Christian Crusaders 75 years 1936-2011

the Crusader

Volume 31 No.2 Spring/Summer 2011

Christian Crusaders Radio and Internet Ministry Newsletter

A Light Shines in the Darkness

This world, presented so darkly by the media, needs to be painted with light. Jesus says to the world, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (John 8:12). What a promise!

Jesus then gives us a challenge. In the same way he said, "Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

That light, reflecting our personal relationship with Jesus, does not go unnoticed. Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a light shining in the darkness. A theologian and pastor of the German people, Bonhoeffer pointed people to Jesus.

Bonhoeffer was born in 1906 of German parents. His father, the head of psychiatry and neurology at the University of Berlin, referred to himself as an agnostic. However, he gave full support to his wife, a confessing Christian, in training their eight children in the Christian faith.

Dietrich chose to study theology. Although his father was disappointed, he supported and encouraged his son in his chosen field. Dietrich studied at many prestigious universities and earned his doctor's degree from the University of Berlin.

Dietrich was an intellectual genius with an outgoing personality. He loved people and had a strong evangelical spirit. He enjoyed young people and spent a good amount of time playing sports with them. However, he was soon aware that, if Adolph Hitler's popularity continued to grow and he won the confidence of the German people to make them a strong nation, the spread of the Gospel just would not happen.

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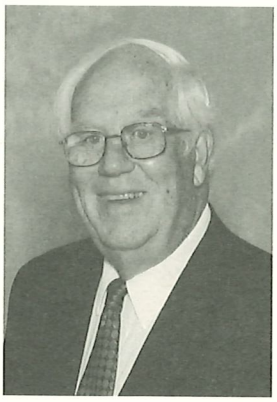
Light: brightness, illumination, exposure to truth



Rev. Dr. Homer Larsen

"Jesus then gives us a challenge . . . 'Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works and praise your Father in heaven.'"

CHRISTIAN CRUSADERS

From the Desk of the Executive Director

Janet Mennen

When I was a young mother, I had taken my two year old into the restroom in an out-of-town cafe. As we were just about to leave, a young woman said to me, "You're a Christian, aren't you?" When I replied that I was, she said she could tell by the way I spoke to my child. Even though her comments made me feel good at the time, I knew that most mothers - whether followers of Christ or unbelievers - speak kindly to their two year olds. My words that day didn't necessarily identify me as a Christian; they may simply have meant I was having a good day! Of course a Christian should be kind, but there has to be something more.

In Matthew 5:14, Jesus said: "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden." So what is it that makes Christians the "light of the world" and easily identifiable to others?

The answer can be found deep in the heart, like the heart of someone I know. She's a wonderful lady, committed to the Lord, and a fellow teacher in the school where I taught years ago. She is kind, loving, gentle, patient, joyful – each fruit of the Spirit so much a part of who she is. Her goodness is effortless, nothing forced or insincere. Her faith in Christ, evident by her joy in living, has touched many people. She truly has been Jesus' light in the world, a light that has drawn others to her and to the Lord.

The difference between her and those of us who profess to follow Christ, yet keep this to ourselves, might be summed up in the words of a favorite author, Dr. Lloyd Ogilvie. He writes: "You can't miss a living Christian any more than I could miss that city (set on a hill). Our challenge is to keep our minds filled with the truth of Christ and our emotions fired with the warmth of Christ, so that we will attract the people around us with His quality of life. There is no such thing as secret discipleship. That is a contradiction of terms."

The mind of my friend is filled with Christ's truth and her heart fired with His warmth, so Christ's light can't help but radiate from her. May the Holy Spirit work through Christian Crusaders to fill us in the same way, so the world – like moths drawn to light on a summer evening – can't resist what Christ has given us.

"Hide it under a bushel? No! I'm going to let it shine!"

Crusader Communications...

We're in the Lighting Business

Writer Robert Louis Stevenson, who was very ill as a child, recorded a childhood incident in his diary. He was seated by a window at nightfall, watching a lamplighter light the street lights below. His nurse came into the room and asked him what he was doing. "I'm watching a man make holes in the darkness," he replied.

