

FaithBIT



A light in the dark

Reflection by Sierra Carter

In August I went on a four-day canoe trip to the Boundary Waters. I was in the safe-keeping of group of Immanuel leaders Kelly Kautz, Barbara Freeman, and Kelly's friend Deb. My leaders were joyful, patient, and encouraging. I was at ease from their dynamic relationship; I trusted them to be my guiding light in the wilderness, across four unfamiliar lakes, and through 14-plus hours of paddling.

But, what happens when the canoeing is done for the day? When night comes? When we are spread out across tents? When my guides are tucked into sleeping bags and snoring? When I have to potty at the height of darkness in a place that requires a bear bag!?

I was frightened; I was surrounded by people I trusted, but felt utterly alone, engulfed by darkness. I rarely invoke the Lord's name, but I called out, "Lord have mercy!" The Lord did not seem to recognize my prayers for a couple of hours.



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- Sierra Carter

Feeling forsaken, I finally reached for my headlamp, and stepped into darkness. I hesitated, and then it happened. It was the sound of a zipper followed by an even brighter light. It was Wendy Wurscher! She hesitated upon seeing me planted there, and then offered to walk with me into the forest. Wendy, a stranger before that moment, became my guiding light every night thereafter. She gave me courage, promised me relief, and eliminated my doubts. We established fellowship.

"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin." 1 John 1:7

Photo: Kelly Kautz, Wendy Wurscher and Sierra Carter