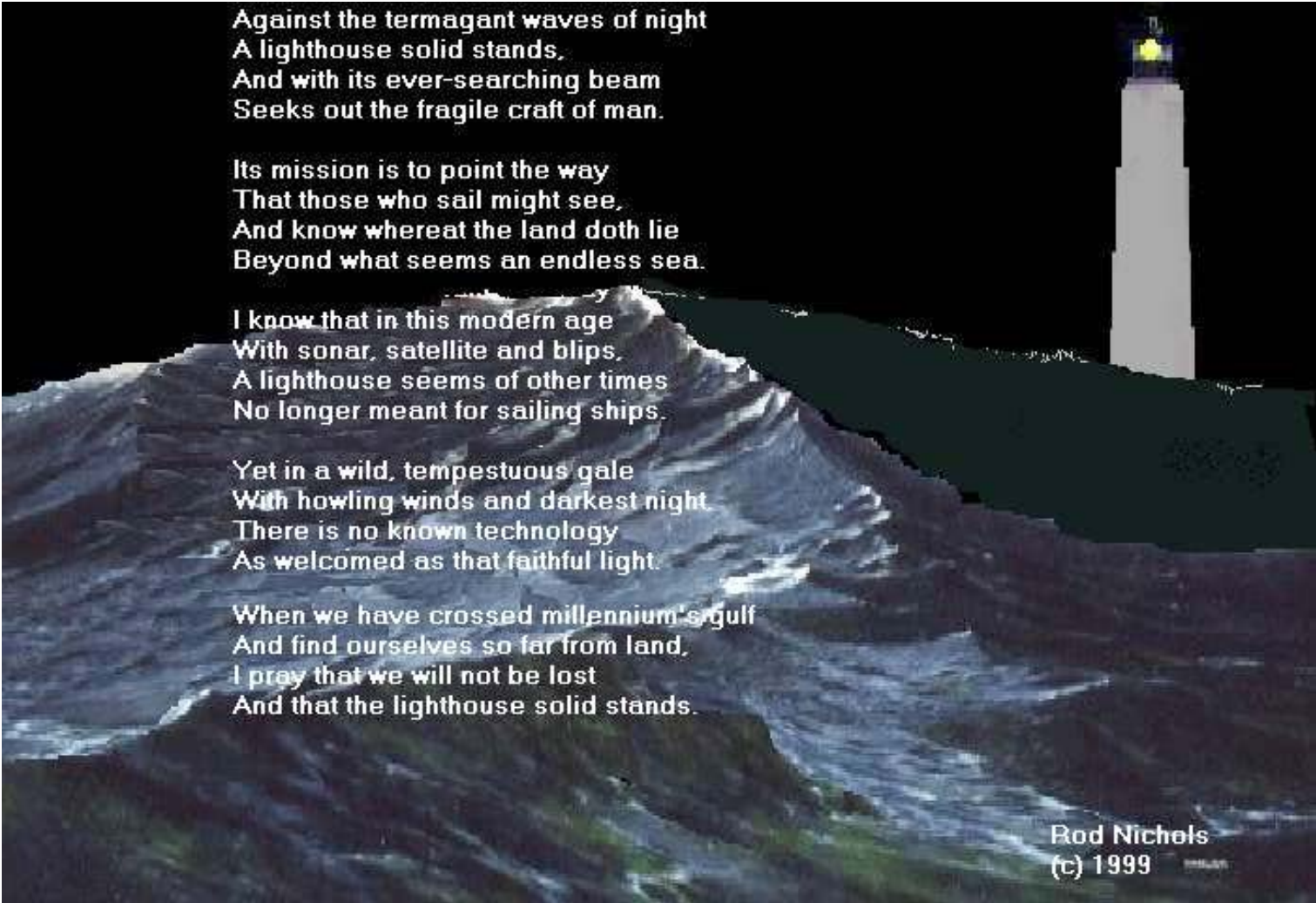


# Me: What I do

---



Against the termagant waves of night  
A lighthouse solid stands,  
And with its ever-searching beam  
Seeks out the fragile craft of man.

Its mission is to point the way  
That those who sail might see,  
And know whereat the land doth lie  
Beyond what seems an endless sea.

I know that in this modern age  
With sonar, satellite and blips,  
A lighthouse seems of other times  
No longer meant for sailing ships.

Yet in a wild, tempestuous gale  
With howling winds and darkest night  
There is no known technology  
As welcomed as that faithful light.

When we have crossed millennium's gulf  
And find ourselves so far from land,  
I pray that we will not be lost  
And that the lighthouse solid stands.

Rod Nichols  
(c) 1999

## Receiving Permission of Copyrighted Internet Materials

>From: BrianRBryant@aol.com  
 >To: rodnichols@hotmail.com  
 >Subject: Hello Mr. Nichols -- Brian Bryant here from the University of Texas  
 >Date: Thu, 07 Aug 2003 17:03:35 -0400  
 >MIME-Version: 1.0

>I saw your web site (<http://www.geocities.com/rodnichols.geo/lhouse.html>) regarding lighthouses and poetry. Your poem that begins, "Against the termagant waves of night" is wonderful. I teach teachers how to teach better (or try to) using technology, and your poem describes them in today's technologjical age. I am writing to see if I could use your poem in workshops and classes to my students (some already teachers, some prospective teachers). It demonstrates how they, as educators, cannot be replaced by technology and that they must always be prepared to battle the elements, so to speak, to ensure that students learn. Doing what I do, this would also give me an opportunity to discuss copyrighted material on the Internet and steps they must take if they are to reproduce works such as yours. Please tell me how to proceed.

>Best wishes,  
 >Brian R. Bryant, Ph.D.  
 >Department of Special Education  
 >The University of Texas at Austin

>P.S. I was born in Key West, FL and raised in Maine. I have had a natural connection with lighthouses for as long as I can remember. Your work is outstanding. Thanks!!

Dear Dr. Bryant,

If my poem, "The Lighthouse," can be of use in your program, by all means you have my permission and also my thanks. You see, I was an educator for thirty-two years in a public school system as a teacher and administrator. When a heart attack and subsequent heart operation led me to retire, I thought my opportunity to contribute was over. I turned to writing and discovered the internet. One day I received a request from a group of teachers, counselors and administrators in Gulf Breezes Middle School in Florida. They had read my poem, "The Lighthouse," and wanted to use it as the theme for an outreach program for students in need of help. I was so moved and felt so blessed at that moment.

I am feeling that way again at this moment. My life's goal has been to be of some use in this world. Your request and your goals bring not only a smile to my face, but a lift in my spirit. God bless and best wishes for the future.

Sincerely,  
 Rod Nichols