Christian Crusaders radio ministry is in the business of "punching holes in the darkness." Our commitment is to bring the light of the gospel of Jesus Christ into a world that has a lot of darkness. The Gospel brings the light of hope – communicating to all that God is in charge and one day every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. The Gospel is a light that helps us to see the way to an eternal relationship with God because of what Jesus has done for the sinner.

Every message, every song, every prayer that comes over the air on Sunday from us is another assault on the darkness. There are so many in need of the light of the Gospel.

On June 15, 1910, O. Henry, the famous short story author's, last words were, "Turn up the lights. I don't want to go home in the dark." At Christian Crusaders our mission is to make sure no one ever does. Thank you for your prayerful and financial support of this ministry.

Rev. Steve Kramer

Mark your calendars!

Christian Crusaders
75th Anniversary Celebration

will be held the afternoon of

September 25, 2011

at Nazareth Lutheran Church
in Cedar Falls, Iowa.

More information will follow.

Letters from Listeners

From Fort Dodge, Iowa

I am a faithful listener. Pastor Larsen was pastor of my church when I was a teenager. I always cherish the memory.

From San Antonio, Texas

Thank you for your Internet broadcasts. Thank you also for your help with downloading the current sermon. May God bless you all at Christian Crusaders.

From Callender, Iowa

Thank you so much for the services on Sunday morning. I would like to hear the recent service. Please send me a tape of it.

From Manchester, Iowa

When my mother was no longer physically able to attend church, she listened to Christian Crusaders every week. It was her way of "attending church." She enjoyed it. Thanks for being there for her.

From Spirit Lake, Iowa

I thought this morning's sermon was so wonderful. Please send me a printed copy so I can share it with my children.

Mark Wikner

From the President's Desk

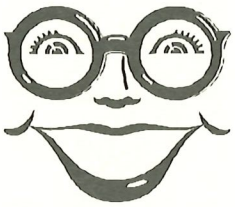
We were deep in Carlsbad Caverns. Our guide grouped us together and then turned out the lights. We were given a little time so that our eyes could adjust to the darkness. However, it didn't do any good; I still couldn't see my hand in front of my face. Just total darkness! To take even a few steps was unthinkable! The guide then lit a match. Some kids "oohed" as they observed what we know about light. The light from a little match had penetrated all of the darkness in that huge cavern!

The reverse situation is, of course, not possible. On a bright day, how could you add some darkness to it? It is probably because of this unique property of light that the Bible speaks so much of it. Jesus often used light in his teachings. Referring to himself in John 8:12, he says, "I am the light of the world."

Jesus' light shows us who we really are – sinners in need of a Savior. Initially, we may not like the penetrating exposure of that light, but it is what we really need. He not only identifies our problem, he has also provided the solution. His suffering and death in our place paid the penalty of sin that we couldn't.

Once we have accepted his solution by trusting him, we find more good news in the last part of John 8:12, "Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." If we keep following Jesus, we have all the guidance we will ever need. We will never stumble in the darkness. We have the light of life.

What a Savior!



On the Light Side

Changing a Lightbulb

Q: How many brewers does it take to change a lightbulb?

A: One-third less than for a regular bulb.

Q: How many mystery writers does it take to screw in a lightbulb?

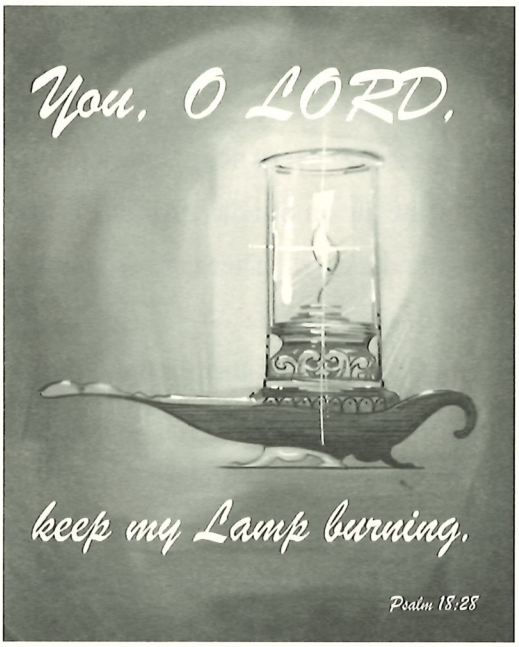
A: Two. One to screw it almost all the way in and the other to give it a surprising twist at the end.

