step back and look at the big picture, I am a very blessed child of God. But it wasn't always this way, because there was a large portion of my life where I didn't serve our Lord Jesus Christ. I wouldn't be where I am today or have the life that I have if it wasn't for His guiding light.

It's around this time of year that we celebrate the holiday of Christmas. It's meant to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Along with this comes spending quality time with family, exchanging gifts, eating delicious food, putting up a Christmas tree with various decorations, and of course... putting up lights! This is what really makes things "pop" at Christmas time. There's nothing that can catch your eye more than seeing an amazing light display in front of someone's house with all kinds of shapes and colours. These displays sure have a tendency to really draw us in. But I want to tell you about a Light that is much more powerful than any light display a human can construct.

The start of light is first introduced at the beginning of creation in the Book of Genesis:

Genesis 1:1-3 (KJV) - "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light."

If you read closely in this passage, you'll notice that life wasn't able to be created until light came into the picture. Before light was introduced, the earth was without form and void, and it was full of darkness. The same is true in the lives of humanity. Before we handed our lives over to the Lord, our lives were without form and void, and it was full of darkness. There was no true life at all. Yes, we were living, breathing and appearing to be living a "normal life", but we were walking in darkness and sin. But once we gave our lives over to Jesus and were born again of the water and Spirit, His guiding light began to shine in our lives and we truly had life! Once you have His light guiding you, then the enemy and his darkness has no power over you! John 1:5 (KJV) says: "And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not." Just remember that it's up to you to keep His light shining in your life. He is not going to force His light to shine in your life. Here are three things to keep in mind to ensure His guiding light is burning bright in your life:

Acknowledge the Light:

John 8:12 (KJV) - "Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."

It all starts with acknowledgement. If you desire to have life and it being full of light, then it all starts with Jesus and knowing who He is! He is the Light of the world.

Live in the Light:

Ephesians 5:8-9 (NLT) - "For once you were full of darkness, but now you have light from the Lord. So live as people of light! For this light within you produces only what is good and right and true."

It's very easy to acknowledge the Light, but not actually live in the Light. Once we acknowledge the Light, the process must begin where we live in the Light. This comes by being obedient to God and His Word; growing in spiritual maturity; following the will of God for your life. When you begin living in the Light, you will begin producing fruit in your life.

Be the Light:

Matthew 5:14-16 (NLT) - "You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father."

Wait a minute Jesus... I thought You said YOU are the Light of the world (John 8:12)? Now that we acknowledge the Light and live in the Light, it's now time to BE the Light! Jesus is now calling us to let His guiding light shine through us for others to see. It must be our desire as Christians to be just like Jesus.

People of this world are longing for true hope, true peace, true love and true life. Only the guiding light of our Lord Jesus Christ can bring that, and He wants to use you to bring that light to them!

My name is Jacob Green. I'm currently a General Licensed minister through the United Pentecostal Church International with the Atlantic District. My ministry involvement includes working in our Youth and Hyphen Ministries, both on a local and district level. I do this alongside my amazing wife Jayne of five and a half years, as well as my twin three year old daughters, Julia and Taylor.

GUIDING LIGHT

By Jessie Carter

You want to know what my favorite thing about God is? The fact that you can't live a life perfect enough to deserve him. Nor can you live a life so terrible that you don't deserve him. We all have a story - or as we call it in Christian terms a testimony - of what God did for us and where God brought us from. As I think back over my story I can't help but see God's guiding light bringing me to where I am today. I am so thankful that he doesn't just desire seemingly perfect people with perfect pasts and personalities. I've often wondered how God could expect imperfect people to serve him - a perfect God. What I have come to find out though, is he doesn't just sit back and hope we figure it out. He is forever reaching for us and putting the right people in our paths. Jesus is the Light that is guiding us through this wonderful journey called life.

When I think back over my life, I am always filled with amazement at how much God cares about us. I had a pretty average childhood and was raised by a single mom. My dad was not so great of a man, but I was really sheltered from it. I really didn't know much about his lifestyle until my teen years. In my late teens I began to start attending church for the friendships. Looking back I can see how the friends God placed in my life were crucial to me becoming who I am today. They allowed God to shine through them so much that it made me desire more of Jesus.

