

McCLAIN MINISTRIES

Monthly Newsletter Publication

April 2006



Melva's Corner

YES, I BELIEVE IN HEALING!

PART II

Bible Text: Luke 6:18-19 Luke 9:1, 2

Central Truth: "Do you want to be made whole?"

In the Healing Ministry, many of the gifts of the Spirit are in operation (I Corinthians 12:4-11). The 'Word of Knowledge' is one. Obviously God knows everything about every person and the 'Word of Knowledge' is a divinely given fragment of that knowledge. Years ago a young married couple came to me for prayer. The husband told me that his wife was often overwhelmed by the fear of death and that this caused a great deal of sadness in her life. As he said this, the Holy Spirit told me that it was all related to her mother. On conveying that to her she broke down and wept. She told me that her mother had died when she was four and with that 'Word of Knowledge' I was able to minister the deliverance and healing she needed.

Another gift is that of 'Faith'. The supernatural spirit of faith! As a young evangelist I had the opportunity to minister

Life Events



With Many Wishes For Life's Best...

Frankye Regis
Maggie Lee



Praise the Lord for the Power of Love!
Blessings to Mr. and Mrs. Candia

Happy Resurrection Sunday

Look...Just as He said!

"...He is not here; for He is risen, as he said..." (Matthew 28:6)



News of Christ's resurrection ...May it bring you joy at Easter.

with an extraordinary team of people. Their evangelistic ministry is one of healing through the operation of the Spiritual gifts of the 'Word of Knowledge' and 'Faith'.

I was praying with a group of them for a lady who was a relative of a member of our congregation. She had completely lost the sight in her left eye and was seeking healing. A number of us stood around her as we waited for a revelation from the Lord. Although I believe in physical healing through prayer, I did not at that time have faith to believe that her eye would be healed. However, a young man in the group did. He laid his hands on her and quietly told her that Jesus was at that moment restoring her sight. As a bystander I was as surprised as everyone else proved to be when, with delight, she said her sight was restored. At the moment of prayer the Lord had given the young man that gift of faith.

Shortly after that I felt in possession of an incredible certainty which was this gift of faith and was consequently asked to go see a young man who was involved in a late night head-on crash. His car was written off and when eventually the ambulance arrived, he was pulled out as if dead. At the hospital I visited him in the Intensive Care Unit and spoke with the medical team involved. They said that his life was only being maintained by a machine and that his prognosis was non-existent. I did not accept their diagnosis and made my way towards his cubicle to pray with him. As I entered the area I was given an inner certainty that the Lord was going to raise him up. When I started to pray I found myself praising God for the healing which was beginning. Suffice it to say, he eventually recovered.

Paul uses the term '**the gifts of healing**' in I Corinthians 12:4-11. There are various ways in which the Lord shows believers what particular gift they may have. In the church

I previously attended we prayed regularly for the sick at our monthly Communion Service. When I initially started attending five or six church leaders usually ministered and they prayed in such a way that the whole church could join in. This changed with the visitation of a guest minister from India. On the Saturday night of his visit he had a 'Word of Knowledge' to the effect that the Lord was anointing different members of the congregation for a healing ministry. He went on to say that all those who felt a warm tingling in their hands should go to the communion rail. About thirty went forward. He then anointed them with oil in the name of the Lord and the Spirit came mightily upon them.

Today, in that church, after every service several teams of these folks are on hand to pray for the sick. It is amongst them that there is a strong gift of healing operating weekly. To illustrate - one morning a lady came forward in great emotional distress. As they prayed for her the Holy Spirit spoke through one of the members and said two things: first, she was to open her life fully to Him and to receive the resources of His Spirit; second, she was to make an appointment to see a member of our congregation, who is a doctor and trained spiritual counselor.

The '**Discerning of Spirits**' is another gift used in the healing ministry. About nine years ago a young lady came to me for counseling. As I looked at her I was inwardly aware that an evil spirit had infiltrated her personality. She said that she had wanted to believe in Jesus, but whenever she tried, voices screamed in her head and she became agitated and violent. It seemed that she had been actively involved in occult practices. As she repented a prayer in the name of Jesus set her free to believe and rejoice.

Sometimes, the Holy Spirit leads us to the sources of problems by showing us pict-

ures or **'Visions'** about someone's condition. I remember at a conference there was a lady who was on leave from abroad and asked for prayer. As I prayed, a picture was given of a flower in full bloom which began to shrivel. I mentioned this and she replied, 'That is a picture of me. My spiritual life has shriveled and I feel empty and lost.' As we continued to pray the Spirit said that there were three things which were the cause of this condition: a sexual problem, deep guilt, and fear. I was then able to deal with each of these as she admitted them and through counsel and absolution she came to an inner peace and knew again the presence of God. God then said, 'She can be filled with the Spirit.' So we prayed and the Spirit filled her. I had a message from her two years afterwards saying all was going well.

