

Excerpt from
ANGELS AND ALL CHILDREN

Walter Wangerin Jr.

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light!
Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
one them the light has shined."
--Isaiah 9:2

"God is light and in him is no darkness at all.
If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness
we lie and do not live according to the truth."
--1 John 1:5-6

ONCE, long ago--ten years, times one hundred years, plus one thousand years: *that* long ago--people were walking in darkness. People were living in a land so dark that the day was the same as the night. They couldn't tell the difference because they had turned away from God--and God *is* light! The people stopped loving God. Instead, they loved themselves the more and the more and the most. Each person covered his sight and said, "Who's more important than I am? No one can tell *me* what to do. Don't need rules. Don't need commandments. And I most certainly don't need God!"

But this is the same as saying, "I don't need the sun in the sky."

So the people covered their land with a darkness darker than night, a dark *so* dark and a night *so* long that a terrible sadness followed: the children went to bed.

All the children went to sleep.

And none of the children woke up again. They *couldn't* wake up, because the morning wasn't coming back. Until the sun rose up in the sky, the children would sleep and sleep and sleep....

So then it was that the adults who had caused the darkness became lonely. Lonely and sad, because they missed the children. They cried: "We miss your laughter, your happy chatter, your hugs and your love and your trust. When, oh, when," the parents said, "will you come back to us?"

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