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Father of Lights

By Teresa Hampton

There is a heartwarming family in our small neighborhood. The dad begins on Thanksgiving to put up the festive lights. His small children watch and sometimes help. Their home has colorful lights in every conceivable location – on the house, on the porch, in the yard, on the roof, and even on the mailbox. One thing is certain. They want the neighborhood and the world to see the beauty of their house. Even if you try, you cannot avoid seeing the illumination in the darkness of night. And along with viewing, we witness the desire of a unique, loving family to share the beauty of light.

Paul wrote to Christians about the Creator of light. He reminded them, *It is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness...* (1 Corinthians 4:6a). On the first day of creation He spoke...and there was light. Paul went on to remind Christians that God, who created light in the beginning, *has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ* (4:6b). We Christians bear the light of Jesus in our hearts in order to illuminate the knowledge of God's glory in Jesus.

Our Father in heaven wants the world to see the beauty of His house, the church. He wants us to speak of Jesus every day, not just one festive time of the year. His desire is that our Christian lights shine brightly year round so that in the darkness of sin, the world cannot avoid seeing the light of salvation, and they will come to know the unique family of God, and the heartwarming love of the Father of lights.

Today's Verse: *Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven* (Matthew 5:16).

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