



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,



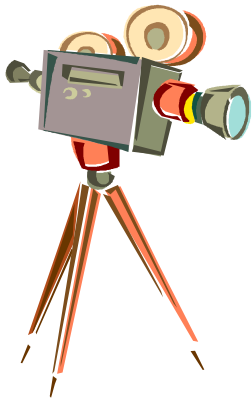
Everybody has a philosophy. Those who think they don't have one are expressing their philosophy when they say they don't have one. Philosophy means literally *love of wisdom*. There is no word in Hebrew for philosophy, for the Jews knew to love God more than wisdom. To honor Him is the source and fountain-head of all wisdom. The Greeks, however, pursued sophia in many forms. Therefore, Western culture has lots of philosophies.

Whatever goes on in the ivory towers of academia makes its way to our kitchen tables and back porches whether we know it or not. It goes from them to us via the arts. Whatever world view has center stage in entertainment (which is our version of story telling), will win the emotional mind of the populace. That is what eventually forms or deforms all culture.

For the past fifty years, the foolishness of the philosophical classroom has fed an increasing glut of anti-life into the bloodstream of the West. The toll taken doesn't need to be spelled out, except to the very sophists who are responsible for much of it, who claim a two-hour movie doesn't influence behavior, while at the same time spending millions on a two-minute commercial that they know will influence behavior.

But something is happening to change the status quo. We won't take time here to examine the details underneath the surface, such as the bad economy of California, the private lives of many in the film industry that are being shaken by the disintegration of their lifestyles, and the recent disclosure of sexual child abuse by high profile elites. These and many more examples explain a lot. But the bottom line is PRAYER. There are gatherings of believers in the film industry who have been meeting and praying for years. There are many outside Hollywood who have been praying for years. The tumbling rocks we see now may be the beginnings of a good avalanche just ahead.

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There will always be a dark persistent industry that seeks to destroy rather than bless. But its monopoly is not set in stone and it is breaking. With that in mind, we need to resist the temptation to sit back in passive submission to the status quo. Those who believe in the power of prayer have options to change history. We must reject hopeless end-time gloom and doom scenarios and refuse to participate in support of evil. We continue to pray in faith for the Kingdom of God to take more and more territory from the enemy, including his most obedient servant, the film industry.

Here are only a few examples of what we have seen just since the New Year. Please try to lay aside any distaste you may have personally over this or that part of any film listed. Even though you may have valid points of concern, try to see the overall trend and bless what you can in faith for more and better to come.



Movie News



SAVING MR. BANKS

This is not just a story about the making of Disney's *MARY POPPINS*. It is about far more than that. And though it is not overtly Christian, it is a masterful study in what drives adults in our attempts to recover from and heal our childhood sufferings. Some have said to Mary and me that it was like going to one of our retreat conferences. Notice the power that image and symbol play in bringing release. (Now one of Mary's new favorites.)

HEAVEN IS FOR REAL

It is sad to me that some Christians are so doctrinaire that all they can do is criticize. Yes there are weaknesses here, but do you realize that this film was only released in half the number of theaters than usual feature films yet sold twice more tickets than several big name releases? It has now made over 100 million dollars. It is still running to large audiences. What does that say about the hunger in people's hearts? Regardless of whatever weaknesses may be cited in this movie, millions of people are being confronted with Jesus.

CAPTIAN AMERICA: The Winter Soldier

A pro-freedom rebuke of dangerous government overreach in a family friendly story line.

GODZILLA

A surprisingly well done remake of the 1954 Japanese monster classic that was also family friendly, and life affirming in ways previous films of this genre have not been. A brief prayer is showcased as soldiers enter battle. (Mary stayed home on this one.)

MOM'S NIGHT OUT

The makers of the great pro-life film ***OCTOBER BABY*** took a chance on a pro-family comedy. So far they have been winning the gamble. The great recommendation for this film is that critics hated it. They hated it because it was pro-mother, pro-marriage, and pro-working-in-the-home parenting. No, it's no great theological epic. It may be something better: FUNNY! And doing funny without being crass or vulgar is a great accomplishment.

