HELEN SANDERS 4-26-2024 THE LIGHTHOUSE

I grew up along the shore of Lake Michigan. Our small town of about 9,000 had a natural harbor where carferries and other ships went from Michigan to Wisconsin. It was very busy in my youth. There was and is a lighthouse at the entrance of the harbor that guides ships to safety when the weather is stormy or foggy. Its light rotates and shines, so the ships do not go aground. The lighthouse also has a very loud foghorn that also helps the ships come into the harbor.

I think about that lighthouse quite often. I left Michigan over 50 years ago, but I still love that little town and its lighthouse. Often when I lived there, I would just take it for granted. I didn't think about it a lot even though it was doing its job saving lives. There were a few times when the lighthouse was not operational, and the foghorn didn't work. It was strange not to hear the blast and see the light. I just took it for granted that it would always be there and work.

Our lives can often become indifferent towards God's light that protects us. We often just take it for granted. Yet, we must be reminded that God sent his light into the world to be like that lighthouse.

In John chapter 1 verses 9-11 John writes about Jesus. It says, "That was the true Light [Jesus] which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. 11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not."

God's people, the nation of Israel rejected that light because it was not the light they desired. They were looking for a warrior king that would deliver Israel from its enemies. They were not looking for a light that shone on their sin bringing them to repentance. The light shines on us so we do not crash, just like the lighthouse where I grew up.

Once we do come to God's "light" we are to shine that light on others, helping them come out of the darkness that has them bound. Our light reflects God's light. Let us never become indifferent as to why Jesus came. Let us remain faithful and be his light to a lost and dying world.