

EARLY WORD  
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In Romans, the apostle Paul urges the Roman congregation to lay aside the works of darkness because night is going away and the day is nearer than ever. Paul is speaking metaphorically of course, but the image of this metaphor is strong and vibrant. We may have experienced the feeling of watching the dawn rise out of darkness, seen the change that occurs. We may know the comfort of having a little bit of light in a sweeping dark night. When I was a Ranger leader, we took our girls on a night hike. We started at around 10pm and walked through the Churchill National Park, to Lysterfield Lake and then back, arriving at around 7am. It was a beautiful moonlit night and we were encouraged to walk by the light of the moon. Towards the dawn it got a lot darker as the moon sunk down, and although I could see quite well, the girls got nervous and turned on their torches. The light from the torches was very bright in the darkness and it made it easier for the girls to see where they were going.

The book Flashlight, doesn't have any text, but it evokes the same imagery Paul does in his letter. We see a boy walk through the darkness, but thanks to his flashlight, he is able to illuminate parts of it and show us what is there, shining his way through. Paul tells the Romans to lay aside the works of darkness, and by shining his flashlight, the boy in the story is able to cut through the darkness with his beam of light, just as the Rangers were able light their way in the darkness. This letter is a good reminder to us, that as Christians, we are light to the world, and we can choose whether we will cover up that light or whether we will lay aside the works of darkness and let our light shine as the new day in Jesus Christ begins to dawn. In this time of the darkness of lockdown, remember to shine for Jesus in all you do.



Let your light shine.