



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,

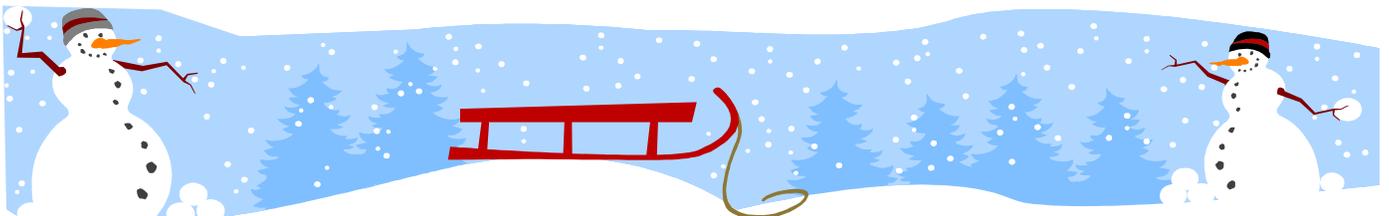


HAPPY NEW YEAR!!! The new year brings new challenges, all moving us towards the great climax of history and a New Beginning when the knowledge of the Lord fills the earth like the waters cover the sea. The nations are raging in turmoil. China is acting dragon-like again. Chinese Pastor Wang Yi has written a ***Declaration of Faithfulness to Jesus*** in the face of a new resurgence in China of Maoist level persecution. Pastor Yi wrote this in anticipation of his arrest, which did occur shortly after its publication. Due to lack of space I have offered only excerpts. You can locate the entire declaration by going to ChinaPartnership.org *Letter from Detained Chinese Pastor Wang Yi*. This is a model for us to learn from and eventually follow.



As pastor of a Christian church, I have my own understanding and views, based on the Bible, about what righteous order and good government is. At the same time, I am filled with anger and disgust at the persecution of the church by this Communist regime, at the wickedness of their depriving people of the freedoms of religion and of conscience. But changing social and political institutions is not the mission I have been called to, and it is not the goal for which God has given his people the gospel. For all hideous realities, unrighteous politics, and arbitrary laws manifest the Cross of Jesus Christ, the only means by which every Chinese person must be saved. They also manifest the fact that true hope and a perfect society will never be found in the transformation of any earthly institution or culture, but only in our sins being freely forgiven by Christ.

*As a pastor, my firm belief in the gospel, my teaching, and my rebuking of all evil proceeds from Christ's command in the gospel...to testify to the Middle Kingdom about the Kingdom of Heaven, to testify to earthly momentary lives about heavenly eternal life. For this reason I accept the fact that this Communist regime has been allowed by God to rule temporarily. At the same time I believe that this persecution against the church is a greatly wicked unlawful action. I must denounce this wickedness openly and severely. The calling that I have received requires me to use non violent methods to disobey those human laws that disobey God. My Savior Christ requires me to joyfully bear all costs for disobeying wicked laws. We do not seek to change this [political system] but to prove to the world the existence of another world. For this reason, spiritual disobedience and bodily suffering are both ways we testify to another eternal world and to another glorious King. Precisely because none of my words and actions are directed toward seeking for political transformation I have no fear of any social or political power. This happens to be the very reason why the Communist regime is filled with fear at a church that is no longer afraid of it. If I am imprisoned for a long or short time...I hope God uses me by means of first losing my personal freedom, to tell those who have deprived me of my freedom that there is an authority higher than theirs. I will serve my sentence but not their law. I will be executed but I will not plead guilty. If this regime is one day overthrown by God it will be for no other reason than God's righteous punishment and revenge for this evil. For on earth there has only ever been a thousand year church. There has never been a thousand year government. There is only eternal faith. There is no eternal regime. SEPARATE ME FROM MY WIFE AND CHILDREN, RUIN MY REPUTATION, DESTROY MY LIFE AND MY FAMILY, YOU MAY DO THIS. HOWEVER NO ONE IN THIS WORLD CAN FORCE ME TO RENOUNCE MY FAITH. NO ONE CAN MAKE ME CHANGE MY LIFE. AND NO ONE CAN RAISE ME FROM THE DEAD. [emphasis mine] *The Bible has not given any branch of any government the authority to run the church or to interfere with the faith of Christians. Therefore the Bible demands that I, through peaceable means, in meek resistance and active forbearance, filled with joy, resist all administrative policies and legal measures that oppress the church and interfere with the faith of Christians.**





Politically Correct?

In the face of Pastor Yi's brave stance, the very least we relatively safe Westerners can do is to strongly resist ever to be politically correct.

Political correctness was birthed by Trotsky and nursed on the poisoned milk of Stalinist mind control. It was designed to dumb down the masses. Mao gladly adopted it. (Remember that Mao had a place of honor on the Obama White House Christmas tree.) Whenever a well-meaning but woefully ignorant Christian adjusts his/her speech in order to be politically correct, then such a Christian is bowing to the gods of Mao, Stalin, and Trotsky.

There is always a way to speak truth in love. But to fail to speak truth in order to support the Lie is not only not loving, it is most hateful. It is not loving to tiptoe around and refuse the common sense use of speech. The Spirit of Truth is full of deep compassion, not a compromising sentimentality that political correctness touts. It is heartbreaking to find good people trying to be politically correct because they think it is the right thing to do. What is even worse is that they do so because they have swallowed the age old Lie that shrouds its evil in the disguise of compassion. In reality, it is a watered down incorrectness that destroys true personhood and dishonors humanity. Political correctness has only one underlying aim: to shut down interactive communication where the theater of ideas can give rise to the truth. Liars know they have no power against the truth. They cannot overcome the light, so they simply seek to extinguish it. They cannot acknowledge the truth, only twist it into a lie. We overcome the evil of political correctness with the good of living in/from His Kingdom. We live the truth in love and joy as we abide in Him, the Light of the World. It is a brilliant place of clarity and beauty, far above the cesspools of political correctness. His Kingdom is alight with overflowing mercy, and knows no such thing as tolerance. May we rise above the stink holes of compromise into the fresh clean atmosphere of His presence, speaking the truth, living the truth, as we love one another.

*Fear not, little flock;
for it is your Father's good pleasure
to give you the kingdom.
(Luke 12:32)*



Closing Thoughts...



God placed us all where we are. (Acts 17:26) It does no good to allow religious guilt to weigh heavily upon us because we live in relative freedom (that is under increasing attack) while others like Pastor Yi suffer. The call on us is to not waste one moment in morbid introspection or false guilt. Let us ask God to purge from us the misuse of our time, resources, and opportunities. May we join with the suffering Chinese people, as well as all the faithful people of the earth, in intercession. With real joy and love, enter the battle with focused energy and a heart set on the Kingdom—that is, a heart set on the KING.

Blessed New Year, 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