

Going from darkness to light

By Gary Andrews
gary@gadevotionals.com
For several months we watched and heard about the miners in Chile being trapped 2,000 feet below the earth's surface. For 17 days no one knew if these men were dead or alive

but through the effort and energies of the company, families, and state officials contact was eventually made with the miners. It was a tremendous day when the voices were heard from below and how these men congre-

gated together to lean on one another for support. Even after the 17 days of not knowing, it would be another two months before extraction of these miners would come to fruition. These miners had been well versed in what to do in case of an emergency and the company was properly prepared with life's necessities should an emergency such as this one happen.

There were many medical concerns about these men as they would come from being under ground with only artificial light into the brightness of the sunlight. The evacuation started

at night and continued for 24 hours until each miner was rescued and back above ground. No medical emergencies existed other than what problems might have been coming from the darkness to the light. To help combat this each miner was given sunglasses to hide their eyes until they eventually could face the light again.

This is a story that ended well, however there are many of our friends and neighbors that walk in darkness everyday and don't even know it. Just as these miners were trapped and couldn't see so are many people that are caught in Satan's arms and resist

the light of Jesus. We don't have to be 2,000 feet below the earth to see total darkness. We may be involved in situations that we don't need to be in, however we have allowed ourselves to be brought in through sinful actions and desires. Just as the miners were brought back to light there is hope for us that have fallen short of our Christian morals and values being brought back to the light. Sunglasses were used for them and the Word of God is needed for us. Both of these will supply us the needs of facing the light and getting away from the blinders that has held us captive

for so long. Remember what Jesus told Saul on the road to Damascus. Acts 26:17-18 states, "I will rescue you from you own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, so they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me."

Prayer: Lord use me to help those in darkness to see your light. Guide me in my actions and thoughts. Amen.

Suggested daily Bible readings: Sunday - Acts 13:8-11; Monday - Matthew 8:5-12; Tuesday - Isaiah 50:10-11; Wednesday - Psalm 139:11-12; Thursday - 1 John 1:5-10; Friday - 2 Chronicles 15:1-7; Saturday - 1 Corinthians 4:1-5.

Gary Andrews is the author of *Encouraging Words: 30-days in God's Word*. To obtain a copy go to his website www.gadevotionals.com.

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