

Powerful Lighthouse Beams

Anyone who has attended *Your Life Care Journey* will recall that the devotional on the first day spotlights two lighthouses – the Light at Sandy Hook, New Jersey, and the Robbins Reef Light in the New York Harbor.

Both are part of the story of Katherine Walker, who faithfully followed the advice of her husband before he passed away to “mind the light” and keep ships from crashing on the rocks.



Recently, I read the story of the Fresnel lens, a type of compact lens originally developed by French physicist Augustin-Jean Fresnel for lighthouses, and first used in 1823. The lens can capture more oblique light from a light source, thus allowing the light from a lighthouse equipped with one to be visible over greater distances.



Fresnel not only made a name for himself, but his invention has – over the many decades since – continued to have an impact as countless maritime vessels have been saved from impending doom upon rocky shores by the brightness of lighthouse beacons.

Before Fresnel’s invention, the only means of warning ships of the danger of crashing upon rocky crags were bonfires lit upon hilltops. But thanks to

the genius of Fresnel’s lighthouse lens, ships and boats can now gauge the safe distance from shore, and thus avoid peril.

The Fresnel lens is designed like a beehive with concentric rings of prisms around a lens, which produce parallel beams of light that focus the scattered light of a lamp into a tight beam. This design magnifies the light so that it can be seen from more than 20 miles away.

You may also remember that in the *Journey* devotional, the conclusion is that each of you is a keeper of the Life Care lighthouse, because there are people in the communities we serve who live in a dark, lonely world. Their hope is the light emanating from the Life Care lighthouse. And that light is love. It is the basis of all that we do.

(more)

In the spiritual realm, without the light of the gospel, we would all run aground. God's grace is the Fresnel lens that gathers all the various, glorious aspects of the Good News into a focused light that can pierce and penetrate all darkness – able to draw all men to Christ, bringing them safely home into His presence.

As the Apostle John exhorted us, our job is to shine the light of Jesus' grace and love, and thereby, individually and collectively, magnify the message.

This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all (1 John 1:5 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter

