



The

Color

of

Light

2007

Spiritual Encouragement  
For the Next Generation

## *The Color of Light*

*Created for the heart  
of the next generation!*

LIGHTDANCERS

P.O. Box 382

Winfield, Kansas 67156

Or

Come visit us at

[www.lightdancers.org](http://www.lightdancers.org)

## "WHO ARE THEY?!"

*The Faces Behind the Pages...*

Lisanne McMurray  
Tony Hix  
And the grace of God!

Contributing Writers:  
Ray Lewis  
Audrey Hepburn

Special Thanks:  
Domestic Violence Awareness  
Soroptimist International  
of Winfield, Kansas

This season we'd like to thank  
**The Unknown Artist**  
for leaving us with his  
beautiful artwork entitled,  
*"Reflections"*  
that we have chosen  
for the cover images of  
this edition of  
*The Color Of Light.*

### Publication With Purpose

Welcome to *The Color of Light*, the quarterly publication for LIGHTDANCERS, a spiritual support ministry for the next generation. It is our desire to bring the love of Jesus Christ into the world of those we encounter by simply supporting the heart of the individual.

Our purpose through this publication is to serve the next generation emotionally, physically and spiritually through articles of encouragement, people of integrity, and a variety of services and resources.

We encourage each of you to write, or e-mail us with any thoughts, ideas, or concerns that you may have. Hearing from each of you helps us to be able to better serve you on a more personal level.

*The Color of Light* emanates from the heart of each one of us in a unique way...the way that God intended. He is the One who illuminated the darkness of our lives, and it is our desire that through this publication, His light will be reflected unto you.



# SEASONS OF LIGHT

## Basic Simplicity

This will be a very different newsletter than those of the past. It will also be the final newsletter of “*The Color of Light.*” This is not a decision that we make lightly, but we feel collectively that the time has come to release this effort back to the Father.

When God began to birth the desire within me in 1998 that would turn into LIGHTDANCERS, there were but a small handful of ministries in existence that were actively ministering within the exotic dancing industry. My desire had nothing to do with sensationalism, but had everything to do with making a difference in the life of just one other woman. That was accomplished early on and everything else along the way has been icing on the cake. I always prayed that God would not allow the ministry to grow to huge proportions. That may sound like a strange prayer request to those who are accustomed to praying for more in order to reach the multitudes, but you’d be amazed at the ability that one genuine heart holds in their ability to make a difference when God leads. I never wanted it to grow in such a way that the focus was shifted from those we were ministering to, to constantly having to raise the funds to keep things going. God gave us what we needed, when we needed it. It always kept our reliance on Him and our focus on Him and for that I am grateful.

The vision moved from the simple concept of meeting for coffee in a neutral place, to producing written resources, from developing a website, to holding Bible studies and different events for the dancers, from participating in the nation’s annual industry convention, to bringing gifts into the clubs for the dancers, from being a contributor to the Exotic Dancer Hotline, to extending outreach into the biker community, and eventually to reaching out to the youth through the opening of the creative arts and entertainment center, *Mirage*. We’ve walked a lot of roads, encountered a lot of incredible people and spent countless hours on our knees in prayer. It has been the most amazing journey of my own life and one that I have been so very humbled and honored to be enabled to walk out.

And even though in November 2007, the decision was made to fold the corporation and the 501 status of LIGHTDANCERS, this does not mean that our efforts will cease by any means. None of us could cease to minister to others any more than we could cease to breath. It is a part of who we are and we will never cease to share of God’s gracious love with other people. The last number of years have been exceptionally hard on each one of us involved in LIGHTDANCERS but the personal growth we have reaped has brought us to this place of decision. Through it all, God has shown us the importance of ministering to those most directly in front of us. To those we encounter in our daily lives. To those like you, but without the fanfare of an official corporation behind our efforts. It’s time to get back to basics.

### FOOTNOTE:

And get back to basics we did! This is where it all stopped. Lately I’ve felt like before I can move into whatever it is that God has ahead for me, I need to tend to those things that He had placed in my care that remain undone. So, yesterday I sat down to update the LIGHTDANCERS website. It has been 4 years since I wrote the last word in this newsletter...it is now 2011. I was never able to finish this final edition due to changing software that left what I had, incompatible with what I needed to finish the job. Times were a changing’ and I didn’t have the means or the drive to keep up. It was also during this time, that I was combating the chaos of a child in self destruct mode. The world around me was crashing fast and hard and I was left lying in the debris of the wreckage. I had to pull back and allow time to heal if myself and those around me were going to survive the fallout.