No matter where you are in your story, whether you've never known a life of living outside of Him, or you're relatively new - I can promise you didn't get to where you are because of things you did or didn't do. Your testimony is more of a statement of how good God is, rather than a statement of how adequate or deserving we are. No matter what has happened to us, or what will happen to us, I cannot understand why anyone would want to risk living a life without Jesus - our guiding light.

Another one of my favourite things about God is that if you are willing, He is willing to use you. You may be a guiding light to someone right now and not even realize. Whether it's through our hurts, our story or our day to day life, God can use it all for his glory. In the book of Luke, Zacharias prophesied about the role his son - John the Baptist - would serve in preparing the way for Jesus.

Luke 1:79 To give **light** to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to **guide** our feet into the way of peace.

Today, God gives us the opportunity to have the same impact and fulfill the same purpose of John the Baptist. As the world gets darker, our light - our testimony of where God has brought us from - shines even brighter than in John's day.

I remember feeling like everyone was perfect except for me. I felt that nobody else had flaws and that the story of pastors and pastors' wives was one of perfection. That is why one of my favourite things about God is his willingness to use anyone and everyone. God didn't chose me because I had a perfect past or because I came from a perfect home. He chose me because he knew my story would become a guiding light for someone else.

Jessie Carter resides in Miramichi, NB with her husband, Mikko, and their 4 wonderful children: Kingsley, Korver, Alaster and Anderson. She is a full time mom and together her and her husband travel the world as Children's Evangelists (JAM Ministries).

LIGHTHOUSE

By Wayne Munn



Probably all of us can relate to the topic guiding light. Most of us would think of a lighthouse. But we are all familiar with lanterns, flashlights etc. that are used as a light to guide us in the darkness. If you were lost you would look for some type of light to give you direction. As Christians today God is our light.

1 John 1:5 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

Gods word is our guiding light.

Psalms 119: 105 Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

Gods word tells us that we are the light of the world. We are the guiding light to our communities. We are not just a light on Sunday to our local church.

We are to love the word, Study the word, Live the word Whenever we are doing this we will be the light to those around us. They will see and feel the presence of God off us.

As parents today we must be the guiding light in our homes. We must train our children in the things of God. We cannot allow the things of the world to influence us in how we train our children. When we are the guiding light in our home we will be guiding lights in our local church.

I thank God today for the guiding lights in my life. Being raised in a Godly home and in an Apostolic church, I have fond memories of Pastors, Sunday School teachers, seniors in the church that were a light to me.

I thank God for my heritage. Being taught by some of the pioneers and seeing their dedication to the work of the Lord. I thank God for the seniors that sacrificed to the work of the Lord and was a light to others. In every church

I attended or pastored there was seniors that was a guiding light to me. In the good times and difficult times they remained faithful. Even when sickness and death drew near their light still shone bright.

We are to be a light in our workplace. No matter where you work there will be people who are difficult. But we must be a guiding light to our coworkers. We will not always agree with our supervisors or foreman but our light must shine forth. We must be the best workers in our workplace. When we change workplaces or retire we should be remembered as a Godly example.

Each of us must desire to be a light in our local church. A light of support to Pastors and Leaders. A guiding light to new ones, and those in our church. Our light must shine forth to those that are hurting. We all have come through storms in our lives and we can reach out and help others through their storms.

Just as the light of the lighthouse shines through the storm to guide the ship safely to shore, we as the body of Christ must be the guiding light to the world around us in the midst of their storm and guide them to Jesus.

God has been good to me, God saved me and gave me a career. I was used in several positions in the church. I have pastored and now God has given me a new path. When God speaks it will happen.

Wayne and his wife Arlene have been involved in various ministries around the Atlantic District with their most recent involvement being the pastor of the Pentecostal Lighthouse in Blacks Harbour, NB.

LEAVE THE LIGHT ON

By Charles Waddell

I'm waiting for you! I am expecting you! That's what I think of when I hear someone use the phrase "I will leave the lights on". What does this mean in our personal walk with the Lord?

