



# NightLight

A NEWSLETTER OF McLEAN MINISTRIES

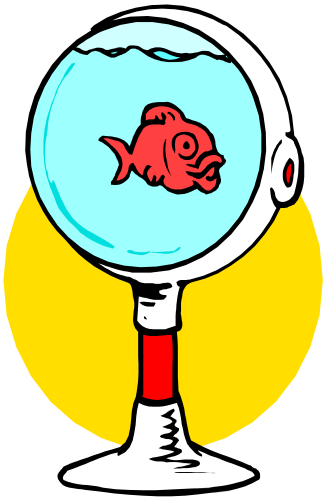
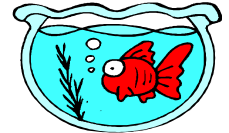
"take heed....as to a light that shines in a dark place." II Peter 1:19

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Dear Friends,



I read today several respected opinions on the state of the country and the world. These four writers are all good men. I didn't plan to read them on the same day. It seemed to just happen, though I now wonder if there was a divine design behind the way they seemed to fall in line before me. The summation: that things are not so bad as they seem, that Christian book sellers, magazines, journalists, and preachers tend to find bad news to be sensational, and therefore an easier sell, because the general public seems to crave bad news, rather the way we tend to rubber neck car accidents or pay good money to watch bad horror films. I know there is some truth to that. I have been around sensationalized journalism a few times. I may have been guilty of it myself a time or two. I am grateful for some of the corrections I found in this new research. Two subjects stuck out to me especially. The first is that there is no scientific data to support the message that Christian marriages are now ending faster than non Christian ones. That just is not true. The data supports the common sense fact that couples who are in church and have godly influences around them on a regular basis are surviving troubled waters in their marriages and are remaining

together. (In spite of the fact that we all can name a dozen couples of our personal acquaintance who are a train wreck, still the data does not support the worse case scenario nationwide.) Reports otherwise are based on badly skewed research, energized by a general 'end times, all is lost' mentality that seems to want as much bad news as it can gather in the twisted hope that that means the end will come faster.

The second item that moved me positively was that it is equally not true that this generation of youth is turning away from God faster than others. The general rule of our history is that the young tend to turn away from spirituality until they have a family. Then the reality of responsibility brought on by caring for others, not just themselves, brings a spiritual awakening also. But even better news than that is that there is a younger and more awake army of teens who gather regularly to intercede for the nation, to make a positive difference in their communities, and who are actively seeking to evangelize their spiritually dead parents. This news

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does not sell doomsday papers or stoke the imaginative fires of end times escapism. Rather it should stir us to awaken to our present demands and opportunities to bring the Kingdom now, here. These are really good things.

Still, the prophetic in me becomes shaken whenever I see social commentators trying to compare our present day with past decades by running numbers to prove that nothing is worse now than it has ever been, that what seems like bad news piling higher and deeper is only an illusion brought on by our ability to scan a large amount of news information swiftly gathered from a wider range of areas. I don't buy that. I don't think you can find a previous decade in our history where so many people were in the malaise of moral and spiritual darkness, where blasphemy was the evening's TV entertainment, where homosexuality was given a higher degree of authority in culture than heterosexual monogamy. I don't think on any given morning during the 1960's you would have read literally a dozen headlines reporting the new list of little children tortured, murdered and disposed of, or of parents killing their children and then killing each other. That didn't even happen in the worst of the depression days. No, not only are things truly worse, they are so bad that a mechanism in the human psyche that Max Weber named "defining deviancy upward" causes us to reach a peak out point in which our sensitivities can no longer endure the increased evil. So instead of dealing with the evil as it deserves, we redefine the deviancies as less bad. In other words, we enter self deception and begin to call an evil not so evil, until before long we are not calling it evil anymore. The final straw is when we then actually begin calling evil a good thing, as has now happened with the homosexual neurosis. The next one waiting on the runway to begin its taxi

into the high flight of superiority over what is normal, is pedophilia. I have warned it was coming for over five years and have been met with disdain by those who truly believed I was over the top. But the facts are before us now. The American Psychological Association has begun making public what they were circulating privately among themselves nearly a decade ago: that sex between children and adults is not only not deviant or harmful, but is helpful. For the new mantra is that any form of "love" cannot be bad for anyone. So get ready for those who want to see marriages between themselves and their favorite pets. For once the God ordained norm is removed, no one can claim moral superiority to rebuke anyone for anything.

So what do we do? **WE LIVE THE TRUTH.** We stop participating in lies which have castrated our message and we begin to manifest the power of the truth by maintaining holy and faithful marriages, by loving and laying our lives down for our children, and by being the kind of neighbors to our same sex couple down the street that shows them the love of Christ while never affirming sin. That will take wisdom that only comes from a crying out for God's anointing to make a way where there seems no way. God has waited patiently for us to pray on that level. We wanted to be like the early church and have the early church's anointing. Well it looks like our prayers have been answered! We are surrounded by pagan evil and we are beginning to feel the weight of anti Christian pressure. May we take the opportunity to respond to the challenge. May our wellspring of Christlife within overflow more and more the love that will change our world.





## This Month's Audio Message

Your cd this month is an exert message by Mary recorded live in our June Miami Florida conference this year at Doral Vineyard Church. We will soon release the complete recording from this conference as a new cd set entitled **"POWER TO CHANGE: How I See God, How I See Me."** It will be a 10-hour set (totaling \$50.00 with S&H) if you would like to prepay. We will automatically ship your set to you as soon as we have it in hand.

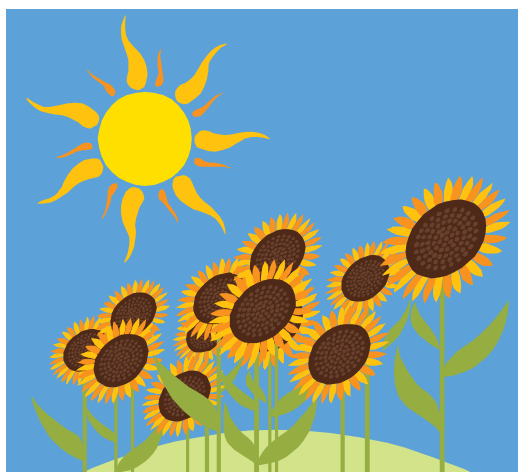


## Some Closing Thoughts...



For the many of you who responded to my question concerning expanding our Nightlight publications to include more 'up to date' faster formats, thank you. The general consensus was to continue at our present pace. I was relieved. It seems to take the entire month to prepare a newsletter/recording, and before I know it Mary is tapping me on the shoulder for the next one. In order for these to be properly studied and prayed through, a month is about right. The additional information we might want to make available can be provided on the website as a special page or in cd form as new subject matter. As far as trying to be too much on the spot or up to date, I realize I am not a news man. Just because something is current doesn't make it vital. As one man wrote and expressed very well, "I don't need you to necessarily comment on the so called 'news of the day.' I do need you to give me the word of the Lord which is timeless." His words were a gentle rebuke as well as a kind affirmation. It is really more than alright with Mary and me to be small, slow, and consistently prayerful about what we offer you. So your responses, which were mostly unanimous, were very much appreciated. We continue on, a nightlight in this present darkness.

With Love, Clay & Mary



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