



NightLight

A NEWSLETTER OF McLEAN MINISTRIES

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

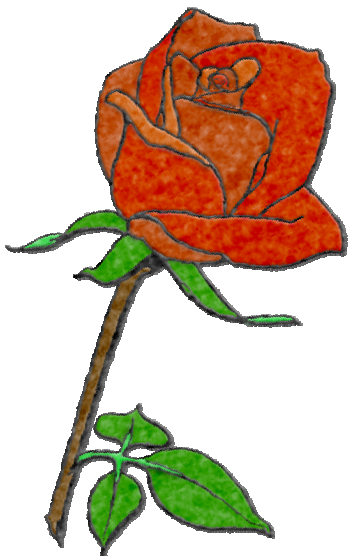
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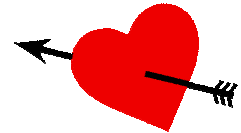
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Dear Friends,



What is liberty without wisdom and without virtue? It is the greatest of all possible evils; for it is folly, vice, and madness, without restraint. Men are qualified for civil liberty in exact proportion to their disposition to put moral chains upon their own appetites...Society cannot exist, unless a controlling power upon will and appetite be placed somewhere; and the less of it there is within, the more there must be without. It is ordained in the eternal constitution of things, that men of intemperate minds cannot be free. Their passions forge their fetters.

Edmund Burke (1791)

Because lawlessness shall abound, the love of the many shall wax cold, but he who endures to the end shall be saved.

Matt. 24:12,13

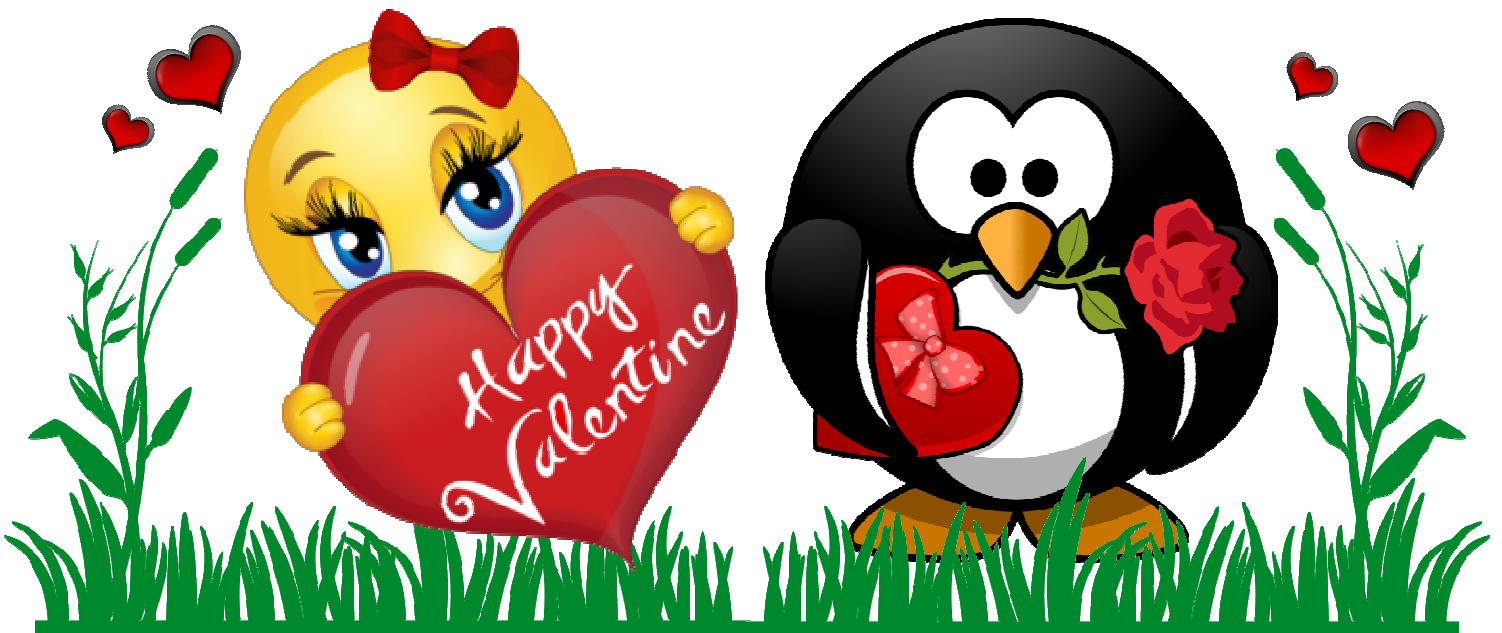
Some are celebrating a victory over tyranny and a pushback against evil. In the past ten days the wholesale murder of children has been dealt a strong blow. There is more to come in stemming the flow of innocent blood, as abortion clinics are closing daily. Legislation to regain the sanity of protection of children moves closer to a reality. And also from the platform of leadership the right name has been put on the enemy of mankind - Islamic terrorism - along with the promise to remove it from the face of the earth. There is reason to be thankful.