GOD'S NOT DEAD

With a small budget and what might seem like a very unlikely story line for attracting audiences, this film about a Christian college student who takes on an atheist professor has remained in theaters now for two months and holding. People of all ages want to sit in on this classroom drama because they need answers!

ALONE BUT NOT ALONE

The story of a Christian pioneer family facing many dangers. The song was chosen by the Academy Awards for best song till the liberal set in *Hollywood* overthrew that choice once they knew it was from a Christian film.

LONE SURVIVOR

A faithful retelling from the best selling book. It is a war story of heroism, faithfulness, courage, and patriotism with no marring by political correctness. That is a major change. Excellent casting starring Mark Walberg. Not for children. Graphic war scenes and explicit language.



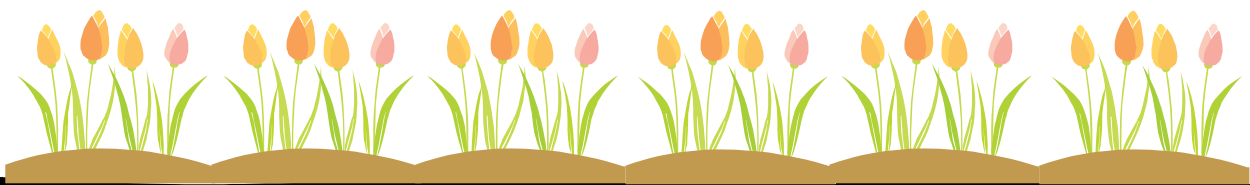
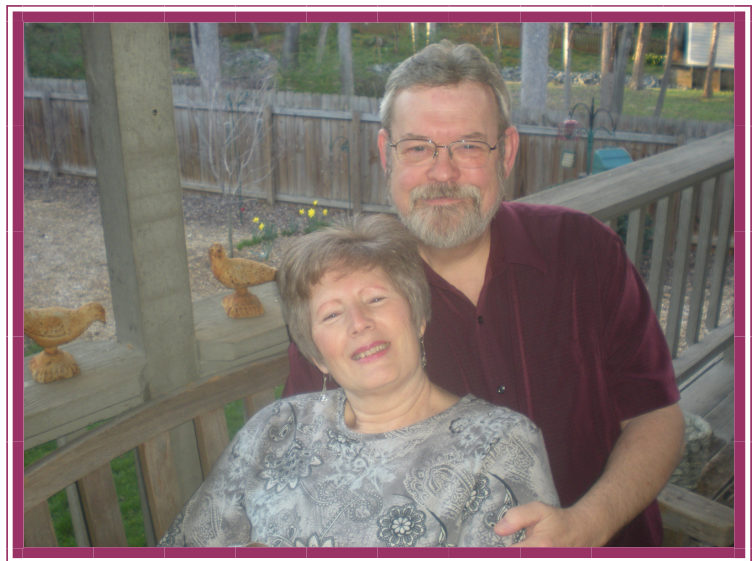
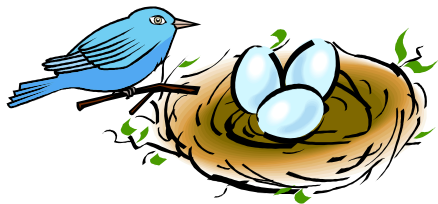
Closing Thoughts...



There are many others too numerous to list here, some coming from small Christian companies, and some from the much larger film industry factories. There is a fighting chance for life affirming, God-honoring, morally encouraging films to have their place in the market of ideas, which will eventually affect your kitchen table and your back porch. Pray for God's mercy and grace to open the way for more such films. Pray for the writers, producers, actors, and distribution companies needed to make them happen. Think of the many real stories we have to tell that would leave audiences helped, encouraged, and strengthened in goodness and love to go out and live! Pray for more and more of the holy unseen real to shine through the big screen and project into the hearts of people starving for real life and love and joy. Remember, a picture is worth a thousand words.



*With Love,
Clay & Mary*



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