

encouraged crime and violence.

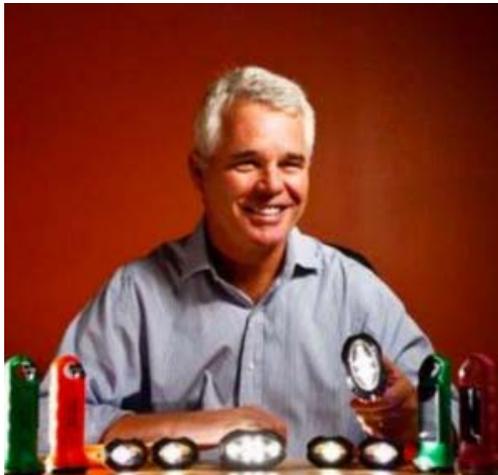
The contrast between darkness and light is a prominent image in the Bible's presentation of Jesus the Messiah. "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined" (Isa. 9:2). "In [Jesus] was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it" (John 1:4-5).

It's our privilege as followers of Jesus to be His light-bearers today. Paul urged the Christians in Philippi to become "blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world" (Phil. 2:15).

Instead of being afraid or oppressed by the spiritual darkness around us, we can rely on the grace that God gives His children to shine for Him. — David McCasland

*Lord, may I be a shining light  
For all the world to see  
Your goodness and Your love displayed  
As You reach out through me. —Sper*

**Jesus came to give light to a dark world.**



# Central Mountains Baptist Church

## MARCH 11, 2018

### Send The Light

*Become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world. —Philippians 2:15*

American businessman Mark Bent has spent \$250,000 to develop and manufacture an affordable solar-powered torch. Thousands have been distributed free or at low cost to people living in African refugee camps. One daily solar charge provides 7 hours of life-giving illumination for people in homes, schools, and medical clinics where darkness had



# Insights for Living Persuading a Cynical World



**(John 8:12)** "... I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

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

In Philippians 2:15-18 Paul suggests that there are two ways to persuade a sceptical world:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ that persuade, verses 5-8, 15



Cynical, bored, sceptical

2. \_\_\_\_\_ that persuade, verses 16-18, 1:27-28

**(Philippians 2:16)** "as you hold out the word of life--..."

**(1 John 1:1)** "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life;"

**(Luke 14:23)** "... Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled."

**(Acts 5:41)** "So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name."

**(Luke 6:27-36)** "... But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, {28} bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you. {29} To him who strikes you on the one cheek, offer the other also. And from him who takes away your cloak, do not withhold your tunic either. {30} Give to everyone who asks of you. And from him who takes away your goods do not ask them back. {31} And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise. {32} But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them.

{33} "And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. {34} "And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back. {35} "But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. {36} "Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful."

