

# A Life of Hope

15TH NOVEMBER 2015  
'LIGHT OUT OF DARKNESS'  
LANCE BLYTHE  
ISAIAH 8:19; 9:7

1. Isaiah gives us, from v19, a picture a terrible darkness. "Those who turn against God have "no light of dawn...they are distressed ... they roam through the land ... famished ... enraged ... they will curse the king and their God ... distressed ... fearful gloom ... utter darkness. A terrible picture.

Does God come from afar to address such darkness? Lance referred us to Isaiah 9 : 1-2. Is he reactive? Does he bring the light or is he the light. Does he come from within? Is he there in our darkness? Is he, as well, present in the global darkness we see today?

2. Read 2 Cor. 4 : 6 The coming of light at creation is too difficult for us to analyze. But we accept it. Do, or did we recognize the coming of that same light into our individual hearts when we yielded to his love? What does it mean to us ? To him?

Read Isaiah 43 : 25 and discuss God's plan for the revealing of his light. It says that we are saved ... "For my own sake!"

3. Discuss present day darkness. Globally. Nationally (France). In Australia. Within the hearts of individuals ... even within ourselves. Lance's example of something simple like the Youth Cupboard! Or more profound as Noah in the belly of the whale. How is this whole spectrum of darkness to be addressed?
4. Do we see ourselves as transmitters, or simply reflectors. How then do you accept Matthew 5 : 14 ... words of Jesus