



**"No Cross,  
No Crown"**

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# The Cross and Crown

a publication of Highway Mission Tabernacle and Resurrection Life Church, Philadelphia, PA

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A few years ago, we converted our house into a "smart home." Since then, we no longer flip light switches. For example, there's a motion sensor in our kitchen, and, when someone walks in, it turns out the light. When the room is unoccupied, it turns the light off. At first, we had to unlearn the reflex of reaching for a light switch when we enter and leave the room, but now it's become so routine that I actually find myself surprised when I walk into the kitchen at church and the light doesn't turn on!



It's very easy to take artificial light for granted, and, yet, for most of human history, the world was a very dark place after the sun went down. There are still places in this world – and in this country – where, if lighting on demand is available at all, it's a luxury. It only takes one prolonged power outage to show us just how precious the gift of light.

I'm sure you can see where I'm going with this.

As Christians, we don't have to walk in darkness, and, as we cling to Jesus, we might even forget what it's like not to be surrounded by his light, or even take that light for granted. I do hope and pray that Christians would never stray from our Lord and find ourselves stumbling in darkness. His light should be an expected and routine part of our lives. Let us not forget, though, that there are many all around us who suffer in darkness. This should not be, because, wherever we go, we should carry God's light with us.

God said through Isaiah that his people were to be, "I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth." God gives us light not just to benefit us, but, what's more important, to bless those living in darkness and, ultimately, that he would be glorified. This is not a difficult calling. It requires only that we don't cover up our light or keep it hidden. We don't have to worry about how effective we will be; light by its nature dispels darkness. Our light should be like the lights in my kitchen, shining automatically, whenever we walk into a room.

*I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.  
You are the light of the world. Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and  
glorify your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:14, 16; John 8:12)*

# Thanks for Praying!

We never take your prayers for granted! They are our lifeline. Please continue to agree with us in prayer for:

- opportunities to partner with community organizations,
- our musical fundraiser for performing arts at SGA, and
- a new insurance company (by March!).







Our Tioga/Nicetown neighbors showed up to celebrate Black History Month with us.

## We're praying with you!

If you're on our mailing list\*, you're on our prayer list! If there's anything specific that we can join with you in praying about, please let us know.

From time to time, we hear from people who actually read these newsletters, and it's such an encouragement! Thanks for keeping in touch!

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\* **Important:** If you'd rather not be on our mailing list, we won't be offended! Just call or drop us a note, and we'll remove you. (We'll still keep you on our prayer list!)

If you'd rather receive this letter via e-mail, please let us know!

## Did you know?

This is the 53<sup>rd</sup> edition of *The Cross and Crown*. The first was released a year ago, on February 26<sup>th</sup> in print only. If you're new to this letter, welcome! All of the previous editions are available on-line, at <https://rlc.ag/crossandcrown>.

To those who have been with us since the beginning, thank you! We appreciate your prayers, and the words of encouragement that you pass along from time to time help us immeasurably!

Let this be written for a future generation, that a people not yet created may praise the Lord.  
(Colossians 3:2,3)



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