



I am the Light of the world. He who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.

John 8-12

February newsletter

New speakers on the station:



We welcome on board Ps Erhard and Marietha Hugo (Volle Evangelie Kerk Jeffrysbaai)



We also welcome back Ps Roelf Galvin (The Light – Galvin Ministries)

Open Doors:

The management of Lighthouse Radio supports the work of Open Doors. For this reason Open Doors will soon be providing audio to be played on Lighthouse Radio. Watch this space!

Open Doors is a ministry that endeavours to strengthen and equip the body of Christ living under or facing restriction and persecution because of their faith in Jesus Christ.

Open Doors also seeks to encourage their involvement in world evangelism by:

*Providing Bibles and Christian literature, media, leadership training, socioeconomic development and through intercessory prayer;

*Preparing the body of Christ living in threatened or unstable areas to face persecution and suffering; and

*Educating and mobilising the body of Christ living in the free world to identify with threatened and persecuted Christians and to be actively involved in assisting them.

According to Open Doors, globally there are 2.48 billion Christians. Out of these, approximately 215 million or 1 in every 12 Christians in the Top 50 countries of the World Watch List, is considered to be suffering from “extreme” levels of persecution, according to the Open Doors 2018 World Watch List (WWL).

Every year, Open Doors publishes the World Watch List, which features the list of the top 50 countries where it’s hardest to be a Christian. The WWL measures the types of persecution Christians all over the world experience from their government, community and even their own families. It also accounts for the restrictions Christians face in their private lives, their ability to meet and worship with other believers, as well as the physical violence they are subjected to.

This year, North Korea and Afghanistan scored highest in the persecution of Christians, topping the 2018 WWL. The top ten countries where Christians currently face the most persecution are:

- #1 North Korea (94/100)
- #2 Afghanistan (93/100)
- #3 Somalia (91/100)
- #4 Sudan (87/100)
- #5 Pakistan (86/100)
- #6 Eritrea (86/100)
- #7 Libya (86/100)
- #8 Iraq (86/100)
- #9 Yemen (85/100)
- #10 Iran (85/100)

Libya (86 points/Rank7) and India (81 points/Rank 11) are the biggest risers in the 2018 WWL, both rising by 8 points, which in the case of India was clearly due to the increasing influence of radical Hinduism. In the 2018 WWL reporting period, at least 8 Christians were killed for their faith by militant Hindus, at least 34 churches were damaged, and close to 24 000 Christians suffered attacks in India.

New countries that have entered the Top 50 this year, are Nepal (64 points/Rank 25) and Azerbaijan (57 points/Rank 45). Nepal has seen a strong rise in Religious nationalism, with Hindu radicals becoming much more active both in putting pressure on Christians and in perpetrating violence. In Azerbaijan, increased access to information through police raids and arrests has caused a rise in score among other factors.

www.opendoors.org.za

Word of the Month:

Matthew 12: 14"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. 15Neither do people light a lamp and

put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

The Greek translated word for light as used in this context is Phos, which means to shine or make manifest, especially by rays. The word is used to speak of a light that is emitting by a lamp; a heavenly light such as surrounds angels when they appear on earth; fire because it is light and sheds light; and a lamp or torch.

Light in the Bible speaks of God being the light (1 John 1-5-8), for light is extremely delicate, subtle, pure and has a brilliant quality. God is the light for God is also the truth and the knowledge, coupled with the spiritual purity, that exposes to the view of all openly and publicly all that is false, wrong and impure. God is the light for He is the ancient moral and spiritual truth.

And so when Jesus said in Matthew 5 that we must be the light, He was speaking of upholding the greater and moral truths of God. Jesus was also speaking about us walking in the light therefore in purity of understanding, purity of hope and truth. He was talking about us standing in righteousness, meaning walking according to the Lord's commandments, and in doing so remain in His will and purpose.

You see, we are called to be God's ambassadors on earth, reflecting the image of God. Reflection speaks of light, and so as our light shine in the world we will truly become the reflection of God's glory, truth and honour on earth.

The concept behind the word image in the Greek translation is translated as 'stamp bearer'. When we think of a stamp bearer we think of an engraved character or the impress made by a die or a seal, as for example, on a coin. The Greek word translated 'nature' denotes the very essence of God. We are therefore called and intended to be reflecting the identity or the essence of Jesus, by walking in His ways, according to His Word and according to the Spirit.

We live in a world of darkness, strife and chaos. But if we let our light shine, we will be like a candle that shines in that darkened room. And where the light shine, there the darkness will and has to recede. And just so, if we let our light shine, we might cause someone else's light to shine, and so the power of two lights, like two candles, will bring even greater light to a world of falseness and lies.

This is why the Lord encouraged us to shine our light. For where there is light, then darkness has and will recede. For where there is light, God's love, and truth and purity will shine brightly like a new dawn after a stormy night. And so, as we let our light shine, we will reflect His character and image and in doing so bring others closer to God so that the light might shine in them.

And this was God's great intention by the Great Commission to make disciples and to teach the world about Him. If our light shines collectively, then this world be a brighter and joyous place for if we walk in God's light, then we walk in love, life and truth. May we seek in this day to be carriers of His light and be a true reflection of His glory. And in

doing so, may others find hope in the light that shine like a beacon for the weary traveler.

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When a Christian tries to live by reason he is moving out of God's country into the enemy's land. We belong in the miraculous and the supernatural realm.

John G. Lake