Being in ministry brings with it many challenges that we can never envision. It's par for the course. I recently told my son that I am thankful that God does not reveal to us the big picture, for had I known what moving to Kansas was to cost me, I can most assuredly say that I don't believe I would have upped for the task at hand. Beyond the death and the divorce, the relinquishing of my home and seeking a church family that can't be found, the closing of *Mirage* and the loss of a dear friend, the most devastating blow was the 11 year imprisonment of my son. But it was because of him and what I saw in the kids around him, that the vision for *Mirage* and the desire to reach the youth was birthed. Other lives were affected for the kingdom that I would never have had the joy of knowing otherwise. Through the networking that LGBTQ+ANCCRS provided, I was introduced to Tony Hix, whose vision for the youth was 10 years in the making at that point. Within a month of the poor crazy man moving here, all of the insanity broke loose with my son. But God sustained us all through the darkest days. My focus had suddenly shifted from the world outside of my family, to the lives of my children and helping each one of them adjust to what had just happened to us as a family. Throughout this time, I was laden with the need for numerous surgical procedures ranging from my knee, to my thyroid, to my hands and elbows. In between surgeries, my two beautiful girls both graduated and stepped out into a life of their own. Life as I had known it, in all of it's changing shadows of light and darkness, had finally begun to settle into some strange new sense of quiet peace. And after saying goodbye to the ghosts and regrets of yesterday, and breathing deep the newness of a tomorrow I knew not of, Tony and I were at last married in October 2010. I thank God even now that I still don't know what the big picture looks like, because in addition to all of the loss, I would have missed out on all of the blessings as well.

It's funny. It will be 10 years ago this November that I left behind the deserts of Arizona in exchange for the fertile prairies of Kansas and yet, here I sit watching the world around me sizzle in the extreme heat of a summer of record as the rivers run dry and the trees lose their leaves at the end of July. All around me dies and yet I feel something inside of me began to break ground and peer heavenward. I don't know what the future holds or where God will lead, though I do have an idea of the direction I would like to venture. But I will never pretend to know the will of a God so great or claim to understand His ways. I know only one thing right now. And that is that before I can move forward unencumbered, I must first conclude that left unattended while I was relearning how to live life.

So I shall conclude this "final" edition of *The Color of Light* in the best way that I know how. And then, I shall begin the task of tweaking the LGBTQ+ANCCRS website as I started to sometime ago. The experiences and events of these last 4 years have allowed for me personally to see needs in areas that I previously had steered clear of. They have forced me to come face to face with subjects I would rather conveniently dance around until they disappeared in a swirling mist. But the truth is, some things only grow uglier until others are compelled to take a stand. So as I reconnoiter and build upon the website, you may see glimpses of my inability to "stifle it", as Archie Bunker would have so poignantly said. (Am I showing my age yet?!)

I want to thank each and every one of you for your support and your prayers throughout the years. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve you. You have all taught me so much about the tremendous love and forgiveness of our God and for that I can never repay you. May God forever bless each and every one of you as you make your way out of the darkness and into His marvelous light!

*With Oceans of Love From Above,*  
*Lisanne*



## WORDS TO LIVE BY

### "Beauty Tips"

Below is a wonderful poem Audrey Hepburn wrote when asked to share her "beauty tips."  
It was read at her funeral years later.