As I step back and look at the world as a father, I put myself in the shoes of our heavenly father waiting up at night for his wayward children to come home. In John 10:8, we are told that Jesus is the door. He is the access point to eternal life but how will people be able to find him? The situation in the world seems to grow darker with each passing season and the pathway that leads to everlasting life in Jesus is becoming harder and harder to discern. The answer to this ever expanding darkness is found in **Matthew 5:16 (NKJV)**. **Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.** As we break this verse down, we first see in "let your light shine" that you have a personal influence. The presence of God that is inside of you should be emanating through you as a light to those around you. Not a spotlight that we shine on the sins and weaknesses of others, but a beacon in the darkness drawing the wayward toward the Savior. In the next part of the verse "that they may see your good works" we find that there are actions that are necessary on our part to help our light shine brightly. We cannot simply possess the presence of God within us and hope that it shines out. We must act! We must perform good works in front of people, not to draw attention to ourselves or to build us up but to draw attention to Jesus as a way to help our light shine. It is very clear in scripture that we are not saved by our works, but I believe it is equally clear that once we are saved we should be always pursuing good works. We can find this in scripture in **(Eph 2:10) For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. (KJV)**. You were created to do good works! What that looks like will be different for each of us depending on our particular giftings and our own unique personality. These works do not help us show the light, they are the light. They are the visible proof that something different is

happening inside us. The third part of the verse "That they may see your good works and glorify (PRAISE) your Father which is in heaven." speaks of our motives. There are eternal consequences to doing good works. When we do good things, people see them and they praise the father which is in heaven. It is important that this is the motive behind our good works. This is the only thing that is separating us from the Rich Philanthropist or the non-profit that may also be doing good works. The purpose of our works must be to showcase the Jesus, to bring praise to Jesus, to lead people to Jesus.

Today the door is open but have you left the light on?

Exert your influence and let the light of Jesus Christ shine thru you.
Be active in the doing of good works.
Keep the right motives and people will be drawn to Jesus Christ.

The world may seem like it is at its darkest, but only you can shine the guiding light of Jesus Christ into your community.

Charles, his wife Marsha, and their family attend and help out in many capacities at Outreach Pentecostal Church in Hatfield Point, NB.



THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

By Vanessa Noel

In John chapter 8, Jesus is smack dab in the middle of His ministry. He has been teaching, preaching, and performing miracles. The crowds have started whispering about who this man could be (a prophet? The long awaited Messiah?), and the Pharisees are looking for any excuse to have Him arrested. Undeterred by the efforts of his enemies and unwavering in His message, Jesus boldly declares in John 8:12, "I am the light of the world."

This statement is a continuation of the Old Testament references to God as light, see Psalm 27:1, Psalm 18:28, and Micah 7:8, to name a few, and is echoed throughout the New Testament. However, when asked to write an article to align with the theme of "Guiding Light," the verse that kept coming to mind was Matthew 5:14, "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid." But if Jesus is the light of the world, how can we also be called the same?

Unlike John 8:12, which is spoken to the crowd and the Pharisees, Matthew 5:14 is speaking to Jesus' disciples. Jesus knew that His time on earth was limited. When He was physically absent, who would the crowds follow? Who would be the light in the darkness? Jesus makes it clear to His disciples, and to us, that we, His followers are to be the guiding light. He entrusts us to be the light in the darkness of our world and guide the lost to Him.

The disciples obeyed Jesus' command and went on to be the light after His ascension. They planted churches, preached the gospel, mentored new believers, and some were even martyred for their faith. So is this the list of requirements for qualifying as "the light of the world" as Jesus described? As an early twenty-something in university, I spent most of my time worrying that I wasn't doing enough, and wasn't bold enough about my faith. I served in my local church and made an effort to spend time with God, but I also worked, went to school, hung out with friends, scrolled social media, and did (minimal) housework. My life looked so different from the disciples' in the New Testament

or even missionaries and church planters of today. I struggled under the crushing feeling that I was not doing enough.

I will never forget the Atlantic Ladies' Conference that permanently changed my perspective. At the time, I was student teaching as part of my Bachelor of Education program. After the final service of the conference, a woman approached my mother. The woman introduced herself as the housekeeper of my mentor teacher. She said that she had been cleaning this teacher's house for two years and had been looking and praying for an opportunity to share the gospel, but that the teacher was so closed off and disinterested in the things of God. She excitedly told my mother that since I had started working with this teacher, that she had begun to ask questions and open up to hearing about God! How could this be? I hadn't done anything special for this teacher. In fact, as anyone who has gone through a rigorous university program could tell you, I was barely surviving at the time, stressed, sleep-deprived, and mentally drained. My life looked nothing like the accounts found in the Gospels.

