



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,



HELP! I'M GREEDY AND I CAN'T LET GO!

I once made a critical comment about a Christian woman I knew who owned two hundred pairs of shoes. It didn't occur to me at the moment I criticized her that at the time I owned five hundred video tapes - because of course I am superior to her. What I collect has true meaning and therefore true value. I am sensitive to the sorrow of the world, while she is selfish and worldly-minded. My use of money is understandably a part of my 'work' (research, you know) while her shoes are frivolously excessive vanities. The obvious truth which gave me the right to point out her sinful obsessions was that I care about the poor (see, some of my movies were about the poor and I watch those movies which makes me feel sympathy for the poor, so that makes it all ok for me) and she only loves various colors of shoes which cannot help the poor. I think I was probably wrong to criticize her. Maybe?

Now I would worry if you think that I mean to now exonerate us both. I am not about to say that it is ok for her to have so many shoes so I can justify my hundreds of videos. Saying that would relieve me of being a self righteous hypocrite but it would not relieve either

of us of being possibly poor stewards. Money is a tool. But it is also a sacred trust. And one of the purposes of that tool is to measure our hearts, which is revealed in what we consider our responsibility to the world. Money is a heart revealer. Is it wrong to own shoes and videos? Well, probably not. How many is too many? That is a good question. Only the Holy Spirit can answer it for each of us.

Where do you begin with this kind of self examination- and where does it end? Does it achieve anything redemptive in either myself or the poor for me to suddenly get rid of my videos? (I know all about the progression to DVDs thanks.) If I sold them all and sent the cash to the mission field it might be a step in a good direction. But would it be all that helpful if the next time I gave, it was only because I had been moved again with guilt? *What right do I have owning a toaster? I am so ashamed of myself for having toothpaste! I must sell my furniture and sleep on the floor!* Yep, somewhere out there is a greatly blessed poor person somehow helped because I am a toast-less, tooth-less, arthritic insomniac! Maybe by my life's end I would have pawned most of my stuff and managed to send a few hundred dollars to the poor while I become one of them. But I wonder if it might be better if I learn Kingdom principles

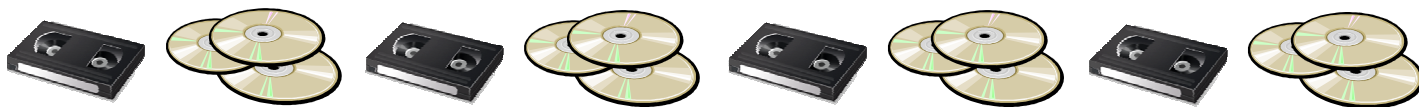
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concerning stewardship of goods, and with that wisdom, become a *channel of blessing* not only to my own world but to the world at large. See, if you follow the one who fed five thousand with five loaves and two fish you can have your fish and eat it too!

Is it a manifestation of godly frugality for me to refuse to buy a drink because suddenly I remember that some island somewhere doesn't have electricity (so probably no drink machines?) It is very easy for this kind of thinking to turn into weird ascetic legalism. ***The devil would be pleased if I refused my drink only because I felt guilty for wanting one.*** Then the deprived islanders will still have no drink and I will have *guilt* and *no drink*. That would be a damned religious demon's day well spent, whispering in my ear about how poor the world is while denying me my drink. **For the**

purposes of hell are to diminish in order to deprive, in order to destroy. (John 10:10) (This demonic illogic is manifestly evident in godless socialist/communist thinking, by the way. "Passing the wealth around" means really to spread the poverty around). A godly point of view is to have the drink and while drinking it, consider what I might do to help bring the Kingdom of God to improve the level of life on the poor island.

So next time you are spit polishing your shoe collection and watching your favorite video tape, start thinking of ways you might become a channel of blessing to the needy around you. It is not possible to think like that and be diminished or impoverished or destroyed. You will find you have shoes and videos to share. (I know that video tapes have been replaced by DVDs. I know that. Thanks)



DON'T FORGET!!!

"His Healing Presence" August Retreat Conference
August 14 - 18
All info on website: www.mcleanministries.org
Download application by clicking on
"Print & Mail Payment" on "August Conference" page.
Lots of room still available; secure your spot now!
Register by July 15th and
SAVE \$100.00

KEEPING THE FAT FAT AND THE SKINNY SKINNY?!?!