*For attractive lips,  
speak words of kindness..*

*For lovely eyes,  
seek out the good in people.*

*For a slim figure,  
share your food with the hungry.*

*For beautiful hair,  
let a child run his/her fingers through it once a day.*

*For poise,  
walk with the knowledge that you never walk alone..*

*People, even more than things,  
have to be restored, renewed, revived, reclaimed, and redeemed;  
never throw out anyone.*

*Remember, if you ever need a helping hand,  
you will find one at the end of each of your arms.*

*As you grow older,  
you will discover that you have two hands;  
one for helping yourself,  
and the other for helping others.*



# *INSIGHT FROM THE INSIDE*

## Healthy Love

~ These are the qualities of a healthy relationship ~

### Loves Me.....

- ♥ **Makes me feel safe**
- ♥ **Makes me feel comfortable**
- ♥ **Listens to me**
- ♥ **Values my opinions**
- ♥ **Supports what I want to do in life**
- ♥ **Is truthful with me**
- ♥ **Admits to being wrong**
- ♥ **Respects me**
- ♥ **Always tries to understand how I feel**
- ♥ **Likes that I have other friends**
- ♥ **Makes me laugh**
- ♥ **Trusts me**
- ♥ **Treats me as an equal**
- ♥ **Respects my family**
- ♥ **Understands my need for time alone or with family**
- ♥ **Accepts me as I am**

Hi

**~ If you recognize any one of these warning signs,  
you or someone you know may be a victim of abuse ~**

### **Loves Me Not.....**

- ♣ **Is jealous**
- ♣ **Is possessive**
- ♣ **Tries to control me**
- ♣ **Gets violent, loses temper**
- ♣ **Always blames me**
- ♣ **Is sexually demanding**
- ♣ **Keeps me from seeing my friends and family**
- ♣ **Makes all the decisions**
- ♣ **Embarrasses me in front of others**
- ♣ **Hits me, makes me cry**
- ♣ **Makes me feel afraid**
- ♣ **Is always 'checking up' on me**
- ♣ **Takes my money and other things**
- ♣ **Threatens to leave me if I don't do what I'm told**
- ♣ **Teases, bullies, and puts me down**

*Thanks to the Domestic Violence Awareness Soroptimist International of Winfield, Kansas  
for having the foresight to educate girls and women alike, both locally and throughout the  
world to the effects of domestic violence and for offering them a way out by calling*

**1-800-794-7672**

# HEART TO HEART

## Letters

Below is a letter from one of my son's friends, who as they always do, became like another one of my children to me. Seems like I've adopted so many who have walked through my door! Unfortunately, too many like Ray, are sitting in jail or on there way there. But on a positive note, last I heard from Ray, he had returned to school, was holding a job, had a beautiful new son and was staying as far away from his previous lifestyle as he possibly could! Praise God!

August 3, 2007

Lisanne,

Hey Lisanne! Thank you for writing me! It's good to hear about Taj. I have met a lot of people who have been to Labette boot camp so I've heard all kinds of stories about that place. Some good and some bad. I'm really glad that they accepted him. I can't believe all this has happened to him, ya know? He really didn't do anything wrong! When I get out it would be nice to be able to visit him and call him so keep me updated to when he is able to. I am actually in here with a guy that actually was in jail with Taj in Anthony a while back. It's kinda funny. I have a picture of Taj and Kasha that Kasha sent me and he saw it and was like, "Hey, I know him!" He's an old dude that really needs to stop coming to jail! Ha! Ha! How long has Taj been at Labette? Ya know, 5 months isn't really that long. It will go by faster than he thinks! On the 31st of this month I will have been in here for 7 months! It doesn't really seem like I have been in here that long. Over here time goes faster because we get to play card games and watch TV all day. We don't get to go outside or nothing, but we do get to buy handheld radios and listen to music. Plus I am in here

with a kid I grew up with, we have been friends for a really long time so it's cool. I'm also in here with a couple of other young guys that we have become friends with.

When I get out of here, I'm not exactly sure what I'm gonna do but I know one thing, I'm gonna work a lot and get back to school. Last year I enrolled in some machinist classes at Cowley County Community College but I didn't get my FAFSA form turned in fast enough because I'm a procrastinator. Kasha and Matt asked me to move to Lawrence with them about a week or two after I get out. I'm really thinking about it because none of the cops up there know so they won't be able to pester me. I think it will be easier for me to stay out of trouble up there. But I know there is no way I'll be able to last up there because I will get homesick. But there is a lot of good jobs up there though. I will definitely come up to Wellington to see you guys within my first days out of here. I've got only 28 days left! I'm so excited! I turn 21 October 3rd, one month after I get out so maybe it will be easier to stay out of trouble. I plan on doing right when I get out of here and straightening up!

