

## Peace Is...Light

**1 Samuel 16: 1b, 6-7, 10-13a** *“Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance but the Lord looks into the heart.”*

**Ephesians 5: 8-14** *“Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth.”*

**John 9: 1-41** *He was blind, so that “the works of God might be made visible through him.”<sup>(v.3)</sup> “Then Jesus said, ‘I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see might see, and those who do see might become blind.’”<sup>(v.39)</sup>*

Are we sometimes like the Pharisees, blind to the truth?

Do we allow the light into our hearts? Or do we turn away, afraid of what we might see?

### Reflection

Peace comes from a close relationship with Jesus. This requires allowing His light to penetrate us, with all His love and Goodness. It requires us to look at ourselves honestly, admitting our sins and our need for God and His forgiveness. Then will our eyes and hearts be open to the plight of others.

Consider the human suffering involved in:

- the **genocide in Darfur**, which has already taken the lives of up to 400,000 people. Sudanese-backed groups of militia called Janjaweed continue to systematically wipe out villages, killing men and boys, raping women and girls, and burning homes. Over 2.5 million people have been driven from their homes and risk starvation, disease, and further attack.

- **human trafficking**, which is human slavery. By U.S. government estimates, about 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders each year and millions more within their own countries.<sup>1</sup> Approx. 80% are female, and 50% minors. Whether bought and sold, recruited, tricked, coerced, indentured, abducted, or captured, these people suffer many indignities and hardships, including prostitution, starvation, beatings, and torture. Many children are forced into labor or into being soldiers.<sup>1,2</sup>

### Action

- Pray. Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Let Jesus' light live in your heart.

- Make the truth known. Shed some light on the genocide in Darfur and the horrific occurrence of human trafficking. Increase their visibility: urge the media to provide coverage; write letters to the editor; contact\* your government officials; talk to others about these issues.

- Stay Informed. Visit these websites: [www.SaveDarfur.com](http://www.SaveDarfur.com), <http://sudan.crs.org> . Also: [www.humantrafficking.com](http://www.humantrafficking.com), [www.usdoj.gov](http://www.usdoj.gov), [www.usccb.org/mrs/trafficking.shtml](http://www.usccb.org/mrs/trafficking.shtml)

- Help those who are suffering from domestic violence locally by supporting Haven House with your time, talent, or treasure of needed goods or money. In Hammond, (219) 931-2090.

\*Call and/or write: President Bush/White House Comment Line 202-456-1111; Senator Bayh 202-224-5623; Senator Lugar 202-224-4814; Congressman Visclosky 202-225-2461.

<sup>1</sup> U.S. State Department, Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking Persons (est. November, 2001)

<sup>2</sup> UNICEF; and U.S. Department of State, Bureau on International Information Programs.