



## "Light in the Darkness"

Recently, the Oak Dale Covenant Brethren Church had the opportunity to replace the siding on the front of our church building. To complete the project, the old siding and the lighted cross had to be removed. After prayerful consideration, it was decided that instead of reinstalling the lighted cross, it would be replaced with a beautiful cedar wood cross that would better fit the church and eliminate the bug problem caused by the light at night. The old, illuminated cross was placed in the church basement until our recent Spring cleanup day, when unused items were gathered for disposal. Somehow, the cross ended up in the trash pile.

The more I thought about it, the more I felt that this cross still had a purpose. I spoke with the other trustees about taking it and placing it on the side of my old barn. The barn sits high on a hill surrounded by complete darkness at night. There are no nearby house lights, car lights, or any other glow of civilization. This cross would stand alone, shining brightly in the darkness.

After several weeks of planning and gathering help, the vision finally became reality. The day we scheduled the installation, heavy rain poured down as we arrived at the barn with electrical supplies and tools. We worked inside as much as we could and then stopped to pray. Within minutes, the rain ceased, the wind became calm, and the sun broke through the clouds. As we walked outside to begin the installation, I looked toward the eastern sky and saw a full rainbow stretched across the mountain. In that moment, I felt God's reassuring presence and His blessing upon our effort to glorify Him and point hearts toward Jesus Christ.

Now, if you are traveling south on Route 93 from Keyser, West Virginia, and reach the top of Walker's Ridge after dark, look to your right and you will see that glowing cross shining on the hillside—a reminder that the Light of Christ still shines in a dark world.

The Gospel of John tells us, ***"In Him 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 (NKJV).*** Jesus also reminds us in ***Matthew 5:14-16, "You are the light of the world... let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."***

Brothers and sisters, our world is filled with spiritual darkness, discouragement, and fear. Yet God has called each of us to reflect the light of Christ wherever we are. Sometimes that light shines through a cross on a hillside, and other times through a kind word, a helping hand, or a testimony of faith. As followers of Jesus, may we never hide the light He has placed within us, but instead shine boldly so others may find hope, salvation, and peace in Him.

**Grover Duling, CBC Executive Board**

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## Weekly Prayer Point

***"Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess His name" Hebrews 13:15 ( NIV).***

Heavenly Father: We praise You because You are the one and only true God, the Creator of all things. You breathed life into Adam, and by Your hand all humanity was formed. When sin entered the world and separated us from You, You did not abandon us. Instead, in Your great love, You provided a way for sin to be atoned for, and in the fullness of time You gave Your Son as the perfect sacrifice—so our broken relationship with You could be restored.

You are almighty-knowing and all-powerful. You are the righteous Judge, holy and just in all Your ways. And yet, You are also full of love, grace, and mercy. We stand in awe of who You are and humbly offer You the sacrifice of praise, proclaiming Your name with thankful hearts.

Through Jesus, we lift our voices and our lives to glorify You. Amen!

### **Please pray for these congregations and pastors:**

- Novvelle Jerusalem in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Africa
- Ntahangwa in Burundi Africa and Pastor Niyonkuru Ezechiel
- Nyarunazi in Burundi, Africa and Pastor Bukobero Pierre
- Oak Dale in Scherr, WV and Pastor Randy Cosner

### **CBC Prayer Committee**