



# NightLight

A NEWSLETTER OF McLEAN MINISTRIES

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

Volume 272 • January 2016

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

One Family	1
Movie Review: Star Wars	2
Singing Scripture	3
Closing Thoughts	4



## Dear Friends,



I wish you all knew each other. You will one day! In the meantime, I need you all to know that you are a part of a family of believers which the Lord has brought together for a specific mission. You ALL have your own personal missions to complete apart from us. But Mary and I are greatly moved when we watch you over and over come through to help us complete ours. Some of you are on the front lines in full-time ministry situations here or abroad, and we feel we should be giving to you, not you to us. Others of you carry on in the battle of every day demands in business, raising a family, or serving the Lord in whatever capacity you find yourselves, and you are no less on the front lines. Mary and I get to hear from so many of you and come to know your circumstances, share your victories and your sorrows, and have the privilege of walking with you through the ups and downs of it all. And we wish you all could have the same level of communion and mutual sharing of life which we enjoy with all of you. But I say all that to try to express to you the

great cumulative effect of your corporate giving to us; not only financially, but as a living functioning arm of the Body of Christ. We, the *Nightlight* family, are the church. You individually are never alone. And though you may work or live in an area lacking in face-to-face support, you are a part of a corporate body, a beloved family member, and a faithful soldier in a war that is coming to a great and glorious climax soon. And in this tiny little note to you in this tiny little newsletter, we pray the large truth we are trying to communicate will reach you. THANK YOU now and always, until we are all home free and are one reunited family in Christ. Thank you for being there time after time doing what you do to help us do what we do, all for the glory of God.

# STAR WARS

Really? Am I going to do a film review on *Star Wars*? If I do, will I admit it is out of sheer sentimental nostalgia on my part? No, I am serious. At this writing *THE FORCE AWAKENS* has taken in well over 1 billion dollars-the highest and fastest such income of any film in history. That's a lot of influence on a lot of imaginations. And though I will admit a brief shaft of nostalgic energy shooting through my post-adolescent soul, it is not the reason for this review. I became aware in the pre-film advertising of the increased muddy mixture regarding the force. In an add for a *Star Wars* related video game, there was this statement that defined the light side of the force as that which is for goodness, peace, and justice. The dark side was the source of strength among other aspects. This has always been suggested, but in the early films the dark was more clearly just dark. It was not openly suggested that the dark was where strength is found except in the minds of those already taken by the dark. But in this more blatant statement, the clear message is that if you want strength, go for the dark. In a world of disenfranchised fatherless ill-educated youth, this can be a dangerous message. Yes, that false message already comes via a thousand voices, but one this large and high profile telling youth that darkness is power is a force that needs to be met with greater force: the power of the Cross revealing the love of God.

Now of course the entire concept of the force is Eastern not Christian, and is full of lots of problems philosophically and theologically. I am not seeking to delve into all that here. Just a note of warning: this generation is starved for transcendence, for meaning, for heroes, and for true justice. It is a great opportunity for Christians to learn how to address this longing. But to be prepared, we must be educated enough to speak the language of this generation. It will NOT do to just say (as has been so often said by Church people); "Oh, the Force is false doctrine"- "Oh, Harry Potter is witchcraft" - "Oh, the Matrix is of the devil." I am working hard on a new series that will help us speak the needed language while magnifying the gospel, using the very stories of our current cultural mythology to do so.

# Singing Scripture

*It may seem like a strange way to begin the new year. After all, there are a million current events which may seem to demand top billing. But to kick off this new season, it seems wiser and better to focus on what is going on inside us rather than outside. Speaking of inside and outside, in the recent film **INSIDE OUT**, which deals with the inner mental and emotional processes of a young girl and her parents, there is a hilarious theme that runs through the film. It is that of a TV commercial jingle that erratically shows up from nowhere, often when least welcomed. We all know what that is like. Have you ever had a song you hate begin running through your mind like a runaway train? That's why advertisers use silly little jingles. They have learned that these musical arrows zing in and out of our consciousness effectively (if not attractively).*

*Music is the easiest way to memorize. That is how young Jewish children could memorize entire portions of the Torah: by singing them. Singing engages both sides of the brain. So if you could unite somewhat palatable music with Scripture, then it wouldn't be so bad if those Scripture songs shot through your skull seemingly uninvited. And even better, you have memorized a lot of the Word of God simply by allowing these tunes to run through your consciousness. If you need some help finding the right input for this project, you can chase down various versions of Scripture songs online. It will help you place a guard over your mind and heart, and equip you with the Word of God on both the conscious and unconscious levels. You will be memorizing without even making an effort to memorize.*

## *Closing Thoughts...* (Psalm 57: 7-11)

*My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast;*

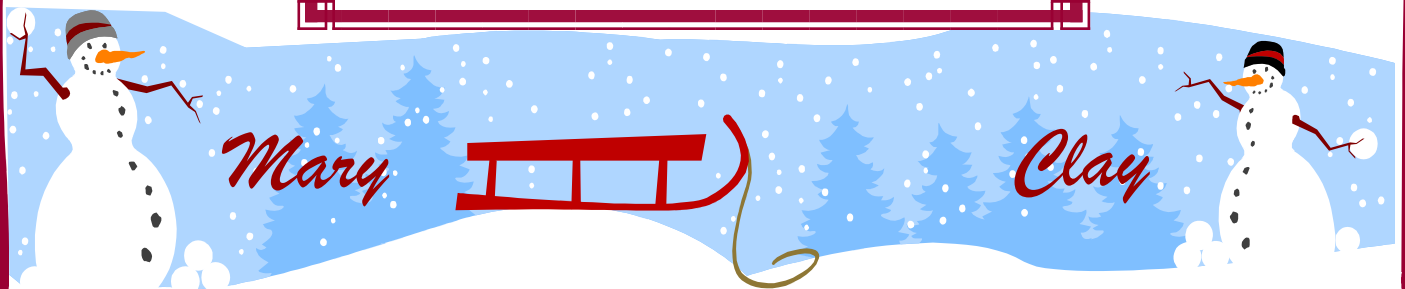
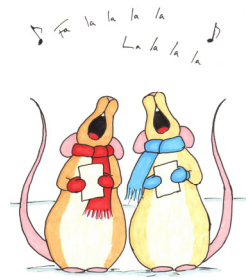
*I will sing and make music.*

*Awake, my soul! Awake, harp and lyre!*

*I will awaken the dawn...*

*For great is your love, reaching to the heavens;  
your faithfulness reaches to the skies.*

*Be exalted, O God, above the heavens;  
let your glory be over all the earth.*



### **McLean Ministries**

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

Visit our website: [www.mcleanministries.org](http://www.mcleanministries.org) or email us at [claymcleanministries@pobox.com](mailto:claymcleanministries@pobox.com)