In that moment God showed me how I am the light of the world. The guiding light inside of Christians is not our good deeds, our polished outfits, or our prayers said aloud over restaurant meals. The guiding light is the Holy Ghost living inside of us, directing our every step, putting people in our way, carrying us through any and every situation. I may preach in front of thousands, or I may not. I may be martyred, or I may not. But one thing I am sure of is that as long as I am filled with the Holy Ghost, I am a guiding light.

Vanessa Noel is the Ladies' Ministries director and Worship Leader at Life Church in Campbellton, NB, and the owner of Restigouche Language and Literacy, a literacy intervention centre. She and her husband Matthew Craswell live in Campbellton, and both enjoy a good debate, theological or otherwise.

THE LIGHT

By Joni Dunnett

As the Christmas season comes to an end, many of us look back on the happy memories that we have made with family and friends, but for some, the memories that were made were not happy. For many, this time of the year is a dark time and is a reminder of what is missing. For some, this is the first Christmas they have had to celebrate after losing a loved one, or they may have recently lost their job, so the presents under the tree for their kids were not as special as they wanted them to be. Some have also found it hard to celebrate while there is so much tragedy happening in the world around us. The Christmas season can be full of mixed emotions that many can get caught up in the gifts and lights but we know that the Christmas season is about so much more than the material things but about the reason for the season.

My son's favourite thing about Christmas time is driving around and looking at all the pretty lights in our city. This made me think about how the houses are all covered in pretty lights and Christmas ornaments but so dark and lonely inside. Darkness not only comes when the Christmas lights go off but there is also darkness that comes from not knowing the light of the world.

John 8:12 (NIV) says "When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." Another version says "If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life." We need to make sure that not only do we and our families have eternal life with Jesus but that we lead others to the light that provides life.

We have been called to walk in the light and be the light for others. Matthew 5:14-16 (NLT) "You are the light of the world, like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. Throughout the Bible, "light" has been used to symbolize God and holiness, so God is telling us that we need to shine and show God and his

holiness to those who live in darkness. God has called us to our town or city to shine his light on those in darkness. Every house that we see while driving the streets around us needs to be lit up all year long with the light that only knowing and having a relationship with God can provide. We may be the only representation of the light of God that our neighbours and co-workers ever see so we need to make sure that we shine bright and don't hide that light. You do not know the impact that we may have on someone simply by showing God's love and holiness.

Joni works as a nurse in Miramichi, where she lives with her husband, Brad, and their three-year-old Wrenley. She is the church secretary at Pentecostals of Miramichi, as well as the hyphen leader with her husband.

An aerial photograph of a dense forest with vibrant autumn foliage in shades of orange, yellow, and green. A circular road winds through the trees, and a waterfall is visible on the right side. The scene is misty or foggy, creating a soft, ethereal atmosphere.

THE TAILLIGHTS OF GOD

By Ryan Shephard

I grew up in the Great City of Saint John. One of the defining characteristics of this lovely city is the abundance of fog. I remember some days, from my youth, a few moons ago, where we could hardly see the house across the street on account of the foggy haze rolling in off the Bay of Fundy. To some folks, this is a disgusting trait for a city to have and as soon as they can, they hightail it out of there and relocate outside the "fog belt". To others, like myself, the fog has always reminded us of home. I remember taking family trips to Ontario in the summer and driving home through Quebec and most of New Brunswick with clear blue skies, but as we drew nearer to Saint John, we'd see that old familiar foggy haze settling over the city. It was home. Where we now live, in Nova Scotia, we rarely see fog like that and when we do, I may or may not get a wee bit giddy about it.

I say all that to say, when I began driving, I had to learn, very quickly, how to drive in the fog, for if one never learned to drive in the fog in Saint John, one would never learn to drive. Fog is a strange thing. It's there one moment but then it can be gone the next. It doesn't *change* anything; the road doesn't get slippery, your tires don't lose traction, all the signs and markers on the road are still there. All fog really does is affect your vision.

