



McCLAIN MINISTRIES

Since 2000 A Monthly Christian Newsletter Publication

May 2009



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

This Month's Issue

LIFE EVENTS



MELVA'S CORNER – Inspirational Message
"God's Plan For You is Perfect – Part IV"



PRAISE REPORTS



WEBSITE OFFERINGS
STOP THE FEAR!



ANNOUNCEMENTS



CONTINUED PRAYER FOR THE PRESIDENT



PRESIDENT OBAMA'S FIRST 100 DAYS
10 Achievements You Should Know About



THE SUSAN BOYLE PHENOMENON!

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Life Events

Birthday Celebrations
Wishing You God's Blessings



Allyson Roberts
Mary Hill
AnnMarie Martin
Lena Williams



PHENOMENAL WOMEN



TRIBUTE TO
THE MOTHERS WHO ARE
WITH THE LORD

MELVA'S CORNER

INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGE

GOD'S PLAN FOR YOU IS PERFECT PART IV



There is no way I can continue this series without providing some guidance into "Personal Introspection."

One of the common complaints of people in our time is the monotony and boredom of life. I have a sneaking suspicion that this slant on life contributes to what we call "burnout." It may also play a role in certain high-risk behaviors that range from driving too fast to getting caught up in a marriage-destroying affair to experimenting with drugs.

Monotony and boredom are self-inflicted wounds to the human spirit. If you have a routine, lackluster, and sometimes tedious job, that does not mean you have to live a routine, lackluster, and tedious life. Maybe you need to change jobs. In the current environment, that's not always possible — or necessary. Maybe you simply need to give yourself some additional space to grow.

Perhaps you've been to the fair and seen cucumbers grown inside soda bottles or pumpkins in gallon jugs. Young plants placed inside containers grow to the space they have. They take on the contours and limits of their surroundings.

I understand it works with animals too.

Put a young fish whose species normally grows reasonably large into a tiny aquarium, and its full adult size will be suppressed because of the strictly limited space it was given.

The same thing is true of people. We grow to the intellectual space we have. We take on the dull or positive contours of our emotional environments. We are big-hearted or parsimonious due to the spiritual influences that mold us. But this is not to say that we are the helpless victims of circumstances beyond our control. No matter your job or current life predicament, you can choose the environment for your soul. You can give yourself some room to grow.

For your body: eat sensibly, get enough sleep, exercise regularly, and stay away from tobacco and alcohol. For your mind: read good literature, listen to inspirational-educational CDs in your car, expand your vocabulary and keep clear of the pollution of pornography and vulgarity. For your spirit: worship, read Scripture, invest yourself in service to others, and refuse to live in the spiritual bondage of cynicism or bitterness over a "bad break" you think life has dealt you.

To be a big-hearted, great-souled person is not the unanticipated destiny of a privileged few. It is the preordained outcome for anyone who chooses to look beyond limitation to possibility and learns to see an opportunity in every problem.

"Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength" (Isaiah 40:41). 



Higher Mountains... Higher Praises

Reported by Melva McClain
Thru Email

Prayer request: April 4th our sister Ollie Kennedy is requesting prayer for her daughter Jackie. It seems Jackie was arrested and is now in the Hinds Country jail in MS. Jackie was arrested because police found an illegal substance in her car left there by her boyfriend. Ollie wants us to pray that Jackie be released from jail immediately and relinquish her association with her boyfriend. She would like for her daughter to develop a more wholesome relationship.

Praise report: April 15th Jackie is out of jail. However, her mother, Ollie, says she has lost weight over this situation with the boyfriend. She was already tiny and now Ollie says her current weight appears to be unhealthy.

More Praise: April 19th As you know by now Jackie was released from jail, however, during the process she was suspended from her job because of it. Jackie phoned me on Friday, April 17th around 7:00 A.M. very distraught. We prayed about her job, as well as her entire situation. At approximately 8:30 A.M. Jackie called me back to let me know she had just received a call from her supervisor, advising her that she could return to work immediately. Praise the Lord!

Prayer Request: April 4th This prayer request comes from our sister Eddie Mae Hooker on behalf of her nephew Ellis Harvey. It seems that Ellis has gone missing – he is 54 years of age and diagnosed with Post Traumatic Syndrome (Shell Shock). Ellis was last seen Thursday, March 26th. A neighbor and one other family member said that Ellis mentioned that he was going to California.

It seems that he has gone missing before and was located in Texas. Eddie Mae says that when Ellis goes off medication he has memory lapses. She is requesting prayer for his safe return home to Jackson, MS.

