

Christmas Greeting from Chic and Nancy Shaver-December 2021

12718 High Drive, Leawood, KS 66209, 913-491-5021

He Will Turn the Lights On

"The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.... Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believe in his name, he gave the right to become children of God." John 1:9, 12

It was part of college ritual. If you were joining certain organizations, there would be an initiation. The most dreaded event would be if the brothers took you for "a ride."

One night, Al, my roommate, rushed to our dorm door and locked it. He shouted, "They're coming!" It was no use; they came in through the fourth-floor fire escape. Our hands were tied, pillowcases put over our heads, shoved into a car. We drove, took many turns, finally stopped. They removed the pillowcases, took us out of the car, then drove off. We were in a large open field, it was very dark, I recognized nothing, and I was very uneasy.

Al spoke up, "I know where we are. I've been here before." Whew! A little glimmer of light. At the end of the field, we started down a crunchy gravel road. As we passed each farmhouse, the watchdog would bark and begin to run toward us. In every case we heard the snap of the restraining chain. Oh, a little more light. Soon we saw the lights of our town and, shortly, we were back in our room, and the bright lights were on.

Jesus Christ is the "Lights-On Savior." Twenty-one times in John's Gospel the word "light" is used. In John 8:12, Jesus is "the light of the world." In John 1:9, Jesus "gives light to everyone." That includes you. If you've ever felt you were in a dark place in your life, this has to be very good news. You feel like, "It's dark, and I don't know what to do." It could be a big decision, death of a loved one, poor health, financial pressure, broken relationship, joblessness, uncertain future, the state of society, separation from God. For all those dark places, He offers the greatest light-producing event of your life—"To all who did receive him...he gave the right to become children of God" (v. 12).

I had known Jesus only a few days. We were singing in the college chapel. Have you ever sung "O Little Town of Bethlehem"? These lines spoke to me as never before:

Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight

And then,
O holy Child of Bethlehem
Descend on us, we pray
Cast out our sin, and enter in
Be born in us today

Christ will turn the lights on for you

(Taken from my upcoming devotional book, Living in the Blessing)

Our son Paul phones us repeatedly from his nighttime truck drives and lifts our spirits with his raspy voice. Overcomer in six major cancer surgeries, present cancer seems to be controlled by Keytruda and chemo.

Paul continues delivering food to Kroger grocery stores in eight states. Paul's family had prayed God would get glory out of the cancer surgery that removed his voice box. A few days ago, I told his story -joyous in Jesus—in the twenty ninth church.

Nancy is in the tenth year of Alzheimer's. Yet she still sings for Jesus at home, the Kansas City First Church Choir, at Topeka Fairlawn Church. We make supper together. A while back she told me, "I never thought you'd be my nurse and a good cook." I found this note on the breakfast table: "To the best husband I know! Thank you for all the ways you take care of me, for your thoughtful thoughts and always doing it with LOVE! Your forever loving and grateful wife- Nan." I say "WOW!"

Daughter Rachel lives in Raymore, MO. After completing her Teva career last year, she began a new job with Encompass Communications, as an editorial manager. She works from home. In April, 2021, she did an adult adoption of her stepson Kasey Rowley. Kasey, wife Jessica and children Kaiya and Kayden live in Kansas City, Ks. Recently Rachel has become engaged to be married to Brian Helstrom.

Daughter Miriam has spent her 17th year in the high end design business. Charlie and Miriam live in Kansas City area. Charlie is a freight broker for trucking companies. Their daughter Patti, husband Branden, and Layla and Lucas live in Baldwin, Kansas. Charlie's dad went to be with the Lord this year. Miriam did considerable house improvements this year- roof, gutter, painting. Miriam joined the First Church choir so she could sing beside her mom. Both daughters give us regular attention.

Paul's family lives in Muncie, IN. Wife, Lori, keeps busy with children and grandchildren. Her wonderful Mom, Merladene, went to be with the Lord this year. Cabron 19, graduated high school and is working for a tool and die company. Carly, 22, and husband Devin Wittkamper bought an acreage for a future house in Muncie. Cambry and husband Johnathan rejoiced over the birth of daughter Ckenna, September 20, who now joins sister Ckayla. Daughter Chelsy and Chad Ray and children Ckinley, Cayson, Callan and Crossten enjoy their home and fishing pond in Losantville, IN. . All of this family are close geographically and are active in Nazarene or Baptist churches.

Twenty family members vacationed at our favorite Treasure Island, FL in June. Nephew Ron Prager joined us, and recently has moved to a new home in Sanford, FL.

Last year I completed my 52 years of revival ministry, though I have preached on Sundays in Harrisonville, MO; Hutchinson and Topeka KS; Dunnellon, FL; this year. We are a part of Disciples class, very loving, growing and led by Phil Parke and taught by Scott Rainey and others. I performed a wedding ceremony for Christopher and Myra, close friends.

My major work this year has been cooperating with the Foundry Publishing who agreed to publish my daily devotional book, a 40 year project and my most God inspired work. It will be more substantial than a regular devotional, at 448 pages, but one devotional for each day. A number of people are publishing costs so it may be sold at 19.99, though many are requesting bulk orders for 48% discount. Agreement has already been reached to publish in ten languages digital and audio formats. I have been contacting ministry associates, and as of November 8, we have commitments for preorders of 4335 in English (the book). Publication of Basic Bible Studies in English has now passed 757,000.

In September I began experiencing dizziness when I climbed a flight of stairs. When I went to the emergency room, my heart rate was at 36 beats a minute (average 72). That afternoon September 23, they installed a pacemaker. Dizziness is gone, energy is high.

We are active at Kansas City First Church of the Nazarene. The Chic Shaver Center for Evangelism has provided resources for Christian leaders, students, and schools. Dr. Scott Rainey and I serve as Co-Executive Directors and Margo Manning is Managing Director. We plan major expansion in the Center's ministry this next year.

Thank you to so many who have shown us many kindness this past year. Thanks for prayers and financial support for the Evangelism Center.

Oh, about the title of the book. Our son Paul, after cancer caused the removal of his voice box, could only talk by covering his tracheotomy, One of his friends was bugging him one day – “Paul, you can only speak with a husky voice, you have to be careful not to drown when you take a shower, your life is so limited. How do you handle it?” Paul covered his tracheotomy and in his husky voice answered, “I was living under the ‘blessing’ before I had cancer – I was living under the ‘blessing’ after they took out my voice box and I’m living under the ‘blessing’ today”. So joyous, so victorious.

When I completed writing the book, I phoned Paul. I said, “I’ve finished the book, but I don’t have a title yet”. Immediately he shot back, “why don’t you call it Living in the Blessing, Dad?” It stuck. That’s the title.

We expect the book to be released sometime this winter. If you are interested, you may phone the Foundry Publishing at 1-800-877-0700 and preorder or contact Amazon.

So our Christmas wish for all of you – may you be Living in the Blessing!

Love, Chic & Nancy Shaver

Normally Nancy provides a Christmas thought at this spot in our Christmas newsletter. This year I’d like to honor her by reporting the dedication to her in our upcoming book.

To Nancy:

You have been, besides Jesus Christ, the most important person and greatest impact in my life. Through years of pastoring, evangelistic ministry, teaching, and writing, you have been my encourager, advisor, supporter, and pray-er. Your investment in our three children is powerful. Ever since you sang and glowed as a twenty-year-old nursing student in that St. Joseph, Missouri revival, my heart has been smitten. Still is. What adventures we have had following Jesus together across the country and around the world. You have been part of all the experiences and truths in this book. Thank you for being my sweetheart!