



# 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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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

**Becoming His (Mary)** 1 - 2

**Book Review** 2

**So Many Needs!** 3

**Closing Thoughts** 4



## Dear Friends,



I'm sitting at my desk, taking a few moments to look out the window (as I often do), and praying for many of you as the Lord brings you before me. Even though this is part of my normal routine while working, the beauty of what my natural eyes behold always takes me by surprise: the hummingbird at her feeder; the bluebirds feeding their babies; the wind blowing gently through the sundrenched leaves of the trees; the rich colors of the hanging flowers; the cool green of the ferns; the coming and going of the songbirds and woodpeckers and ground birds around the seed feeder; the music of the wind chimes...And my eyes come to rest upon my garden prayer bench under the trees. I see face after face as my heart overflows with the bounty of His love for first one, then another.

Clay has often asked me to teach on prayer and intercession over the years. But I always come up with only the outer shell, the mechanics, of the REAL when I try. How do you communicate the heart of intercession? I believe it has to be caught, not taught. Simply put, it is the outcome of love flowing into one, and then flowing out to others. It has no element of fear or drivenness in it, only the desire to join with the Holy Spirit on behalf of the one(s) shown you by the Lord. It can be intense sometimes, or it can be gentle. But it is always borne from living loved by our precious Heavenly Father because of the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ...

Which brings me to this: how do you live out your days? What is going through your mind? What are your desires? Do circumstances shape how you feel? Are you constantly overwhelmed? Or angry? Or depressed? Is it money problems? Or family issues? Or lust? Or...? We all have our pressures and pain to deal with, whatever they may be. What is most important is not how to deal with life, but WHO we live it for, and why.

Continued on page 2

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We are loved into the true expression of life; who we really are, our true self. We are loved by God to become what God sees. This is our Father's primary interest: in our becoming. Not what we accomplish, but who and what we become is on His heart and mind.

So what am I getting done as I sit here and gaze out the window? Absolutely nothing. Some would say I'm wasting time. But in reality, I'm spending precious time with my heavenly Poppa, just being. Just being loved by Him. Just being me. Just being with Him. Just loving Him back. Just adoring Him. Just thanking Him. Just sharing that love with many of you.

What would happen, I wonder, if we would give up our own agendas for ourselves at the Cross? We would enter into another dimension of living humbly with our God, being loved, and loving one another. Is your way really working out all that well for you? Is it time to launch out a little further (a lot further?) from the comfortable shore into deeper waters? Many of us have left the shoreline behind, but have dropped anchor where we are. Isn't it time to pull up anchor, and trust the holy winds (the Holy Spirit) to fill your sails once more? Some of us have done so, but just to be sure, have attached a motor to our boats so we can control where we end up. Are we willing to come sail away, trusting only to the winds of His direction? Look up, and out your window. It just might lead you a little further along the journey home, empowered not by might, but by love.



## *Book Review*

### Same-Sex Marriage A Thoughtful Approach to God's Design for Marriage

by Sean McDowell and John Stonestreet

How should Christians respond to same-sex marriage? This is a small book with a big message. It is digestible for those not used to delving into difficult subjects but who recognize the need to become equipped to stand for the truth when necessary. We have to confront this issue on two distinct levels. For the honest suffering person who is trying to find a place to live and survive while suffering same-sex attractions, we must bring loving help and guidance. But for evil forces set on using such struggles as an excuse to overthrow sanity, godliness, and the very structure of societal order, we must do battle to throw back forces we have tolerated far too long. The days of staying ignorant and passive are far gone. Sean (Josh McDowell's son) and John (Breakpoint) are standing for truth without in any way being simplistic or unloving.

## SO Many Needs!



It is a devil's lie that traps us into thinking because we cannot do everything we end up doing nothing. But it is also a devil's lie that drives us into a place of despair and exhaustion because we feel every need calling to us and we drown under the weight of them all. Be still. Ask God for direction in what He wants you to do. Remain at your post until given different orders. Should you give to the Nepal rescue, or the Texas floods? The Iraqi Syrian suffering church or towards ACLJ's battle for pastor Saeed? Prison ministry right here in America or your home church's need for a new heating system? The Lord knows you have limits. He set them!! So give as you sense His direction. Pray as you sense a particular pull on your heart and no more than that. Do not overload yourself in too many news items which can so confuse and overload your heart that you collapse, or worse, shut down. Stay in the flow of Life in the loving wisdom of God. Most of all, never ever act out of guilt, panic, anger, or fear. Let the peace of God guide your heart.



May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing His will, and may He work in us what is pleasing to Him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Hebrews 13: 20,21



# Closing Thoughts...

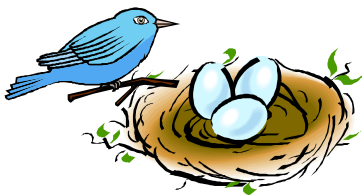


*How good and how blessed it is when brothers and sisters dwell together in unity....there the Lord commands the blessing...life forever more. (Psalm 133)*

As the time approaches for our annual Black Mountain conference, there is a sense of rising anticipation and a growing desire for coming together with fellow Christians to gather in the Presence of the Lord to seek His Face and receive the impartation of the Holy Spirit through worship, teaching, and healing prayer. If you have ever wanted to come, please consider making it this year. There is a special anointing of the Spirit that comes on a gathering of people when we are focused on setting aside the daily routine in order to be with God and His people. We all need it, now more than ever. Dates are August 15 - 19. More details on our website.

If you would like to give an offering to help others attend who need financial help, please designate your gift as "scholarship funds." Your help is always deeply appreciated and put to good use.

*With Love,  
Clay & Mary*



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