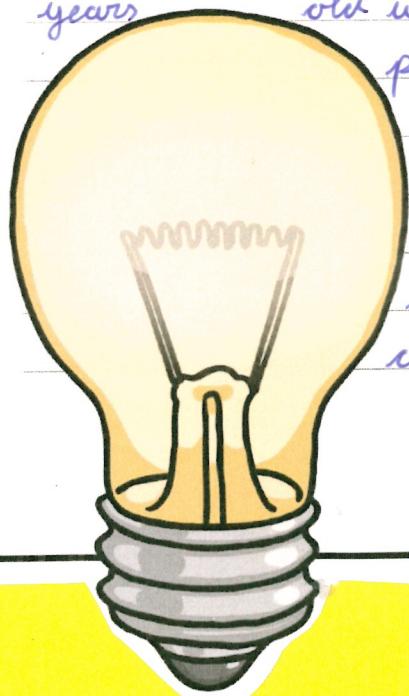


## Getting in the Light

Sarah and Michael were both sitting on their sofa watching TV, staring intently as the comical bird proceeded to trick the fox repeatedly. Beside them was an elderly man sitting a chair, calmly reading the newspaper.

Suddenly, the TV screen flickered and then shut down entirely. Michael, the older of the two, groaned. "Ugh great, now what are we going to do!" The old man looked up from his newspaper. "Perhaps I could tell you a story?" he proclaimed. Sarah loved her grandpa's stories and nodded eagerly. Michael, though not greatly interested in what his grandfather had to say, gave a half-hearted nod as to not upset the man.

"Back when I was a kid," he began; "I was just 3 years old when I first saw electricity. I was playing outside with my brother, my mam came up to us and says 'Donal, you go and get ready with your pa. Sean, can you come with me please?' I followed my mam, curious and confused, what were we



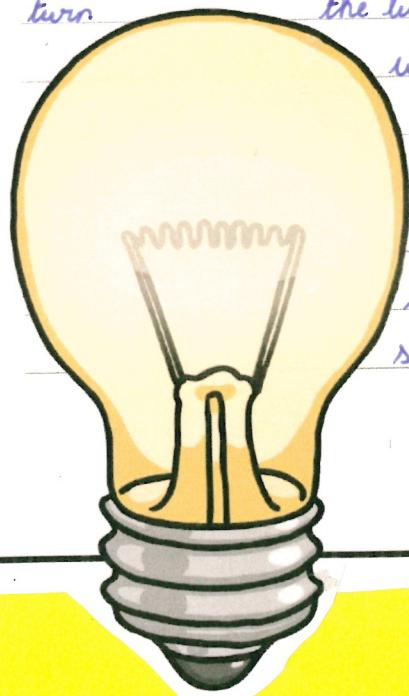
ding, where were we going? As though reading my thoughts she said that we were going to a church, we weren't the most religious family so I was still perplexed. My mom probably noticed the look on my face for she added, "Everyone's gathering into the church to see the electricity turned on."

Even after the explanation I was still confused, I had heard adults talk about it before but I had no idea what it meant.

Later that day we had arrived at the church, though there was not too many people there, it was more than I thought would come. Everyone had gathered in a smallish room, the only space left was a small circle surrounding the unlit lightbulb.

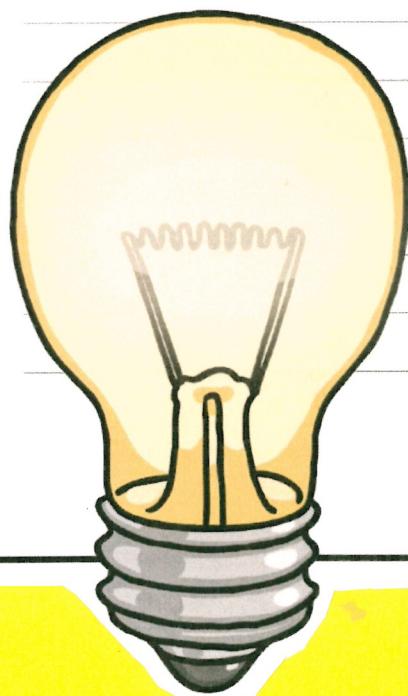
A man who I believe was a priest quenched all the candles, plunging the room into near total darkness. The only light coming from the moonlight casting through the window. Then that priest guided me and my brother to the center of the room. He then calmly explained to me that, since I was the youngest, I would turn

the light on. Beside the lightbulb was a string which I guessed turned it on and off. My brother ended up holding me up so I could reach it, I gave the string a light tug and a bright light emitted from the bulb. The light was blinding compared to the soft glow of the candles, it was so bright



I had to shield my eyes with my arms. The light was magnificent, in fact I was so entranced by it that my parents had to drag me home for my bedtime. So we went home and -."

The man was interrupted by a gentle snore coming from the sofa. The man looked to see both the children asleep. He chuckled softly to himself and smiled. It really was an amazing experience.



(3)

Sofia