

NightLight

A NEWSLETTER OF McLEAN MINISTRIES

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

Volume 390 • November 2025

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

The Good Shepherd 1 – 3

Update on Clay 3

Closing Thoughts 4

Dear Friends,

One of the earliest pictures etched deeply in my heart is that of Jesus as Shepherd, cradling a little lamb in one arm, his staff in the other hand, other sheep at his feet, but his eyes upon the little lamb.



I now have this plaque in our home, which used to hang on the wall in my parents' home through all the moves we made throughout the years as a military family. It was always a constant. Jesus was always there, holding the little lamb - that was me - through thick and thin, through every change, His eyes upon me. He came with us through every move, and was there on a wall of every home we had. He never left. We never moved away from Him. I learned to trust that He would reappear every time we unpacked in a new place. He was always with me. Jesus was my trusted companion, my dearest Shepherd. I've always associated the song *Jesus Loves Me* with this picture, because of the line "...little ones to Him belong; they are weak but He is strong..." That was me.

*Know that the Lord is God.
It is He who made us, and we are His;
we are His people,
the sheep of His pasture.
Psalm 100:3*

*He tends His flock like a shepherd:
He gathers the lambs in His arms
and carries them close to His heart ...
Isaiah 40:11*

*The Lord is my shepherd,
I shall lack nothing.
Psalm 23:1*



The most incredible thing about Jesus, the Good Shepherd, is that He became a lamb - one of us - laying down His life for His sheep. What a picture of tender mercy! The Good Shepherd is also the Savior - the Lamb of God - who redeems us back to the Father!

*I am the good shepherd.
The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep...
I know my sheep and my sheep know me...
and I lay down my life for the sheep.
John 10:11,14,15*

By staying close, day in and day out, as we listen attentively to our Shepherd's voice, we grow up in love. We begin to trust that we are His beloved, and we learn how to love others. We grow to recognize His voice in very practical ways - in kindness, in compassion, in serving, in giving and forgiving, in sharing - as we respond to Love's quiet call. His voice is most clearly rooted in silence, rarely in the lightning and thunder of the spectacular. And we grow to share a vibrant and intimate deeper life because we've learned to listen for the still small Voice.

The Lamb of God is also our Good Shepherd, even at the end - or should I say the beginning? - of all things...

*For this reason, they are before the throne of God,
and worship Him day and night in His temple;
and the One who sits on the throne will spread His tent over them.
They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat;
for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their Shepherd,
and He will guide them to springs of living water.
And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.
Revelation 7:15-17*

"Anyone can talk about God. And indeed everyone does - especially the hirelings. Only the Shepherd teaches us to pray by changing what and how we love. What marks his voice is not force, not brilliance, but kindness and mercy. It is the stillness at the center of every storm, the strength that does not flinch or flee, regardless of the threat. And if we listen long enough, walk close enough, we begin at least to hear it not just in miracle, but in mourning; not just in answers, but in the patience to wait with the questions; not just in success, but in the quiet fidelity that lasts, that holds, even when all seems lost... Miracles are not the only shape grace takes. Even when the trees are bare, when there's no fruit on the vine or sign in the sky - our Shepherd is not silent. He speaks also in winter. And we recognize his voice... To know the Shepherd, then, is not only to be comforted, but to be changed. And not only to be carried, but to follow him wherever he leads - not only in springtime joy but also in winter sorrow." Chris EW Green

Even though I am 72 years old, I am still that little lamb, held in the loving arms of Jesus, my Good Shepherd. His eyes are upon me. By grace, I grow forever young. I am forever weak, totally dependent upon His strength. I am forever in need of being carried close to His heart. I live with His face turned to me, and mine turned to His. I live in the light of His presence. He is my Good Shepherd, in every season of my life. He is forever leading me to springs of living water. I follow Him in springtime joy. And I follow Him in winter sorrow.

