



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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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Come
Unto Me 1-3

New
Film Release 3

Closing
Thoughts 4

Dear Friends,



*My heart is not proud, O Lord, my eyes are not haughty;
I do not concern myself with great matters
or things too wonderful for me.
But I have stilled and quieted my soul;
like a weaned child with its mother,
Like a weaned child is my soul within me...*

Psalm 131



Mary and I have been pulled back and forth between our North Carolina home and Texas, helping to care for Mary's 93-year-old father as he moves toward his homegoing. I won't go into the details of some of the unexpected demands and challenges this has brought on. But it does now seem providential that a few months ago we felt directed to set aside two separate full series to send you as your audio portion of **Nightlight**. (My availability to record messages monthly was limited, and I also still have some training to complete on new recording equipment.)

From what we have been hearing from you, these recordings have really hit the mark. Even those who recognized aspects of the message told us it was as fresh to them as when they first heard it. And that is a point worth noting: we rarely fully hear. These were deeply needed messages. The first set addressed the power of images and symbols, followed by an examination of how the Holy Spirit has designed the body of Christ as a healing family. It has been gratifying to read or hear some of your helpful and encouraging comments. It reminded me that a 'fresh' word is not fresh because it is only recent. **The freshness comes from the breath of the Spirit upon the message.** And from our point of view, there was a present need for these two subjects. So thank you for listening and for your feedback. Forgive me for my lack of response to your various communications. We read every one, though we may not be able to respond, or lately, not to respond at all. Life sometimes becomes overwhelmingly full. And failure to stay in touch with you is at times unavoidable, but always sadly frustrating. Mary and I are literally living in two different worlds during this season. Please keep us in your prayers for strength as we transition from our home to Mary's father's home, as needed.

This era of electronic technology has opened up the means for every thought, opinion, and concern of every person (with access) to be posted online and readily available to all. Sometimes I get proddings from kind people urging me to start blogging. They suggest that I should start making daily, or at least weekly, topical recordings. I am thankful for their interest. And I enjoy being able to graze the web now and then and hear the minds and hearts of many I consider wiser and more informed than I am. But then that becomes a problem. I begin to suffer from information overload. Too many voices, even when accurate, may not be the voice of the Holy Spirit to me. I have mentioned several times, and this is increasingly true, what the enemy's tactics are: to dilute and blur true information with over information. It's like overeating. A meal may taste good, even be good for you, but when overindulged, will make you sick. The same principle goes with information overload. Glutted minds will become unable to digest what they hear, and over time, can become sick with the loss of discernment.

I speak for myself here. I cannot safely pursue commentary on everything that's out there. And do you really want to know what I'm thinking on all that stuff, even important stuff? There are plenty of better qualified and better informed folks. You don't need me to become another voice out there. And even if I limit myself to whatever may be floating around in my head, it will not be bathed in prayer and well-formed. It will be served a bit raw, I'm afraid. No. It is given to me to be slower and less comprehensive, so long as what I offer is truly the best I can do because it has been birthed in prayer first. And this takes time and waiting on the Lord. (This is what *Clay's Corner* on our website contains: inspired writings beyond *Nightlight*.)

During this demanding period, I have become aware of how very small I am. And I have come to consider lately what is the quality of this monthly message of *Nightlight*. Is it born of the Spirit and is it borne by the Spirit to the right heart at the right moment? I have often rushed into my study with a tornado of important thoughts all screaming for momentary primacy. And in certain contexts it may even be important. But the only question should be, what is the Holy Spirit saying to us, right now? And that question must be answered not in the flash of theological lightening, or peals of prophetic thunder, but from communion with the Still Small Voice. I can now tell more often when I am crushed inside by the weight of too many heavy issues. Flashes and rumblings may have gained my conscious attention, but I too often have drowned my sense of union with Reality. Many times I have had to drag myself back to the place of my awareness that I am, after all, a very small hobbit. Tears come now as I recall the lyrics of Twila Paris's song, *Lately I've been winning battles left and right, but even winners can get wounded in the fight. People say that I'm amazing, strong beyond my years. But they don't see inside of me; I'm hiding all the tears...They don't know that I go running home when I fall down. They don't know Who picks me up when no one is around. I drop my sword and cry for just a while, 'cause deep inside this armor, the warrior is a child...*

That is where I am today. There are a dozen huge (and they are huge!) issues facing us as a country and world. I doubt I need to list them for you. I have made no meaningful impact against the cultural evil by railing at it (though it only takes a moment for me to get triggered in that direction.) No, I'm tired. Not tired from physical exertion, but mentally tired. My mind feels blistered by the continued parade of things so insipid that the use of the word stupid has lost any meaningful descriptive force. And I was able to be still and quiet enough today - finally! - to realize I am empty and need my Father's arms, my Elder Brother's smile, and my Holy Spirit's gentle whisper. I saw that for several days I have been flapping around dealing with big important stuff, while

nonverbally frustrated at Him for not noticing I need Him. Yet all the time He was right here, waiting for me to stop flapping and...just come.