I believe that, apart from unbelief, the greatest barrier to healing is an unwillingness to be healed. It may sound strange, but many people only have identity and receive the compassion they desire because of their illness.

Recently, I ministered to a young engaged couple. The girl suffered from noises in the inner ear, which sometimes became so severe that she fainted. Over the years her parents had taken her to several doctors, but extensive tests showed nothing organically wrong.

Her conversation turned into a confession. When she was young her father had not been able to show her affection. However, at an early age she discovered that if she fainted she would receive the affection she craved. With the fainting came the noises in the inner ear. She had received both medical care and prayer; she had enjoyed the attention; up until that day she hadn't wanted to be healed. Her subsequent letter recounts that after her prayer of confession, the Lord healed her completely.

As we continue our discussion of inner

healing it is important to remember that the mind is the battlefield upon which the devil wages the greatest war. He is by nature a destroyer, a liar, and an accuser. It is to the mind that he brings the thoughts which, if pursued, can lead to oppression. It is not without significance that Paul writes: 'Always carry the shield of faith so that you can use it to put out the burning arrows of the Evil One' (Ephesians 6.16).

'Burning arrows', once they pierce, and make an entrance, consume and destroy. I once read that on the walls of Martin Luther's study there is a mark where he threw an inkpot at the devil. We at times need to be just as definite. We must heed the words of Peter when he wrote: **'Be calm, but vigilant, because your enemy, the Devil, is prowling round like a roaring lion looking for someone to eat. Stand up to him, strong in faith'** (I Peter 5.8-9).

Whether we call it 'depression or 'oppression', it is my experience that the powers of evil are able somehow to infiltrate the human personality and distort it. Last month I ministered to a young man who was seeking freedom. He wanted to be engaged to a certain girl, but was also a practicing homosexual. He had tried to free himself but always, in his words, something overwhelmed him. As I prayed for him in the name of Jesus, he shook violently and began to say, 'I'm free, I'm free - something has left me.' In his particular case, something had. He was completely delivered from homosexual tendencies.

In the Living Bible there is a delightful translation of Jude, verse 21. It reads: 'Stay always within the boundaries where God's love can reach and bless you.' When we step outside the boundaries through willful disobedience or ignorance, we can suffer from destructive feelings of guilt and insecurity, and these can also have physical effects.

Two years ago a woman came to me in

much distress. Seven years previously she had stepped outside the boundaries and had an affair. At the same time she had contracted a crippling internal disease which left her weak and in need of constant medical care. Before I met her she had come to a deep sense of sorrow and, through confession, had sought God's forgiveness.

She had known God's forgiveness, but felt that her physical condition was due to her wrong actions and that what she needed was God's cleansing. As we prayed for cleansing, the physical condition was resolved.

In another gracious act Christ showed me not only that He is involved in our lives, but also that He is well aware of what is necessary for a full healing. One evening a man telephoned to ask for prayer. He had a heart ailment and this condition was causing him particular distress because he was relatively young. We prayed together over the telephone for a few minutes. A few days later the following letter arrived. 'Many thanks for the telephone ministry the other day. Immediately after I put down the receiver I was overcome by a tremendous over-powering emotion from the depths, in which all my failure and sin came pouring out, and all I could do between sobs was to tell God that I was a failure who had treated him like dirt, and ruined the creature he had intended. For years I have been aware of a large dead area which knew nothing of God, and I had prayed that he would deal with it. I had forgotten that I had made that prayer! Anyway, the upshot has been that my heart questioned down almost at once, and the dead area is now alive; for the first time I can accept my failure, because God does forgive, and I really feel forgiven. I am no longer quite literally breaking my heart in the depths of myself. I have had a recent medical examination and everything is normal.'

What a marvelous work of love that was by our Lord. It again shows His total involvement in the human situation. Though the man was concerned primarily with his physical condition, the Lord dealt with the core problem, thus making possible the healing of the body for evidently the illness was caused by the man's spiritual need. Again, it is clear that Jesus not only commands us to heal but is Himself actively engaged in healing. The infant Church understood this, for they prayed, 'And now, Lord, look upon their threats, and grant to thy servants to speak thy word with all boldness, while thou stretchest out thy hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of thy holy servant Jesus' (Acts 4.29-30). It is noteworthy that in the incident just described healing was made at a distance. It shows that the Lord is active everywhere and that healing, as wonderful as it is, does not necessitate the laying-on of hands in every situation.

In a very large proportion of cases, physical illness is the result of emotional or spiritual disorder. Asthma, digestive and bowel problems, heart and skin conditions, rheumatism and arthritis, are often indicative of deeper trouble. As we minister to people with such ailments, paying attention to underlying emotional and spiritual conditions, we find that the physical manifestations can disappear. This leads us into the area of much of our Lord's deep and lovely work - the whole realm of emotional or inner healing. Because of a whole range of factors many people today are finding life too demanding. Consequently, in order to keep going, they resort to drug prescriptions from their doctor to relieve depression, strain, anxiety and an inability to cope.