Q: How many anglers does it take to change a lightbulb?

A: Five, and you should've seen the lightbulb! It must have been *this* big! (Gestures with arms . . .) Five of us were barely enough!

Q: How many dogs does it take to change a lightbulb?

Cat's Answer: "Dogs do not change lightbulbs. People change lightbulbs. So, the real question is: How long will it be before I can expect some light, my dinner, and a massage?"



Gifts of Remembrance

Memorial Gifts
February 1 – April 30, 2011

A
MAYNARD E. AAKER
Miriam W. Walker
WARREN ALBERTSEN
Barry/Kaye Haskins
Norman/Kay Lemmon
Darlene Surface
PAT ANDERSON
Bob/Karen Janssen
RICHARD M. ANDERSON
Leon/Marilyn Schramm
GERALD ANDORF
Roland/Arlene Riensche
MARVEL ARENDS
Bob/Karen Janssen
Clarence Laube

B
JENNIE BAKKER
Dick/Joann Juhl
Donald/Leona Pruisner
EVELYN BERGER
Melvin/Shirley Warnke
CLARENCE BERGMAN
Terry/Janet Mennen
HOWARD BIDNE
Marjorie Lange
Bette Lompe
Ed/Marion Nielsen
GENEVIEVE BOELMAN
Gary/Phyllis Alberts
Bob/Karen Janssen
DAVID BRADNEY
John/Ethel Peterson
ROSEMARY W. BRINKMAN
Tom/Vicki Moe

C
MAXINE CHESTNUT
Bob/Karen Janssen
VIVIAN CHRISTOFFERS
Darrell/Adeline Gutz
ROLAND CLAUSING
Carole Bradshaw

D
JAMES DANKENBRING
Mildred Dankenbring
Richard/Phyllis Rohle
LESTER DETERDING
Alfred/Lorna Harmening
JOHN DIERKS
Dick/Ivadean Herter
LUELLA DOERING
Roger/Marianne Mohagen
Doug/Judy Osland

E
CAROLYN EATON
Bill/Dixie Madsen
ALFRED EITEN
Donald/Leone Pruisner
Don/Miriam Walker
EDWARD ERIKSEN
Harris/Carol Jorgensen
GEORGE/BESSIE EUCHNER
Charles/Connie Euchner

F
HILDA FOKKENA
Bob/Karen Janssen
KENNETH FOX
Lorraine M. Fox

G
MARY JO GASE
John/Ethel Peterson
JOYCE GLENN
Richard/Judy Vande Kieft
SOLVEIG GREGORY
Gary/Shirley Harris
Noreen Hermansen
Harris/Carol Jorgensen
Dick/Joann Juhl
Merle/Joyce Larkin
Evelyn Lohman
Richard/Judy Vande Kieft
ANNA E. GRIMM
Ethel Mae Schneider
HARRY GUTNECHT
Gary/Shirley Harris

H
DR. PAUL HENSTEIN
Donald Pliester
LAVERNE HEYER
Clarence Laube
MAXINE HIGGINS
John/Ethel Peterson
DALE HOLTAPP
Darrell/Adeline Gutz
GRAYDON HOWE
Gladys Howe
INEZ HUISMAN
Kathleen Riniker

J
ALEX W. JENSEN, JR.
Virginia S. Luebbert
ALEX W. JENSEN, SR.
Virginia S. Luebbert
MARTIN JENSEN
Virginia S. Luebbert
RUSSELL JENSEN
Bob/Karen Janssen
Lois N. Roose