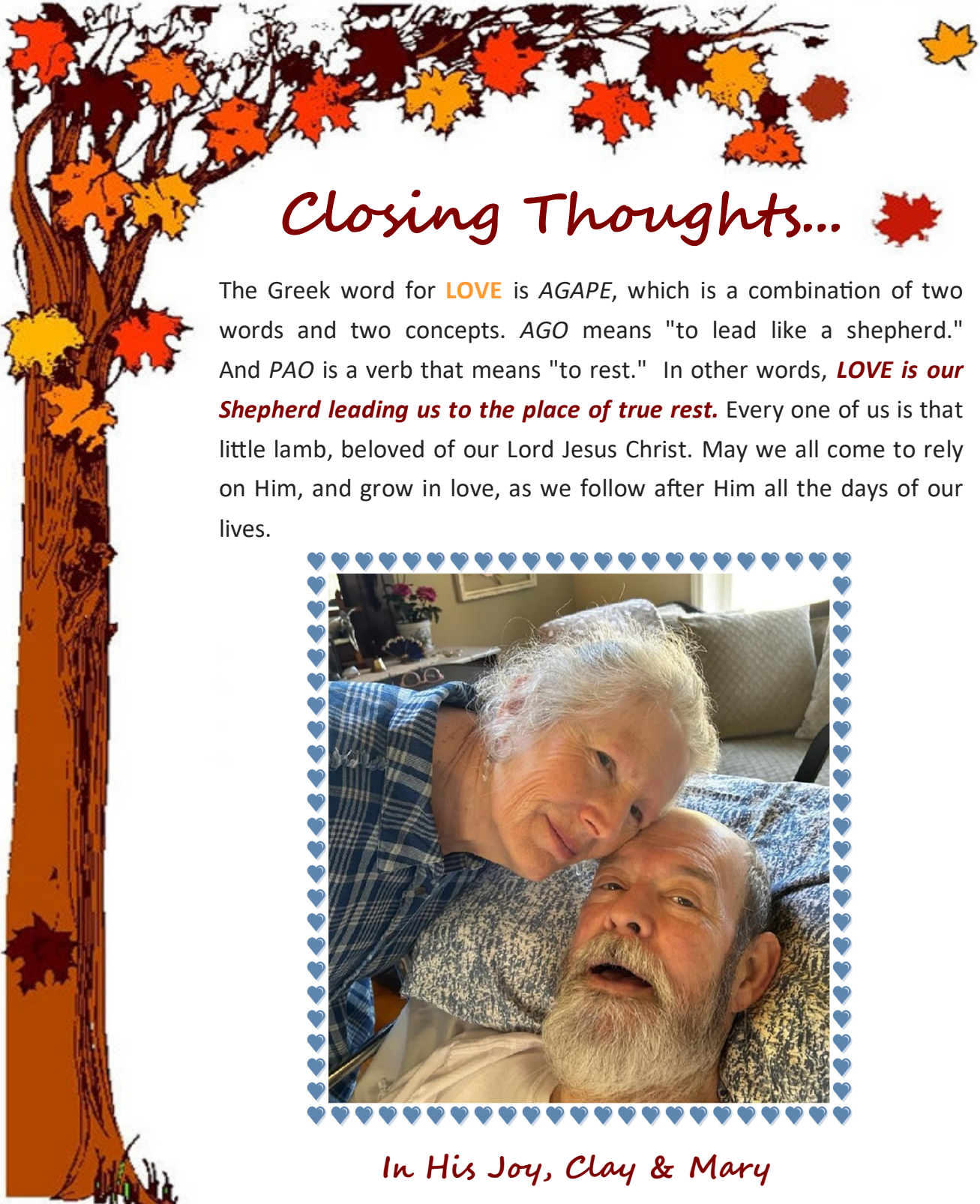


Update on Clay

After 13 days in the hospital, Clay was discharged to home hospice. Clay has chosen to live out the rest of his days surrounded by family and loved ones here at our home, passing the baton of loving on to others. He is full of the peace of the Lord. He is in no pain. Care is non-aggressive, and he is not taking any pain meds. We have abandoned ourselves into our loving Father's will. May His will be done, not ours. Blessed be the Name of the Lord.

God is indeed good!





Closing Thoughts...

The Greek word for **LOVE** is AGAPE, which is a combination of two words and two concepts. AGO means "to lead like a shepherd." And PAO is a verb that means "to rest." In other words, **LOVE is our Shepherd leading us to the place of true rest.** Every one of us is that little lamb, beloved of our Lord Jesus Christ. May we all come to rely on Him, and grow in love, as we follow after Him all the days of our lives.



In His Joy, Clay & Mary

McLean Ministries

P.O. Box 2088 • Hickory, North Carolina 28603 • 828.322.5402
website: www.mcleanministries.org • email: claymcleanministries@pobox.com