The Lord shows His healing power with many people who are in such a state. Help is available for people who are depressed, who feel unloved or unwanted, who are not

ill enough to necessitate hospital treatment, but who find, nevertheless, that life has lost its joy and purpose. They feel inadequate or useless, often plagued by anxiety, worry, fear or guilt. This leads to loneliness and difficulty in relationships. In large numbers of cases in which I have been privileged to share, I have seen God bring people to an inner peace which has enabled them to resume life in a more positive and fruitful way. A minister shared this example of the healing of a lady who had quite a lot of inner suffering, described in her own words:

'I was born in May 1945 and have a sister eight years older. I lived in a family which was generally opposed to religion, and where violent episodes due to drinking were prevalent.'

'The story of my healing begins in October 1973 when I found faith in the Lord Jesus Christ through deliverance from evil spirits. (I had been involved in the occult for a number of years, hoping to find a meaning to life.)'

'I had been ill since January 1970 with a complete breakdown, and for nearly four years I had undergone various forms of medical treatment, culminating in a period in a psychiatric hospital where I underwent narcosis (sleep therapy), all to no avail. For the period during the breakdown I was taking thirty-four pills a day, including eight 5mg of Valium, three of Nardil and fifteen of Inderal (the latter were to steady my heart which on occasions was beating two hundred times a minute). Among the symptoms I experienced were phobias, a feeling of strangulation - a persistent lump in my throat - pressures and tightness in my chest and stomach. Most days I had at least one panic attack in which unknown fears completely overwhelmed me.'

'Life became totally unbearable and I often considered suicide. I was away from work as often as I was there and eventually had

to resign my job as well as withdraw from all activities outside the home. My marriage was on the rocks. I was a medical write-off, at twenty-eight years of age.

'When I accepted the Lord Jesus Christ into my life that evening in October 1973 (incidentally my husband did so at the same time), I found a meaning in life, and very soon, in consultation with the doctor, I could radically decrease the number of tablets. But after about eighteen months, having stopped taking all the tablets except about 1mg of Valium, I was unable to cut down any further. After much prayer with our minister and his wife as to why I was making no more progress, I was led to receive a deeper ministry of inner healing. On a number of occasions over the following months I was ministered to in a very deep way during which the Lord through His Spirit, took me back to areas in my past which needed His healing touch, including trauma during the birth process. This ministry revealed, among other things, that I had buried very deep anger against members of my family, especially my mother who had overprotected me as a child. My father had died in 1967 and I had never been able to express my grief at the time.'

'As the areas of deep pain were exposed to the Master's healing love, the symptoms gradually disappeared - the lump in my throat was the last to go. The number of tablets I took diminished further until I was completely free from each and every one of them in July 1981, and today (over twenty years later) I am still free of them. During the past year, the Lord has helped me shed 40 pounds in weight, much of which I had put on during the illness.'

This lady and her husband are now themselves involved, in their parish church, in ministering to others who are in bondage to the emotional pains of their past.

There were some quite disturbing elements

in this lady's background, some of which have not been mentioned for family reasons. While a surprising number have such traumas, many people from all levels of society who need inner healing come from what we would call a normal background. That is to say, their parents cared for them, wanted to be good parents and provided what they considered to be a family life that gave more than the necessities of life. Nevertheless the children have grown up with problems. In the final analysis it seems that they feel they were not loved for themselves. The cause of this is that in some way the parents, or other adults involved, had been unable to form a true relationship with their children. This may be because of the parents' emotional difficulties, for example, the mother's emotional needs may drive her to try to possess her child. Post-natal depression can cause a rift between mother and child, as can the removal of a baby from its mother for medical reasons. Or some mothers for whatever reason may say that they are unable to bear the thought of having another child. All these and other factors can cause a child to feel he or she is unwanted. Similarly, fathers play their part. Someone will say to me, 'My father was a retiring person,' which means that he could not relate to his children, or 'I felt that father's first love was his work. The family seemed to come second.'

I have seen the Holy Spirit enter into the inner agony of many, giving them a new sense that they matter and are able to accept themselves. As a result, their attitude to life has blossomed. While many people have been released, it must again be said that, for reasons which are not known yet, others have not come out of their prison. There is no magical or automatic action by God in areas such as these with so many complicating elements and unmet needs. But even in such cases, the willingness to share another's pain can never be in vain.


So I believe in healing because God has made it abundantly plain to me that He is active in caring for those He has created. The greatest joy is that He is strongly active 'at such a time as this', when the need is so great, for church after church is awakening to this realization and one sees the ministry of healing becoming an integral part of their life. This message reveals - the deeper we go into inner healing the greater the results.

When seeking God's healing, problems may be caused by the tendency to slip back into old reactions after the obvious initial freedom. At such times we are tempted to think that maybe nothing happened to us after all, and that the supposed healing was an illusion.

