



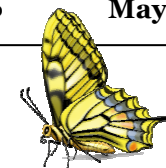
NightLight

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,

"I have no wish to renew acquaintance with my past writings....I have not cared to revise them...or read them. That mysterious saying Let the dead bury the dead applies as far as I am concerned, with particular force to words, which exist like insects in the tropics, buzzing briefly round a hurricane lamp and then piling up in dead heaps on the ground..." (Malcolm Muggeridge, Chronicles of Wasted Time)

*"Sticks and stones can break my bones but words can never hurt me."
(A false but well known nursery rhyme)*

How forcible are right words! (Job 6:25)

In the beginning was the Word...and the Word was God. (John 1)

Malcolm Muggeridge spent the majority of his ninety years dealing in words. As a journalist, he spent most of his career swimming the dark and troubled sea of international politics. He tells in his memoirs of being present in a room full of the shapers of public opinion. On this one day there was a young visitor who had never participated before. When a plan was unfolded to present some story to the general public with a certain spin, the visitor spoke out, "But if you present it that way, it will not be true!"

There was a moment of total silence. Then the room erupted with a roar of laughter until tears of hilarious pleasure were rolling down usually scowling, cynical faces. This is the way the 'news' was *created*. That has only become the more common since Muggeridge's day. When one considers the fabric of lies that go to make up much of 'the facts' we are force fed, it becomes clear to any honest soul that Reality cannot be grasped without divine help. When God's Revelation of Himself came to us, it was clear to those who longed for the truth that the Real is not grasped by mere facts or misuse of facts. **Reality is a Person.** *"That which was from the beginning, which our eyes have seen and our hands touched... the Word of Life....we know Him that is True....This One is the true God and eternal life."* (I John 1, 5:26) **Truth is a Person.**

The murky ocean of lies, which Muggeridge nearly drowned in before his conversion to faith in Christ, is more turbulent now. The mire and dirt it is casting up is becoming a flood of confusion and any who try to

swim it will certainly be overwhelmed by it. There is only one place to go to find the clarity and purity that the Truth always provides; a place of pregnant silence where the Truth is encountered. After that encounter every other clamoring cacophony that tries to affirm itself by its own verbosity is stripped of its false authority and shown up for with it is, and is not. But even as I write about truth at this very moment, I am starved to not write and to not speak, but to be still and quiet in the Presence of our loving heavenly Father I am pointing to.

I spend an hour in this audio message talking....about not talking. Of course there is a bit more to it than that. But if I could have somehow gotten my points across with silence, I would have sent you a blank CD and this would be a blank page. The “preacher” of Ecclesiastes says that **“of the making of many books there is no end and much study is a weariness of the flesh.”** When I read it, in my head it goes more like, *“Of the making of many CDs there is no end and much talking is a weariness of the flesh.”* I write and write and speak and speak, but I always wonder if it is hitting any mark. Even when I receive kind and encouraging notes from so many of you (for which I am always deeply grateful) I cannot help but pray, “Oh Lord, is what I am saying the truth? Am I misrepresenting any part of it?”

I am currently writing the story of my first thirty years. It is a daunting task to tell the truth!!! Words are what makes us like God. So their misuse is very serious. Jesus warns that we must give account for every idle foolish useless word we speak. **(Matthew 12:36-37). Isaiah 59** describes our current era, **“your lips have spoken lies, your tongue perversion (spin). None calls for justice or pleads for truth. They trust in vanity (vapor) and speak lies. They conceive crooked plans and bring forth iniquity....”** Read the entire chapter. It speaks of those who ‘concoct twisted concepts’ and develop roads that wind off into destruction. The spinning of new definitions of words is an example. The government theft of private property is referred to as ‘progress’ or ‘redistribution.’ Adultery is now ‘polyamory,” (multiple partners mutually agreeing to fornicate without jealous claims on any one person. We used to simply call this whoredom.) The sexual molestation of under aged children is now called “intergenerational affections.” Diversity now means calling evil good. Tolerance now means calling good evil.

