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The countries shown here are a small part of our reach—Stay tuned as we continue to grow around the world!



A Touch of Light.org 300 Lenora Street #311 Seattle, WA 98121 www.ATouchofLight.org

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For fifteen hundred years, the Lighthouse of Alexandria (named Pharos, after the island it was built on), guided travelers safely to port. Borrowed from the Egyptian Coptic 'phareh' (guardian), in Greek, the word 'pharos' means lighthouse.

Whether this publication lasts for five years or fifty, it is our aim to keep watch over the Captive ArtsTM, and to be a guarding and guiding light home for all those artistic sailors currently adrift on stormy seas.

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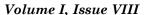
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This publication is shared with our arts affiliates around the globe, and is available in digital format at www.ATouchofLight.org/pharos









September-October 2020

"Perception"

By Sandor, Contributing Artist

Sometimes we are stuck examining the light spots looking for depth and forget that dark areas and shadows are what give depth. Just like in life, we forget how we overcome the dark times, how we persevered into the light, and what gives us character and depth. Ask your self next time you look in any composition: is there depth? Something I've learned recently, is that when you get to know the story of an artist, the more depth in character he or she has, the more you start to see it in their work. You see a perspective far greater then you noticed at first glance.

I think a good artist can make a good copy of a picture. A great artist puts his or her boldness and heart into their work. They become bold and share what's in their heart with something never seen before. In doing so, when they submit such a composition for display, they tend to have some worry. Will be accepted? Will people like it? Will people understand me? Will my art reflect who I am? Artists compose a symphony of curiosity with a mission to share the things they have a hard time putting into words. When I look at my past art, it is obvious to me what is forced and what is truly mine.

The more depth a artist implements in their work, the more of dark and light transitions you will see, and the more your eyes will become curious and look for understanding. "Art is the use of imagination in an effort to produce beautiful objects" (American Heritage Dictionary). The imagination embraces raw beauty from our past and future, the dark and the light. Embrace it with all your heart and you will perceive beauty with new perspectives.

"Art is the use of imagination in an effort to produce beautiful objects"



~ *AHD*



"The Nautilus of Old Point Loma Lighthouse" By Otter, Contributing Artist

In early 2020, I had a vision of doing a series of lighthouse pieces from a different view. Rather than draw/paint a piece OF the lighthouse, I would paint views of the inside. With the exception of Point Robinson Lighthouse, which I drew because it was close to my childhood home, I did a watercolor of a bygone lighthouse kitchen, and the Fresnel lens of another. This offering is the winding stairwell (looking downward) leading of Old Point Loma Lighthouse in San Diego. While this lighthouse is no longer operational, its light is still intact and open to the public. What caught my eve on this and made me want to paint this image was the spiraling of dark to light that reminded me of a nautilus, it just grabbed my attention. Part of the vision I spoke of above includes four very different stairwells from four different light stations. And why would I choose to do stairwells. you may ask? Because they ARE different, because they have character, because the appealed to me.

This piece ended up being finished five months before sending it to A Touch of Light.Org. For a couple months it sat hidden away because I didn't like it, feeling it did not meet my standards. It was, after all, my first ever watercolor painting, and although I do, I shouldn't expect perfection from the get-go. In August (2020) I pulled it out and taped it above my bunk forcing me to look at it and scrutinize it. After looking at it for a while I did a little adjustment to the gate and rail bringing them to proportion and proper shading. Still, something was off, and I saw it was the keyhole shaped carpet at the center. I painted over it several times trying to get it to look right and just not getting it. So, back onto my wall it went. Eventually I concluded that it doesn't have to exactly match the reference picture, it just has to complement the overall composition. With that in mind I painted it in an enhancing color which made the piece more to my liking and worth sending out as part of my lighthouse collection. Only three more stairwells to go! Thank you for taking the time to view my work, to read my rambling chatter, and for supporting A Touch of Light.Org.