So, as so often is the case, this newsletter is for me as well as for you, dear friends. I have said it many times before and I think we may all need it again: **SNUGGLE, don't STRUGGLE**. "Come unto me." As Oswald chambers said, **"We will do anything except simply come."**



New Film Release

By the time you read this, the film I am pointing you to will have been in theaters since July 4th. But it is vital that you know about this and can pursue supporting it wherever and however you can. **THE SOUND OF FREEDOM** will be released in hundreds of locations on July 4th. Disney is resisting it (go figure, huh). Hollywood also joins Disney in its fearful resistance of its release. The title may not sound very compelling. It could be mistaken for a mere patriotic or even political thing. Yet it is far more important than that. This film is a united effort by courageous heroes to pull back the curtain on child sex trafficking. It may be the hand of God bringing judgment in the form of national and international exposing of this unspeakable evil. And hopefully this film will have a big part in bringing about its destruction. That is why you need to know about it and to take action to support it. Find out where in your local area it is being shown, and go. Be there. Your ticket is a vote for its message and purpose. Not for children.



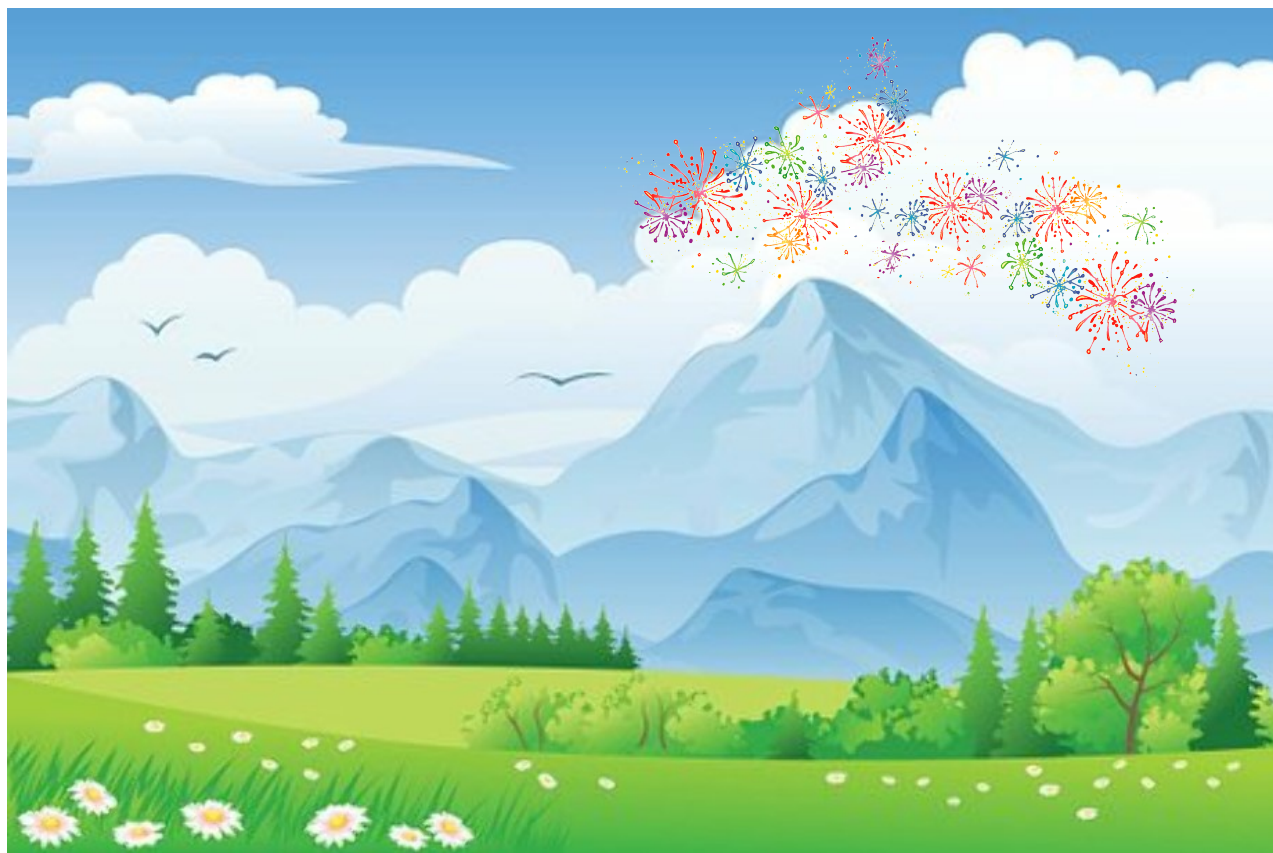
Closing Thoughts...



Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14 We come as a child to *snuggle*. And we *struggle* to open the way up for sex trafficked children to *snuggle*. There is a time for both. As we come unto Him, and follow after Him, we join with the body of Christ to bring His kingdom come. We join with the Lord to overcome evil with good, in His presence. Selah.

May you find refreshment in His presence this summer!

Love, Clay & Mary



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