

# McCLAIN MINISTRIES

Since 2000 A Monthly Christian Newsletter Publication

December 2008



## JOY TO THE WORLD

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**Faith Moves Mountains – Doubt Creates Them! (Restoration)**



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#### Happy Birthday



**Melva McClain  
Cynthia Spears  
Carlton Williams  
Deloris McNair**

#### Happy Anniversary



**May all of Love's dreams and promises,  
which led you to your Wedding day,  
continue in your marriage.**

**Howard & Evelyn Magee**

#### Blessings of Christmas...

**'For to us a child is born  
to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his  
shoulders.  
And he will be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.'  
Isaiah 9:6 (NKJ)**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

# MELVA'S CORNER

## FAITH MOVES MOUNTAINS -DOUBT CREATES THEM! (RESTORATION)

The fourth installment of our new series centers on restoration. And, what better Biblical character to illustrate this truth than King David. But first let's start with a parable. A parable is a figure of speech that illustrates some moral or spiritual truth from everyday experience. It is a short, simple story laid beside a more complex truth. It is an invitation into deeper insight by means of the familiar stairway of engaging narrative. The best teachers are skilled at using parables to take their students to new thresholds of discovery. Jesus was a master at using them, but He was not the first Hebrew prophet to do so. Take, for example, this one from the Old Testament.

There were two men in a certain town, one rich and the other poor. The rich man had a very large number of sheep and cattle, but the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb he had bought. He raised it, and it grew up with him and his children. It shared his food, drank from his cup and even slept in his arms. It was like a daughter to him.

Now a traveler came to the rich man, but the rich man refrained from taking one of his own sheep or cattle to prepare a meal for the traveler who had come to him. Instead, he took the ewe lamb that belonged to the poor man and prepared it for the one who had come to him (II Samuel 12:1b-4).

Convicting story, isn't it? It is about abuse of power. It rebukes injustice. It exposes how calloused a human heart can be toward others and their rights. In the context in which it was told, it certainly had a powerful effect. The prophet Nathan was its narrator, and King David was the one who had listened to it. The powerful and

good-hearted David was incensed that such a man lived under his rule – and bellowed his intention to do something about it. “David burned with anger against the man and said to Nathan, “As surely as the LORD lives, the man who did this deserves to die! He must pay for that lamb four times over, because he did such a thing and had no pity’ ” (II Samuel 12:5-6).

By means of a disarming story, a prophet had stirred a sense of the holy in the heart of his king. With the story told and the shepherd-king on record, Nathan said, “You are the man!” Only four words in English. A mere two in Hebrew! And a man who had been fighting his conscience for months was exposed for a terrible thing he had done and then sought to conceal.

Now the real test came to King David. What would he do? We'll come back to that point of testing directly. For now we need to set the background for this episode.

### The Sin of a King

At this point in his life, David was around fifty years old. He had killed Goliath some thirty years before. Saul immediately felt threatened by the young man – refusing at the time to keep the promises he had made to whomever in Israel could triumph over the Philistine champion (cf. 17:25). But it is better to suffer injustice than to commit it! And David retained his righteous heart and demeanor before the Lord.

Young David became a national celebrity after the Goliath victory and the people adored and cheered him – much to the chagrin of a rejected Saul. Saul probably figured it out pretty quickly that David was the one Samuel had foretold to replace him as King of Israel. Twice he tried to murder the young man with a

spear. As one's stock rose and the other's fell, David eventually had to flee with Saul in hot pursuit. With God's protection over him, he was spared again and again.

King Saul finally died in battle against the Philistines – both he and his son Jonathan, who was David's closest friend. David mourned their deaths and then set about to fill the role the Creator had ordained for him. After uniting the nation in the aftermath of a civil war that lasted a couple of years, he moved the tabernacle and Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem and made that city the center of Israel's political and spiritual life. Over the next decade, God gave him and his army's victory upon victory. David was secure as king over a vast area, admired by all, and favored by the Lord. **“David reigned over all Israel, doing what was just and right for all his people” (II Samuel 8:15).**

One of my favorite King David stories comes at this point. With his own position assured, he had time to think about other issues that could not be tended to very well during military campaigns. He had promised his dear friend Jonathan that he would look after his family (I Samuel 20:15, 42). So he asked, “Is there anyone still left of the house of Saul to whom I can show kindness for Jonathan's sake?” He learned that Mephibosheth was alive – a mere child of five when Jonathan died but who now was grown and had a child of his own (cf. II Samuel 4:4; 9:12). Mephibosheth had been crippled from birth. For the sake of his vow to Jonathan, King David gave him the ancestral land of his grandfather Saul and treated him as a member of his own family (II Samuel 9:7). I love this account of tenderness from the life of a shepherd-become-warrior in Israel.

