



# NightLight

A NEWSLETTER OF McLEAN MINISTRIES

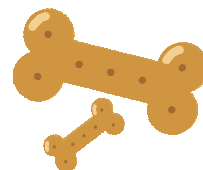
"take heed....as to a light that shines in a dark place." II Peter 1:19

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## Dear Friends,



(by a *Nightlighter* from Nebraska)

"On July 15<sup>th</sup> I turned 70 years old...

One of my peculiarities is that I adore dogs. They slobber and shed, sometimes poop in the house, and require lots of attention. They need to be fed, medicated, bathed and there is always Vet bills to consider. Fiona (our Border Collie) insists on taking up room on my side of the bed until I pet her and send her off into her own bed. I have probably picked up a ton of dog poop out of the yard over my lifetime but I cannot imagine life without a dog.

I see gut-wrenching videos of abandoned puppies who are weak, sick and scared to death. Often mangy and covered with parasites inside and out. Some kind soul comes along and carefully woos the smelly creature into their car and takes them to the Vet for treatment, then home to nurture it back to health. Soon the pup is active and following his redeemer all over the house with it's little tail wagging and can't get enough of peering into the rescuer's eyes with canine gratitude.

I am that abandoned pup to my Father in Heaven. He loves me for no special reason but that somehow, I warm His heart just by being underfoot. I may not be a good watch dog or excel at shepherding. I just take up room under His table and show a little affection. That is enough for God. Nothing I do can make Him love me more or make Him love me less. I really like that. I am His for no other reason than that I was in desperate need of His lovingkindness and tender mercies.

...[my wife] and I agree that we really do not know how to live in this world anymore. It is not the world we remember being born into. Each day the world grows more inhospitable and heaven seems better than ever! Being 70 is not so bad. It is **another year closer** to going home to where I belong. Following our Master around and wagging my tail."





## Seeds of Truth

*The seed that fell into good, fertile soil  
represents those lovers of truth  
who hear it deep within their hearts.  
They respond by clinging to the word,  
keeping it dear as they endure all things in faith.  
This is the seed that will one day bear much fruit in their lives.  
(Luke 8:15)*

We are, and have been, in a demanding period in our personal lives that has caused some adjustments in our monthly audio recordings with you all. What we have sent these past few months and what continues to be waiting in the wings, are messages that, though they are taken from previously recorded teaching sets, are amazingly pertinent. Our mail reflects that, and we are very grateful to you for your very encouraging notes. There are many recordings of our teaching that have not been heard by you, unless you have purchased the particular teaching as a set from us in the past. Mary and I prayerfully research what we are considering for mailing. So, even though we have not been able to record new messages for **Nightlight** lately, we are very thankful when you write how the current messages we are sending to you have touched some area of personal need. Others commented that even though they had heard the teaching before, it was like fresh manna for them, as if they had never heard portions of it before.

As a longtime student of recorded material, I know from experience that hearing a message one time is about as life transforming as sitting through a weekly sermon. Unless there is a special grace on the particular service where it was preached, the message doesn't stick, and doesn't have much impact. An anointed sermon is sent from the Holy Spirit and calls for an immediate response. Such messages are for that moment, and usually are a call for action. On the other hand, long term teaching is meant by the Holy Spirit to work deeply in us, and seeds within us an ongoing slow transformation in our thinking, our attitudes, and finally in our actions. Both are needed. Both have different levels of working. But of the two, long term teaching seems to be the most effective in us for life transforming ongoing change as we become more like Him. We have heard from many of you that you sometimes listen to a **Nightlight** recording 2 or 3 times. Our prayer is that the Holy Spirit continues to quicken the growth of these seeds of truth in you as you continue to glean from our **Nightlight** recordings, whether old or new.

So thank you for your kind patience with us. Thank you also for the many who have expressed a renewed level of hunger and interest as the Holy Spirit takes us further up and further in.

## MOVIES...

Feeling too old or too broken or too overwhelmed to go forward?

Feeling too old: watch *A Christmas Carol* (1951).

Feeling too broken: watch *The Grinch*.

Feeling too overwhelmed: watch *It's a Wonderful Life*.

Pictures are worth a thousand words. Stories go straight to the heart. Christmas as a season, is over. But the spirit of Christmas lives 365 days of the year.

All our vows and resolutions end in denial because we have no power to carry them out.

When we have come to the end of ourselves, we are [then] able to receive the Holy Spirit. No matter what changes God has wrought in you, never rely upon them, build only on a Person, the Lord Jesus Christ, and on the Spirit He gives. (Oswald Chambers)

Be encouraged! One thing is needed: WANT to be found.





# Closing Thoughts...



*For the next few months, our audio teachings will be on self-acceptance. That does not mean accepting our false self. But it does mean coming to accept those things about us that we may not like. For instance, we will never be perfect. We will sin. We will fall short. The point is to look up to the Cross. To keep our eyes on Jesus. We come to celebrate our smallness, our weakness, in true humility, as we grow into self-forgetfulness. Our Heavenly Father has the ONLY and LAST Word: we are His beloved, redeemed by the precious blood of the Lamb of God. The impossible has happened: we have been made whiter than snow. May the new year be one of becoming more like Him, with a lot of tail-wagging and following Him around!*

*Blessed New Year, Clay & Mary*



## **McLean Ministries**

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