



NightLight

A NEWSLETTER OF McLEAN MINISTRIES

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

Volume 391 • December 2025



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Love Shone Down 1 - 2

Made Flesh 3

Closing Thoughts 4

Dear Friends,



*The Word (Christ) became (was made) flesh (human, incarnate),
and fixed His tent of flesh (lived for a while, dwelt, tabernacled) among us.*

*We have seen His glory,
the glory of the one and only Begotten Son,
who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

John 1:14



*For Christ died for sins once for all,
the Righteous One for the unrighteous ones,
the Just One for the unjust ones,
the Innocent One for the guilty ones.
He was put to death in the flesh, in His human body,
but He was made alive by the Spirit.
He went through it all to bring us to God.*

1 Peter 3:18

This is the time of year we celebrate the Incarnation. God becoming human. The Word made flesh. Christ became a baby. A baby boy born in Bethlehem. Jesus, who grew into a man. Jesus, who was both all God and all man. Jesus, who set aside His God-ness, and in humility became obedient to His Heavenly Father as a man.

*Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,
but made himself nothing,
taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself and became obedient to death -
even death on a cross!*

Philippians 2:5-8

Our Lord Jesus Christ came to us from His Heavenly Father in the flesh. And our Lord Jesus Christ was put to death in that same flesh to bring us Home to His Heavenly Father. The Christmas story is one of love. Love that shone down from Heaven into a humble manger filled with straw. Love that shone down into the arms of a humble woman and man. Love that shone down into your heart and mine so many years ago. But the Christmas story of love is only the beginning of the story. It continues and culminates at the cross, where Jesus was crucified, then buried, and ultimately rose from the grave, forever putting death to death. Love wins. The Christmas story of love coming down from our Father to mankind is also the Redemption story of love coming down from our Father to mankind from the cross.

*For God so loved the world
that he gave his one and only begotten Son,
that whoever believes in him
shall not perish but have eternal life.
John 3:16*

To quote Luci Shaw (see page 3) - "*Part of his body, I transcend this flesh.*" I have been redeemed back Home to my loving Pappa by the death in the flesh of my Lord Jesus Christ. He was made flesh. He lived in the flesh. He died in the flesh. He rose in the flesh. He redeemed fallen flesh. Now, as I am part of his body, I transcend this flesh. He is the God-Man that has forever made holy our flesh, our humanness. In Him, I know what love is because He came in the flesh. I am His beloved. I am learning how to love because He loves me first, and sent His Spirit to live in my flesh, inside my very body! I live the Christmas story every day. His presence in my flesh is the best Christmas present ever!

May this holy season be one filled with His presence and love for you and your loved ones in a special way this year. May He draw you ever closer to His heart in these days of darkness. May His light light your way through the encroaching shadows of these evil times. May His peace enfold you in the midst of turmoil and confusion. May His joy radiate from you in praise. When you are crushed, may it be His sweet fragrance that emerges to those around you. He is the Faithful One. He is indeed Emmanuel, God with us. Yes! God with us in our flesh.

*The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son,
and they will call him Emmanuel, which means, God with us.
Matthew 1:23*



Made Flesh

After

the bright beam of hot annunciation
fused heaven with dark earth
his searing sharply focused light
went out for a while
eclipsed in amniotic gloom:
his cool immensity of splendor
his universal grace
small-folded in a warm dim
female space -
the Word stern-sentenced
to be nine months dumb -
infinity walled in a womb
until the next enormity -
the Mighty, after submission
to a woman's pains
helpless on a barn-bare floor
first-tasting bitter death.

Now

I in him surrender
to the crush and cry of birth.
Because eternity
was closeted in time
he is my open door
to forever.
From his imprisonment
my freedoms grow,
find wings.
Part of his body, I transcend this flesh.
From his sweet silence my mouth sings.
Out of his dark I glow.
My life, as his,
slips through death's mesh,
time's bars,
joins hands with heaven,
speaks with stars.

Luci Shaw





Closing Thoughts...



*Righteous Father,
though the world does not know you,
I know you,
and they know that you have sent me.
I have made you known to them,
and will continue to make you known
in order that the love you have for me
may be in them
and that I myself may be in them.*

John 17:25-26

*May His peace be yours this holy season,
Clay and Mary*



McLean Ministries

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