



# 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,*

*Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. Isaiah 60:1*

Merry and blessed Christmas season to you, as we celebrate the Incarnation and birth of our LORD and Savior Jesus Christ. How simple and beautiful the Love that shone down that night so long ago! As you decorate and shop and bake and wrap and fellowship and give, remember to celebrate the simple and beautiful Love – for Love is a Person – that is shining down anew every day. May we all open wide the windows of our souls, and bask in the healing light of perfect Love. May we become what we behold: little reflections of His glory and grace in a world weary and war torn, withering away for lack of Love. May we become true nightlights, shining in all the dark places, bringing hope and His light to the hopeless and those trapped in the darkness of sin and evil.



This is why we named our monthly newsletter and audio teaching *Nightlight*. This is why McLean Ministries is also *Nightlight, Inc.* And you as *Nightlighters* are alongside us in this work God has entrusted to us. Thank you for all your support, expressed in so many ways that undergird this ministry. Your love lights have often shown bright during some of the hardest, darkest times for us. Thank you so much for listening and obeying what you hear from God regarding what financial donations you give, what cards and e mails you send, and especially what prayers you pray on our behalf. This is His ministry, not ours. We are so grateful how many of you share our stewardship of it as faithful *Nightlighters*, as we shine in this present darkness. This is the season to shine, dear friends! May we take time to trim our wick, and prepare the candle of our soul to be lit anew. It is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness. (by Mary)



## BURDEN OF THE WATCHMEN

If God extends a time of mercy and we are safe from tragedy for a while longer, sadly many will misinterpret the extension of peace as evidence that all warnings are nothing more than alarmist paranoia. If God allows the evil we deserve as a nation to explode in some form, then the cry goes out, "Why were we not warned?" But what if the warning is true and the explosion never comes, but instead just a slow inner disintegration eats out the soul of the nation?

Historically those giving warnings and pointing to evidence of impending danger are labeled conspiracy theorists until all the warnings finally come to pass. Then, by the time the truth behind their warnings is made evident, it is too late for the nation to do anything about the evil. This does not relieve the watchmen from sounding the warning. It is better to try than to have failed to speak the truth. But unless some event is loud and dramatic, many ignore the warnings altogether.

Every day in this country new regulations are being sneaked into place. Only those being directly affected by these regulations are aware of them. But incrementally they are removing freedom while the illusion of freedom gives the enemy the cover needed for the evil to grow. It is always amazing to see how a nation can slowly die from the inside out. As long as there

are bread and circuses, no one makes too much resistance.

The current administration is moving to silence the Christian voice, to force Christian organizations to support abortion and homosexuality, and to make it harder and harder for many ministries and help organizations to even function. The Catholic adoption agency which has supplied services to families for decades has ceased functioning at all because they were going to be forced to serve same sex couples. Judges all over the country overturn laws such as Proposition 8 in California in which the large majority of the population clearly spoke that they did not affirm and would not support same sex marriage. So those who take comfort in the notion that the democratic process is a safeguard against tyranny are comforting themselves with a fantasy. Clear statements from the people can be easily shot down by a compromising judge on the bench, a position once held by far better men. But as long as the ballgames are still on TV and the shopping centers are going strong, as long as fast food is right down the street and Comedy Central is still yuk-yuking it up, the nation lies still and submissive under the fast and steady placement of chains around our flaccid limbs. By the time it is unavoidably clear that the nation has been destroyed from within, little of the checks and

balances that our founders set in place to guard freedom will be functional any longer.

There are now so many scandals that the man on the street cannot possibly keep up with them all. That was by design: overload the system so that it ceases to function. The machinery of impeachment no longer is manned by informed responsible patriots. The disease of this age has now paralyzed the function of government so that a phantom spirit of evil is able to move through the machinery unchallenged and unhindered.

Put no confidence in elections, though it is still your right and responsibility to vote and speak out as you can. But above all be sure you are regularly seeking the face of God for your nation, your family, and your own soul. I would love to be the alarmist fool some say I am. I would love to find a year from now that the machinery of the nation has worked to purge itself of the parasitic evil that now sucks the lifeblood from its veins. But since there is little on the public horizon that suggests the nation as a whole has been shaken awake, then I remain on the wall proclaiming the warning; I remain a little light shining out in the darkness.



## Travel Time

Beginning next year, we are once more welcoming invitations from churches, ministries, and prayer/home groups for Clay (and sometimes Mary) to come teach on a specific topic of your choice such as Self Acceptance, Forgiveness, Healing the Imagination, Passion for Christ, etc. (check out other topics from our available teaching sets on line.)

Let us know if your group is interested. God seems to want us on the road again! At least for a season.



## Closing Thoughts

I often sit in my study surrounded by stacks of information, all important issues, all crying out for some degree of action. Only as I pray keeping my eyes on Him do I know what I can and cannot accomplish. So I do what I can and I leave to others to do what I cannot. I can always come before the Throne of God where we are seated with Him, far above all other thrones (Ephesians 2:6). There I stay awake.

We are all small people doing the best we can just to take care of our own loved ones and function daily under the basic demands of living. But Jesus did not leave us the option of using our smallness or our performance of daily demands as an excuse to ignore the invisible battle behind the visible conflicts. He warned us not to allow the daily demands of life to put us in a stupor. (Luke 21:34)

If we cannot change the evils we face, at the very least we can pray, and stay awake and call the evil what it is. In this way small as it may seem, we are standing against evil and FOR the coming Kingdom, our little lights shining out all the brighter against the night.

Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men and women of courage; be strong. Do everything in love. (1 Corinthians 16:13-14)



Shining  
On,

Clay &  
Mary



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