



NightLight

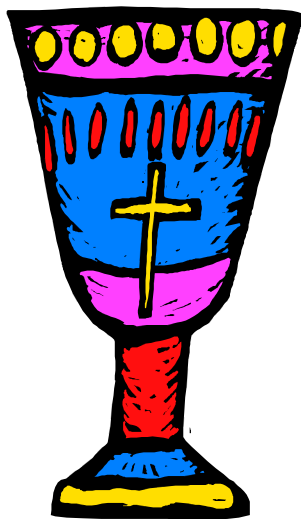
A NEWSLETTER OF McLEAN MINISTRIES

"take heed....as to a light that shines in a dark place." II Peter 1:19

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Dear Friends,



How good and how beautiful it is when brothers and sisters dwell together in unity...there the Lord commands the blessing... Psalm 133:1,3

And they were all together in one place...and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit... Acts 2:1,4

Blessed are those whose strength is in You, who have set their hearts on pilgrimage. Psalm 84:5

Each year in August people from all over the country, and often from other countries, gather here in the North Carolina mountains for our annual Saturday-Wednesday retreat conference. They come from all kinds of backgrounds, denominations, and life struggles. They range in age from 17 to 87. But the one thing we all have in common is that we have taken valuable time, spent money we usually cannot afford, and found courage to perhaps face things within our lives that might be painful to face. And we gather to a place

under one roof where we seek the face of God with all we know how. It has nothing much to do with Mary, the prayer team, or me. We are only the ushers who guide us along the pilgrimage journey. It is the pilgrimage itself, the willful effort offered up as a sacrifice, the longing to know and meet Jesus and hear from Him, that causes this event every year to be so supernaturally blessed.

As a pastor, in times past I often made the same mistake many of us make: "Why do people think they have to go running after this or that ministry? Why can't they get before God at home on their own?" There is truth to that statement. He is very near to any who truly call on Him, especially to one who has a broken heart. (Psalm 34:17,18; Psalm 147:3; Isaiah 57:15)

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But He seems to especially bless gatherings of His children who come together. That was the original intention of church gatherings before it became what it has sadly so often become. I know there are many exceptions, but so much of church no longer gathers to seek Him, but to all sorts of stuff, even about Him, yet without Him.

Since our own human parenthood comes from Him (Ephesians 3), we surely can understand. We love each child the same and enjoy time alone with them. But when they all come together we are in our glory, that is, as long as everyone is loving each other as much as they love us!!! **How good and beautiful when brothers and sisters dwell together in unity! It is like the anointing oil that ran down Aaron's beard... here the Lord bestows his blessing.** There is a power of anointing released where the love is both horizontal and vertical. It is the power of the Cross lifted over us that lifts us over the world.

So when folks ask you, "How was the conference?" and you say, "Great!" and they say, "What happened?" and you say, "Well, you just have to be there to know" ... it is not because you lack ability to describe it. It is because when the Holy

Spirit moves among us the way He does, it is a taste of the world to come, and things happen that are as strong as diamonds but as hard to capture as the horizon. It is there, just over the hill, but when you run to capture it, it is there over the next hill. You keep doing that till one day you reach the end of the journey and you are HOME. **The path of the just is like a shining light, that shines brighter and brighter till it reaches noon day. (Proverbs 4:18)**

But no matter how much I always love the conference and appreciate what happens there, I still long for the day when this same anointing is poured out every time any believers gather, whether it is on a Sunday morning at church or around a coffee table on a Tuesday afternoon in someone's home with two or three. We can make the pilgrimage I have just described anytime when we are seeking the Lord and loving each other. That is all it takes. Finding like hearted souls is the hard part. But even that is on the increase. Daniel said that in the end of the age the righteous would shine like the stars. Stars shine when it gets dark. You will find like hearted people easier as it gets darker. They will glow!

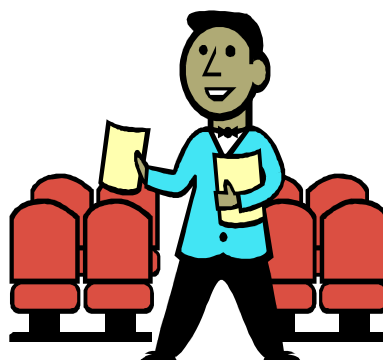




Movie News

OCTOBER BABY will be released on DVD this week. Please get it and share it. We need to support really good film efforts like this one.

OBAMA'S AMERICA: 2016 is in theaters all over the country. Again, don't curse the darkness of the film industry. Help light the candle of truth instead by the simple act of supporting this film in the theater. Don't wait for it to come out on DVD. It is your 'vote' in the theater that counts to those who measure these things.



Comments from listeners about "God, a Man and a Woman"

"I wasn't prepared for the grandeur of the ending. I just thought it would be some nice songs. But like Clay's previous music, it tells a story. I didn't catch that fact till I just listened to it straight through and let the story unfold....wonderful."

R. from Alabama

Consider giving a copy of **GOD, A MAN and A WOMAN** to your parents or young couples preparing for marriage. It's not the style, but the story that will give life to them.



Some Closing Thoughts...



I actually spent yesterday cleaning my study. It was a magnificent achievement. It takes me a long time to do it because I get easily side tracked by whatever book or document I may have in my hand. I ran across my father's college note book. My mother had given it to me many months ago. I had not opened it till yesterday. I learned many things I wish I had known many years earlier. I was given the rare gift of a window into my father's heart when he was a college student. I thought of the many college students I interact with now. They are full of ideals, hopes, dreams, desires, and hurts. I was able to catch a glimpse of Nolan McLean, not as my father, whom I never bonded with, but him as a young man with all those same inner longings, yet unchallenged, and hoping for fulfillment. I know I would have been a different son if I could have had some insight through the years which I gained yesterday. Now, I don't expect old heads on young shoulders, so I am not lamenting the fact that I did not, and could not, know then what I know now. But I just thought maybe by passing on this experience, I might help move those of you whose parents ARE still with you, to be a bit more prayerful and careful, to pay attention more, and give attention more, while you have the chance. You will always be grateful you did, and so will the someone you give to. **With Love, Clay & Mary**



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