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**United  
Prayer  
Ministry**

**PO Box 120886  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55112**



*Spring 2007*



*UPM board members  
surprise Evelyn with cake  
on her 85th birthday.*

## **THE LIGHT OF EASTER MORNING**

**By Evelyn Christenson**

Light can travel around the world more than 7 times every second. It is the source and sustainer of all life on Planet Earth, and time itself is marked by the movement of the celestial lights. Yet there was a person who boastfully claimed in the Bible to be the light of the world by actually saying:

*"I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD. He who follows Me shall not walk in the darkness, but shall have the light of life." John 8:12*

**Since the world has two distinct kinds of light, visible and spiritual, which one was this person claiming to be? It was BOTH! And He was JESUS! John called Him "the Word" which was understood as the "logos" of the Greeks of that day.**

The first chapter of the Gospel of John discloses to us almost breath-taking secrets of how and when this person, JESUS, qualified as both kinds of the Light of the World.

**VISIBLE LIGHT.** Opening his Gospel, John unequivocally states that *"In the beginning was the Word (Jesus), and the Word was with God and was God."* How clearly this affirms that John was talking about God's own Son who Himself was truly God.

John 1:3 then continues about the Word Jesus, *"All things came into being by (through) Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being."* **So Jesus was the source of all things.** If He made all things, that certainly included visible light. (See Colossians 1:16-17.)

The Bible opens with these same facts in Genesis 1:1-4: *"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth, and the earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters. Then God said 'Let there be light' and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from darkness."* It was the Triune Godhead, including Jesus, through whom everything was created.

Was there ever a time (or even before time) when there was not visible created light needed? There must have been since John in verses 1 and 2 had told us that *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."* So, if all things were created by Jesus who already was God from the beginning, there had to be the time in eternity past where the Godhead existed without created light as we know it. Simply defined, light is just the absence of darkness. Light replaces darkness. Yes, Jesus qualifies as the source of the visible light of the world.

**SPIRITUAL LIGHT.** Visible light has not ceased to shine on Planet Earth since it was created, but the perfect spiritual environment of Eden disappeared when Adam and Eve sinned. (See Gen. 3.) **Spiritual darkness at that time replaced spiritual light in all humans not having faith in God from that time on.**

John then switches in his Gospel to the second kind of light, spiritual, with another profound pronouncement in verses 4 and 5: *"In Him (Jesus) was life (spiritual), and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness. And the darkness did not overpower it."* Before Jesus became the visible light of the world, He already qualified as spiritual light from the beginning by being God.

This quality of spiritual light Jesus would bring to the world was prophesied in one of the most famous prophecies in the Old Testament—Isaiah 9:2 and 6. *"The people who walk in darkness will see a great light; those who live in a dark land, the light will shine on them ... For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us ...."* This prophecy had been fulfilled as it was quoted in Matthew 4:14-17 when Jesus began to preach and say, *"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."* **The spiritual Light of the World had become visible on earth—beginning what He had come for—to forgive the sins that had caused the darkness starting in the Garden of Eden!**

Amazingly, John 1:10 tells us that, although the world was made through Him, it did not know Him. But verses 11 and 12 are two of the greatest verses ever written, and included all the world: *"He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him, But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become the children of God, even to those who believe in His name."*

**BUT ONE SINGLE EVENT PROVED THAT JESUS WAS WHO HE SAID HE WAS—THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD.** That event was not some celestial alignment seen as a good sign to humans. It was not even Jesus' star that the Magi had seen and followed to find Him. It was not a visible comet streaking across the sky toward earth. The event that proved Jesus was the Light of the World was not even that He, God Himself, was born in a manger. Nor was it Jesus' claiming to be the Christ—as many self-pronounced "Christs" still continue to be born and to die as imposters on Planet Earth.

*(Continued)*

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## **THE ONCE-FOR-ALL EVENT THAT PROVED JESUS WAS THE ONLY LIGHT THAT BROUGHT SPIRITUAL LIFE TO EARTH WAS THE FIRST E-A-S-T-E-R!**

Whereas Jesus being the creator is rarely celebrated by Christians, the most important annual holiday they celebrate is Easter. Why? Other religions all have their prophets and messiahs and so-called supernatural leaders, perhaps even having been resuscitated only to die eventually a natural death; but Jesus is the only “Christ” the darkness of death could not hold. Peter, in his first sermon in Acts 2:23 and 24 said: *“This Man (Jesus) delivered up by the pre-determined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death. And God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.”* The spiritual Light of the World had risen from the dead, appearing forty more days on Planet Earth before ascending back to His Father in heaven. **Earth’s darkness was conquered forever when Jesus the Light burst forth from the tomb!**

**Christianity has the only Lord and Savior who, after they succeeded in crucifying and burying Him, stunned the world by appearing ALIVE in the garden where He had been buried.** Jesus was the only Prophet or Messiah who came to conquer the darkness of the world’s sin, and then could cry triumphantly from His cross, **“IT IS FINISHED!”** And to rise from the dead to prove it!

