

# Christ

*Life*

## MINISTRIES

## REPORT

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2004 VOLUME 3

### Light Walking

*The Key to a Sustainable Spirituality*

The Bible is very candid about man's natural condition. Jesus said, "And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil" (John 3:19). Lovers of darkness are of necessity haters of the Light. "God is light, and in him is no darkness at all." The fact something went tragically wrong is evidenced by the stark contrast between God and man.

Adam was once at home in the Light. There was not even a hint of darkness in him or Eve. Having nothing to hide, they happily basked in the immediate presence of God. But when sin came, everything changed. Two tendencies emerged immediately after the Fall – hiding and blaming. No longer at home with the Light, they tried to hide themselves among the trees of the garden. This propensity of hiding was not limited to their relationship with God; they began hiding from each other as well. The sense of shame caused them to cover themselves with fig leaves. Rest assured, it was not long after the Fall

before the first domestic quarrel took place. Those two terrible tendencies, hiding and blaming, have been passed down to the lot of us. Both hiding and blaming belong to the shadowy domain of darkness.

I cannot think of a single advantage that comes from clinging to the darkness. But LIGHT WALKING carries a multitude of benefits among which are communion, cleansing, and company. "If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin" (1John 1:7). Let's look carefully at these benefits.

#### Communion

Superficiality is the enemy of spirituality. Walking in the light means OPENNESS. And openness means judgment day honesty, absolute transparency, and sincerity. Jesus declared Nathaniel was free of guile, or deceit. Sincerity literally means without cracks. Artisans developed a trick to disguise imperfect pottery. They would fill the cracks with wax and paint over it. It looked like a masterpiece to the

naked eye. But when the piece was put in front of bright light, the flaws and cracks became obvious. No attempt to conceal, no hiding of faults, no guile, no deceit, is what it means to be sincere. And this is the prerequisite to communion.

Jesus said those who practice evil hate the light and stay away from the light out of fear their deeds will be exposed. This sentiment was echoed by T.S. Elliot who said, "Humankind cannot bear very much reality."

Isn't it amazing how all seems well under the cover of darkness? But once we are placed in the Light our faults are exposed. Light makes manifest. Holy Light reveals unholy darkness. Critical spirits, ill temper, impurity, selfishness, pride, as well as countless other things inconsistent with God's holy nature become painfully apparent in the Light.

Consider the glorious possibilities of grace that Light Walkers may enjoy. We can indeed walk in light just as He is in the light! Though contaminated so thoroughly with sin by nature, practice, and choice, we are now privileged to walk in perfect communion with God.



## Personal Word

We are living in complex days. Unfortunately, Christianity has become complicated and confusing. New formulas, new techniques, new emphases, along with never-ending fads, can be unsettling. You have just got to wonder about the catchy, clever, clouded spirituality which is being promoted like any marketable “product.”

There are some things that cannot be improved upon. There is simplicity in Christ which the Bible calls “walking in the light.” This is the way of peace, progress, security, grace, and victory. It really isn’t complicated. Don’t forget it was fisherman and common people who turned the world upside down in the first century. Their reality was such that they impacted scores for the Kingdom.

Vital reality is the need of the hour. I trust this article, *Light Walking*, will challenge you for personal revival.

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## Light Walking continued from Page 1

Christ’s cross work has purchased us from the pit of sin and restored the relationship lost by Adam.

The Christian life is a walk. Walking implies continuous action, as well as an ultimate destination. A definite goal is in view. When God turned us from darkness to light (Acts 26:18), His purpose was to restore us to a lifestyle of brokenness and communion with Himself. Walking in the Light results in a progressive relation with God in Christ.

### Cleansing

The secret of constant communion is continual cleansing. *“If we walk in the light as he is in the light the blood of Jesus cleanses from all sin.”* The word “cleanse” denotes present, continuous action – not a one-time act, but a way of life. This cleansing is operative only in the Light.

Scientists have developed a new technique for ridding the air of allergens and contaminants. By the use of filters and ultraviolet light these airborne particles are first trapped, then liquefied by U. V. rays, and finally evaporated into the atmosphere. Airflow and filters can capture the contaminants, but it is the Light where the actual cleansing takes place. Apart from the U.V. rays, no purification would happen.

In the spiritual realm, whatever the Light reveals, the Blood can heal! There is so much in us that is so unlike God. The good news is the blood of Christ can conceal anything the Light reveals. What an incentive to make for the Light!

The fear of exposure is the thing that keeps us in the dark. Do we not shudder at the thought of being shown up for what we are? We all like

to be well thought of and flattered. Like Job, we love our own righteousness and will argue to keep it. Self builds walls of darkness to hide the unseen secret things like resentment, bitterness, jealousy, and untruthfulness. What a burden it is trying to avoid being found out.

