



# 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,



We were created by Joy, for joy. For those who have known little or no joy in life, this statement may sound like a cruel joke. All addictions are sad false replacements for joy, whether they are the usual bad ones or the more respectable religious ones. Sin is the constant enemy of all the goodness that was intended by God for us. The God of all joy chose to enter our world as a Man, take on the power of sin in His own body, rise from the dead, and pour out His Spirit of love and joy in us, equipping us with power over sin. Yet our path is a difficult and demanding one. He takes us in our death throes, descends with us into the hell of our darkest depths, and brings us up from it in victory. Sometimes fast, often times slow. He also extends His presence and life through us as we put our arms around those who are in the dark. We become His heart and hands extended to and for them. He sets us into families, and there begins to break off our chains of sin and brokenness. It is not a one time event, but a



lifetime of ongoing discovery toward union with Him, as we learn to live in love and joy.

The new birth is just the beginning. It requires growth. We stumble. We relapse. We cry. We mess up. It is ever God's intention for us to grow into our mature sonship and daughterhood not only in relationship to Him, but to and with each other. Church on Sunday is only a small part of that family life needed for us to learn how to love. It requires a community of family love, often a rare find in our present church systems. Sadly, church culture is sometimes not merely lacking in love and warmth, but full of the very opposite: legalism, coldness, unavailability, inhospitality, cliquishness, racism, classism, etc. These are against the heart and spirit of the New Testament. Is it such a great mystery why some people seem to never change or get free? There is nothing wrong with the gospel. There is a lot wrong

with the way it has been miss communicated and disobeyed. We do not know a lot about loving each other the way the Scriptures call us to do. But wherever real love flourishes, people get healed and stay healed. In such a community of loving family ties, the early losses of life that paved the way for later trauma begin to be truly healed.

As the world becomes darker, we have a great opportunity to make ourselves broken bread and poured out wine. It is not something that is coming. It is here and now. The study we offer below is a five hour introduction to the vision and practical working out of this healing journey into joy. We hope it will bless and strengthen you with the holy imagination needed to move into action to begin living in and communicating the power that replaces addiction with Joy, which is our strength.



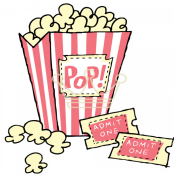
**There is still time to register for “His Healing Presence”  
Retreat Conference August 20th - 24th  
Come embark on your own healing journey into joy!**

*New Teaching Series*

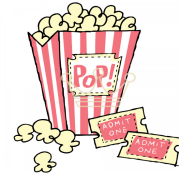
*Healing Journey Into Joy*

- 1. Bonds of Love*
- 2. Brain/Spirit Connection*
- 3. Joy Strength*
- 4. From Addiction to Joy*
- 5. Family Tree of Joy*

CDs: \$35.00 (includes S&H) • Mp3 download: \$19.00



## ***Lars and the Real Girl*** **(Ryan Gosling 2007)**



This is a strange little movie that tells an important story of one man's journey towards wholeness aided by a loving community. This is not a family film. Parents need to review it before making it an evening event with the kids. It is a fitting subject for a meaningful conversation with older teens. The surface story line will not sound like one you would expect us to recommend. Lars is a badly wounded young man who cannot relate to real people and bonds (emotionally, not erotically) with an anatomically correct party doll. OK? That's the story line. Far beyond that, this is a quirky, often funny, but deeply moving study of the life of a damaged schizoid sufferer (the kind we tell you who seldom comes to a healing conference.) And it is, even more importantly, the story of a simple Lutheran congregation and community that take on this man's pain and helps him day by day, step by step, work through the neurotic bondage of delusion into the love and light of real life. It is an unusual film which illustrates (in part) the message of our new teaching "Healing Journey Into Joy".

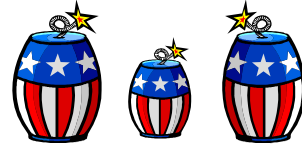


## ***The Death of the Grown Up*** **(Diana West)**



Diana West is one of my favorite social commentators. Her earlier book *American Betrayal: the Secret Assault on Our Nation's Character* is also worth your attention. I cite *The Death of the Grown Up* though because it will help us understand why so much ministry time and energy gets poured out for people who seem to never get it. They are floating in a sea of immaturity. The entire culture reeks of the poison. Trying to aid people out of some kinds of inner difficulty is like trying to do surgery in sewage. This book will help those who want to learn, that much of the neurosis from which they suffer may not only be a private inner wound, but also a constant inflow of poison from a cultural sewer. They need to get out, dry off, fumigate, and put on Christ.

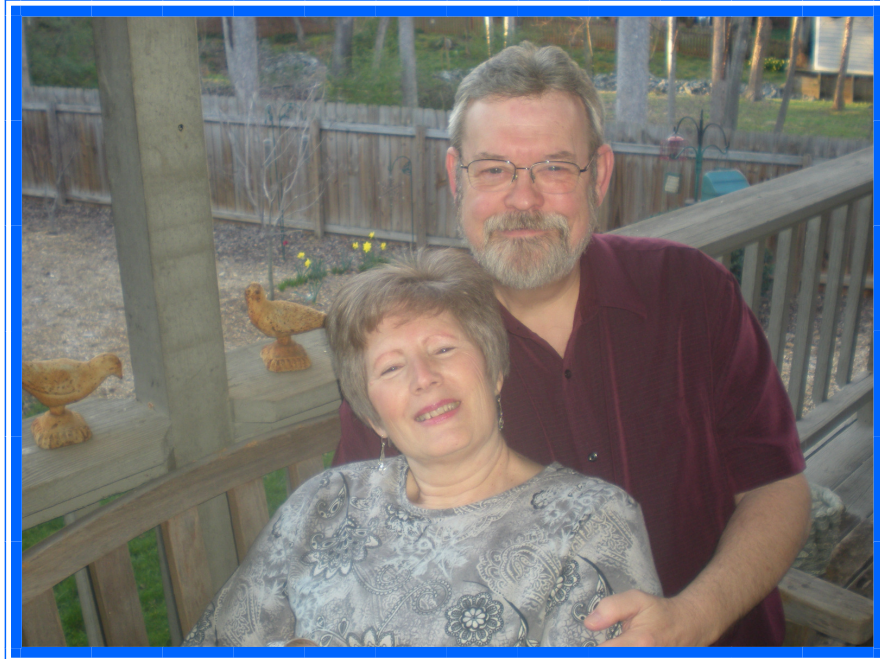
## Closing Thoughts...



I had a dream a few nights ago. I was invited to speak to a large gathering of people who were sitting in lawn chairs over a huge sports field. The platform I was to speak from was way above their heads and very shaky, made of flimsy planks. As I climbed up to get there, the host announcer introduced me as a political commentator. I was about to rebuke his calling me that, but before I could, all the people got up, gathered their lawn chairs, and began running the other way. A disembodied voice said, "They are going to watch the ball game."

The message for me personally was very plain. Preach the word. Be ready always to give an answer for the hope that is within me. And help God's people by bringing a true word, not sent down from a high shaking political platform, but from the heart of the Lord. I pray every month for that grace.

*With Love, Clay & Mary*



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