The answer is NOT quietism: the retreat from the world into a personal hiding place of no responsibility for truth except to ones’ self. No **the place of power is in the quiet encounter with Truth Himself**, resulting in an incarnational power to speak and do the will of God. God himself answers the cry of Isaiah 59 with these words: **“When the enemy comes in like a flood, the spirit of the Lord will raise up a standard against him...the Redeemer shall come to Zion and to those that turn from transgression...My spirit that is upon you and my words which I place in your mouth shall not depart from your mouth or the mouth of your children or the mouth of your children’s children...”** The word formed in holy silence has the power to vanquish the cacophony of lies that surround us. Be quiet enough to have the words you need and the wisdom to know when to speak them. We do not retreat in order to hide. We retreat in order to advance.



The Royal Wedding



At a time when it is all too easy to be cynical about anything the world calls important, and in a country where the Word of God has been long ignored or openly dishonored, it would have been very easy to just ignore the wedding of Prince William and Catherine. We had not planned to watch any coverage of it, mostly because we don't watch much TV at all; but it happened that Mary and I found time together to see it. At first we watched to simply enjoy the footage of the city we love so much, the capital of the nation we love so much. But it was three hours later before we found ourselves turned to any other focus. The Church of England has its difficulties, and in my often repeated view, they have abandoned the very core of the faith. But not on this day! The liturgy is laid out to be followed by any responsible leader, but that in itself would not explain the sense of holy awe that seemed to hover over so much of the ceremony. From beginning to end, God's Word, the holiness of the marriage covenant, the centrality of Christ and His Cross and Resurrection, was presented with clarity and godly fear. The sense of the oneness of the heart of the country brought Mary and me to tears at certain points.

And for me, most of all, (and maybe I am self deceived, only time will tell) I felt that William and Catherine were engaging with the Holy Spirit in a depth of new awareness of both the responsibility

and opportunity they have been given. I could not help but wonder as the word of God went forth to them for two hours, if it did not cross William's mind at least, that he will one day be one of the kings over which The King of kings will preside in righteous judgment. Did Catherine consider the former influence of Mother Theresa on her husband's mother, of Diana's longing to understand what life is supposed to be about, and of her desire to love the world in Christ? I pray both William and Catherine did not only consider these influences, but will endeavor to act in obedience to the truth of God's love.

Please let us all pray for William and Catherine to be fully awake to the words they heard and vowed to obey. The joy and hope of the British people was energized far more than most of them realized. This not merely by national unity, but by an unconscious but very real hovering of the Spirit of Truth that, for a little while, was made welcome again over their nation. What was being blessed and honored from the top down, caused a joyful hopeful cry of longing to rise from the bottom up.

Dear Lord, may it be a new awakening and an ever increasing hunger for the Reality that was given proper honor in the ceremony to once again be given its rightful Throne in William and Catherine's hearts and in the hearts of the British people.



Closing Thoughts...



The past two issues have been memorials. As I was about to write this section, I received word that this afternoon in east Texas David Wilkerson was killed in a head on collision with an eighteen wheeler on Highway 175 not too many miles from our former home in Longview, Texas. Gwen, his beloved wife, is at the time of this writing in critical condition. In my early days as a very young and greenhorn kid, David Wilkerson was my direct boss's close friend and boss in Teen Challenge. Now in my latter days, his is always the first newsletter I read as soon as I get it from Mary. He has been a wise and humble guiding light for over 50 years. Though it is hard to think of the ongoing battle without his wisdom and leadership, I cannot grieve too much. I know many of the personal and public battles he has had to fight, and it is a joyous thing to know that in one split second he was taken away from the war and is in the very presence of Jesus, now, at this very moment. So rather than hit you with yet another memorial issue, let us respectfully submit this notice, and allow you to acknowledge it in whatever way you see fit. My mentors continue to move on up. I feel both my age and my lack of wisdom more than I have ever in my life. For those of you who pray for us, and we know many do, please pray that we will finish our own course well, that we will run this race without wavering, faltering, or compromising. As it says in Psalm 69, "Lord let me never cause shame to any who are seeking you..." Pray that Mary and I become who we are supposed to become, do what we are supposed to do, all in Him. May we all obey the truth because of love - His own love shed abroad in our lives. You are all very dear to us.



*In His Arms,
Clay
&
Mary*



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