



# 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,*



*John Benson*

*7/30/48 ~ 3/22/23*



Over thirty-five years ago I sat down with a couple, John and Natalie Benson, to hear them share their vision for a healing conference to be held at Valle Crucis Conference Center near Boone, North Carolina. Little did I know that this would be the launching of the healing work in this area that would eventually reach many other parts of this country as well as the UK and much of Europe, and then carry forward for over three decades.

God has many ways and resources He can choose, but it is safe to say that without the vision and a lot of sacrificial time and energy and just plain hard work of the Bensons, much of the ministry Mary and I carried forward would never have developed. Yet they were more than just coworkers; they were very dear and precious friends. We shared many a tear and many a laugh together over the years. John had a very special word to share with me prior to my proposal to Mary. They even hosted us as live-in guests for a year when we first moved from Texas to the mountains of North Carolina.

Natalie was a master administrator, organizer, and the driving force behind not only that initial conference, but also what grew to a minimum of at least three conferences a year hosted by our ministry. That doesn't include the numerous other venues she organized with other ministries, churches, and counseling centers both in the USA and abroad. John ran the entire cassette ministry (Yes, I did say cassettes!) and worked side by side with Natalie, keeping the office engines running smoothly for over ten years, while Mary and I were often gone for several months at a time on long road trips in the States as well as overseas.

I can still see John's hands raised in intercession, as well as busy with the sheer labor of the practical work of the ministry. I could describe so many examples of John's sacrificial efforts just to get us safely where we needed to be. One example: the night he had to bring us our passports (that Mary and I had forgotten) to Charlotte, locate the out-of-the-way little hotel we were in, and make his way back out of a less than safe area in the dead of night! John served over and over in so many ways, maybe unnoticed by most, but treasured by us and especially by His Heavenly Father.

John prayed. He interceded for the nation, for us, and for many individuals and situations which at that time were daily pouring through our office, not to mention the personal battles entangling this kind of ministry. John and Natalie also carried on with a ministry of their own, *Breaking Free*, welcoming and caring for many who came to them for private help. When John was no longer able to minister to people directly, he still prayed, with childlike humility and real compassion. And he was maintaining that place on this battlefield all the way to the day he left this earth. As Mary has said so many times, John is one of the most godly men we have had the privilege to know.

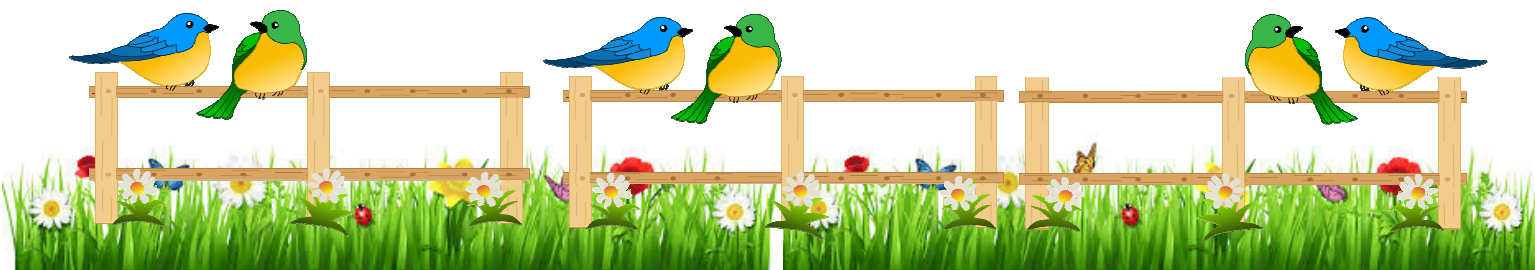
He quietly died in his sleep. It is hard to believe he is gone from here. We are grateful that his long and increasingly hard battle is over, and that John is now in the very Presence of the One he loved and served. For all of you who were around John, you know a bit of the man of God he was. For those of us who knew him more closely, we say a temporary farewell to a trusted friend, intercessor, witness, and light for Jesus wherever he went and with whomever he encountered.

John, until we meet again face-to-face, delight in His Face. Thank you for being you.



He is not here;  
he has  
Risen!

Luke 24:6





# Information Overload



And whatever you do, whether in word or deed,  
do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus,  
giving thanks to God the Father through Him.  
*Colossians 3:17*

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter. I know you have many other choices out there. But as a friend said to me recently, “I read *Nightlight* because it is usually concise in content and to the point.” And I do get that. We are being hindered from real nutritious intake because there is just too much pouring at us. Some may be good; a lot may be interesting. But how much of it is real food for your soul? Paul told Timothy to **devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. (1 Timothy 4:13)** At a time when information was limited, this was real solid trustworthy nutritious spiritual food. But technology has changed that. In the face of so much information that comes at me daily, I am taking comfort in the limited context of daily readings that are rich yet concise. I trust the Holy Spirit to oversee that what I take in is for my good, nurturing me day by day as I follow His lead. Digestion takes time. And so often we find ourselves reading so much that we digest but little, or end up with spiritual indigestion.

So as you go through the day, be mindful about what you give your time and energy to. Be prayerful about what you take in, including what you read and what you watch. Many who contact me because they are battling some level of depression are often not careful about this. They eat any and every item that anyone puts before them, not realizing they must digest whatever comes in, unless they are vigilant to ‘spit out the bones.’ But if they are careful enough to spit out what comes in, why not be more vigilant to first filter the information before taking it in? That would be easier in the long run. Who is the better informed? Those with unlimited access and little if any filter, or those who don’t need a filter because they are drinking from a limited but pure fountain?

I once met with a deeply depressed young theology student on the verge of a breakdown. It was clear to me what was wrong. It didn’t take too long to get to the root of his problem, though it would take a bit more work to help him stop what he was doing to feed the problem. To him there was just so much to learn, so much to know, and so little time to know it, that he must constantly be taking in. He was suffering from an agonizing mental, emotional, and spiritual bloating. He needed to fast from study, lay in the grass, and become childlike. He needed to listen, not for the huge blast coming from the sky, but for the Still Small Voice. He heard me. But it would be a long painful while before he suffered enough to act on what he heard. Thankfully he finally did.

What about me and you? I could give this student sound advice, and then fall into his very trap of mind idolatry. You can read this newsletter and put it in your stack of done stuff. But are we stopping, unplugging, and finding a childlike spot in the grass in which to snuggle in our Father’s arms, where we may actually hear a word, a single word, that is The Truth? Don’t forsake relationship for information about it!





## Closing Thoughts...

*I am encountering an upsurge of interest in the Book of Revelation. This is not unusual during times of clear and present danger, such as we now face. And that's not a bad thing in itself. After all, it is a book which carries a unique blessing to anyone who reads it. But only if it is read with a worshipful childlike heart. For such a heart will be focused on the Lamb who sits on the Throne ever ruling over the chaos. Worshipping Him is the aim of the book, not who antichrist is. May we all enter into a greater place of worship, where, though we are surrounded by chaos, we are centered in peace before the Lamb, at His Father's Throne.*

*Resurrection blessings!  
Clay & Mary*



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