A preacher once told of a cruise he took along a rocky coast. He stopped at a desolate little island where a tall lighthouse sent out its bright rays over the sea. He sat with the lighthouse keeper, and in their conversation the lighthouse keeper told how he lived alone there, but that once every two weeks a coast guard vessel brought him supplies. Amazed at the isolation within sight of land, the preacher asked, “Don’t you get lonesome and bored out here all by yourself, day after day?”

The old weather-beaten man turned with a smile and a simple reply. “Not since I saved my first life!”

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As I rounded a bend in the road I saw the beacon, standing tall on a promontory.

Its foundations were deeply anchored in the rock on which it stood. It stretched to the sky, unmoved by storms and gales, tides and time, faithfully sending out its light. All the churning, crashing waters couldn’t bring it down. Even the worst storms, with their torrents of rain and hail and snow, couldn’t extinguish the light.

But what about me? Am I the beacon God wants me to be?

We should all be beacons, especially as we see the night approach and storms gather on the horizon.

“Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in Heaven” (Matthew 5:16).

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You, O Lord, keep my lamp burning; my God turns my darkness into light (Psalm 18:28*).

The Lord will be your everlasting light (Isaiah 60:20b).

Let us walk in the light of the Lord (Isaiah 2:5).

God is light; in Him there is no darkness at all (1 John 1:5b).

The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? (Psalm 27:1).