



Saving Children's Lives In Christian Homes

601 North Center Street  
Shelbina, Missouri 63468

## Christmas Lite Vs. CHRISTMAS LIGHT

December 11, 2023

Dear Fox Creek Friends,

Quiet Christmas tunes drifted into the room like a December fog. Emerging into the darkened theater are an odd assortment of people, wearing gaudy holiday sweaters. One shuffling soul carries a marvelously wrapped cubed and places it on a small, low table. We are simple, country folks, but even we could tell it was special because of the metallic paper, and the bright red, velvet ribbon. Moreover, the lid was wrapped separately, so you just knew! The importance of this prop was not completely lost to us. Or so we thought.



You'd rather expect this to be the sort of special package that held a smaller box with an engagement ring, followed by a "made-for-television Holiday Proposal".

*"Such a gorgeous box with a big, red bow on top," recalls daughter Erin five years later. "But we didn't expect it to be.... well, what it was."*

A blinding shaft of alabaster light shot forth from that box as the top was removed! This was not merely a small table, but a makeshift manger.

### **That Gift was JESUS, the LIGHT of the WORLD!**

The impact and effect were simultaneously subtle and striking. It was not preachy but you couldn't miss the symbolism. Light had overcome darkness!

Denice had saved up some money for this impromptu outing for our Shiloh children and we purchased tickets to a lovely and cozy theater at Crown Center in Kansas City. We had hoped to catch something more traditional like the "Nutcracker Ballet" or "It's A Wonderful Life", but this was what you can catch when you wait until the last moment to buy ten tickets. And it had honestly been very enjoyable music and choreography. Chestnuts roasting, and Jack Frost nipping. It was very entertaining and diverting. Lite-hearted, if you will.



Then it all changed. Unexpectedly. So typical of Jesus to break up our preconceived notions and spiritual contrivances. Sometimes He just shows up! It was all so subtle yet strikingly obvious. Much like His arrival that first Christmas. Itinerant taxpayers were feeling spent. Shepherds were busy sheep herding. People were very busy “doing life”.

Meanwhile, God was busy bringing Life. And Light. And Hope. And Joy. And Peace.



As God brings life, light, hope, joy, and peace at this special time of year, please give your gift. Your donation will bring the same life-changing attributes to children that need Shiloh's love and care. Will you take a moment out of your busy holiday schedule to share your love by sending your donation? By doing so, our children will have the opportunity to hear and experience the Christmas story because of your kindness and thoughtfulness.

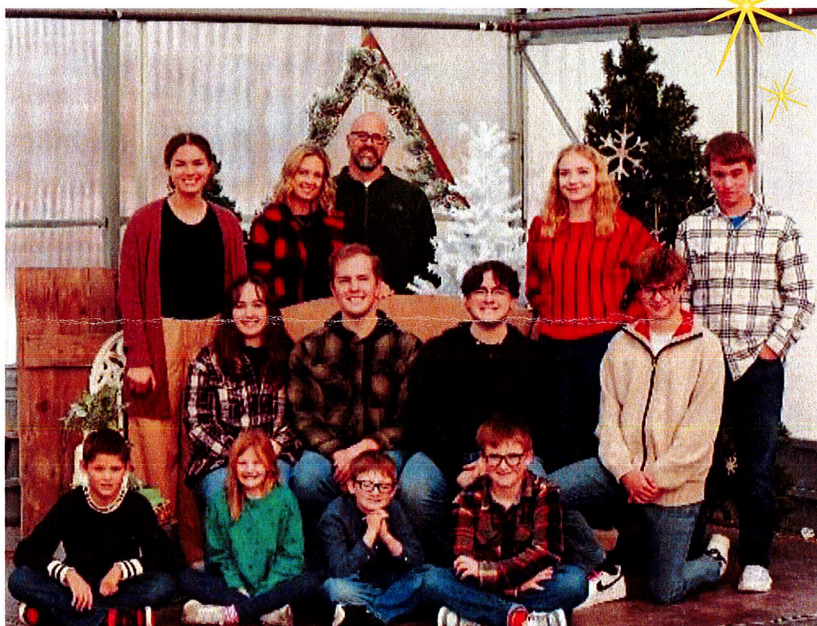
The Gospel of Luke paints a glorious scene for us in chapter 2, verses 8-18. That mundane meadow was awash in the splendor and glory of God's Announcement. That jet black sky was resplendent with light and majesty. It was overwhelming in its terror and its terrific joy. Whenever God has a message for Mankind, He has to first calm their fears but the gladness soon kicked in and those Shepherds lit out for Bethlehem.

When new children arrive at Shiloh and begin to encounter the ways of God and His People, it is very often unsettling for them. That acclimation process is unique for each child, but there are some common elements that seem to help more frequently than others. The kindnesses they encounter at church or in the community are often a first step. Visits from church groups coming to the Ranch can make Jesus seem more approachable, too.