Covering sin is a game everybody has played and nobody has ever won! “He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy” (Pro. 28:13). When Achan covered his sin, he and his family were stoned. When Joseph’s brothers covered their sin, they were plagued with a guilty conscience. When David went swimming in a sea of deceit, he nearly drowned in sorrow. David suffered a depressed spirit, a diseased body, a devalued testimony, and a dishonored Lord. Whoever covers the smallest sin shall not prosper, but whoever confesses the greatest sin shall find mercy.

I John 1:9 states, “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just . . . to cleanse us.” Confess means to own up, take responsibility for, to agree with God, to literally side with God and say the same thing about your sin that He says. Confession is saying, “Lord Jesus, I’m wrong. You’re right.” When you confess your sins you are not informing the Lord, but agreeing with Him! He anticipated in advance you would do, say, think, and be like you are. Our sins were dealt with on Calvary to the Father’s full satisfaction. That’s why the gospel is good news for bad people.

For God to cover sin is an act of grace, but for man to cover sin is an act of pride.

When we cover our sin, no one wins. When God covers our sin, we

begin again!

Everything exposed by the Light becomes visible (Eph. 5:13). Everything confessed is cleansed by the Blood. Roy Hession used to say, "Calvary won't cover what you need to uncover."

Light Walkers do not merely get cleansed from *some* sin: *big* sins, *small* sins, or *past* sins. No, they receive cleansing from *ALL* sin! *O the bliss of this glorious thought, My sin, not in part but the whole, Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more, Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord, O my soul!* Every deed, thought, false motive, and sin is cleansed by the Blood as we walk in the Light.

## Company

Hallelujah! There is a social side of the God-head. Light Walkers enjoy direct fellowship with God Himself. "If we walk in the light . . . we have fellowship one with another." Divinity has affinity for those in the Light!

God is holy, pure, transparent, always revealing things as they are. So if we are to have fellowship with Him we must be revealed for what we really are. Honesty is the basis for all meaningful relationships. Because of Christ's atoning work, we can afford to tell the whole truth since the Blood has us covered.

"*Can two walk together except they be agreed?*" The ground for all fellowship is commonality or similarity. God took the initiative and identified with us that we might identify with Him. God sent His Son to become like us in a human sense, not a sinful sense. He was fully human, yet without sin. The humility of God is seen by virtue of His condescension, laying aside His reputation, and taking on a human form. The Creator became like His creation when He was wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger. God became a man. On the cross that Man became sin for us that we might be made righteous in Him. Now it is our turn to conform to Him. We must agree with

Him if we are to walk with Him.

You never walk alone when you walk in the Light because you are in fellowship with everybody else who is in the Light! Our relationship with God works out in our relation to others. If I am real and repentant with God, I will be the same way with people. God knows everything there is to know about me. Once I accept all Jesus has done on my behalf I am accepted in the Beloved. It is a happy day when I stop hiding and blaming and simply take the sinner's place. No, I don't have to orbit around others like the moon which only shows one face while hiding the other side. Have you ever modeled a new article of clothing to a family member or friend? Didn't you turn completely around so they could see not only the front but the sides and back as well? There is tremendous freedom in the Light which allows me to avoid two-facedness.

When the roof is off toward God, then the walls can come down between us and others. There is nothing as sweet as the fellowship between cleansed sinners walking on the highway of holiness. Openness leads to brokenness and brokenness produces oneness. This is the heart of revival.

So how does a person walk in the Light? First, he must get *in* the Light. The scripture says "IF" we walk in the Light. That means it boils down to a choice. Light Walkers must choose daily to forsake their native darkness.

Those deceitful traits of hiding and blaming have got to go because darkness cannot co-exist with Light. What was Adam and Eve's initial response concerning their disobedience after God found them hiding in the garden? Was it not blame shifting? Adam blamed Eve for his sin and Eve blamed the devil for hers. In revival, it is not what they did, but how I reacted. It's not what they said or didn't say, but how I responded. The issue is not the other

man's wrong, but my wrong.

The only way to get in the Light is to get out of the darkness. Stop putting on a front. Stop hiding. Stop blaming. Take the sinner's place by putting every sin beneath the Blood. The path all Light Walkers must take is reality, repentance, reconciliation, replacement, and revitalization. Rivers of grace and peace flow into every heart which humbles itself at Jesus' feet.

The way into the Light is the way to stay in the Light. Communion, cleansing, and company await all who would join the ranks of the Light Walkers. It might be a narrow way that leads to life, but there is plenty of room on this highway for you.

*Harold Vaughan*

## Couples' Advance in October, 2005

Dr. Jim Binney will be joining us again this fall for another Couples' Advance. Final preparations are being made for this event. Details will be available soon on our web site: [www.christlifemin.org](http://www.christlifemin.org)

# Men's Advance

January 27 - 29, 2005

## Why Attend This Advance?

These are days in which God is calling men to **serious FAITH**. Every man should make a name for himself and leave a monument for God! Enoch had this testimony – HE WALKED WITH GOD. He was a man who had family, farming, and financial obligations. Yet, he walked with God, and so can you!