At this time we need to draw upon the Word. The word of God is 'like a lamp to our feet and a light to our path' (Psalm 119.105), and the promises of God are to be trusted. It is often helpful to copy out a Scripture such as Philippians 4.8.

In writing about the Lord's Supper (I Corinthians 2.30-31), Paul suggests that the wrong use of Communion can lead to weakness, illness, and even death. How much, more than will the right use lead to wholeness of life. I always encourage people to seek the continuing healing of Christ every time they take Communion. A man was telling me recently that he had had an unresolved wrong attitude towards his mother which went back as long as he could remember. Because of this he was experiencing the beginnings of a stomach ulcer. He asked Christ to break into the situation and testified that the ultimate healing came over a period of time through Communion.

I going to end this message now, but there is so much more to come. As the Holy Spirit reveals, I will share it with you.

Memory Text: "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path" (Psalms 119:105) 

Higher Mountain...Higher Praises

SHOUT!
Melva McClain

I am so excited about receiving our first computer contribution to the new service we will be providing: Computer Clinics.

Denise Jones works for a company that donates their replacement computers to charitable organizations. Denise placed our name on the donor list last year. We received our first donated computer on Saturday during our Bible Workshop. Praise God!

Why are we starting a Computer Clinic?

We are basically a virtual ministry utilizing the Internet as our primary source of communication. However, many of our members do not have access to a computer nor the skill involved in using one. Our goal is to establish a computer clinic to train these members.

Ministry Prayer Request:

We are simultaneously engaged in **(6) six bold initiatives** at this time and the enemy is not pleased. But he came too late for us because we are going to turn his world upside down with our success. Let's stand together as we boldly seize the vision for this ministry with the current initiatives:

1. National Bulletin Board Service
2. Bible Workshop Webcam
3. Computer Clinics
4. Bible College Partners-Obtain college credit for our training guides.
5. Training Guides Mass Production
6. New Ministry Blog Site

God is truly Enlarging Our Territory Daily.

Higher Praises

Original Request sent by **Mary Jordan Smith** on 2/10/06: Mrs. Daniels' daughter, Betty Nell Daniels, has been a cancer survivor for quite some time. The cancer has reoccurred. Betty is having surgery today. Mrs. Daniels just called me a few minutes ago. She, and her family, needs our prayers.

Praise Report: I spoke with Mary Jordan Smith earlier today. She informed me that Betty is doing fine and is expected to be discharged from the hospital tomorrow.

Higher Praises Continue

Original Request sent by **Sylvia Washington** on 2/09/06: Pray, Pray, Pray - Sheila McDouglles' daughter, Cassandra McDouglles was burned badly on her right hand, her chest and chin today in a grease fire. Cassandra is being taken by ambulance to the University of South Alabama hospital.

God is so good. Cassandra was home alone when the grease fire started. Cassandra was cooking fries and thought that she turned the stove off. She smelled the smoke and went back into the kitchen and found that the pot was on fire. Without thinking, she took the pot to the sink and turned the water on. The fire blazed up and caught Cassandra on fire. She was able to put herself out and go for help across the hall.

Cassandra has a small baby that she always keeps on her chest in a baby holster. THANK GOD! Sheila did not have the baby with her. Okay saint, PRAY, PRAY, AND PRAY SOME MORE!

GOD IS ABLE! Sheila's #601-991-3963 she should be home for a short time. She is packing to go to Alabama.

☞ Higher Praises Goes On and On ☞

Praise Report: I thank God for all of the prayers that went up on behalf of my daughter Cassandra. God was in this from the beginning. The angels were encamped round about her. She did not inhale any flames when the fire blazed up on her. After the fire happened, the neighbors were so helpful in calling the ambulance and family and staying with Cassandra (even willing to ride to the hospital with her) until her family was notified and arrived.

She was taken to UMC who immediately sent her to the burn center in Mobile, Alabama.

There is very minor damage done to the apartment. Smoke on the ceiling and a small burn spot on the dining room floor.

The healing process so far, is going quite well. I am believing that her skin will not keyloid in the healing process. The devil is trying to make her believe otherwise. But, I know, God is able. We are traveling to Mobile on a weekly basis right now for clinic visits. She has had two skin rashes in the past two weeks. The first, due to Wound Care putting Aloe Vera Cream on the burn wounds, that is a no, no. Aloe Vera Cream has penicillin in it and it can do more harm to the wounds than helping. The second, we are not sure it may be from nerves, we will see what they say on Thursday when we go to be fitted for the compression for her hand and chest.

Once again, I value the prayers that you have already prayed and are still praying.

“BREAKTHROUGH”
Denise Jones

Do you remember the baby girl, Abbey Hemphill who was suffering from what the Dr.'s was calling CYSTIC FIBROSIS. Saints, ABBEY has been released from the neurologists God is Great! Matt Hemphill, Abby's father is so happy.