Although a righteous man with a good heart, David had weaknesses and was subject to sin. Specifically, he had the weakness so common to males that we call

lust or sensuality. One year he sent his army without him to prosecute a campaign against the Ammonites that had begun successfully the year before. **“In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king's men and the whole Israelite army. They destroyed the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained in Jerusalem” (II Samuel 11:1).**

Why did David decide to stay in Jerusalem? He would live to lament that decision. What if he stayed behind to write? To produce more of those psalms we still use from our Bibles? I certainly don't think for a minute that he stayed behind with the intention of being an idle mind that Satan would make his workshop. To become a voyeur. To seduce a woman and become an adulterer. But that's precisely what did happen!

One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful, and David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, “Isn't this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite?” Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her. (She had purified herself from her uncleanness.) Then she went back home. The woman conceived and sent word to David, saying, “I am pregnant” (11:2-5).

### The Aftermath

David's action that night was out of character – and sent his life spinning out of control. It was a one-night stand he would rue for the remainder of his life. It brought heartache, death, and national calamity. Innocent people had their lives destroyed. And the man after God's own heart got a blot on his record he could not remove with all the bitter tears he cried over it.

I know this much: David didn't get up that morning and tell himself he was going to do

the most foolish, soul-destroying, and kingdom-blighting thing he could find to do. He didn't get out of bed that morning intending to commit adultery in that same room before the day ended. He didn't start that day with the purpose to offend God. But it happened!

In his book, *Temptation*, Dietrich Bonhoeffer puts his finger on the central issue of relevance here:

"In our members there is a slumbering inclination toward desire, which is both sudden and fierce. With irresistible power, desire seizes mastery of the flesh. All at once a secret, smoldering fire is kindled. The flesh burns and is in flames. It makes no difference whether it is a sexual desire, or ambition, or vanity, or desire for revenge, or love of fame and power, or greed for money...

At this moment God is quite unreal to us. He loses all reality, and only desire for the creature is real. The only reality is the devil. Satan does not here fill us with hatred of God, but with forgetfulness of God. . . . The lust thus aroused envelopes the mind and will of man in deepest darkness. The powers of clear discrimination and of decision are taken from us. The questions present themselves as, "Is what the flesh desires really sin in this case?" And, "Is it really not permitted to me, yes, expected of me now, here in my particular situation to appease desire?" . . .

It is here that everything within me rises up against the Word of God. . . . Therefore the Bible teaches us in times of temptation in the flesh, there is one command: Flee! Flee fornication. Flee idolatry. Flee youthful lusts. Flee the lusts of the world. There is no resistance in lust other than flight. Every struggle against lust in one's own strength is doomed to failure.

And what was the effect of that episode on King David? He tried to go back to business

as usual the next day. He meant for it to be over. He meant for it never to be known. But a man with a heart and conscience such as his could not move past it. Guilt and loss of composure and sleepless nights came over him. He was miserable. This isn't my conjecture but his later commentary on the experience:

**When I kept silent,  
my bones wasted away  
through my groaning all day long.  
For day and night  
your hand was heavy upon me:  
My strength was sapped  
as in the heat of summer (Psalms 32:4-5a).**

And how long did it continue? A night or two? Maybe a week? For about a year! Long enough for him to try to cover his sin by calling Uriah – a Hittite who had not only come to faith in God but who was one of King David's royal bodyguard (cf. II Samuel 23:39) – back home and trying to get him to spend a night or two in his own bed. Long enough for him to send word back to Uriah's commander to have him killed in battle. Long enough for the baby conceived by David to be born. We must be about a year out from the event itself. A man who started down this road with a heart less devoted to the Lord than David's might have been hardened to the point where repentance was impossible by now (cf. Hebrews 6:4-6).