K
MARIBEL E. KEMP
Geraldine W. Lambert
ARLENE KOHLENBERG
Cal/Alice Boland
Doris Michaelson
JEANETTE KRAMER
Bob/Karen Janssen
Clarence Laube
HILDA KUCERA
Tom/Vicki Moe

L
DENISE LAUGHLIN
Pat Kolpin
ROY LEVIK
LeDonna Levik
RAY LUDVIGSEN
Terry/Janet Mennen
EDWARD LUEBBERT
Virginia S. Luebbert
MAE LUND
Willard Lund
LARRY LURSEN
Bob/Karen Janssen

M
DIXIE MANLY
Harris/Carol Jorgensen
Bob/Judy Larkin
Merle/Joyce Larkin
BILL McFADDEN
Richard/Ivadean Herter
BUD MEYER
Bob/Karen Janssen
DENNIS MIXDORF
Lorraine M. Fox
MARJORIE MIXDORF
Marjorie Lange
Bette Lompe
Carl/Connie Riggs
Richard/Judy Vande Kieft
FREEMAN MOSER
Russell Cantine
CHARLES MOSHER
Georgette Bauman

N
ELLA NORRIS
Lorraine M. Fox

O
ORVILLE O'CONNER
Darrell/Adeline Gutz
JIM OLSON
Richard/Yvonne Bertram

P
VERN/ANNA PAGEL
Larry/LaDonna Pagel
Marv/Pam Pagel
BOB PALMER
John/Ethel Peterson
GARTH PATTERSON
Dale/Nancy Bruns
DWIGHT H. PEARSON
Ardith Pearson
MARIE PETERS
Alvin/Dorothy Eggena
CAROL PETERSEN
Harris/Carol Jorgensen
LEROY PETERSEN
Shirley A. Petersen
CLARA PETERSON
Melvin/Jean Lehman
RICHARD J. PETERSON
Ron/Ellie Arntson
ROY PROCTOR
Bill/Dixie Madsen

R
MARILYN RASMUSSEN
Cyrus/Marlys Bartine
Rex/Norma DeLavergne
Lee/Marlene Engen
Dick/Linnea Graen
Marjorie Lange
Sue J. Roberts

Gifts of Remembrance (cont'd)

Corinne Trotter
Richard/Judy Vande Kieft
Opal Walther

ANTON "Tony" RIEKEN
Beverly Hempen
Kathleen Riniker

DAVID L. RINDERKNECHT
Melvin A. Krug

ARNOLD RUEBER
Wilma Rueber

S

DAVE/NORINE SANDVOLD
Mary Ann Sandvold

JOHN SCHIPPER
Donald/Leone Pruisner

RUDY SCHOFF
Norman/Arvylla Fink

CARLOS SCOTT
Carole Bradshaw

PEG SMITH
Arnold/Ardyce Dodge
Harold/Helen Larsen
Bill/Dixie Madsen
Ethel Mae Schneider

WAYNE SMITH
John/Ethel Peterson

ANDREW SORENSON
Marjorie M. Foisland

ROBERTA SPRING
Marvin/Sandra Heller
Carl/Connie Riggs
Norma Strom
Bonnie Turner
Richard/Judy Vande Kieft
Phyllis VerPloeg
Opal Walther

ROGER STAGE
Harris/Carol Jorgensen

DOROTHY SUMP
Marcene Von Dielingen

ROBERT SURFACE
Warren/Maureen Albertsen
Darlene K. Cannon
Russell Cantine
Phyllis J. Carter
Ruth DeHoff
Rex/Norma DeLavergne
Richard/Linnea Graen
Donald/Marilyn Hasbrouck
Eugene/Darlene Holmes
Mr./Mrs. George Jenson
Harris/Carol Jorgensen
Lela Kabele
Merle/Joyce Larkin
Homer/Eunice Larsen
John/Laurie Larsen
Bette Lompe
Bill/Dixie Madsen
Russell/Evelyn Mattox
Lee/Donna Miller
Tom/Vicki Moe
Jerry/Oletha O'Donnell
Wendell/Edith Oltmann
Ralph/Beverly Ridder
Carl/Connie Riggs
Leon/Gloria Tollefson
Richard/Judy Vande Kieft
James/Joan Walker
Frederick/Ruth White
Ted/Deb Whitesell