Melva McClain

☞ Higher Praises Go Up ☞

Praise Report: Just picked up a voice mail from Carolyn Cooper. Her mother's surgery went well and Lucille is now home resting. Praise the Lord! Now let's zero in on a speedy recovery.

Prayer Request: Ms Lucille would like for us to prayer for her upcoming right knee surgery.

“STANDING TOGETHER AS ONE!”

National Bulletin Board Launch Party

I would personally like to thank everyone who participated in the launching of our New Bulletin Board Service on Saturday, March 4th. What a wonderful precursor to a project that is ordained by God and destined to impact our Global existence. The food was excellent and a good time was had by all.



“Great minds discuss ideas; Average minds discuss events; Small minds discuss people.”

FREE ADVERTISEMENT – ANOINTED IDEAS AND INFORMATION
Lena Williams

I am so thankful to Melva for being obedient to the Holy Spirit to launch the Electronic Bulletin Board feature for McClain Ministries. From the moment Kim and I drove up to Arbra's house and entered the door.

I felt a powerful presence of the Holy Spirit.

The synergy from each person was so alive and energizing. Everything was organized and beautiful. The vision was in the atmosphere. This alone is enough to praise HIS Holy name. My compliments to everyone who attended and those who could not make it, but will be participating in the Bulletin Board Service.

I am so grateful. I have started managing a boutique consignment shop for Jacqueline Hill on Thursday and Friday called "It's All About U". Jackie and Carmila attended the Network Party. When we opened the store on Thursday the blessing followed us. A reporter from the Clarion Ledger just walked in impromptu and asked Jackie if she could do a story on her store which opened in October 2005. She interviewed Jackie and stated the photographer would be in to shoot photos. She stated it would probably be just a small black in white segment in the business section of the paper. *Praise God!!!* The next day people were calling us about Jackie's picture which appeared on the Clarion Ledger front page and a big layout in the business section with both of us working in the shop in living color. We were stunned! Free advertisement! God is so good! He is moving...and as we move with Him, He is blessing our every move.

Kim and I are putting our heads together to offer services that will enhance every business...and the Hand of God is with us giving us good ideas through the presence of the HOLY SPIRIT. Be creative...launch your business doing what you love...it shall come to pass...it shall prosper if you acknowledge the HOLY SPIRIT and allow Him to direct your path.



IN HIS PRESENCE

6:00 P.M. HOUR OF PRAYER



Use this wonderful supernatural tool the Lord has blessed us with the **6 o'clock hour of power**. This is the time to intercede for the needs of others, the concerns of the ministry, and to pray for the leadership within our community, our nation, and our world.

Bring all of your cares and burdens to the altar and encourage others to do the same. Lives are being changed. Breakthroughs are happening.

Home Bible Workshop Schedule



Mark your calendars for the April 2006 dates. Please plan to attend.

APRIL 1ST AND 15TH

'God's Power Promises'

✉ 1050 Ridgeside Drive
Brandon, MS 39042

☎ Phone: 601-824-7498



WEBSITE OFFERINGS

(Article Excerpts)
www.mcclainministries.org

PRICELESS!

Oftentimes, when our world is filled with painful realities that are too overwhelming for us to properly manage emotionally, we lose ourselves in insignificance. We feel a numbing powerlessness to impact world outcomes and a mocking frustration at our inability to make a difference in global events. If we are not careful, we soon spiral into fatalistic depression and lose our sense of purpose in our individual lives, thus robbing the smaller world in proximity to us of the influence God has called us to make.

I have good news for you today. God put His stamp of approval on us from the moment of our conception. He has known us and personally fashioned each of us to make a difference in the world at our fingertips. He has a purpose for each of our lives and has put us in the place we find ourselves to help leave His divine work of grace on others.

ARTICLES BY OTHERS

LAUGHTER - A PRESCRIPTION FOR YOU

Several studies have been done on the value of a positive attitude toward life for physical, emotional, and spiritual health. A quarter century ago, for example, Norman Cousins wrote about his personal experience of recovery from a debilitating illness and attributed it to laughter. The editor of Saturday Review, Cousins' experience received widespread attention. He was even invited to teach on the faculty of a respected medical school.

Cousins spoke of laughter to embrace the entire range of positive human emotions.

He didn't believe that laughing at dirty jokes, for example, had a curative power over heart disease or cancer. He simply observed what all of us sense about negative emotions setting the stage for illness. From that premise, he reasoned that such positive emotions as cheerfulness, hope, playfulness, humor, faith, and love could have a therapeutic value to human beings.

Now a new study from the University of Maryland Medical Center reaffirms that thesis. "We know that anger and mental stress impair the endothelium — the protective barrier lining our blood vessels," says the lead researcher. "This can cause fat and cholesterol buildup in the coronary arteries. But laughter may have the opposite effect — it may stimulate elements that protect the endothelium."

