



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,



But of the times and the seasons...you have no need that I write you. For you know perfectly that the day of the Lord comes as a thief in the night... You are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. You are all the children of light, and the children of the day... Therefore let us not sleep, as do others, but let us watch and be sober. Thessalonians 5:1-6

...knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.

Romans 13:11-12

The woods are lovely, dark and deep, but I have promises to keep, and miles to go before I sleep, and miles to go before I sleep... "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening" by Robert Frost

We who are the beneficiaries of the treasury of the West, who have never known true physical or cultural famine, tend to refer to conflict unwisely. In this current climate of cultural craziness, people on both sides of the political spectrum throw words at each other, and one of them is the accusation of evil. Mary and I listened to a talk given by a woman who has been very effective for good in international affairs. She said, "I have seen the unspeakable horror of what is happening in Syria, Sudan, and the Congo," and then listed in painful detail some atrocities I will spare us here. But it stuck with me deeply what she said next: "We in this nation are suffering a time of great division. But we have not seen the depth of real suffering here or how evil - real evil - can be."

No. Even with the agonizing daily news reports of the new forms of old cruelty, as a nation, we have not known the depths of satan. A foundation of truth and goodness has shielded us. Even in our civil war there were echoes of mercy, moments of grace, in the midst of cruel chaos that was the result of the national sin of slavery. But since then, on the national scale, we've been living off the diminishing capital of a fading godly treasury. We are not bankrupt spiritually yet. Still, our economic prodigality is a reflection of what is happening in the spirit. We are culturally spending away our swiftly diminishing credit. It is high time that we begin to restore what we have spent.

The temptation for some is to sneak off into the darkness and participate in its celebrations. Even these who are doing so are getting weary of the party. They are asking for light. But for many of us, the temptation is to become weary in well doing. We drop our spiritual tools and weapons, and retreat to quiet hiding places. Yet this is not the time for doing that! It is time to be fully awake! A great harvest is just ahead.

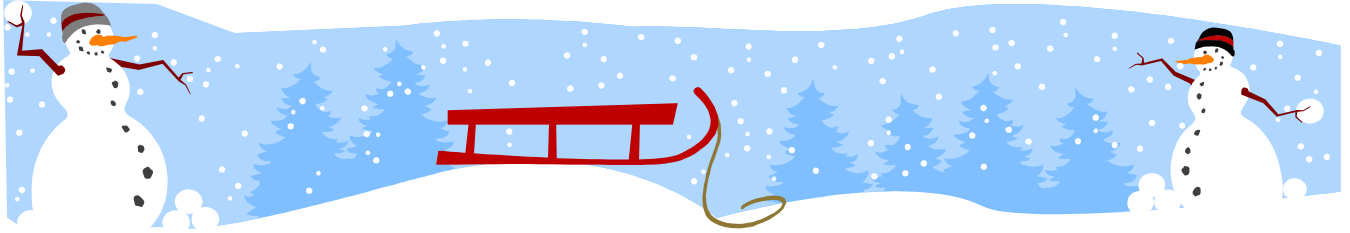
This has been quite a year for us. I am still in the adjusting season. And Mary and I (she has had to bear the brunt of my adjusting) have been the recipients of your great kindness, support, and prayers. We can't say it enough: THANK YOU! During my interactions with some of you, I have been touched by the true concern expressed over my physical wellbeing. I don't take that lightly. But I need you all to know, that though I have been tempted lately to draw back and retreat from the war, my quiet time has not been a prelude to sleep. It is full of contemplation, unpacking, re-evaluating, and listening for new orders.

I love autumn. Fall is a time of settling in, getting still, and listening. So when it was delayed this year, I was frustrated. Our summer was hot all the way through October. The first whisper of cool evening and leaf changes always floods me with peace. Outwardly I may appear to still be withdrawing from previous activities, but inwardly I am more active than ever. The invitation to stop and rest that begins in autumn and deepens into winter, is an accurate metaphor for where I am in life. I am, somehow, overnight seemingly, an elderly man. But the message in my heart is not fading at all. The quietness and peace has only served to help me hear clearly. When I want to hide from battle and slowly fade into selfish slumber, I hear a clarion call rising up within me: "the woods are lovely, dark, and deep, but I have promises to keep... and miles to go before I sleep, and miles to go before I sleep." Love compels me onward. It is nearly dawn. It is time to begin again, to begin this New Year afresh.





Happy New Year!



RACIAL HEALING BOOKS

A DREAM DERAILED: *How the Left Hijacked Civil Rights to Create a Permanent Underclass* by Rev. Bill Owens

This is a concise, easy to read, accurate explanation of how the current sorrow of the black population in America was systematically kidnapped and imprisoned in its current left-wing controlled 'plantation' of poverty, family rot, and violence, and what is happening to bring a long overdue reversal of this demonic trend. It is written by a man who has paid the price to see this battle through. Please read it, and give copies to your friends, both black and white.

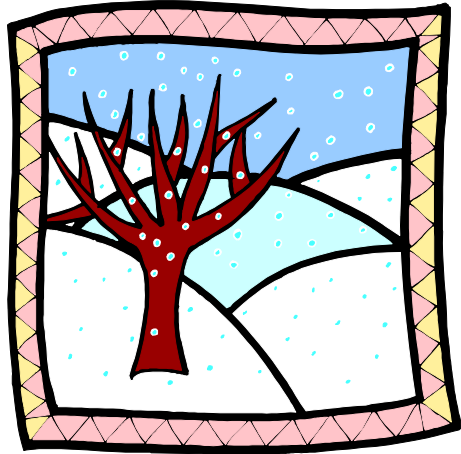
JUST MERCY by Bryan Stephenson

Months ago I reviewed this book by renowned Civil Rights attorney. It will come to the big screen January 10th, same title. Read the book. Hopefully, the film will carry the same clear message without compromise.

Closing Thoughts...



I want to do everything. But I cannot do very much. I must be satisfied to only do what I am given grace and strength and opportunity to do, and let the Holy Spirit guide my work and help me be satisfied with my (in my mind) limited platforms. For I am finally learning (after 50 years of ministry) that God is not interested in fruitfulness of outcome, but in fruitfulness of character and relationships. Don't get confused about parables the seem to focus on God's investment returns, as if He was a mere capitalist looking for big revenue. *His treasure is people. His treasure is YOU.* And the treasure of you is measured in who you are and what you are becoming, not how much work you do for the Lord. When we get that in right order, we gain in EVERY way, and fruit abounds. May you have a very fruitful year this year, in all the ways that really matter.



Living Loved, Clay & Mary

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