I would like to do some Bible study with you guys when I get out of here. There is a preacher that actually comes here once a week. He has really helped me to open up my heart to Jesus and to understand the Bible. There is more I would like to learn though. And it is easier for me to stay out of trouble when I am enveloped in the Bible. Thank you so much for being here for me and thank you for the post card too. The note on the back really made me smile. Here at the jail only family is allowed to visit, but if you and Tony came in and said you were an aunt or uncle or something, you could probably get in. But I don't think it's really worth all that since I'm gonna be getting out so soon! Well, I don't really know what else to write about, so write me back.


Love,

Ray



# THE BULLETIN BOARD

## What's New For You?



Here is a subject that we in America rarely give thought to. A subject that seems so outrageous, so taboo, so....third world, that we simply cannot relate. It is hard to wrap your brain around the fact that this perverse form of slavery occurs each and every day, nevertheless, that it could possibly occur right here in the USA. But it does.

Below are some facts that we thought you might be interested in. Don't think you can do anything about it? Think again!

### TRAFFICKING FACTS

"Trafficking in human beings is now the third-largest moneymaking venture in the world, after illegal weapons and drugs. In fact, the United Nations estimates that the trade nets organized crime more than \$12 billion a year" (Victor Malarek *The Natashas: Inside the New Global Sex Trade*).

According to a CIA report, 700,000 to 2 million women and children worldwide are victimized by traffickers each year.

The UN estimates that around 4 million people a year are now traded against their will to work in some form of slavery.

As many as 50,000 women and children from Asia, Latin America, and Eastern Europe are brought to the U.S. under false pretenses each year and forced to work as prostitutes

### SEX TRAFFICKING IN THAILAND

Trafficking in human beings is now tied for second place in global illegal crime. Bangkok, Thailand is a source, transit and destination country for trafficked victims. Most of the trafficked women in Bangkok we meet come from Uzbekistan and other Central Asian or former Soviet countries. Trafficked women come to Bangkok often knowing that there will be prostitution. They arrive with debts starting around \$6000 US. Many are locked up during the day and forced out at night. They work all night and most of the money they make goes toward their debt. Many of the women are beaten by agents. The women come on tourist visas for 1-3 months at a time. They are rotated around Asia. Some women work off their debts and become "independent"; some never do; some are killed.



## FACTORS FOR WOMEN TO ENTER THE SEX INDUSTRY

**Culture:** In Thailand, the daughter is culturally obligated to care for her parents once she is of age. The sons fulfill their duty by becoming a monk for a period of time. In doing this they make merit for their parents next life. Sons are not expected to provide financially for parents. Daughters take this role very seriously. When they no longer have a husband supporting them and move back home with their children, they feel the shame of their parents. Some families further shame them and verbally abuse them for not fulfilling this obligation. When they find an opportunity to work in the city they feel relieved that at whatever sacrifice to themselves, they can meet their parents' demands to send money home.

**Economic:** There are not enough employment opportunities for women in Thailand. Most of the women from the North east do not know their job options.

**Education:** Most of the women have completed a 6th grade education. A small number have completed the equivalent of 9th grade and even fewer have completed a 12th grade equivalent.

**Spiritual:** Belief in fate factors into women accepting this as their destiny. Buddhism teaches that you will pay for the sins of your previous life. The majority of the women are also animists who have participated in many spirit rituals and witchcraft rituals. The spirits and gods are worshipped in the bars and many witchcraft rituals also take place in the bars.

## SUPPLY AND DEMAND

Thai men use women in prostitution. 80% of prostitution caters to the Thai men. This takes place in most of the same venues but in different areas of town. The area that **NightLight** works in is known as sex tourism. This area is not welcoming of Thai clientele but caters to the foreign business and tourist community. It is estimated that 7 of 10 foreign men coming to Thailand engage in the sex industry. The men come from all over the world and range in age. Many men are from North America, Europe, Australia and Japan. Large numbers of the men are 50 and older but there are exceptions. Many countries offer sex tours to Thailand. The Central Asian women in prostitution provide services mostly to men from the Middle East and India.