Praise Report: April 9th Ellis has returned home. I don't know all of the specifics yet, but he returned home safely yesterday. Eddie Mae thanks you for your prayers.

Prayer Request: This Prayer Request comes from our sister Carolyn Cooper:

On Tuesday 4/7/09 at 6:00AM My mother Lucille Coleman is scheduled to check into St Vincent Infirmary in Little Rock to undergo a procedure to check for a blocked artery in her heart. She's allergic to contrast dye, and she only has one kidney. Prior to the procedure she has to take medication to allow her to tolerate the contrast dye and additional medication to help her kidney flush out the dye. Her Cardiologist is Dr. Hargrove. My family and I would appreciate the prayer partners standing with us for a successful procedure and a complete recovery without any side effects. Thanks in advance for your prayers.

Update: April 7th 10:13 A.M. I spoke with Carolyn this morning around 7:00 A.M. – her mother's procedure had not started and Carolyn indicated that it probably wouldn't start until 11:30 A. M

Update: April 7th 4:31 P.M. Lucille Coleman did not have surgery today because her kidney was not sufficiently hydrated. The surgery will not take place until tomorrow.

I also received notification this morning from our sister Mary Bennett that there is a specific prayer in our Prayer Book regarding what Lucille Coleman is facing. If you have the older version of the book with the spiral binding it is located on page 126 if you have the newer version it is page 116.

Update: April 8th Instead of surgery the doctors will try a manual procedure starting Monday to give Lucille some relief. The issue surrounding Lucille is tiredness when going to and from the bathroom. This tiredness was first noticed by her daughter Carolyn three weeks ago.

Update: April 9th Lucille is home from the hospital. I spoke with her this morning and she sounds wonderful. As I indicated on the prior email her doctors will start a manual treatment Monday. An adjustment of her medication has already begun.

Update: April 15th I spoke with Lucille's daughter Carolyn yesterday. Carolyn indicated her mother started her 35-day manual treatment on Monday. The treatment is going well - it is designed to deal with the tiredness Lucille has been experiencing through improved circulation. The first treatment on Monday seems to also be helping with the ongoing pain she has experienced in her back for the past several years.

Praise report from Melva McClain: April 20th
- I would like to express my appreciation for your prayers regarding my Aunt's recent knee surgery. She will be released from the rehab center tomorrow to go home. My aunt has successfully undergone surgery on both knees in the past two years despite the doctors pointing out heart issues she's experienced in recent years. Our family is so thankful to God for His faithfulness and all of you for your diligence.

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS
Jannice Horton

It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness (Lamentations 3:22-23)

God's compassion for me paid off a bill. As some of you may remember in June 2008

my daughter had surgery and with this came a hospital and physician's bill. I made arrangements to pay a certain amount of the hospital bill each month so they wouldn't garnish my check.

I was just paying on the physician's bill. Sometime I would miss a month or two. One day this year I notice that I was not getting an invoice statement in the mail so I decided to call and get an address to mail a payment.

When I called - before I asked for the address I ask the representative why I wasn't receiving an invoice. She looked up my file and told me that it had been WRITTEN OFF. I said written off? \$1,175.00 written off? She said yes mama. She explained how they did it; it was all Greek to me.

I then asked if she could send me something in writing showing that the debt was paid in full. She said yes mama. I received the letter in the mail on March 31st. I opened it and there it was hi-lighted in **yellow \$0.00 balance.**

I just wanted to share that blessing with you. Maybe you are in need of something and can't seem to see how to accomplish it.

He (God) did that for me "JUST BECAUSE" and he will do the same for you. Look unto God who is able to supply every need.

Even when we are not up-to-par God loves US. He looks upon us and has compassion, JUST BECAUSE HE IS. There is a song that goes something like this, "All I have needed, Thou has always provided, great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me..." Amen.



WEBSITE OFFERING

www.mcclainministries.com

STOP THE FEAR!

It dawned on me a few weeks ago that I finally understand a string of words that were spoken before I was born but which I have heard all my life. They are the words of Franklin D. Roosevelt from his first inaugural address. He gave the speech on March 4, 1933. It is the one with the famous line that goes “the only thing we have to fear is fear itself.”

In the context of FDR’s famous speech, here is what he said:

This is preeminently the time to speak the truth, the whole truth, frankly and boldly. Nor need we shrink from honestly facing conditions in our country today. This great Nation will endure as it has endured, will revive and will prosper. So, first of all, let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself – nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance. In every dark hour of our national life a leadership of frankness and vigor has met with that understanding and support of the people themselves which is essential to victory. I am convinced that you will again give that support to leadership in these critical days.