Now you know the meaning of Nathan's parable! It is the story he told King David about a wealthy, powerful man who used his position to take another man's lamb. No, it was his masterful narrative illustration of something whose evil David had far surpassed by taking the wife of one of his most loyal soldiers and then having him killed. David broke at least three of the Ten Commandments in this shameful series of events – the sixth, seventh, and tenth!

Nathan told him the terrible consequences

that would follow from what he had done:

Then Nathan said to David, “You are the man! This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. I gave your master’s house to you, and your master’s wives into your arms. I gave you the house of Israel and Judah. And if all this had been too little, I would have given you even more. Why did you despise the word of the LORD by doing what is evil in his eyes? You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own. You killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.’

“This is what the LORD says: ‘Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity upon you. Before your very eyes I will take your wives and give them to one who is close to you, and he will lie with your wives in broad daylight. You did it in secret, but I will do this thing in broad daylight before all Israel’ ” (12:7-12).

### The Restoration

To his eternal credit, David did not respond to this rebuke the way King Saul had to a similar one Samuel had brought him from the Lord earlier. After his failure to obey God in destroying the Amalekites and all their possessions, Samuel was sent to call him to account. First, Saul claimed he had done nothing wrong. “But I did obey the Lord,” he insisted. “I completely destroyed the Amalekites and (only?) brought back Agag their king” (I Samuel 15:20). Second, he denied personal guilt and said it was the soldiers who had done wrong. “The soldiers took sheep and cattle from the plunder, the best of what was devoted to God, in order to sacrifice them to the Lord your God at Gilgal” (I Samuel 15:21). Third, he finally “confessed” his sin but blamed the people for forcing him to do what he

had done. “I have sinned. I violated the Lord’s command and your instructions,” he told Samuel. “I was afraid of the people and so I gave in to them” (I Samuel 15:24).

Contrast vain Saul with penitent David. In response to Nathan’s parable and its application to him, David said, “I have sinned against the Lord” (II Samuel 12:13). The disarming story was a test of the king’s heart, and he passed the test.

He didn’t blame Bathsheba for immodesty or carelessness. He didn’t make excuses for himself. He didn’t shift responsibility to God for making him the way he was. He simply came clean! He ’fessed up. He made a clean breast of the whole sorry episode.

Going back to one of the seven psalms of penitence David wrote about this episode, let’s read the lines before and after the description of how awful it was for him to try to keep his sin secret, unacknowledged, and thus unpardoned.

Blessed is he  
whose transgressions are forgiven,  
whose sins are covered.

Blessed is the man  
whose sin the LORD does not count  
against him  
and in whose spirit is no deceit. . .

Then I acknowledged my sin to you  
and did not cover up my iniquity.  
I said, “I will confess  
my transgressions to the LORD”—  
and you forgave  
the guilt of my sin.

Therefore let everyone who is godly pray to  
you while you may be found (Psalms 32:1-  
2, 5-6a)

Does that line about “everyone who is godly pray to you” offend your spiritual sensibilities? Wasn’t David praying about his sin? So how could he be a “godly” man exhorting other “godly” worshippers to lay their sins before the Lord? Understand the

term not to mean “God-like” but “God-seeking” or “God-trusting.” Define it by Hebrews 11 – the context in which David’s name is found among the heroes of faith. “Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him” (Hebrews 11:6).

No, it isn’t godly to sin, but it certainly is godly to know the one place where sin can be set right. It is godly to trust your Redeemer. When you have failed to flee from temptation and sin, it is godly to flee to the one safe place for sinners. And it is godly to pray as David did about your sin.

Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your unfailing love;  
according to your great compassion  
blot out my transgressions.

Wash away all my iniquity  
and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is always before me.

Against you, you only, have I sinned  
and done what is evil in your sight,  
so that you are proved right when you  
speak and justified when you judge.