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For others it is a time of deep mourning as what they perceived to be the hope for their aspirations has been dashed. Mixed among both sides are those whose hearts are set on violence. When people who have never known how to control themselves have been given full vent to every whim and then suddenly their free-wheeling ways are challenged by the rule of law, it is fully expected that there will be a backlash. For those who have been mistreated by the misuse of that law, there is the understandable rage against injustice. The intercessor must be able to stand and see both sides of every issue through the eyes of the Holy Spirit. To be a party hack is to NOT be a priest of God.

As long as we live in this fallen world, we need wise laws to restrain man's fallen will and appetite. Only with wisdom and virtue can true freedom be found by each person as we seek to abide in Love Himself. As we grow in Christ, we grow in liberty. The unchecked passions of our fallen nature chained us in slavery at one time. But now through the Cross and precious blood of Jesus Christ, we have been freed from being slaves to our selfish passions. We have been released from the bondage of our brokenness so that we might become fully His. May we never cease to do our part to see that the laws of our society are ones that enable peace and goodness to flourish, in all godliness, so that love may abound.

Those of us who are called to stand in the gap of intercession for the healing of the land must be on guard not to give ourselves wastefully to human tugs of war, or to waste the power of our mouths on empty or angry or unclean speech. Now is the time to stand in the gap more than ever. There are now more dangers than there have ever been, for the enemy knows he is losing much territory he thought was securely in hell's grasp. This regaining of lost territory is not due to mere human energies. It is the priestly intercession of God's faithful people that will decide whether or how much the tide turns for or against Life and Goodness.





MOVIE NEWS

Fences

Denzel Washington & Viola Davis

The critics mostly didn't like it, so I knew it must have some worth. It is not entertainment. For too many white people it will seem like a world that only exists in some playwright's mind. But for some black people it will be a return to their childhood struggle to somehow find a way through the painful and confusing struggle of the 1950s & 60s and beyond. No, it is not a popcorn pleasure trip, it is a much needed lesson in understanding and compassion, and the hope of redemption.

MOVIE NEWS

Hidden Figures

Octavia Spencer, Taraji Henson, & Kevin Costner



This is the true story of three highly gifted black women mathematicians whose expertise led NASA to the launching of John Glenn into space. It was easier for them to chart Glenn's path to the upper atmosphere than it was for them to find a path to the office coffee pot which was for whites only. But this film does not major on the stupidity and injustice of racism, but on the power of humble courage to triumph in the face of it. Take Kleenex.

Closing Thoughts...

As I grow older and the times become increasingly demanding, I am more aware than ever of my potential for failing people and not even knowing I did it. It is hard enough to be fully present to our responsibilities to each other in reasonably slow times, but things are moving too fast now. I can no longer say as I used to when I forgot something that if it was important I would remember it. No. It may be very important. I just may have run out of room in my brain to carry it and it falls out of my ear. So I need mercy. And that means I must give mercy too. Let us be patient with one another. We don't know what burden others are carrying.

Happy Valentine's Day! Love, Clay & Mary



McLean Ministries

P.O. Box 2088 • Hickory, North Carolina 28603 • 828.322.5402

Visit our website: www.mcleanministries.org or email us at claymcleanministries@pobox.com