Without the experience of the past year, I’m not sure I could have grasped what Roosevelt was articulating to an earlier generation. I’ve cut way back on listening to or reading “the news” – in the conviction that most of what I have been hearing or reading is negative worldview rather than straightforward fact, negative interpretation rather than simply news.

You and I have been living a “culture of fear” – in politics, business, finance, education, water-cooler conversation, you name it. We have forgotten the obvious and emphasized the negative. So fear has been allowed to keep us awake, cloud our decisions, and poison our relationships.

A friend once told me her favorite verse in the Bible was this: **“And it came to pass...”** That’s the obvious fact we seem to have forgotten. Bad times don’t last. Nothing in the Earthly sphere lasts for long. And that’s true of the so called economic ‘chaos’ of the past year and a half.

It is time for our own “nameless, un-reasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance” to give way to realism tempered with optimism. It is time for you to be bold in planning for the future. It is time to push back the darkness of despair with the light of hope.

“Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a dream fulfilled is a tree of life” (Proverbs 13:12 NLT)

“Nothing in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:39).

“No test or temptation that comes your way is beyond the course of what others have had to face. All you need to remember is that God will never let you down; he’ll never let you be pushed past your limit; he’ll always be there to help you through it” (I Corinthians 10:13).

Markets and the future of global economies, music and other cultural trends, breakthroughs in science and medicine are all temporal. But the spiritual certainties based on God’s sure promises take the uncertainty out of today and let us move forward with confidence.

If you need confidence about the future, focus your attention on the one person who actually knows something about it.

RELIGION OR RELATIONSHIP?

We human beings are spiritual beings. We speak freely of our minds, hearts, or spirits – knowing full well that we aren't talking about physical organs. Maybe you prefer the term personality or character. But you know these terms are more than alternate ways to refer to the brain or to a set of bodily processes.

Religion is not serving our spiritual lives very well these days. The fastest-growing segment of religious affiliation these days is “none.”

You may have seen the results of a study done by researchers at Trinity College of Hartford, Conn. Although the total number of Americans identifying themselves as Christians has increased over the past 20 years, the percentage of population doing so has declined to 76% – a drop of fully ten percent in the same period.

Syndicated columnist Leonard Pitts Jr. offers this explanation: “Religion has become an ugly thing. People of faith usually respond to that ugliness – by which I mean a seemingly endless cycle of scandal, controversy, hypocrisy, violence and TV preachers saying idiotic things – in one of two ways. Either they defend it – making them part of the problem – or they regard it as a series of isolated, albeit unfortunate, episodes. But irreligious people do neither.”

He's right, you know! If you are a Christian, you would be wiser simply to admit these controversies took place. Be embarrassed over them. Apologize for them. Then ask God both to forgive you of any part you have had in scandal, hypocrisy, or offense and to help the

people who call themselves His children to act more like their Father.

The problem isn't new. The Old Testament prophets lamented the fact that people were putting attendance at religious events in the place of integrity and gifts to good works in the place of compassion to their neighbors. So Amos and Isaiah spoke for the Lord to say, **“I cannot bear your evil assemblies. . . . Even if you offer many prayers, I will not listen” (Isaiah 1:13-15).**

Jesus made the same point about religion in His day. So why do we still not get it? Why is religion still driving people away from God?

If religion is getting in the way of your quest for God, just remember that God and religion are not the same. Religion is not the same as a relationship with the Lord. Please don't give up on Him because of us.

“Stop doing wrong, learn to do right! Seek justice, encourage the oppressed. Defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow” (Isaiah 1:17). Now that sounds like a beautiful alternative to religion.

GOT A FORGIVENESS THRESHOLD?

Central Thought: Forgiveness goes against the grain of natural law

There appears to be a natural law at work in the human psyche that requires blaming, revenge, and punishment.

In *Love in the Time of Cholera*, Gabriel Garcia Marquez describes a marriage that collapses over a bar of soap. The wife's job in the house included keeping soap in the bathroom. Once she forgot to replace it. Her husband called her oversight to her attention and she denied the obvious.

She had unquestionably forgotten, but her pride was at stake in the confrontation.

She would not back down. He would not relent. For the next seven months, they slept in separate rooms and ate in silence. Their relationship broke down over a bar of soap.

But the problem wasn't really the soap. The problem was the indictment-and-denial cycle they set in motion over the soap. Why couldn't he find a bar of soap himself? Why couldn't she admit she forgot to replace it? The "natural law" spoken of earlier was playing out between them.