Insurance companies aren't willing yet to pay for your video rental yet or to buy you a whoopee cushion. But it is a prescription each of us can write for his or herself to laugh early and laugh often.

LIGHTEN UP & LIVE LONGER

Christianity isn't a silly enterprise. That doesn't mean, however, that it should be dull, boring, or somber. Faith is a journey to our ultimate victory and our joyous homecoming. God is incredible along the way, and also full of joyous surprises. He takes our worst messes, and when our hearts are truly open to Him and His power, He makes wonderful, joyous, and even humorous stories of victory out of them.

So like Jesus (Luke 2:52), and like His newly born church (Acts 2:47), let's live winsome lives, full of joy and in anticipation of victory. There's a world watching us that already knows enough negativity, gloom, and despair. Let's lighten up just a bit, so the Light of Life is more apparent, and a lot more appealing, to those trapped in darkness around us.

THE GOD WHO SEES

Hagar, the pregnant maidservant of Sarah, had fled into the wilderness. She just wanted to die. But God sent an angel who found her and told her to go back home even though it was the hardest place to go. He then predicted that the child born to her would be a wild man who wouldn't get along with anybody.

Now I don't know about you, but if I were Hagar, that's not exactly what I would have wanted to hear. Hagar's response, however, was to call God a name that had never been used before: The-God-Who-Sees. And she accepted what He said. Yes, our God is the all-knowing One who sees our scars, our secrets, and our strength. Our wounds and shame are His affair, and He knows just how much trouble we can stand. Somehow, the fact that He knows us so well makes a difference. We understand there is a direction and we are part of a bigger picture. From the wildernesses in our lives, the fact that He sees gives us a reason to carry on. No longer are we anonymous, lonely, and lost.

We can sigh about things, or we can laugh. Both these responses release pressure, but which is most fun? We laugh so we won't scream. Laughter is a riotous vote of acceptance that He is the God-Who-Sees. Whatever it is probably won't go away, so we might as well live through it. When we double over laughing, we're bending so we won't break. If you think your particular troubles are too heavy and too traumatic to laugh about, remember that laughing is like changing a baby's diaper. It doesn't solve any problems permanently, but it makes things more acceptable for awhile.

ENTREPRENEURS - HOW TO CREATE A SERVICE BUSINESS

Who can sell a service? The answer is simple -- anyone and everyone. Everyone is

qualified because each of us has skills, knowledge or experience that other people are willing to pay for in the form of a service; or they're willing to pay you to teach them your specific skill or knowledge. Selling services knows no boundaries--anyone with a need or desire to earn extra money, work from home, or start and operate a full-time business can sell a service, regardless of age, business experience, education or current financial resources.

Don't worry if you lack business skills and experience in areas such as time management, personal-contact selling, negotiating, bookkeeping and the ability to create effective advertisements. There's no question these are all important skills to have, but at the same time they're also skills that with practice can be learned and mastered. More important is the question, "What skill(s) do you have that can be sold as a service?" Any skill(s) you possess can be your best, and by far your most marketable, asset. If you know how to safely walk a dog, that's a skill people are willing to pay you for. If you know how to plan and throw one heck of a party, that's also a skill people are willing to pay you for as their event and party planner. If you know how to play the piano, this is a skill other people will pay you to teach them. If you know how to sell products and services online, once again that's a skill that people are willing to pay you for as an online marketing consultant. All are examples of skills that people pay other people to perform, or teach them how to learn.

ENTREPRENEURS DO YOU NEED EXCELLENT CREDIT TO START A NEW BUSINESS

Many entrepreneurs do not have good credit. Some start a business because they were laid off and don't have many alternatives. Some start a business when opportunity strikes, rather than when their personal financial situation is in good condition. Some

go through divorces and personal bankruptcies that can ruin their credit.

Your personal credit score is determined by several factors, including the outstanding debt balance on personal credit cards, the number of open lines of credit accounts, bill payment history and late payment history. Your business credit score is determined by similar factors but is linked to the tax ID for your business, not your Social Security number. This important difference can help you get your business off the ground.

If your personal credit score is damaged, you should seriously consider getting a separate tax ID number for your business as soon as possible whether you are incorporated or not. If you do not want to spend the money to incorporate your business, you can still get a tax ID number from the IRS even if your business is a sole proprietorship, an LLC or a partnership. Talk to your CPA for information on how to do this. It's very simple to complete the relevant form (form SS-4) and send it to the IRS. You can apply online at the [IRS site](#).

In addition to getting a tax ID number, it is important to ensure that your business is distinct from your personal identity. You should consider getting a separate business address (not a post office box), a separate bank account, an official corporate name registered with local authorities and a separate telephone listing. While these administrative chores might seem minor, they are critical in distinguishing you from your business.

ENTREPRENEURS - CREATING A HOME OFFICE

If you're setting up your home-office tech on a budget - and who isn't - we've got some tips to keep costs down.

