



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,



How can we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?

Psalms 137:4

A few months ago I was speaking to a pastor who is pioneering an outreach to a central city area populated by mostly black people. I felt the Lord whisper to me to tell him God would raise up young black people and train them swiftly to meet the coming harvest challenges in the area. He called me a few days ago to tell me the following story. The main point of this story is not so much the beginning of the fulfillment of God's promise to him, though that is a part of it, but what this young man had to say to this pastor.

As the mostly white worship band was leading the mostly black congregation in the worship time, this young black man, who only three years before was a well known pimp and pusher in the area, asked the pastor if he could have a moment to speak with him in the hall. As they stepped out the door the young man said, "Sir, I need to tell you this from the Lord. If you want to

raise up a church full of fleshly minded, immoral, compromising black people who don't represent Jesus well, this is exactly the sort of music service you need to offer in order to do just that." He went on to explain his childhood experiences and many other examples of so called worship forms that center, not on God's Holy Presence and Person, but on soulish emotions. He said **emotions are not necessarily wrong, but if they are primary they are sure to go wrong**. The wise pastor listened thankfully and has made needed changes. The ongoing fruit in the life of this young black man who has only known the Lord for a short time is a great testimony to the fulfillment of the promise God gave of a swift work in young converts. But what's on my heart as I write is the message about soulish worship.

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Music is a weapon of war. It can be used for good purposes or for evil ones, depending on the spirit behind it. Some Christians like anything that isn't churchy stuff because their experience was not a good one of old hymns, dragging voices, and out of tune pianos. Others dislike anything that is foreign to their early experience, such as drums, guitars, and hand clapping. As a result, we run to our extreme corners and reject the opposite. But discerning people have experienced the Presence of the Lord in some of both extremes, and wise worship leaders know how to engage the **best** of both if their aim is not style but substance. By substance, of course, I mean to honor and welcome and respond to the Presence of the Lord.

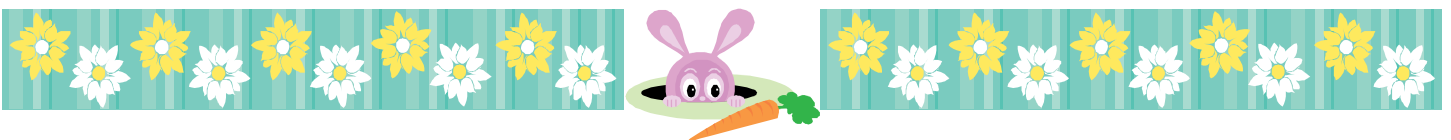
I heard an interview this morning with a young pastor who happens to be the spiritual advisor and guide of an internationally known young pop performer. The interview was not bad. Aspects were even really good. But I was saddened when I thought of the public image of the young performer this pastor claims to disciple. To an entire generation of young Christians, God is a jolly good time and sexuality is free for all in all forms. They see no connection between the holiness of God and the sacredness of marriage. They are unaware of the danger of a music form that disintegrates the soul. They claim the true God yet live in immorality.

How can you invoke God with music that devils take as worship? The mixture exceeds that which brought the destruction of Jerusalem by Babylon.

Once again Babylon has invaded Jerusalem. "How can we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?" they asked. That question is a bit altered for this present generation. "How can we enjoy the strange land and still fit in the Lord's song?" The answer is clear. You can't! The song of the Lord awakens wonder, a hunger for the holy, and a desire to live separate from the world. The knowledge of the holy awakens **FIRST** in the desire to sanctify our lives sexually.

The image of God is at stake in the earth when man, woman, and marriage are askew. And there is no place where that image is in more danger than among the muddy mixture that is a large and increasing part of today's Christian music scene. It would be such a mercy if some event might occur which would draw Christians away from the electronic counterfeit (it hasn't always been counterfeit, but has slowly become so), and bring us, old and young, on our knees together, back to the humble, childlike moment when the generations all join in singing to the Lord, words that focus on Him and bring His blessing.

When did you last experience such intergenerational worship of the true and living God in



such a way that it awakened holy fear toward God, deep mutual affection across the room, and power to live holy as you all parted? Is the increasing pop sound we now have made the main stream producing a wiser holier generation? No. We are dying from amusement, entertainment, and performances seeking the novel and trendy. This is not coming from an old churchy guy. I grew up with and loved rock all my life. But the passing years have not made me more traditional out of some sense of lost church nostalgia. No, it is because I have lived long enough to **see the fruit** of worldliness raping the church. And I weep and long for the Holy again, not only for my sake, but for the sake of my children and grandchildren. Pray for the cleansing stream to purge the whole church of its worship counterfeits.

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again! Alleluia!



THE REAL NEWS



If you could see the world through the news broadcast of Heaven, not only would the world look different, but think what your own private outlook would be like. We watch the news and hear of every dark, sick, negative, or infuriating event of the past few hours and are then told “now you’re up to date.” But here is real news you certainly didn’t get in your up to date news report. A family who lives in New York City has been sending me updates on the great move of the Holy Spirit taking place at Times Square Church. Hundreds of street kids are coming to Jesus. Pray the Lord of the harvest to raise up harvesters all over the country like this. This is **the real news**, the news of the Kingdom and what is happening in it.

Closing Thoughts...

We are in the process of getting as many of our teachings into Mp3 format as possible. This will make it much easier for folks to access the teaching and do away with much of the hassle of mailing packages that can get delayed or lost. That's all good. But I remember so blissfully well the summer of 1972. I worked all summer bailing hay at a nickel a bale in order to save my money so I could buy every cassette tape message Derek Prince listed in his catalog. It took \$600.00. (I kept back some money for burgers, gas, and sci fi movie tickets). When the box arrived I must have had a similar look on my face as Indiana Jones had upon opening the lid that held the lost Ark.

Whether you are totally up to date electronically, or (like me) have several partially working cassette players stored around the house, the Word of God is a treasure and for those who treat it so, it will yield many more treasures. Thank you all for helping us make the treasure available to more and more as we see the Day approaching.

*Blessed Resurrection Celebrations to you all,
Christ is Risen! With Joy, Clay & Mary*



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