## ~ NightLight Ministry ~

The vision for **NightLight** began in Annie Dieselberg, IM missionary, as she ministered to women in prostitution for 5 years through another organization. **NightLight**: a ministry in urban Bangkok, which reaches out to women and children working in the bar areas of Nana/Sukhumvit in an effort to combat sexual exploitation. Located in a neighborhood with a growing sex trade, **Nightlight**'s vision is to share the Light of the world in both word and deed to those who live in darkness

**NightLight** operates through two branches: **NightLight Ministry** the US registered 501 c3 non-profit (est. 2005) and **NightLight Design**, a registered jewelry business which employs women coming out of prostitution or those having been at risk of prostitution and/or trafficking (est. 2006).

Through life-on-life ministry, **NightLight**'s goal is to meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of women in prostitution, their children, and those children brought illegally in Thailand to financially support their families by selling items in the bars and often through sexual exploitation. These goals will be met through building relationships with women and children who work in the sex trade industry along the Nana/Sukhumvit area and by providing a center that offers emergency aid, educational and employment opportunity, emergency child-care, language tutoring, literacy training, and biblical teaching and healing for their community.

It takes approximately \$250 US dollars per month per worker to run **NightLight** and we appreciate any size donation you are willing to provide toward supporting the mission.

Purchasing **NightLight Design** jewelry is a great way of supporting the women's efforts here and will help to maintain the company's registered status as a legally operating company of Thailand. It is also a great conversation starter when you wear our products.

To view our catalog, please visit the website at:

<http://store.nightlightinternational.com/>



### **Our goals are achieved through...**

1. Economic/Educational Opportunities: Providing alternatives through job training and education.
2. Lifeskills training: To provide opportunities to train women and children on the risks of working in the sex trade and how to access the help they may need.
3. Public Awareness and Involvement: To educate the public, Thai and foreign (religious and secular), of the physical, psychological, legal and economic consequences of prostitution and trafficking and to encourage their involvement in advocacy and follow-up care of the women and children.
4. Relational Evangelism: To introduce women and children to the love and mercy of Jesus Christ, to disciple them into a strong faith as people who will then impact their communities.

### **We offer assistance, intervention and rehabilitation by way of:**

1. Outreach: Bar visits to build relationships of trust, offer alternatives, and be available for necessary intervention.
2. Vocational/Educational Opportunities: Providing employment, job training and educational alternatives.
3. Shelter and Assistance: To provide a safe place for emergency assistance, health care, counseling, child-care and basic necessities.
4. Intervention of Trafficking: To intervene when children are solicited for prostitution and to work with the guardians to protect these children.
5. Staff Training and Development: To provide training for a multi-lingual staff in the areas of administration, research, grant proposal writing, counseling, and trafficking issues and to set up global networks to assist in repatriation.
6. Evangelism: To introduce the women and children to Jesus Christ and to connect them with church families where they can receive discipleship and fellowship.

**To learn more about Nightlight and how you can help please visit their website at**

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90004

# SCRIPTURES TO STAND ON

## Quiet My Spirit

“Surely I have calmed and quieted my soul,  
Like a weaned child with his mother;  
Like a weaned child *is* my soul within me.”  
*Psalms 131:2*

“When He gives quietness, who then can make trouble?  
And when he hides his face, who then can see Him?  
Whether it be done against a nation, or against a man alone? -”  
*Job 34:29*

‘ Therefore do not fear, O My servant Jacob,’ says the LORD,  
‘ Nor be dismayed, O Israel;  
For behold, I will save you from afar,  
And your seed from the land of their captivity.  
Jacob shall return, have rest and be quiet,  
And no one shall make *him* afraid.’  
*Jeremiah 30:10*

...”that you also aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business,  
and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you.”  
*I Thessalonians 4:11*

...”rather let it be the hidden person of the heart,  
with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit,  
which is very precious in the sight of God.”  
*I Peter 3:4*

...”for kings and all who are in authority,  
that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.  
For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior.”  
*I Timothy 2:2-4*

“My people will dwell in a peaceful habitation.  
In secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places.”  
*Isaiah 32:18*

“Better a handful with quietness than both hands full,  
together with toil and grasping for the wind.”  
*Ecclesiastes 4:6*

“He calms the storm, so that it’s waves are still.  
Then they are glad because they are quiet;  
So He guides them to their desired haven.”  
*Psalms 107:29-30*