You've found a spare room in your house. It may be the basement or an extra bedroom.

Now, you're ready to transform it into the home base for your new business. The first step to building a home office is finding a space that is separate from your daily life. Add a good desk and a comfortable chair, and you have the foundation to add the next step: technology. First, we'll give a general overview of the components and then get down to a specific setup. Since you probably already have a cell phone, we're going to skip that.

Your computer will be the basis of your entire technology setup. Your choices boil down to two main options: desktop or laptop. Or if your budget and needs allow, you might consider investing in both. Let's start with the desktop. You'll be digging through a mire of megabytes, hard-drive sizes, processor speeds and extras, but it's worth the effort and you won't have to spend a fortune.

A few basic guidelines: Look for a Pentium 4 processor, at least 512MB memory, a 60GB hard drive and a re-writable CD/DVD combo drive. Ehlike points to memory as an important factor. "Memory is one way you can crank up the performance on your computer," Ehlike says. "You shouldn't shortchange any of your computers on memory." Next, you need a monitor. The days of the old-fashioned CRT are fading as flat-panel LCDs have hit new levels of affordability and quality. They're easy on the eyes, easy on space and fit almost any budget.

Of course, all this technology won't do you much good without a reliable connection to the outside world. That's where broadband comes in. If you're going to check e-mail or spend any amount of time on the web, cable and DSL are the top choices for home offices. They are fairly comparable in speed, price and basic functionality. Expect to pay at least \$40 per month. Which you choose may simply be a matter of availability. Your distance from the central office can affect DSL speed while the, num-

ber of people logging on can affect cable speeds. Ask around your neighborhood to see what other people are using and how satisfied they are with the service.

ENTREPRENEURS - NEED A TOLL FREE NUMBER?

A toll free number is no longer an expensive luxury for a large business. It is now an inexpensive necessity for small businesses. For less than \$5 a month, you can set up an 800, 866, 877 or 888 number, complete with call forwarding, voice mail, extensions and more. This type of service can be a great boost to a small business's image, and can help you generate sales due to an increase in trust from potential customers.

And unlike having a landline, you won't have to go through a big carrier like AT&T or Bell Atlantic for a toll-free number; you don't even need a physical line. A plethora of small technology companies have purchased blocks of numbers that connect to a few hard-wired lines that run to the telecom companies.

It's kind of like running a parking lot. The person who owns the parking lot can have 300 cars park in his lot throughout the day, even though he only has 20 spots. With toll-free numbers, the company that provides the number might actually only own 20 phone lines, but it rents out 300 phone numbers figuring that at any given time only 20 of the lines will be in use. By carrying the costs of just 20 lines while charging 300 clients for the use of a toll-free number, carrier can keep costs down and charge lower prices to the people "renting" the toll-free numbers.

What is the major selling point for these toll free numbers? The technology add-ons that come with the service. If you're like me, running a business from a cell phone between classes and meetings, having a

landline doesn't really make sense since you'd have to either hire a secretary to man the phones or pay for voicemail. By using the technology add ons that come with the service, when a customer calls my stock footage company, they're greeted with a personalized message.

ENTREPRENEURS - CREATIVE FUNDING

One of the biggest psychological barriers to starting and maintaining your own business is money. Even with an initial nest egg, financing a startup over time can be grueling. I speak from personal experience. During my company's startup phase, there were many occasions when I was overdrawn at the bank, behind in vendor payments, and lying awake at night worrying about whether I'd make it through the month. There were even times I had less than a dollar in my bank account! Take solace in knowing that this is often the early experience of many successful businesses.

However, there's hope! By understanding your options and using a little creativity, you can avoid overextending yourself and tap into additional resources when you need them.

Mark your Calendar... 2nd Quarter Teleconference



Saturday, April 29, 2006

8:00 a.m. CST

Toll Free Dial-In Number

1-888-422-7124

Participant Code: 730940

McClain Ministries

National Bulletin Board Synergy Session

www.mcclainministries.org

I would personally like to thank everyone who participated in the launching of our New Bulletin Board Service on Saturday, March 4th. What a wonderful precursor to a project that is ordained by God and destined to impact our Global existence.

As you know this bold initiative will require unprecedented networking. So where do we go from here? The next Bulletin Board 'Networking' Party is scheduled for Saturday, September 23, 2006. Prior to our party date we will host two (2) Synergy Sessions in an effort to galvanize the energy and resources necessary to successfully complete this massive project. These 'synergy' sessions will allow us to pool all of our tangible and intangible knowledge.

The first of these sessions is schedule for:
Saturday, May 6, 2006
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
1050 Ridgeside Drive
Brandon, MS

Establishing a National Bulletin Board is an awesome undertaking that will require the unyielding guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is based on the fundamental belief that every human need should be met through the Body of Christ.