**Strong FAMILIES** don't just happen; they must be built. As head of your home, there are things that *can* be done, *should* be done, and *must* be done. If Noah got his family on the Ark in his day, you can too!

Psalms speak of the godly man who brings forth **spiritual FRUIT**. Jesus said the Father is glorified when men bear much fruit. Our job is to take care of the depth. God will take care of the breadth of our ministry. God is using men to harvest souls, and He wants to use you too!

**Featured Speakers:** Jim Binney  
Paul Negrut of Romania

**Special Topics:** Living Purely in an Impure World  
How Revival Brought an End to Communism in Romania

View the full brochure online at [www.christlifemin.org](http://www.christlifemin.org)



MPA Congregational Singing



Paul Negrut



Jim Binney

## Great Time at YPA Virginia!

Young people came from as far as Iowa for the Youth Prayer Advance, August 5-7, in Montebello, VA. The atmosphere, preaching, and responsiveness were exceptional. This Advance was characterized by soberness, salvation, surrender to full-time service, and deep stirring of heart. Pastor Craig Scott from Colorado was the featured speaker. We are committed to the belief that young people live up to our expectations. These not only lived up to our expectations, they exceeded them. Who can tell how God will use these young lives to accomplish eternity altering exploits!



Male Chorus



Michael Vaughan leads congregation in prayer time

# Ladies' Prayer Advance

March 17 - 19, 2005



## Sue Hermes

We are really excited that Sue Hermes will be speaking at this Advance. Sue, the first of three

girls, grew up in a loving, Catholic family in Detroit, Michigan. Her commitment to things religious goes back to her earliest days and was expressed, ultimately, by entering a convent after her high school graduation.



Ladies' Chorus

After many years of doubt and struggle, Sue came to Christ in salvation on March 11, 1975. Since that time she has been growing in the Lord and serving Him in full-time ministry as a high school, and now, college English teacher and as a conference and retreat speaker in many parts of the United States and Canada.

Her ministry is strongly Bible-based and expository in nature, applicable to any woman's age, occupation, or marital status. God has used her teaching of Scripture to meet needs in widely divergent lives. She speaks deeply to the souls of women.

## Open House

Friends of Christ Life Ministries attended an Open House Saturday, July 31. A great time of fellowship was enjoyed by all.



Refreshments



Open House at the New Office

## Testimonies

"I was first invited to a Prayer Advance by a fellow pastor in 1993. Over the following years I heard it mentioned several times, but never took the time to attend.

Brother Vaughan and I met at a neighboring church where he was conducting a Revival Meeting. We set a date for a future meeting at our church.

After this, I thought I ought to go to a Prayer Advance to see what it was all about. In January of 2004 I attended the Men's Advance in Virginia.

I had been to many different preaching meetings and conferences of various types over my 25 years of being a Christian, but none had the effect on me personally that the Advance produced.

The preaching was to the heart and motive of the Christian life. It was pointed, precise, and on-target. As a "first-timer," I was instructed to go back to my room with the Sweet Hour of Prayer Guide and spend one hour alone with God. I read the guide's suggested Scripture readings and prayed through its guidelines and questions. I was very honest and open with the Lord. Being alone and away from any interruptions, God began to deal with me about areas of my life as a husband, father, man, and as a pastor. Confessions came and new commitments followed.

Each service was a blessing. A growing spiritual comradery developed among the 400-plus men. The combined group singing of the great old hymns of the faith was tremendous.

I left the Advance with a refreshed spirit and a new look at myself, God, and those around me."

*Pastor Ed Wade  
Victory Baptist Church  
Boonsboro, MD*

"I just wanted to share with you what happened Sunday night when our first-timers to the Prayer Advance gave their testimonies. We had eight men give their testimonies Sunday night in the service. After the testimonies were over the Pastor gave an invitation and the altar was full for a long time. We finally stopped singing and just waited for people to stop coming. Parents with kids, husbands and wives, teens with each other, dads with sons, moms with daughters. What a truly blessed time. I haven't seen that happen in our church since last year when we gave our testimonies from the last Advance."



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# *Spiritual* **LIFE** **Crusade**

**September 12-15**

Gallatin, TN

**September 19-24**

New Woodstock, NY

**September 26-October 1**

Battle Creek, MI

**October 3-6**

Alto, MI

**October 7-8**

Baltimore, OH

**October 17-21**

Guam

**October 24-27**

Hawaii

**October 31-November 3**

Rincon, GA

**November 7-10**

Keystone Heights, FL

**November 14-19**

Bonita Springs, FL

**December 5**

Chantilly, VA

## **2005 Advance Schedule**

Men's Prayer Advance  
January 27-29

Ladies' Prayer Advance  
March 17-19

Youth Prayer Advances  
July / August

Couples' Advance, October  
Williamsburg, VA

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