There was a simple way to break the cycle that wound up ruining their life. "Wait a minute!" one of them – either of them – could have said. "This is silly and has gotten out of hand. I'm sorry. A bar of soap isn't worth this. Please forgive me."

Forgiveness is the only power great enough to stop the downward spiral. No, it does not resolve all the issues of equity and blame. It doesn't guarantee that fairness will triumph. But it does allow relationships a fresh start.

Forgiveness goes against the grain of natural law. It is both un-natural and supernatural. It is the most godlike of human actions and depends on the authentic knowledge of God.

Paul wrote: **"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you" (Ephesians 4:32).** Since the evidence of being forgiven is the ability to forgive others, perhaps we have problems forgiving others because we have not gone deeply enough into the truth that our own salvation is of grace.

Forgiving another person says, "I mess up sometimes and need the chance to start over. I'm granting you the same consideration." There may be someone who needs a break in your world today.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Home Bible Workshop Schedule



May 9th and May 23rd
Home Bible Workshop
5:00 P.M. CST

The Message....

"God's Plan For You Is Perfect"

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 THE PRESIDENT



Continue To Pray

As President Obama moves past his first 100 days and into the next chapter of his presidency, pray for God's grace and wisdom to intersect and impact his plans and goals and his very being, that he will seek God's will daily for every part of his presidency. Pray for his physical and spiritual protection every part of every day.

Pray for President Obama today as he welcomes to the White House members of the Wounded Warrior Project's Soldier Ride--for safety and blessing for all involved. The event raises public awareness of the challenges facing veterans as they recover from life-altering injuries. Pray for all participants to be encouraged and strengthened to move forward and God's powerful healing for each one.

Give thanks for the effective work by many that brought the successful release of Capt. Phillips following a dangerous hostage situation in waters off the coast of Somalia. Thank God for the effective work of U.S. Navy Seals and the interagency on maritime safety that helped provide counsel and support. Pray for an end to the continued hijacking and piracy incidents taking place in these dangerous waters.

Pray also for President Obama and his advisors as he must now choose a replacement for Supreme Court Justice David Souter who announced yesterday that he will retire at the end of the Court's term in June. Pray for God's best choice for this important appointment.

Pray for godly wisdom for President Obama as he works with the CDC, HHS and Homeland Security officials to manage and contain the H1N1 "swine flu" situation. Pray for its quick containment, for minimal to no loss of life as well as the mitigation of the economic impact on travel, entertainment, transportation in many areas of our nation. Pray for key scientists in our nation's pharmaceutical companies as they ramp up to create a vaccine to protect against H1N1, "swine flu." Pray for efficiency and wisdom as they work and for a

safe and reliable vaccine to be developed that will help Americans and people around the world.

Pray also for President Obama and Secretary of State Clinton and members of their teams as they make preparations for the first tri-lateral meeting between leaders of Pakistan, Afghanistan and the U.S. Pray for President Obama as he welcomes Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari and Afgahn President Hamid Karzai to White House May 6-7 to discuss the situation in the region. President Obama will meet individually with each man and then the three will work together to chalk out a common strategy to defeat al Qaeda and the Taliban in the Af-Pak region. Pray for God's grace and presence in this important meeting.

The final member of President Obama's cabinet was confirmed April 28 by a 65-31 vote in the Senate; pray for Kathleen Sibelius as she now steps up to lead the nation's efforts to combat the spread of the swine flu, asking for God's wisdom for her as she leads her team.

Give thanks for the millions who will gather next Thursday, May 7, for the National Day of Prayer observances, asking God to move powerfully in our nation through these gatherings.

Pray for an outpouring of repentance and revival in America, that together we will seek Him and long to do His will.



Pray for our troops and Iraqi security forces as there has been a sharp uptick in violence this week with over 135 killed in separate attacks. Pray that those who are new to military life will make healthy and strong adjustments to their new positions. Pray for them to find blessing and fulfillment in their new assignments.

After consulting the people, Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing to the Lord and to praise Him for the splendor of His holiness as they went out at the head of the army, saying: "Give thanks to the Lord, for His love endures forever." As they began to sing and praise, the Lord set ambushes against the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir who were invading Judah, and they were defeated. II Chronicles 20:21-22 (NIV)



The first 100 days

10 ACHIEVEMENTS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT (Reported by the Huffington Post)



Conservatives and progressives alike seem to be in agreement on one aspect of the Obama presidency: one hundred days into office and a lot has been done. From new approaches to two wars to more than a trillion dollars of government spending; from pirate attacks to flu epidemics; from controversial cartoons to Senatorial defections; a full news day has not this administration lacked.