The Bulletin Board will be located on our website and will feature services available to our members. The way it will work has evolved:

Anyone requiring services such as a handyman, roofer, caterer, legal aid, babysitter etc. can just simply go to the Bulletin Board link located on the Homepage of the website and click onto "**National Bulletin Board Service.**" Once there you will find all of our Entrepreneur Services listed by category, i.e. Insurance, Financial, Health & Beauty etc. After Clicking onto the desired service. You will be given the option of selecting the State (LA, MS, NY) in which you need the service. Click onto the State and a list of Entrepreneurs will be available. Section of any of the Entrepreneurs will take you to their website or portfolio with full details of their service.

Our intention is to be a liaison for those who have needs for services and those who provide services. Obviously we will not be able to meet every need in every area - initially. The goal, however, is to build a nationwide data base that will eventually match every need with every service.

Melva McClain



(Year (4) Four)

There have been 2,521 coalition deaths, 2,316 Americans, one Australian, 103 Britons, 13 Bulgarians, two Danes, two Dutch, two Estonians, one Hungarian, 26 Italians, one Kazakh, one Latvian, 17 Poles, two Salvadorans, three Slovaks, 11 Spaniards, two Thai and 18 Ukrainians in the war in Iraq as of March 20, 2006, according to a CNN count. At least 17,124 U.S. troops have been wounded in action, according to the Pentagon.

As the Iraq war entered its fourth year, police found the bodies of at least 15 more people -- including that of a 13-year-old girl -- dumped in and near Baghdad. The discoveries marked the latest in a string of execution-style killings that have become an almost daily event as Sunni and Shiite extremists settle scores.

Sectarian killings have swept across Iraq since the Feb. 22 bombing of a Shiite Muslim shrine in Samarra. An Associated Press tally, including deaths reported Monday and Tuesday, put the toll at 1,044 since the golden dome atop the Askariya shrine was left in rubble by two bombers, who are believed to remain at large.

Gunmen ambushed a police station in the Sunni Muslim heartland north of Baghdad Tuesday, killing at least 17 police officers and a guard at a nearby courthouse while freeing prisoners held at the station, police said.

More than 20 suspected insurgents struck at dawn, burning the police station in the city of Muqadiyah and detonating a string of roadside bombs as they raced from the scene, said police Lt. Col. Falah al-Mohammadawi. It was not immediately clear how many prisoners were released, he said.

At least 13 people, including police officers and civilians, were injured.

Much of the violence targeted police officials.

Have we strayed too far into the violent world of our enemies by using our military to provoke shockwaves? Are we uncomfortably close to the folks of Isaiah's time, who felt sure that protection against and victory over an enemy from the same part of the world was to be found in military might, in horses, chariots, and horsemen? As our planes and missiles batter Baghdad from the air, as our tanks hurry across the desert, wouldn't it be wise to hear again Isaiah's message? Woe to those who find salvation in a strong military, who create a sense of shock in their enemies with a hail of missiles and bombs, and fail to be filled with shock themselves in the presence of God. "In God We Trust," says our money. And if God doesn't come through, then we trust in our military.

As a follower of the Lord of peace, who pronounced a blessing on peacemakers, I feel sorrow and a sense of national failure in the events of the past four years.

OUR GLOBAL OUTREACH MAILING LIST

Fill in the information below and mail using the self addressed envelope enclosed.

Date_____

Name_____

Address_____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone Number() _____

Fax Number _____

Email Address _____

Send To:

**McClain Ministries
1050 Ridgeside Drive
Brandon, MS 39042**



DO YOU BLOG?

melvamccclain.blogspot.com

As you know we are launching a "Blog" on the Internet in April. Many of you have asked, "what in the world" is a 'Blog.' It is similar to a Website. **But you get to participate in the action.** Blogs are totally interactive and a feature that I think you will come to love. Yes indeed, we are a 'Virtual' ministry alive and well in the 21st century.

Lena Williams, who has conducted the ministry's research on the subject of blogs, provides these wonderful details:


A blog is like a public diary that anyone can read. You can write about virtually anything you want... for example:

- Like photography? Tell everyone about the great pictures you just took
- A stay at home mom or dad? Tell everyone what your day is like
- Love pets? Tell everyone about your cat "Peaches," or even write a Blog for Peaches!

You can write as much or as little as you want, and as often or as rarely as you like. Not a good writer? Don't worry about it!... The whole point of a blog is that you are sharing your thoughts, desires, hobbies, hopes, dreams, or whatever! And hearing back from and connecting with other like-minded folks. **Everyone is interesting and different and blogs are a way for you to reach the world.**

Many people use a blog just to organize their own thoughts, while others command influential, worldwide audiences of thousands. Professional and amateur journalists use blogs to publish breaking news, while personal journalers reveal inner thoughts.

Technical Requirements

- Windows 2000 or XP 
- Internet Explorer 5.5 or 6.x installed (but does not have to be the default browser)
 - 50 MB available hard drive space