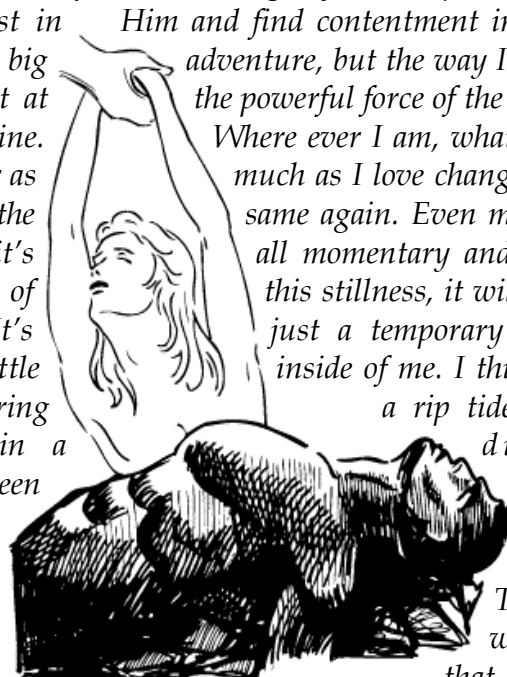


# REFLECTIONS

## Turning Points

As things were winding down with ministry as I had known it, I found myself struggling with just being. Below is an excerpt from one of my journals from April 2007.

*"What I am struggling with, the fear, the anger, the bitterness, it's all just a momentary challenge. None of this will remain. I am learning to do something I have never learned. When I was a child, I was content to play with my Barbies by myself. For hours, for days on end, I was content alone with what was in front of me. When I was a teenager, I was content alone in my room, walking the woods, by myself with nothing more than the talent God gave me and the appreciation for His creation. Maybe I have learned this already. Maybe I just forgot. Maybe I've just been so overwhelmed with all I feel I have to do and with all that I think is expected of me, including my own expectations of myself, that I've forgotten how to just be. How to rest in Him and find contentment in what is in front of me. Not race after the next task or the next big adventure, but the way I sat on the beach that day in 1979 and looked out in amazement at the powerful force of the ocean that had just swept me under. This is His world, not mine. Where ever I am, what ever I'm doing, it's just for the moment. Nothing is lasting. For as much as I love change, it has always made me cry to know that things will not be the same again. Even moving out from Dad's as an adult brought me that sadness. But it's all momentary and just as soon as I settle into it, just as soon as I get the hang of this stillness, it will change yet again. He is not requiring me to forever be still. It's just a temporary part of the journey. It doesn't have to be this excruciating battle that's what it's like! A rip tide. Mastering inside of me. I think it's kind of like, yeah, being pulled down the shoreline in a particular direction I don't want to go. I've never been out here before. I can't control my direction. It's scary and the fear is welling up inside of me cause I know that if I go under, this could be the end of me. My natural instinct is to fight it. To go against the current, where I know the turf better. Where I know it's safe. Back to that place on the beach I was at before I set foot in the water. I'm losing sight of all that I'm most familiar with. It's fading and I am overwhelmed by the empty and vast waters that surround me. But in my struggle for what I perceive as safety, I'm endangering myself and those who may try to assist me. When all I need to do is relax. Stop forcing myself against the tide. Stop trying to go back to the familiar and just allow the swirling waters to carry me parallel down the beach. Down the shoreline. Stop fighting the tide, relax and enjoy the journey despite my fear for where I've never been and what I don't feel I know. All I need to do is go back to the basics. God will release me when He feels it is proper at which time I can swim calmly back to shore with no injury to myself or anyone else. He'll beach me where He wants me, when He wants me to set foot ashore. Until then, I do get to be flotsam and jetsam. Just float girl. Don't fight it, just float and let Him carry you."*



Can anyone out there relate? See, it has dawned on me that I have “Martha Syndrome.” For those of you familiar with sisters Mary and Martha, you’re probably giggling right now and shaking your head in understanding. For the rest of you, let me introduce you to two of the Bible’s most infamous sisters.

