

## **DEVOTION – Isaiah 60:1-6**

*Accompanies "[Taking Light to the Darkness in Windsor, CO](#)"*

**<sup>1</sup>Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory rises upon you. <sup>2</sup>See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you. <sup>3</sup>Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.**

**<sup>4</sup>Lift up your eyes and look about you: All assemble and come to you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the hip. <sup>5</sup>Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy; the wealth on the seas will be brought to you, to you the riches of the nations will come. <sup>6</sup>Herds of camels will cover your land, young camels of Midian and Ephah. And all from Sheba will come, bearing gold and incense, and proclaiming the praise of the LORD."**

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I've had it happen a number of times in my life. The power goes out. You're almost never prepared for it. Whether it was a weather event or a critter going a little too close to a power station, the end result was no electricity. Which means no light. If it happens at night, it's even more concerning. Complete darkness. So, you fumble around in the darkness and try to find that flashlight stored in a drawer somewhere. And when you switch it on...nothing. The batteries are dead. And the darkness continues. Now you have to figure out another light source, or you're simply stuck in that darkness.

That's one description of what it's like to be in darkness. But there's another, much more serious example of darkness that has eternal consequences: *spiritual* darkness. And you walk by people every day in your life that are living in that darkness, even though the power is on and the sun is shining brightly. There are a lot of supposed sources of light for them: our sinful culture; their media and entertainment choices; other friends also lost in darkness. All of them are clamoring to light up their darkness, but those supposed light sources are only deepening their spiritual darkness.

By God's grace, we all have been blessed with *true light*. It is, as the prophet Isaiah just revealed for us in this reading, "the glory of the Lord." In the Old Testament, this glory was always connected with God's saving activity and deliverance, and often demonstrated a visible representation of God's presence – like the cloud by day and fire by night that guided God's people during their exodus from Egypt. So, it's not all that difficult to connect

that glory of the Lord with the gospel message that we've all heard and taken to heart. It's the same gospel message we must share with others to light up their spiritual darkness.

That happens when we connect with people. As you saw in the video, those WELS members working to start a new mission church in Windsor, Colorado were shining their gospel light by seeking to make connections with people in the community, in the hopes that, by God's blessing, those who were walking around in darkness would eventually be drawn to the light of the gospel, as they had been.

Those of us here today may not be involved directly in plans to open a new mission church, but we are all a part of a synod— a group of congregations that work together to do gospel ministry in many different ways, including mission work. But each of us also has a responsibility to bring that gospel light to those whom we are among, given to us by our gracious God who shared that gospel message with us. You don't always do it by reading Scripture to them, especially at first. It may start by simply being a friend to those who need one. As a relationship and trust develop, you have the opportunity to let your gospel light shine in their darkness, and the sharing of the gospel message soon follows. They, like the nations Isaiah spoke of, are drawn to the Light, Jesus Christ, and then may become a part of God's family by the working of the Holy Spirit through that gospel that we share as that relationship grows.

There may not be a looming storm, at the moment, or a power failure taking place in a physical sense. But we can be sure that there are a great many around us who are stuck in spiritual darkness. They need and long for their darkness to be enlightened, even if they don't realize it at first. We have that light. So, follow the call of the prophet Isaiah and “[Arise](#)” and “[shine](#)” that gospel light. Don't hide it in your life. Share the light that you have with those around you who are living in that spiritual darkness and pray for and support those who are working in places we are not, to bring that “[glory of the Lord](#)” to others.

*Written by Rev. Thomas Mielke, WELS Christian Giving Counselor. Used with permission.*