



## Becky Combee Ministries, Inc.

### The Lights of Christmas

Most Christmas seasons we decorate our house with eight or more Christmas trees. The light from these trees flows from room to room permeating the atmosphere. The light that emanates from these trees is of varying intensities, but each one shares the vision of Christmas. Together, they echo God's message, "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

When we prepare our house for Christmas, we carefully place each tree in position. We have a generally established pattern, although we may change some of the locations from year to year. We usually arrange our four alpine trees at the fireplace, set our white snow-like tree in the foyer, put our red-ornamented tree in the master bedroom, establish our largest tree in the living room, hang our upside-down tree over the piano, and station our bird-covered tree in the office. Every morning I make my rounds turning on all the lights. One particular day when our daughter, Suzanne, came to work, I said, "How do you like all the trees?" I suppose I wanted someone to be duly appreciative of all the hard work and

She responded, "Mother, I feel warm and welcome." These words still hold a very special place in my heart.

Christmas is the season that we welcome with great joy the birth of Jesus, our Savior. These days of celebration commemorate the beginning of His journey on earth, a journey that culminated with His death and resurrection. Through our faith in His triumphant victory over death, we become the sons and daughters of Almighty God. We are then welcomed into God's kingdom of light. The writer of Hebrews records the grand declaration of Jesus, "Behold I and the children which God hath given me." These words establish our position as God's children. We, His children, are called "out of darkness into His marvelous light."<sup>1</sup>

We are now citizens of heaven commissioned by our Lord Jesus to be "the light of the world."<sup>2</sup> The Apostle Paul echoes these words saying, "Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of the darkness."<sup>3</sup> Again in the letter to the church at Ephesus he records, "For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light."<sup>4</sup> As Christians we must "let [our] light shine."<sup>5</sup> Jesus said we do not light a candle, and hide it under a bushel.<sup>6</sup> We must "Arise, shine; for your light has come."<sup>7</sup> We are a city set on a hill and we cannot be hidden.<sup>8</sup>



# Merry Christmas



Years ago as a new resident of Lakeland, I drove to an evening Sunday school meeting in an unfamiliar part of town. After the meeting, I made several wrong turns. I found myself on a dark wooded road without inhabitants. But I understand the importance of light. Scanning the horizon, I looked for the light of a city. I can find my way home if I have light.

Sailors, fishermen, and others are dependent on the great lighthouses that border the British Isles. Wayne and I have walked to the tops of these massive structures. We have been in the Lighthouse Museum face to face with the great beacons of light that pierce the darkness of the oceans. These lights provide safe passage into the harbors. They bring these water warriors home.

We are the beacons of light that illuminate the harbor of God's love. As we "hold forth the Word of life,"<sup>9</sup> we light the way into the kingdom of God. Like a road sign, we point the way to Jesus and heaven. The wise men that came to worship our Lord followed the light of a star, and the star led them to the young child Jesus. Our God provided that great light to bring them into the presence of the Lord. You and I are the stars of God pointing the way into His presence. The light of our lives says, "Follow me as I follow Christ."

We are a light that can never be dismantled, dimmed, or eliminated if we abide in Him. After Christmas, we will place all the Christmas trees, decorations and lights in containers. Wayne will climb the ladder into the attic over and over again locking up the warm and welcoming lights until next year. It is over. But as God's light we are continually shining. We are a city of perpetual light, a star forever beaming, a lighthouse never failing, a road sign set in heavenly soil. We are His light in the world. "Walk as children of light."<sup>10</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 1 Peter 2:9

<sup>2</sup> Matthew 5:14

<sup>3</sup> 1 Thessalonians 5:5

<sup>4</sup> Ephesians 5:8

<sup>5</sup> Matthew 5:16

<sup>6</sup> Matthew 5:15

<sup>7</sup> Isaiah 60:1 NKJV

<sup>8</sup> Matthew 5:14

<sup>9</sup> Philippians 2:16

<sup>10</sup> Ephesians 5:8