Artist Spotlight

By Juan Carlos Chavarria & the Captive Artists $^{\text{TM}}$ of Costa Rica

We wanted to give a very special word of thanks to our friends & fellow artistic contributors at Transformación en Tiempos Violentos, who collaborated with us on the Hope Shines exhibition in Hong Kong. Founded & led by Juan Carlos Chavarria, this wonderful organization has grown by leaps and bounds over the past several years, and now serves both men and women in multiple prisons throughout Costa Rica. We are truly honored at the opportunity to work with Juan and the truly excellent artists of Transformación en Tiempos Violentos, and look forward to collaborating on more joint exhibitions in the future! Many thanks to all of you!















Letter to the Editor



First off, I would like to thank you for all the endless hours around the world, so others can have a better tomorrow. Thank you for your inspiration!

I would also like to $say, from \ all \ the$ good things I've

heard about you and A Touch of Light.org, that you have given me hope. I have made many wrong choices in my lifetime, also hurting those dear to my heart. This is what I learned growing up; my emotions and anger got the best of me. At the age of 52, and spending most of my life locked up, this is a hard reality check.

Could there have been a different outcome? Sure! But would I be the person I am today? I believe not! Actions and words have a lifetime effect, and these are the two hardest things to undo. If I could go back and say sorry, would this make any difference? No! I would be lying to myself. The memory of hurt is still there. Yet, there is always hope for healing.

Thank you for setting the example of changing a bad situation into a powerful Second Chance. I look forward to reading more about the awesome work A Touch of Light.org does around the world! ~ Giuseppe

Letter to the Editor

Editor's Note: The following was sent to us by the good folks at the Kun Sun Christian Association in Hong Kong, submitted by a Captive Artist in the region. While A Touch of Light is a non-religious and non-political organization, we welcome submissions by incarcerated artists of every faith & creed.

I am a former prisoner who served a sentence of fourteen years and eight months for trafficking in drugs and am now being detained at the immigration center. I want to share what Jesus has done for me all these years. The Bible and other religious organizations and volunteers that God did put in my way have impacted me in a way nothing else ever has. I have come to know and love Jesus more intimately and closer to me than the clothes on my back, and my life will not be the same as I was before.

Others will say, prison is a bad place, but to me it is the other way around, because prison has been a big blessing to my life, as Jesus is now the lord and the king of my life and I am very grateful to Jesus and all those He put in my way to help me become who I am today. Even though I was raised in a conservative Methodist home, it was very dysfunctional because I rebelled against my family and the Church. I spent years searching for worldly pleasures, a purpose to be on top of everything – an "enjoyment attitude."

In short, after I ended up in prison, I began to search the Bible, and 2nd Corinthians 5:17 was the key for my turning around. My priorities and desires did completely change as I became a new person in Jesus and died to my old self. The day I got arrested, I lost hope and

decided to commit suicide in the night, and I remembered my last

"Lord, all I can do is to throw myself in your hands and say have Your way. I am desperate and I can do nothing, so I put my life in Your hands."

At that time, I could not stand the shame of my situation, and thought the short way out was what I needed. But God did something out of the ordinary. That night a security staff member was posted right in front of my cell, and I could not commit suicide as I had planned. So, I broke down in tears and said, "God, I trust in You, let You have Your way and will in me. You are my hope, and I resign now and ask for Your forgiveness and grace to endure. Take full control of my life."

Within a minute, my resignation released an incredible freedom and peace which I cannot describe in words, and the grip of fear and shame began to loosen. I still struggled, but my spirit lifted me up and I had hope for the future. Jesus continued to lead, guide and protect me, and on one occasion as I was worshipping and praising Him, the spirit spoke to me, saying "My son, do not be ashamed or fear for I am in full control and know the plans I have for you."

Ever since, my hope rested in the promise for His eternity. Even when my life ends, I know I surely will live forever in heaven with Jesus. Though my body was imprisoned, my spirit was not because I truly experienced freedom within. Praise, thanks and glory goes to Jesus, the saver of my soul, for my wake-up call, as prison has been a big blessing for me both physically and spiritually—I have fully found joy in Jesus as my lord and savior. I cannot do this on my own strength, so special thanks to Jesus and to all the people He brought into my life along the way. To God be the glory, now and forever, Amen. $\sim J.H.W.$



"Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a stranger into a friend. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and a vision for tomorrow."