Surely I was sinful at birth,  
sinful from the time my mother conceived  
me. Surely you desire truth in the inner  
parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost  
place. Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will  
be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter  
than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness;  
let the bones you have crushed rejoice.  
Hide your face from my sins and blot out  
all my iniquity.

Create in me a pure heart, O God,  
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Do not cast me from your presence  
or take your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation  
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain  
me.

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will  
declare your praise.

You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would  
bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt  
offerings. The sacrifices of God are a  
broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart,  
O God, you will not despise (Psalms 52:1-17)

### Conclusion

Isn’t it tragic that the life of David forever bears the scar of this episode? In a capsule summary of his life at I Kings 15:5, it is the single “except” to a marvelous record: “For David had done what was right in the eyes of the LORD and had not failed to keep any of the LORD’s commands all the days of his life — except in the case of Uriah the Hittite.”

Isn’t it tragic that Bathsheba enters the biblical narrative only because of the sinful abuse of power by an idle, voyeuristic man who seduces and overwhelms her?

But isn’t it a testimony to the marvelous grace of God that David could not only be rescued from his sin and have his life spared (cf. Leviticus 20:10) but also could become both a physical and spiritual ancestor to the Lord Jesus Christ? Jesus is the Son of David who alone has the right to reign from David’s throne forever (Luke 1:31-33; cf. II Samuel 7:13-14). He was authentically a man after God’s heart in the sense that he could not sin and be other than tormented over it until he was at peace with God.

And isn’t it a testimony to the marvelous grace of God that Bathsheba could not only be forgiven of any complicity or cowardice on her part in this affair and have her life spared but also could become so important to Israel’s history as David’s beloved wife, Solomon’s mother, and one of only five women identified in the ancestry of Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ (Matthews 1:6).


The point of Nathan’s parable was not to

expose, humiliate, or punish David; its sole purpose was to bring him to repentance and healing. The heart revealed by his response to the story made his salvation possible. And his faith in earnestly seeking after God was honored.

If you are David today, have sinned willfully, and have been feeling the heavy weight of your conscience, do with your sin what he did with his. Stop trying to hide it. Confess it to the Lord – and begin dealing with the consequences as best you can. Surrender yourself to the rebuilding of your life in Christ.

If you are Bathsheba today, have been exploited and abused by someone – yet bear a heavy weight of shame and judgment over what happened – pray the penitent prayer she prayed with David. Ask to be cleansed, to have the joy of your salvation restored, and to have the empowering of the Holy Spirit for what lies ahead in your healing.

Again, however, the hero in this story is neither of its human actors but a faithful God who acts from His mercy and loving-kindness. A relationship that never should have been was sanctified to His Holy ends. Exploitation appears to have become true love. Adultery was forgiven, and partners in sin became partners in marriage. Two who should have been put to death under the demand of law were given lives of fruitfulness to the Lord under the gift that is grace. I repeat for emphasis: The hero of the story is a faithful God who treats us not as our sins deserve but by His grace.

For anyone whose life is a mess today, you would be well-served to believe in this God and to seek Him with your whole heart. And God will see, honor, and reward your faith in Him. 



## Higher Mountains... Higher Praises

“GRATEFUL”  
Sherri Cooper

11/19/08 - My friend and co-worker, Angela is doing well. She is on a pregnancy medical leave of absence and has been on bed rest for the past several weeks. I recently attended her baby shower . . . She GLOWED. She is due in January. She has had a few contractions lately. She is at 32 weeks . . . if she can make it to 38 weeks that would be even better for her and the baby . . . or at least 36. Please continue to lift her up in prayer! Thank you.

11/21/08 - **Praise update:** My friend Angela gave birth to son Jeremiah this Morning at 8:46am He weighs 4lbs 5oz. Mom and baby are fine. Of course he is on oxygen because he was a premie. They are at UAMS here in Arkansas. Keep praying and praising for Angela and Jeremiah.

11/26/08- **Praise update.** Jeremiah is off all oxygen . He is doing well. When his eating improves he will be released to go home. This is a Blessing for a premie! God is so good! Angela says thank you for your prayers.

“THANKFUL”  
Gean Tucker-Johnson

My granddaughter Cerria Walker is a junior at Wingfield High School. Cerria has been offered a full Academic Scholarship in the Department of Science Engineering & Technology at Jackson State University. Praise the Lord.