I found, as I drove more and more in the fog, that (and driving instructors may or may not frown upon this) the best-case scenario when travelling on an unknown foggy road was to have a car in front of you. Those lovely, welcoming, red taillights cutting through the fog became my guiding lights. The reason I say that driving instructors may or may not frown upon this method of navigation is because you're putting an awful lot of trust into the driver ahead of you. For all you know, they may be swerving all over the road, or they may be heading to danger. Nonetheless, I found that seeing those glowing red lights in front of me brought me a sense of peace and calm that wasn't before present.

When I think of God as a guiding light, this is the image I continually come up with. (Try as I might to conjure up something more clever...) The nautical among us may think of a lighthouse... or we may think of lights on a runway, guiding the airplane to safety... or a light in a tunnel... but it's all really the same illustration: we are in a dark place and the light of God leads us out.

Just as there's a certain, albeit unfounded, amount of trust that is put on the driver in front of you on that foggy road, there is a certain amount of trust, very much founded, that must be placed in God if we are going to allow Him to lead us with His light. As I've followed those taillights on an unknown road, I've often thought to myself, "Well, I sure hope that guy knows where he's going," and as I've strived to walk with God, I'd be being dishonest with you if I said that similar thoughts hadn't crossed my mind.

One of my all-time favourite passages of scripture is found in Proverbs 3:5-6, which says, "*Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.*"

The key to being led by God, and having Him direct our paths, is putting all our trust in Him. Not relying on what we know or what we can see, because in the fog of life, we can't always see things clearly. The road signs may be there, but we've never been down this road and we have no idea. He has and He does. Let Him lead. When we start relying in ourselves and our own understanding, we shouldn't be surprised to find ourselves in a ditch.

If we can trust Him with all our hearts and acknowledge Him in everything we do or say, He's going to lead us where we need to go. Follow those taillights in front of you, He's guiding you safely.

Ryan Shephard is the pastor of the United Pentecostal Church in Middleton, NS, as well as the Children's Ministry Director for Nova Scotia and the Sectional Presbyter. He likes riding bikes, drinking black coffee, and going on adventures with his lovely wife, Trisha, and their plethora of children; Annabelle, Julia, Lucy, and Felix.

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JANUARY

NAME

FIELD OF APPOINTMENT

REGION

1	Lynden & Kathy Shalm	Regional Director	Asia
2	Steve & Kari Shirley	Dominican Republic; Leeward Islands	Central America & Caribbean
3	Monte & Dianne Showalter	International Evangelism	Europe
4	Nick & Pam Sisco	South Africa	Africa
5	Scotty & Krista Slaydon	Global Missions Secretary	World Headquarters
6	Carl & Bethany Sledge	Germany	Europe
7	Steve & Cheri Smith	Guyana	Central America & Caribbean
8	Richard & Pamela Smoak	Tanzania; Burundi; Rwanda	Africa
9	Mike & Miriam Sponsler	Regional Director	South America
10	Zach & Jennifer Sportsman	Rwanda; Burundi	Africa
11	Mark & Mariann Starin	Middle East	Eurasia & North Africa
12	Jonathan & Maria Strickland	Ireland	Europe
13	Sim & Judy Strickland	Greece; Armenia; Macedonia	Europe
14	Craig & Lyna Sully	Senegal; French West Africa	Africa
15	Stephan & Debra Summers	Cyprus	Europe
16	Brad & Regina Thompson	International Teaching Ministry; GATS	Central America & Caribbean
17	Joshua & Lalaina Tingley	Haiti	Central America & Caribbean
18	Steven & Jean Tir	Slovakia; Serbia	Europe
19	Nathanael & Ingunn Turner	Estonia	Europe
20	Dennis & Amy Uecker	Regional Teaching Ministry	Europe
21	Kevin & Crystal Wallace	Belgium	Europe
22	Michael & Ivonne Walmer	Brazil	South America
23	Steven & Marzia Well	Chile	South America
24	Troy & Jennette Wickett	Fiji; Solomon Islands	Pacific
25	Samuel & Kristen Zenobia	Spain	Europe
26	Our Missionaries in Sensitive Areas		
27	Bryan & Barbara Abernathy	Director of Promotion	World Headquarters
28	Randy & Carolyn Adams	Regional Director	Africa
29	Mark & Glenda Alphin	Finland; Iceland	Europe
30	Aaron & Tiffany Anderson	Brazil	South America
31	Trecina Anderson	Portugal	Europe