Dear Friends of Christian Medical Foundation,

“Every good and perfect gift comes down from the Father of all who gives light.” James 1:17

In the Anglican Book of Common Prayer is a prayer in Evening Prayer which is called a “Collect For Aid Against Perils”. “Lighten our darkness, we beseech Thee, O Lord, and by Thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night: for the love of Thy only Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen”

Is it not interesting that when St. James speaks of God, the giver of gifts, He defines God as “the Father Who gives light?” When light comes in, darkness flees. So God Who gives us “every good and perfect gift” is the Father Who gives us light.

Thus, our Heavenly Father Who gives us light is giving us primarily the gift of light. So we are not amiss in asking God to lighten our darkness and to defend us of all the perils and dangers of the night. "Jesus is the Light."

In the world today, mankind is finding our civilization in an era of increasing spiritual darkness. Suddenly we are faced with great perils and dangers which have not been problems in our lives previously. We are informed in II Timothy 3:1 that “In the last days there will set in perilous times of great stress and trouble [hard to deal with and hard to bear]. Thus as Christmas approaches, we must pray for God’s gift of light and for His gifts of peace and joy.

In James 4:2 we are informed that “You do not have because you do not ask.” Jesus has told us to ask and we will receive. (Luke 11:9) It may well be that in our Christian lives we have become so overwhelmed by our problems that we have ceased asking God for His light, His defense against perils, or for His gifts of life abundant.

Yes, Jesus is indeed our light and in and through Him there is no darkness or shadow. Our Jesus’ light is our wondrous Christmas gift and our true and glorious hope.

May your Christmas be a season of God’s super gift of light and may the New Year be full of the Lord’s light.
CHRISTMAS CHORUS
By Sara A. DuBose

When Jesus came down
His only crown
Was the jeweled-filled
Stars in the sky.
His throne was small
In the cattle stall,
His praise a lullaby.
And those who came
To give acclaim
Were men who smelled like sheep.
Yet shepherds heard
The angel’s word
And now we all repeat:

“Glory to God
In the highest,
And on earth peace
Good will toward men!”

As 2003 ends, please pray about giving a gift to Christian Medical Foundation. We thank each of you and God bless you.

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