The story of Mary and Martha can be found in Luke 10:38–42. Two wonderful sisters both akin to serving Jesus, but in very different ways. Martha was the busy bee. Running to and fro, attending to the needs of all in her midst, while Mary sat at the feet of Jesus soaking in His Presence and listening intently to his words. Martha even requested of the Savior that He correct Mary and tell her to get up and help her! But Jesus made it very clear to Martha that what Mary had chosen was the better option and He refused to take that away from Mary as her sister had requested.

I have been busy for many years scurrying to and fro in all of my excitement to serve my Lord. I have enjoyed every moment of it and but for few times of frustration, been joyful at what He was enabling me to do. But like Martha, I didn’t know how to stop. I came to understand *when* to stop, but I didn’t know *how*. How does one go from full tilt boogie to a grinding halt? How does one still oneself and sit at the feet of the Father? I knew how to make time for Him. I knew how to bask in His Presence. I could switch gears just fine when the need was there, and all the easier when the need was there for others. But I didn’t know how to take it out of gear and coast continually, and I sure didn’t know how to do that for myself.

Following the closing of *Mirage*, I clearly understood that the time ahead was intended to be downtime. I remember sitting in a chair in my living room and concentrating on just sitting, knowing I had to. Knowing I needed to. Knowing that God was requiring it of me. And I remember clearly the struggle and the battle within at having to learn how to sit and wait. To wait on nothing. To wait on what God would do next. What He would show me, tell me. To learn to accept what He would keep from me until His appointed time. To learn how to hold His hand with no burning desire coursing through me to run to the next task, the next adventure, the next moment. To learn how to come like a child and just be. Sitting there in silence, talking myself down in my head because I knew that I knew that this is how it had to be in that time. How difficult that was! I had truly arrived at the end of myself in so many ways. And then just as I knew, right when I was getting the hang of it and seeing the need in it, He shifted things into gear and as life took off again, I found myself missing it. And desiring it. And making time for it, for Him, in this new, quiet way of living.

We go through these amazing stages of living. These cycles of life that rev us up and power us down in anticipation of what unseen thing lies in waiting around the next bend in the road. The only way to be prepared for the unknown is to take time to recharge. We have to allow Him to feed us. To show us the new, the simple, the forgotten things, some of which we may have learned a long time ago but forgotten. Most of which we probably never understood the importance of at that time anyway.

There is a time to be Martha. But you have to learn how to recognize those moments when what is more important than the doing, is to humble yourself like Mary at the feet of our Lord and just bask in the wonder that His Presence creates. Just to be in His midst. To hold His hand and just be. No matter how challenging the Marthas of this world may find it, this is a moment in life that cannot be missed. Quiet your spirit and listen to the voice of the Lord.

*With Love,*

*Lisanne*

# FROM DARK TO LIGHT

## Poetry

### Soliloquy For One

How do I say goodbye?  
So much to say....  
I can't filter it.  
It's a jumble inside my head...  
inside my heart.  
I can't separate the parts,  
and sift the pieces,  
and put you back together again.  
I can't fix what's broken.  
Or give you a token of my love.  
When this life doesn't matter,  
And you're feeling torn and battered,  
what's left?  
All my attempts to reach you have  
failed,  
as I stood here watching you derail,  
as I plead with the Father.  
But you're on the altar now.  
Trusting God with my one and only  
son,  
to do what He said...  
what He promised....  
despite what you believe.

Lisanne  
2008

### *Open The Window*

*The lights are low and a girls on stage,  
She dances to a different tune  
and her mind is on the wicked ways.  
The blinds are shut so tightly,  
that no light can be seen.*

*She lives in the darkness,  
but one day she'll live in victory.  
It's hard for a dancer to be set free from,  
Greed, and lust, money and power.  
Girl it's comin' down to the final hour!*

*So open the window, and let the light shine in.  
Open the window, and let Jesus through.  
Open the window, that's all ya gotta do!*

*A few years later she got saved, got her marriage  
back together and started off the right way.  
She started a ministry for exotic dancers,  
to set them on the right way.*

*Here's a tip from her to me to you,  
So listen very closely cause this is all ya gotta do!*

*So open the window, and let the light shine in.  
Open the window, and let Jesus through.  
Open the window, that's what you must do!*

*Jay McMurray  
6/17/00*



*Give yourself  
time  
to rest  
along the way...*

*Give yourself  
permission  
to enjoy  
the journey.*