

Bermudian Church of the Brethren

WEDNESDAY'S WORD – a midweek thought from Pastor Larry M. Dentler
to share a word of inspiration ... encouragement ... challenge ... a smile ... in the middle of your week
April 22, in the year of our Lord 2020 – #833

Shine!

It's just a little maroon hard cover song book - "*Songs for Little Singers, No.3*". It was published in 1949. And 60+ years ago it was the songbook that Sister Mildred Bowser used with the Cherub Choir at Mechanicsburg Church of the Brethren. And let me tell you... some of us were NOT cherubs!

I was paging thru the songbook recently and reminiscing. Finding some "gems" that I could sing with 2-year old Jaxsen. And, I found it. Had forgotten it. Always loved it! Maybe some of you "older ones" can remember it from your Sunday School days as children.

Jesus bids us shine, With a clear, pure light, Like a little candle burning in the night; In this world is darkness, So we must shine, You in your small corner, And I in mine.

Jesus bids us shine, First of all for Him; Well He sees and knows it, If our lights are dim. He looks down from heaven, To see us shine, You in your small corner, And I in mine.

Jesus bids us shine, Then for all around, Many kinds of darkness, In the world are found, Sin and want and sorrow; So we must shine. You in your small corner, And I in mine." (Emily Huntington Miller, public domain)

What jumped out at me most as I remembered this little blessing, was how appropriate it is for these Quarantine Days! The words from over 60 years ago seem so fit for today!

"Jesus bids us shine" – Notice it doesn't say that Jesus "suggests" that we shine, or "hopes" that we shine, or "wishes" that we shine. He "bids" us. In other words, He calls us, commands us, directs us to shine. Shining for the Lord, especially in these days, is not optional! We hear and see some believers whose messages and reflections are pretty bleak. Feeding into the darkness. No! Jesus bids us shine!

"...you must shine your light in front of people! Then they will see what wonderful things you do, and they'll give glory to your father in heaven." Matthew 5:16 NTE

"In the world is darkness" and in the third verse, **"For many kinds of darkness, In the world are found, Sin and want and sorrow."** - This COVID-19 crisis has cast a dark shadow over life. There is a lot of depression, fear, anxiety, need. Pornography websites are seeing an exponential rise in use. Alcoholism and drug addiction needs have increased. Isn't it fascinating how this little children's song summarizes the trouble so accurately for our day – **"sin and want and sorrow."** For believers we have a wonderful opportunity to shine Christ's darkness defeating light into the darkness as we love, care, encourage, help those who can only see the darkness.

"(Jesus') life is the light that shines through the darkness—and the darkness can never extinguish it." John 1:5 LB

“You in your small corner, And I in mine.” – How quarantine-time does this sound?! Social distancing and stay-at-home orders have made our world of influence so much smaller. But wherever we are and whoever we are with... we can shine for Jesus! Maybe we can't “change the world” right now, but we can bless our families. We can encourage friends and loved ones. If we each do what we can from our “small corner” it's truly amazing what the Lord can do!

“Every believer has received grace gifts, so use them to serve one another as faithful stewards of the many-colored tapestry of God's grace.” 1 Peter 4:10 TPT

Shine Brothers & Sisters! Shine for Jesus! Each one! In our own ways! From our own “small corner!”

Shining! Pastor Larry <><