A few days ago I sat in a leadership meeting with some wise and effective people. One in particular left a lucrative, safe American lifestyle to go to Northern India and serve the suffering people of Nepal. He runs a hotel and bakery there in order to provide funds needed to care for hundreds of suffering poor. His taxes are 90% and gas for him is \$14.00 a gallon. The government harasses him constantly and fellow missionaries call him a *false profit*, because he seeks to live among his people and help bring prosperity out of poverty. The Maoists are on the verge of taking over the government and in their superior logic intend to tax his business more (how can they do it more?) so that what profit it does make will be diminished even further in order to 'spread the wealth around.' His American home church just informed him that they are slashing their foreign missions budget. That means "we are cutting YOU off, brother because we have to"- you guessed it - "build a new building in America!!!"

Now this makes good sense if you think about it... Americans have so much food we are always needing a new building to store our fat selves in, because fat people sweat, and need to be refrigerated. So it makes sense to deprive skinny poor people of food and basic necessities so we can build another building. After all, skinny poor people don't need what fat Americans need, do they? See it works out well. Keep our money to build our building and that simultaneously keeps the poor skinny people skinny by depriving them of food. If we deprive them of food and keep the money to build our building they will stay skinny and therefore not need a building and we will get fatter and get the building we need. Skinny poor people can live outside easier than fat Americans can because they don't need air conditioning and fat people need air conditioning, so we

need a building. They don't. Doesn't that make sense? So its good stewardship to keep our money and get fatter and provide ourselves another building while keeping the poor people skinny, depriving them of food and basic necessities who will never need a building because they will never be fat so they will never need air conditioning! Simple logic, and GOOD STEWARDSHIP?!?!

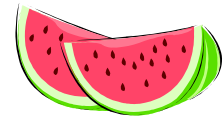
Sitting at the same table was an American pastor who leads a large congregation. This is a good man. He is an internationally active mission-minded man. He has been to the third world and seen the need. Yet *even he* tried to excuse the cutting off of funds to the poor because after all, home has needs too! Now it is true I guess that Americans may at times need a new building? Maybe? But NEVER at the expense of depriving basics from the poor!! We as American Christians are blinded by our own comfort, as is much of the West!

Now I may not be able to be the arbiter of how many shoes you should or should not own. I may or may not know how to determine if I have too many DVDs (see I am progressing) in my present collection. But I think it doesn't take a lot of smarts to see that an American congregation of ANY sort should be able to find SOME way of sacrificing in order to continue supply to a Northern Indian work that literally sits on the razor's edge of hunger EVERY DAY!

The way to step into Kingdom supply is to find a fruitful place to plant your giving in. Throwing money to the denominational headquarters, EVEN if they are pro gay and pro abortion, and saying God will sort it out, is like flushing your money down the toilet and wondering why you never see any return on it!!!



Closing Thoughts...

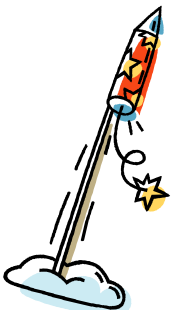
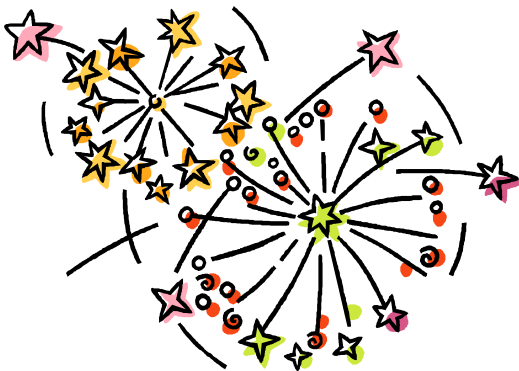


Here is good soil in which to plant: I am appealing to all of you in the US and the UK to do your homework and your prayer work and then act to support the work of this ministry. It is VITALLY NEEDED NOW! NOW! Not after a dozen board meetings that will hand down a decision right before Christmas. NOW.

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With Love,
Clay & Mary



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