Being remembered on their birthday or at Christmas often has a huge impact on a youngster's heart. They've been so tremendously blessed in that regard. Sometimes it can be tough for them to grasp why “strangers” would share with them so graciously and so consistently to provide them even such basics as food and utilities. Because of your faithfulness, our children are part of a Christ-centered family at this precious time of year.

If you're getting this letter, you are probably among our most faithful investors in this ministry to children. You are definitely not “strangers” to

our ministry, but a very important member of our growing Shiloh Family! The need to help young people is growing, so Shiloh's leadership is making plans to help make Christ Jesus more than just approachable, but embraceable. This is the reason why the gift you will give has such value and importance. Thank you in advance for continuing to support and strengthen our mission of loving and caring for those children that are in need of Christ's loving care.





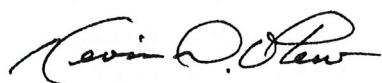
Moving into 2024, your faithful giving is certainly cherished. More than that, your prayers needed for Jesus' Light to shine into more young hearts, plus His wisdom and timing in all things. We don't want to settle for "Jesus' Lite".

Let God's Light shine ever brighter through Shiloh's ministry. As you give, please share your love for Shiloh with friends or family members in this coming year. Let's grow our Shiloh Family so we can grow and open our Shiloh home's doors for more children. The challenges are great, but God is Greater.

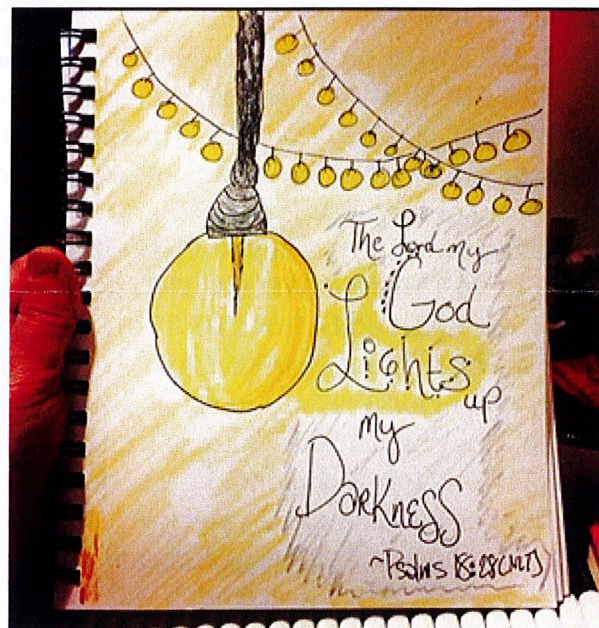
*Our Shiloh Family wishes you and yours a  
Christ-filled Christmas!*

Shine Brightly!

John 1:5



Kevin D. Blew



Your gift is very much appreciated and fully deductible as a charitable contribution. A copy of our latest financial report may be obtained by writing to Shiloh Christian Children's Ranch, 601 N. Center Street, Shelbina, MO 63468 and 573-588-2191. Shiloh Christian Children's Ranch was formed in Missouri. If you are a resident of one of these states, you may obtain financial information directly from the state agency:

FLORIDA – A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE, 1-800-435-7352 (800-HELP-FLA) OR ONLINE AT [www.FloridaConsumerHelp.com](http://www.FloridaConsumerHelp.com). REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. Florida Registration # CH47516. MARYLAND – For the copies and postage, Office of Secretary of State, State House, Annapolis, MD 2140. MISSISSIPPI – The official registration and financial information of Shiloh Christian Children's Ranch may be obtained from the Mississippi Secretary of State's office by calling 1-888-236-6167. Registration by the Secretary of State does not imply endorsement. NEW YORK – Office of the Attorney General, Department of Law, Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271. NORTH CAROLINA – FINANCIAL INFORMATION ABOUT THIS ORGANIZATION AND A COPY OF ITS LICENSE ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE STATE SOLICITATION LICENSING BRANCH AT 1-888-830-4989. THE LICENSE IS NOT AN ENDORSEMENT BY THE STATE. PENNSYLVANIA – The official registration and financial information of Shiloh Christian Children's Ranch may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement; VIRGINIA – Virginia State Office of Consumer Affairs, Department of Agricultural and Consumer Services, PO Box 1163, Richmond, VA 23218. WASHINGTON – Charities Division, Office of the Secretary of State, State of Washington, Olympia, WA 98504-0422, 1-800-332-4483. WEST VIRGINIA – Residents may obtain a summary of the registration and financial documents from the Secretary of State, State Capitol, Charleston, WV 25305. Registration with any of these state agencies does not imply endorsement, approval or recommendation by any state.