

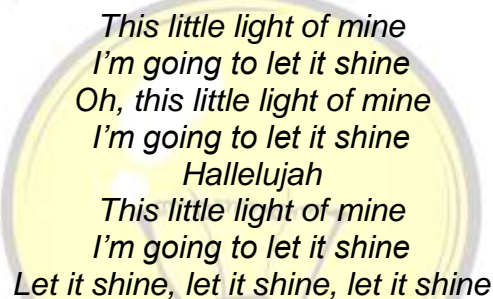
'this little light of mine'

This Little Light of Mine is a gospel song written for children in the 1920s by Harry Dixon Loes, and later adapted by Zilphia Horton in connection with the civil rights movement.

The song takes its theme from some of Jesus' remarks to His followers:

You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven (Matthew 5:14-16 NKJV).

Here are a couple of stanzas:



*This little light of mine
I'm going to let it shine
Oh, this little light of mine
I'm going to let it shine
Hallelujah
This little light of mine
I'm going to let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine*

*Ev'ry where I go
I'm going to let it shine
Oh, ev'ry where I go
I'm going to let it shine
Hallelujah
Ev'ry where I go
I'm going to let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine*

The prophet Isaiah proclaimed: "Arise, shine; for your light has come! And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you" (Isaiah 60:1 NKJV).

Here is why we are to arise and shine: the world is waiting for our witness. The world needs to see in us the truth of what we believe and practice. Words are cheap. Too many people are trying to sell that which they do not possess themselves.

(more)

In 1992, California educator Dr. Norvel Young took his family to the Olympics in Spain. It was exciting for them to see the best athletes from the nations of the world compete in gymnastics, diving, water polo and track and field. Most of all, Dr. Young was thrilled to see the love and goodwill exhibited between outstanding representatives of the many nations.

As they entered the stadium for the closing ceremonies, Dr. Young and his family were given a packet of items, including a flashlight. After a thrilling program, including the best of Spain in every area, such as music by Placido Domingo, all the lights were extinguished. A hush moved over the vast audience; then a shout of “Ah!”

The entire stadium was lighted as thousands of spectators turned on their individual flashlights. From darkness to light, not because one person flipped a switch on some giant stadium floodlights, but because each member of the audience did their part by turning on their tiny, individual lights.

It was a poignant and powerful moment – one Dr. Young said he will never forget.

He compares it to Neil Diamond concerts he has attended, when Diamond begins to sing in his gravelly voice, “Turn on your heart lights.” And one by one, people in the audience turn on different kinds of small lights, whatever they have with them – flashlights, candles, lighters. By the end of the song, the darkness in the auditorium has been dispelled, and light is glowing warmly everywhere.

And that should be our purpose in the new year.

As leaders in Life Care and Century Park the light of our integrity and professionalism should serve to inspire others – our residents, their families, our associates, or anyone who comes through the front door.

And as believers in Christ, the world needs to see the light of His love shining through us.

– Beecher Hunter