Christians have the only Light of the World who, after being raised from the dead and ascending back to His Father in heaven, proved to still be both the visible and spiritual light. When Jesus stopped that day’s worst terrorist, Saul, on the Damascus Road at midday—He still was a visible, blinding light brighter than the noonday sun. And the Light spoke to Saul (to become Paul), answering his question of “Who art Thou, Lord?” by saying:

*“I am Jesus whom you are persecuting... For this purpose I have appeared to you ... delivering you from the Jews and the Gentiles to whom I am sending you, to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light, and from the dominion of Satan to God, in order that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.”* (See Acts 26:10-18.)

The greatest honor that could have been bestowed by Jesus on His followers was that, because He The Light Himself was living

in them (Ephesians 1:26-27), they had an incredible role to play: Jesus said, *“You are the light of the world... Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”* Matthew 5:14 and 16. What an unimaginable privilege—and responsibility—for them and us.

## **TRYING TO SNUFF OUT THE LIGHT JESUS STILL TODAY. Humans and Satan through the centuries have tried to snuff out the Light of the World—to no avail!**

Herod ordered all the babies from two years and under to be slaughtered. Satan himself tried to tempt Jesus into worshipping him in exchange for all the nations of the world. Satan must have rubbed his hands in glee as he thought he finally had manipulated Jesus’ horrible death on the cross. Today in our country there is a growing sinister movement to erase Jesus – from our court houses, public schools, commencement prayers in the name of Jesus, manger scenes on public property while all other religions proudly display their symbols. There are arrests for carrying banners with “Jesus” on them, snuffing out the reciting of our Pledge of Allegiance containing “under God” in our schools. Our Constitution is being interpreted to please anti-God leaders, and history is being rewritten to eliminate the reason our nation’s fathers founded our country—religious freedom to worship Jesus.

**BUT INSTEAD OF EVER BEING SNUFFED OUT, THE LIGHT JESUS WILL LIVE FROM ETERNITY PAST THROUGH ETERNITY FUTURE.** Satan will be punished forever and ever in hell (Revelation 20:10) with those humans still in his kingdom of darkness who have rejected the Light Jesus. (Revelation 20:15). **But the Lamb Jesus, killed and risen from the dead, will be the light of eternity forever and ever.** Revelation, the final book of the Bible, says in 21:10 and 23:

*“... And showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down from out of heaven from God... And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine upon it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb.”*

That is why on Easter morning pastors announce and Christian friends greet one another with **“HE IS RISEN!”** And the joyful response victoriously resounds with **“HE IS RISEN INDEED!”**

**JESUS, THE ETERNAL EASTER LIGHT!**



## FOR YOUR PRAYING

**May 3, 2007, is the National Day of Prayer.** Evelyn will be the keynote speaker at a 6:00 – 8:00 a.m. prayer breakfast in the Twin Cities held at the Medina Entertainment Center, 500 Highway 55, Medina 55340. Her message “AMERICA, UNITE IN PRAYER” is the national theme. Call reservations in immediately to Dar at 763/473-3730 or email Helen at [mhgdoslund@comcast.net](mailto:mhgdoslund@comcast.net). PLEASE COME UNITE OUR AREA WITH PRAYER’S POWER!

**September 21-23, 2007, is the Fulton Street Revival Conference** in New York City where Evelyn and Helen Harris will teach pre-prayer training that Friday afternoon using “A Study Guide for Evangelism Praying.” Friday night through Sunday afternoon sessions are held at the Hilton New York Hotel. Dr. A. R. Bernard will lead a city-wide prayer meeting Saturday night; Sunday morning worship will include a Fulton area historical tour. E-mail conference chair Elaine Helms at [ehelms@namb.net](mailto:ehelms@namb.net), contact Peggy Tseng at 718/721-2626 (ext. 16), or visit [www.COPGNY.org](http://www.COPGNY.org). for information. COME PRACTICE ON SITE THE PRAYERS THAT PRODUCED THE FULTON STREET NEW YORK CITY’S GREAT REVIVAL OF 1857 ON ITS 150th ANNIVERSARY!

# LIBERIA, AFRICA, WELCOMES UNITED PRAYER MINISTRY

Marilyn Wallberg, United Prayer Ministry board member and Africa Director recently spoke at a Pastors and Leadership Conference in Liberia. It is the country largely populated by freed American slaves after our Civil War. Marilyn writes:

My teaching of our *Study Guide for Evangelism Praying* to Christian leaders was in response to a Liberian bishop's invitation in Korea last summer where he saw my passion for Africa. The Lord is moving mightily in many parts of Africa but they often are in need of more biblical training to match their incredible zeal.

They had downloaded the *Study Guide* from our UPM web site and we used your generous donations to have a copy printed for each unbelievably grateful attendee ([www.unitedprayerministry.org](http://www.unitedprayerministry.org)). I emphasized praying for each other, for the forgiveness of sins, and *triplet praying* for and reaching those without Jesus. I felt as though the book placed in eager hands was more valuable than gold. PLEASE PRAY as they encourage its use in their churches and expand distribution of the *Study Guide* through their bishops, themselves and our web.



Three Liberians demonstrating actual triplet praying with Marilyn overseeing in the background.

I was graciously received by Liberia's President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, the first woman president of any African country. I gave her Evelyn's *Study Guide, What Happens When Women Pray* and PACWA's (Pan Africa Christian Women's Association) book and gifts. An interview with their Vice President Joseph Boakai and working with three national bishops and church leaders was a plus. I also had met and prayed with local Minnesota Liberian pastors before going. I stayed at the Liberian Baptist Theological Seminary and while breakfasting with its president, he graciously helped me with local cultural rules. PACWA is now organized in well over 30 African countries and it was a privilege to meet with the Liberia leader.



Marilyn meeting with President Johnson-Sirleaf of Liberia, holding one of the dolls Marilyn's home church made for Liberian children.

Liberia has such a need for necessities like electricity that the children gather at night under a streetlight to do their homework. The future hope in all countries is in their children, and their having Jesus and biblical training are imperative to Liberia's future leadership.



A happy group of orphans, so familiar with tragedy, who already have Jesus, with their Christian orphanage leaders.

One of my most precious memories is the orphans singing their song for me – which I brought home for every Christian here:

**“I WANT TO SERVE JESUS BEFORE IT’S TOO LATE!”**

Thanks for praying and giving!

Love,  
Marilyn



## GLOBAL DAY OF PRAYER 2007

On Pentecost Sunday, **May 27**, Christians from almost every nation will assemble to pray in stadiums, churches, homes and public venues to commemorate the first Pentecost. From the rising of the sun across each time zone we will worship, repent and offer ourselves as a blessing to the nations—expecting *more* than last year's 250 million world-wide! For information, visit: [www.globaldayofprayer.com](http://www.globaldayofprayer.com).

The “MINNESOTA GATHERING” will be held in the Northrup Auditorium at the University of Minnesota from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Check out [www.globaldayofprayermn.com](http://www.globaldayofprayermn.com) for more information. Those desiring to participate in the children or youth-adult choirs may contact Kimberly at [bkdevries@earthlink.net](mailto:bkdevries@earthlink.net).

# ORDER FORM

## BOOKS

- A Study Guide for Evangelism Praying ... \$6.50 \_\_\_\_\_  
*(English only) Ask about other languages.*
- Praying God's Way *(narrative of Study Guide)* \$10.99 \_\_\_\_\_
- What Happens When Women Pray ..... \$10.99 \_\_\_\_\_
- Lord, Change Me! ..... \$10.99 \_\_\_\_\_
- Gaining Through Losing ..... \$10.99 \_\_\_\_\_
- What GOD Does When Women Pray ... \$11.99 \_\_\_\_\_
- What Happens When God Answers Prayer..... <sup>SPECIAL SALE</sup> \$6.00 ~~-\$9.99~~ \_\_\_\_\_
- What Happens When We Pray For Our Families ..... \$10.99 \_\_\_\_\_

## CHILDREN'S GIFT BOOKS *(Hardback)*

- What Happens When Children Pray..... \$14.99 \_\_\_\_\_  
**Back in Print!** *(illustrated, for boys & girls ages 3-8)*
- My First Journal of Prayer ..... \$5.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
*(for girls – includes locket)*

## DEVOTIONAL GIFT BOOKS *(Hardback)*

- A Journey Into Prayer..... \$14.99 \_\_\_\_\_

- A Journey Into Spiritual Growth ..... \$14.99 \_\_\_\_\_
- Prayers and Answers *(journal)* ..... \$10.99 \_\_\_\_\_

## CASSETTE TAPES *(Complete 5-Hour Seminars)*

- What Happens When We Pray ..... \$26.00 \_\_\_\_\_
- Lord, Change Me! ..... \$26.00 \_\_\_\_\_
- Gaining Through Losing ..... \$26.00 \_\_\_\_\_
- What Happens When God Answers Prayer ... \$26.00 \_\_\_\_\_
- Battling the Prince of Darkness ..... \$26.00 \_\_\_\_\_
- A Study Guide for Evangelism Praying .. \$28.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
*(6 one-hour cassette tapes)*

## VIDEOTAPES

- What Happens When People Pray ..... <sup>REDUCED PRICE</sup> \$75.00 ~~\$95.00~~ \_\_\_\_\_  
*(5-hour teaching seminar on 3 VHS tapes w/leader's manual)*
- Study Guide for Evangelism Praying ..... \$35.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
*(6 one-hour VHS tapes)*

## DVDs

- A Study Guide for Evangelism Praying ... \$45.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
*(6 DVD set)*

### Subtotal

- MN Residents (6.5% Tax) \_\_\_\_\_
- U.S. Shipping & Handling: \_\_\_\_\_
- 1 Book ..... \$2.75 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2-3 Books .... \$4.75 \_\_\_\_\_
- 1 Set DVDs... \$6.75 \_\_\_\_\_
- 1 Set Videos .. \$6.75 \_\_\_\_\_

### TOTAL ENCLOSED

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

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