~ *J.H.W.*

International Collaborations: Hong Kong

We are tremendously delighted to showcase our finalists for the Hong Kong Art Exhibition, which will launch at the Maritime Museum of Hong Kong on October 31st! Thanks to everyone who contributed their time, talents & effort!









































The work shown here was reproduced as 11x14 Fine Art Prints, and prepared for exhibition with the generous help of our colleagues at KSA Hong Kong. Many thanks as well to the Correctional Services Division of Hong Kong, the Hour of Love radio program (1044 Metro Plus), the Maritime Museum, our fellow contributors in Costa Rica (see page 2), and the many Captive ArtistsTM who contributed. **Thank You!**



The Hong Kong Maritime Museum

School for the Arts: Kampala, Uganda

Since 2017, it's been our privilege to work toward the development of a School for the Arts in Kampala, Uganda, to create educational and artistic opportunities for children who have been left orphaned and/or homeless by the incarceration of their parents.

Recently, the welfare of these children has been strongly impacted by two factors; the current global health crisis, and severe out-

breaks of locust, which pose a very substantial threat to immediate and long-term food security throughout East Africa. We're reaching out to our community of readers around the globe to ask for help in providing donation funds & critical supplies to meet the needs of these young people. Thank You!!





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Thanks for your support! For those who would like to help us grow our work in the Arts around the world, we would be honored to have your financial or in-kind support! Donations by check should be made out to "A Touch of Light.Org-Shunpike" and mailed to the address below. You can also donate through our secure online portal at www.ATouchofLight.Org/donate, or by scanning the QR code. For individuals or organizations interested in providing in-kind contributions, please reach out to us directly at info@atouchoflight.org. A Touch of Light.Org | 300 Lenora Street #311 | Seattle, WA 98121

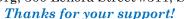


<u>Donation Purpose</u> :	☐ Uganda School for the Arts			☐ 2021 Basilica of Saint Mary Exhibition		
Donation Amount:	□\$10	□\$25	□\$50	□\$100	□\$500	□\$

Travel Update: Minneapolis-Saint Paul, Minnesota

We had a very excellent visit to Minneapolis and Saint Paul, in preparation for our joint exhibition at the Basilica of Saint Mary! The exhibition will run from August 27th to September 27th of 2021, and will feature work by both U.S. and international justice-involved artists, with a thematic emphasis on healing through artistic & spiritual practice.

We'll be publishing regular updates on this event in future issues of The Pharos Gazette, and online at <u>ATouchofLight.org/basilica</u>. Captive ArtistsTM wishing to submit art for consideration can reach out to us at: A Touch of Light.Org, 300 Lenora Street #311, Seattle WA 98121.











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Every year we are thrilled to offer a beautiful selection of original Captive Art™ holiday cards, created by extremely talented Justice-Involved artists. This year's ensemble is brought to you by D. Richards, an amazing landscape artist specializing in acrylics and who delightfully channels the spirit of Oscar-Claude Monet into each piece. Truly "works of art"! This year's designs are available in Note Card (4x5), Greeting Card (5x7) and Post Card sizes on our website at:

www.ATouchofLight.org/2020holidays







Interested in Contributing?

Justice-involved stories, articles, poems, drawings, art, music, you name it, we want to publish it!

- Single column: 400-450 words (perfect for showcase & discussion of a single art piece)
- Full page: 900-1,000 words (good for stories & articles with an accompanying illustration/art piece)
- Letters to the Editor: 100-250 words

The best way to send us submissions is via Jpay.com, using our publishing email pharos@atouchoflight.org. Every contributor will receive a physical copy of the issue in which they are published—due to our international reach, we ask that submitted articles primarily focus on the value & impact of practicing art in the incarcerated context.

See you in our next issue!













We're Going Mobile!

We're excited to announce that over the next several months, A Touch of Light.Org will be launching our very own mobile app! Our goal is to reach a much wider audience with The Pharos Gazette, and provide more hands-on engagement with supporters, volunteers, artists, and community members around the globe, particularly in parts of the world where mobile devices are the primary driver of news, arts, entertainment, commerce, and community engagement. We look forward to completing our beta testing and rollout over the months to come, and making this exciting development available through the Apple Store and Google Play.