T

CATHERINE TJORNEHOJ
Melvin/Jean Lehman

V

MELVIN VOGELER
John/Ethel Peterson

ELLA VOGT
John/Ethel Peterson

W

LOU/BARB WAGNER
Kenneth/Vicki Leiss

EXIE WALTON
Roland/Arlene Riensche

DORIS WARNER
Dale/Nancy Bruns
Darrell/Adeline Gutz
Leon/Marilyn Schramm

POLLY WASESKUK
Wendell/Lorraine Crotty

JACK WEIGEL
Gary/Shirley Harris

WILLIAM WENDEL
Norman O. Fink

RICHARD L. WIDMAN
Don Pliester

PAM WILLOUGHBY
Dick/Joann Juhl

ARTHUR H. WISE
Kathleen Riniker

Y

MARIAN YOUNG
Dick/Linnea Graen
Carl/Connie Riggs

In Loving Memory of:

BOOTS BENEKE, my wife, by Dean Beneke
WALTER/MARTHA BRANDT, my parents, at Easter, by Carole Bradshaw
CARL HUNDLEY who would have been 91 on March 29, by Norma Hundley
RUSSELL/JOHN JACKLIN, my husband and son, by Elaine Jacklin
LOUISE LAMPE, my mother, by Carol Shaw
ALVIN & GARY SIEMS, by Sylvia M. Siems
MILDRED THOMPSON, my wife, born 3/27/1919, who left to be with the Lord 10/23/2010, by Ernest Thompson
MARY WOLFF, our aunt, on her birthday, by Rod Thode, Christi Jensen/family
AUNT OF GARY MCCULLY, by John/Ethel Peterson
ALL MY LOVED ONES, by Donna Possehl

Received Gifts Honoring:

DENNIS/NORMA BARKHAUS on their 55th anniversary, by Leon/Marilyn Schramm
RUSSELL CANTINE, my dad, on his 90th birthday, February 26, by Tom Cantine & kids
VERA DROMMER on her 95th birthday, by Dale/Nancy Bruns Darrell/Adeline Gutz
HELEN HOFFMEIER on her 90th birthday, by Dale/Nancy Bruns
ALMA JUILFS on her 97th birthday, by Darrell/Adeline Gutz
ROBERT/JANET KINNE on their 50th anniversary, by Darrell/Adeline Gutz
REV. HOMER LARSEN
With thankfulness for his comforting words, by Darlene Surface
In gratitude to him, by Sharon J. Pressler
HOMER/EUNICE LARSEN, my parents, on their March birthdays, by Natalie Gehringer
DON WARMING on his 90th birthday, April 10, 2011, by Bob/Nancy Maloy
TO THE HONOR AND GLORY OF GOD, by Richard/Judy Vande Kieft
TO OUR GOD – GLORY & HONOR FOR HIS SON JESUS, by Bette Lompe

Continued from page 1

An example of Bonhoeffer resisting Nazism and Hitler is taken from the book, *Bonhoeffer*, written by Eric Metaxas:

"He (Bonhoeffer) knew that no one could see things only through the eyes of faith, but they were no less real and true than the things one saw through his or her physical eyes. The eyes of faith had a moral component. To see that it was against God's will to persecute the Jews, one must choose to open one's eyes. And then one would face another uncomfortable choice: whether or not to act as God required. Bonhoeffer strove to show, and then to do, what God asked in response. That was the obedient Christian life, the call of the disciple. And it came with a cost, which explained why so many refused to open their eyes in the first place. To follow Nazism was contrary to the will of God."