“YULE-TIDE BLESSING”  
Melva McClain

I count it a blessing to be with you this year in joy, sound mind and perfect health.

# WEBSITE OFFERING

[www.mcclainministries.org](http://www.mcclainministries.org)

FAITH MOVES MOUNTAINS – DOUBTS  
CREATES THEM  
(Excerpts)

## EXPRESSING GOD WITHIN

Today starts a new series. I would like to begin by reminding you of the most Glorious and Fundamental Truth of All. Everything we have, need or wish for must therefore start with this Truth.

The Truth is that we are expressions of The Divine Nature of God, with all the latent powers of that nature just waiting to be realized and applied for the greater good through Unconditional Love.

Achieving your goals and dreams must first start with realizing God within and then and only then can the visualization process and positive affirmations work. The path to Spiritual Growth must always start and end in realizing God within, and expressing the perfection of God into our current experience.

## FEARLESS

As you know on November 9<sup>th</sup> we launched this new series. The second installment is entitled 'Fearless.' So what are your fears! Fear of failure, fear of dying, fear of letting others down, fear of living alone, just to name a few.

As you read through the Bible, you see that fear is not unique to those of us in the 21st Century. One phrase that reappears over and over throughout the Bible is the phrase, "Do not be afraid!" In fact, if you're looking for a good topic for a personal or small group Bible study, take the time to see just how often — and on what occasions — that phrase and related phrases are spoken.

There is one positive attribute which is strongly contrasted to fear in the Scriptures. Jesus told His apostles and others, "Do not be afraid, only believe." It is evident that growing in faith will cause us to have less fear, and that often fear is the direct result of a struggle with our faith.

## YOUR FAITH WILL BE TESTED

The third installment of our series is designed to illustrate the faithfulness of God. One of the best Biblical characters to illustrate God's faithfulness is Abraham.

In this dramatic father-son story, we see the zenith of one man's trust in God. It also confronts us with the critical question of what we value most in our lives.

Faith is made strong through a variety of tests and challenges in much the same way a mind is made strong through disciplined study or a body is made strong through exhausting exercise. "No pain, no gain" is not just a body-builder's motto; it is the rule for faith-builders, too.

Testing can come from a variety of sources. Divine Discipline. Satanic Temptations. Achievements. Foolish Mistakes. Wealth. Awards. Unemployment. A New Job. Poverty. Education. Fame. Shame. The list is infinitely long.

When you are in the crucible of testing, your head whirs. You feel confusion and pain. The joy goes out of your existence. You are in the deep darkness of your soul's long night. You feel broken and empty. A sense of helplessness descends over you. You reach out to people, to things that were once important to you, perhaps to alcohol or drugs. Nothing helps. Nobody can rescue you.

Then, ever so slowly, God's love becomes visible in your suffering. You begin to realize that what you have been going through has taught you what no sermon or theology course ever could: God alone is

ultimate and keeping faith with Him means everything.

Suddenly there is a point to what you have been experiencing. It has humbled you and made you sensitive. It has purified you and let you see God more clearly. It has changed your priorities about everything.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mark your calendars for the month of **December 2008 and January 2009**. Please join us and take the next step in your walk with God.

### Home Bible Workshop Schedule



**Saturday, December 13, 2008**

Home Bible Workshop

5:00 P.M. CST

“The Power of Intercessory Prayer”

National Bulletin Board Synergy Meeting  
(Entrepreneur Training Session)

**Saturday, January 10, 2009**

5:00 – 7:00 PM CDT

1050 Ridgeside Drive

Brandon, MS

(601-824-7498 - Melva)

LET'S CONTINUE TO BRING THESE  
GAS PRICES DOWN

Have you contacted your representative  
yet?



<https://forms.house.gov/wyr/welcome.shtml>

## The Power of Partnership

I am so thankful our paths have crossed. In fact, I believe it was a divine appointment. Over twenty - five years ago, an encounter with God changed my life forever, and I believe He'll do the same for you. I consider it a privilege to have the opportunity to share the truth of His life-changing power and grace with you.

