

## A BURDEN OF LIGHT

~Other Speakers G-L: Allan Halton:

I have been feeling very heavy hearted and pained the last couple of days as a result of the multiple murder that took place over our way. I'm sure many of you have heard about this—it's been headline news all across Canada—the two young baseball players from Prince Edward Island playing for a team in Lethbridge, Alberta. I don't want to go into the details, but apparently they were celebrating a birthday out in a bar with their friends... having a wonderful time, enjoying life to the max the way young people just love to do. A jealous ex-boyfriend of one of the girls comes along. There is an ugly incident in the bar... and then later on the horror story on the highway at three in the morning as these young people leave their fun and rush to Calgary to catch a plane to Prince Edward Island for the Christmas break. The ex-boyfriend has tailed them. And he has a gun.

And now four young people are dead, this young man included. He turned his gun on himself after he wreaked his vengeance. The whole country is horrified. How could this happen?

...Four young people in their early twenties, in the flower of life, and living life to the max. Their whole lives were before them. So much to live for. Now they are dead. Their friends are in tears: they were such fun-loving people... why could this happen to such wonderful people?

And so... my burden. How long, Lord, how long? How long till there shines a Light in the darkness that reveals to a whole generation of lost young people that this is not what life is for! Sitting down to eat and to drink, and rising up to play... this is not what life is for! This is not why God gave us a life—to consume upon ourselves!

The darkness "out there" is very thick in this hour. The only reason people don't flee from it as from atomic radiation is that... they don't see how dark it is! It's only when you have a measure of light that you become aware of the darkness around you.

And so... the darkness that envelops this whole generation of young people like a burial shroud... who is responsible for that?

Fellow Christian, it is you and I who are to be the Light of the world. And so, if the world is in darkness, where is the Light?

At times I feel a resentment toward the churches of our day. I wonder if it isn't a divine resentment. For, in spite of the fact that there is so very little light in the churches of our day, we carry on, carry on, carry on... with our many programs and our nice activities... when, out of love for a lost generation we should be calling a halt to it all and crying out to God for mercy!

...But, never mind the churches. What about me, Lord? One of the things being carried by the priests through the wilderness was the lampstand. It was veiled in blue with a covering of badger skins over top. Lord, I cannot rest till you bring me to the place where this lampstand under the badger skin is set up in Your Tabernacle, and the Light shines in the darkness again... the Light of the Knowledge of the Glory of God in the Face of Jesus Christ!

Christian, is Jesus the light of your life, and mine? Is Jesus the light we have in our heart? Is Jesus Christ our righteousness in our hearts, and our salvation? Then let this be our cry:

"For Zion's sake I will not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until the Righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the Salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth" (Isaiah 62.1).