The Nazis could not stand this voice of God reaching out to the people. And so at Flossenburg concentration camp, Bonhoeffer was executed at dawn on April 9, 1945, in resistance against dictatorship and terror.

The doctor who reported on his death said, "In the almost fifty years that I worked as a doctor, I have hardly ever seen a man die so entirely submissive to the will of God." This was God's light shining in a dark world through His servant.

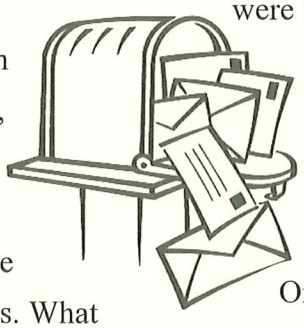
We find evidence of that darkness all around us. Even the Church roams about in darkness as it departs from the Scriptures, which is its only authority in matters of faith and life. As you shine your light for the Kingdom, you can have an impact on others around you. The light of Christ not only illumines, it also has the power to transform others.

We know the truth. It has set us free and opened our eyes. That light is Jesus Christ and His Word.

Rev. Homer Larsen

✝ Would You Enlighten Us?

One of our favorite times in the office is when we receive a note or letter from a Christian Crusaders' listener. These letters give us a lift and let us know the ministry is reaching people with the Word of God. We often share them with Rev. Larsen and Rev. Kramer, as well, so they might know their sermons are being heard.



As part of our 75th anniversary year, we hope to compile a scrapbook of these letters. What a priceless treasure they will be for years to come!

Would you take a few moments to let us know how Christian Crusaders has brought the "light of Christ" into your home over the years? Maybe you have a story of you and your family listening to Christian Crusaders on the radio. Or perhaps you were in the congregation in the early years of the live broadcasts from Trinity.

Please send your letters to:

Christian Crusaders
PO Box 522
Cedar Falls IA 50613

Or e-mail us: info@christiancrusaders.org.

Anything you send will be greatly appreciated! Many, many thanks!

Christian Crusaders
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Cedar Falls IA 50613-0027

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Christian Crusaders 75 years 1936-2011

LISTEN TO CHRISTIAN CRUSADERS

Anytime — www.christiancrusaders.org
Sundays — on these Radio Stations

Phoenix AZ – 8:30 a.m.
KXEG / AM1280

St. Petersburg FL – 4:00 p.m.
WTIS / AM1110

Peoria IL – 7:00 a.m.
WIRL / 1290AM

Davenport IA – 8:00 a.m.
WOC / AM1420

Cedar Rapids IA – 9:00 p.m.
WMT / AM600

Decorah IA – 7:00 a.m.
KWLC / AM1240

Des Moines IA – 6:06 a.m.
WHO / AM1040

Fort Dodge IA – 8:30 a.m.
KWMT / AM540

Mason City IA – 8:00 a.m.
KGLO / AM 1300

Waterloo IA – 9:06 a.m.
KWLO / AM1330

Waterloo IA – 10:30 a.m.
KXEL / AM1540

Waterloo IA – 3:00 p.m.
KNWS / AM1090

Waverly IA – 7:30 a.m.
KWAY / 1470AM

Portland ME – 5:30 a.m.
WGAN / AM560

Portland ME – 7:30 a.m.
WZAN/ 9700AM

Minneapolis MN – 7:30 a.m.
KKMS / AM980

Stillwater MN – 8:00 a.m.
KLBB / AM1220

Yankton SD – 9:00 a.m.
WNAX / AM570

Edinburg TX – 8:00 a.m.
KURV / AM710

Milwaukee WI – 6:30 a.m.
WOKY / AM920

North America/Europe
12:30 p.m. Eastern Time
16:30 UTC/GMT
13:760 MHz Shortwave

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Letters and suggestions are welcome. Call or write Christian Crusaders, P. O. Box 522, Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613-0027, (319) 277-0924; toll-free 1-888-MY FAITH (1-888-693-2484). Or visit our Web site anytime: www.christiancrusaders.org; email: info@christiancrusaders.com.