God called me to teach the truth of the Gospel to the body of Christ with special emphasis on God's unconditional love and the balance between grace and faith.

At McClain Ministries we are working diligently to fulfill that call by training others and by developing ministry materials designed to help you in your relationship with the Lord.

Your interest in partnership is evidence of the fact that not only has this ministry affected your life, but you also have a desire to help someone else and believe this message can provide that help. Together, through partnership, you and I can reach thousands of people with the good news of the Gospel.

I believe the message the Lord has entrusted me to deliver will change the way the body of Christ perceives God. However, it doesn't matter how important the message is or how well I deliver it, until the message is sent, no one will hear. Partnership makes the delivery possible.

The Apostle Paul understood his role as the messenger, but he also understood that partnership was not only about what he received but what the partners received as well. **In Philippians 4:19 he wrote, "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."** This was written by Paul to his partners.

The Philippians were the only ones who supported him after leaving town. In fact, they wanted to give more but didn't have the opportunity. Paul was saying that there is a special provision for those who recognize the power in partnership.

For me, it has never been about "you" supporting "my" ministry. If you're a partner, then consider this our ministry, and together we will accomplish God's will. In fact, I'm an extension of you and your obedience to God. Like Paul, I'm just the messenger that God has called for a specific purpose. If I fulfill that call, the fruit will be evident to everyone, and if I don't, then God will find another messenger and direct your support to that person.

Although I am committed to doing my part to bring revival to America, we have an awesome opportunity to make a big difference in people's lives around the world. Our current projects must be funded by those of us who are more blessed.

Do you remember when you first began to partake of the message from this ministry and how it affected your life? There are thousands just like you all over the world, waiting to hear the truth that will set them free. Will you help us? Together, we can do it.

You may never realize what your gifts accomplish during your life on earth, but I can promise that in eternity, people from all over the world will thank you for your investment in their lives. I want to thank you in advance for your consideration and response.

Please make your gifts payable to, "McClain Ministries". All funds given for Community Outreach projects will be used for that purpose exclusively until the projects are fully funded. Any surplus will then be applied to the McClain Ministries general account.

## HERE ARE OUR CURRENT PROJECTS:

Computer Clinic



Tutoring Classes



Community Pantry



National Bulletin Board Service



Internet Radio Station



We are pleased to offer the ability to make donations to McClain Ministries online using your credit or debit card. As you all know we have six (6) ongoing projects at this time. And all of our projects are funded through donations. Thank you so much for your support.

Just simply use the link to go to our website at:

<http://mcclainministries.org/>

Then Click onto the **DONATE** button  
Enter the amount and update

Scroll to the bottom of the page and you will see the following narrative.

Thank you for your Support!



♣ **REMEMBER OUR TROOPS** ♣  
**KEEP THEM IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS**

Father, be our soldiers' strength and their shield from every danger. When troubles come, set them on a high rock out of reach of all their enemies. We implore your help for all our military forces! Empower them to be brave, stouthearted, and courageous. And fill them with hope which sustains them through every day.

—Psalm 28:7, Psalm 27:5, Ps. 28:2, Ps. 27: 14b

[www.militaryfamiliespray.com](http://www.militaryfamiliespray.com)

## THE GOD EFFECT OF PRAYER

6:00 P.M. Hour of Prayer



### SPEND TIME PRAYING FOR OTHERS

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.

Hearts throbbing as one, prayers ascending to heaven multiplied by those praying in **one accord**. Sharing burdens, joys, and petitions to bear. Lay all your cares at the foot of the cross and encourage others to do the same. Lives are being changed. Breakthroughs are happening.



### PRAY FOR OUR NEW PRESIDENT ELECT – BARAK OBAMA AND HIS FAMILY



Dear God, We pray for optimum health, mental clarity and political prosperity for Barak Obama. We pray that what he lacks in political 'experience' you make up for with supernatural wisdom and power. We also pray that when his enemies come upon him they will stumble and fall; and that your love will fill his heart to the end that "Your will" be done through him.

We pray mightily for his protection. As we plead the Blood of Jesus over him and his family. We ask you to dispatch legions of angels to protect them from all hurt, harm, danger, and from all accidents and incidents

as he presides as President of these United States of America. We pray blessings on his family as well.

