



# NightLight

A NEWSLETTER OF McLEAN MINISTRIES

"take heed....as to a light that shines in a dark place." II Peter 1:19

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## Dear Friends,



*You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt has lost its savor, it is good for nothing but to be cast out and trampled under foot by men. Matthew 5:13*



Have you ever been totally convinced of your own position, your own rightness (righteousness?) only to find out eventually how wrong you were? There is always the risk of never being sure of yourself enough to take a stand on anything. Yet there are truths that are unassailable where we must stand.

When it comes to some conflicts, I wonder how often what we think is totally their fault is to some degree ours. Let me explain. I have often said that if hell has levels of torment like Dante's Inferno then the bottom rung of damnation is certainly set aside for the news media. One of my kids sent me a photo of a huge snake dangling over a river from an overhanging tree limb with a fish in its mouth. He wrote across the bottom: *New York Times* reports "Brave snake saves drowning fish." The laughter was only momentary before the sad truth of that quip hit home in me. My memory began to recount other examples - much more serious - where the media twisted the true situation at hand. The one most painfully clear was when an entire Israeli family including a small child was butchered by terrorists in a settlement. The American headlines read "Patriots take a stand against Israeli invasion." The majority of the news media claim unbending allegiance to everything opposite to all we hold dear, and slant the news reports accordingly. But if we believe they are unchangeable and unreachable, we are not taking God at His word. He can transform any human heart. We are engaging in our own version of cynical unbelief when we seal our enemies into our own bottom rung of hell and freeze them like Dante's satan into "no more becoming."

Consider this good news. Please google “*Guardian*, El Salvador MS13 gangs only way out is Christianity.” The *Guardian* is no friend to Christianity as they have perceived it. (And my point here is to wonder how much of their misperceptions might be our fault, not so much by what we have done, but by what we have left undone.) This is a 10 minute video reporting that the only hope for the horror of suffering El Salvador is Christ. The story of the gospel is told by the *Guardian* with honesty and respect. There is a spirit of hope that there exists a way out of evil after all.

Could it be that when we do show up for real by being Christ to the world that the hardness of unbelief in the most cynical reporter is shaken, even melted by the reality of the gospel? And could we manifest that same reality in our own much less troubled (but increasingly troubled) back yards? If men are trampling us under foot like the media seem to love to do, maybe they are just a reminder of Jesus’ words. They trample us when we are no longer salt.

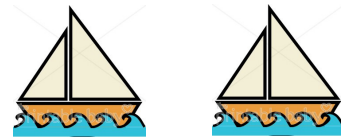
*That there have been many centuries of crisis free existence for the Church is an abnormality... if the atmosphere of crisis-less-ness still lingers in many parts of the West, this is simply the result of our living in a dangerous delusion. Let us know that to encounter crisis is to encounter the possibility of being the Church.*

*David Bosch*  
*Transforming Mission*



## Power to Rule in Prayer

Intercession for Hollywood is transforming the movie industry. There is plenty yet to do, but do not sin by failing to celebrate all that has been accomplished. Why are we not praying for news journalism with the same heart? We cannot hate those we pray for. And if we hate, it is because we are not praying. Maybe you can't pray for the whole rotten tamale, so pick out one or a few news people and pray for them. They hurt. They love. They cry. They have unfulfilled longings, just like the rest of us. God wants us to pray not because he needs help in keeping up with information but because He is training us to learn to love. He will never allow us to rule till we learn to LOVE OUR ENEMIES.



*You're familiar with the old written law, 'Love your friend,' and its unwritten companion, 'Hate your enemy.' I'm challenging that. I'm telling you to love your enemies. Let them bring out the best in you, not the worst. When someone gives you a hard time, respond with the energies of prayer, for then you are working out of your true selves, your God-created selves. This is what God does. He gives his best: the sun to warm and the rain to nourish everyone regardless: the good and bad, the nice and nasty. If all you do is love the lovable, do you expect a bonus? Anybody can do that. If you simply say hello to those who greet you, do you expect a medal? Any run-of-the-mill sinner does that. "In a word, what I'm saying is, Grow up. You're kingdom subjects. Now live like it. Live out your God-created identity. Live generously and graciously toward others, the way God lives toward you.*

*Matthew 5:43-48 The Message*

## Closing Thoughts...



How long has it been since you found yourself moved to tears by some news story you usually ignore? Pay attention. That is the heavenly signal to engage your authority in prayer. Such tears enter the spirit realm as wordless cries for the kingdom to come and God's will to be done on earth as it is in heaven. Learn to catch and heed the signals that call you to your knees. And remember to include the news person in your prayers as you pray.



*We would appreciate your prayers for the  
August 25-29 Conference.*

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