We thank and praise you for answering our sincere prayers. In Jesus' Name, AMEN.

### COMMUNITY PANTRY



#### Going Forward!

McClain Ministries is a non-profit organization which focuses on "ministering" to the entire community the young, old, poor, ambitious, learned, unlearned, disadvantaged, and challenged.

Our ultimate goal is to make as much of life easier for persons in communities in our service area on a long-term basis as possible. We don't just want to provide fish for them to eat, but we want to teach them how to fish.

The geographical location of McClain Ministries is Brandon, Mississippi; however, the services and programs are being provided for several cities surrounding the ministry headquarters some of which are Jackson, Madison, Ridgeland, Pearl, Clinton, and Byram.

Our immediate goal with the community pantry is to partner with local agencies including soup kitchens and shelters in an effort to supplement their services by providing good items on an as need basis. This activity will serve as reinforcement to current community outreach programs. And the good news is that we are well on our way to obtaining two corporate sponsors. If you would like to help with this project-contact:

[melvamccclain@bellsouth.net](mailto:melvamccclain@bellsouth.net)

# CHRISTMAS MESSAGE



## Perspective

Christmas isn't about visiting relatives, bonuses, and lights. It isn't turkey and ham. It isn't even about gifts from Santa Claus. Though there's nothing wrong with any of these things! It's just that Christmas has a deeper and more profound meaning, and to miss that is to miss the point. Christmas is about God's love for the world shown in the birth of a baby in Bethlehem two millennia ago.

For more than 300 years after Jesus' birth, though, Christians didn't have a major celebration of that event. It was — and is — the resurrection of Jesus that is the central event of our faith. As best we can tell, the observance of a birth celebration on any significant scale began in the fourth century. It was timed to coincide with a midwinter pagan festival honoring the sun god, Mithra. But this mid-winter pagan holiday wasn't the first pagan thing that was converted to Christian use. Jesus had so touched and transformed those believers that they went about transforming and rehabilitating everything they could to the glory of God. Old pagan temples were converted into church buildings, and pagan celebrations at various seasons of the year were "Christianized."

Not all Christians have been comfortable with that strategy. Because of the pagan backgrounds to the dates and celebrations, some have charged that Christmas itself is pagan rather than Christian. It was banned in seventeenth-century England when Oliver Cromwell and his Puritan followers gained power briefly. They outlawed what they called the "heathen celebration of Christmas." It was similarly proscribed in Puritan New England and wasn't made a legal holiday in Massachusetts until 1856.

There is still such confusion on the religious issues around Christmas that I understand a lady went to the Post Office last Thursday to buy stamps for her Christmas cards. "What denomination?" asked the clerk. "Oh, my word! Have we come to that?" she said. "Well, give me forty Baptist, forty Church of Christ, and twenty Catholic."

And then, of course, there are some Christians who have been so repulsed by the commercialism of the season that they don't want anything to do with it. People have the right to refuse this or any holiday. But there is something truly wonderful about celebrating it unto the Lord. And if we celebrate it at all, the biblical key is doing so "to the Lord." Listen to Paul on this point: **"One man considers one day more sacred than another; another man considers every day alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. He who regards one day as special, does so to the Lord"** (Romans 14:5-6a). 📖

# McClain Ministries E-List Registration Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Website \_\_\_\_\_

Position \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**McClain Ministries**  
**1050 Ridgeside Drive**  
**Brandon, Ms 39042**  
**601-824-7498**  
**[melvamccclain@bellsouth.net](mailto:melvamccclain@bellsouth.net)**  
**[www.mcclainministries.org](http://www.mcclainministries.org)**



# McCLAIN MINISTRIES

**Deuteronomy 16:17:** Every man shall give as he is able according to the blessing of the Lord thy God which he hath given thee.

This Ministry has been such a blessing to me I want to share in reaching others with a **monthly gift** of:

\$30       \$40       \$50       \$100       Other \$\_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my ministry additional financial donation of: \$\_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed: \$\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Number \_\_\_\_\_

Work Number \_\_\_\_\_

Fax Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please send to:

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



# 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**