The abnormally packed cycle has had its side effects. Stories that once could or would receive front page treatment have faded fast. Indeed, some of the most consequential changes made by our president to date - affecting our nation's health care system, infrastructure, urban and foreign policy - have received modest to little coverage, either discussed but not appreciated, or reported but not in great depth. As President Obama gets set to host a press conference marking his first 100 days, the Huffington Post asked administration officials as well as Democrats inside and out of government for their picks of under-appreciated stories during this time period. Here are ten of those stories.

Health Care: The Obama White House cleared an important hurdle in the health care reform debate when it appropriated \$19 billion in the stimulus package to help implement an electronic medical record system. The money is paltry compared to the hundreds of billions set aside for an overhaul of the health care system in the budget. But officials inside and out of the White House say its significance is hard to overstate.

"We need to have Health Care Internet Technology so we have a better idea both of what works but also . . . so people can share information," Zeke Emanuel, Obama's health care adviser told the Huffington Post in mid-March. "We are on our way in a way that we have never committed ourselves before."

Communications: A presidential campaign built on innovative messaging and advanced technology has, naturally, become a White House defined by similar characteristics. As such, the reach of the administration's new media efforts - from hosting online question-and-answer sessions with the president to publishing the first White House blog - has been as expected as appreciated. "The White House streams every event with the president on its website, even press events," said one tech savvy Democrat. "It's remarkable because, this Sunday they held a swine flu press conference that ordinary people [including many who may have been personally nervous about the topic] were able to watch online . . . Before you had to wait for a readout or hope that CSPAN would cover it. This is one of those things that people don't quite understand the significance of."

Transportation: Since the passage of the economic stimulus package in mid-February, the Obama Department of Transportation has approved 2,500 highway projects. The movement of stimulus money out the door has been as swift as it has been effective: \$9.3 billion has been spent in all 50 states. Touting its impact, DOT officials say **260,000 jobs** are expected from this investment. And with competition for contracts fierce, the department is set to approve even more projects than previously envisioned. "There will be more money for additional transportation projects," said the official.

Education: Maligned for its handling of the financial and banking crises, the Obama Treasury Department has nevertheless implemented policies with real qualitative and quantitative impact on debt-burdened families. Chief among those was a \$2,500 tax credit to help offset the cost of tuition (among other expenses) for those seeking a college education. Nearly five million families are expected to save \$9 billion, according to Treasury officials.

Cars: The automobile industry at the White House and Congress's behest has undergone seismic structural changes, managerial reorganization, and massive cuts in employment. But for all the tough love, the president has put in place the framework for an industry recovery. Perhaps the most significant of steps was to allocate \$2 billion in stimulus cash for advanced batteries systems. One high-ranking Hill aide called battery technology "the next big frontier" in the automotive world, adding that if the U.S. could dominate this market it would reclaim its perch as the world's premier car manufacturer.

Pakistan: Cognizant of a destabilizing situation in Pakistan, the administration's diplomatic team, with a major assist from Japan, secured \$5 billion in aid commitments "to bolster the country's economy and help it fight terror and Islamic radicalism" within the country. The money, as Pakistan observers -- notably Senate Foreign Relations Chairman John Kerry - note, will prove instrumental in bringing the nation away from the brink of failure and increased Taliban control.

Cities: More than any prior president, Obama has put a spotlight on America's struggling cities, even creating an office of Urban Policy in the White House. It is the Justice Department, however, that lays claim to one of the most consequential of urban affairs achievements. Through the Recovery Act, DOJ secured \$2 billion for Byrne Grants, which funds anti-gang and anti-gun task forces. The money, cut during the Bush years, is expected to have massive ramifications on inner-city crime and violence.

Engaging the Muslim World: While certainly discussed, foreign affairs experts insist that Obama's engagement with the Muslim world has been at once remarkable and under-

appreciated. From the first interview with Al Arabiya to his Nowruz address to the Iranian people, to his proclamation that "American is not at war with Islam" during an appearance in Turkey, seasoned observers have been routinely impressed. "Through these [statements and interviews]," said one Democratic foreign policy hand, "He has been able to dramatically change America's image in that region."

Forests: Since taking office, the White House has put under federal protection more than two million acres of wilderness, thousands of miles of river and a host of national trails and parks. The conservation effort - the largest in the last 15 years - came with the stroke of a pen when President Obama signed the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 in late March.

Tone: Leaving a meeting at the White House on Tuesday a progressive member of the House of Representatives commented to the Huffington Post just how impressed she was with the president's manner. "He is so calm," said the member, "and has a great ability to make you feel like you're being respected and listened to."

It is not, necessarily, a unique observation. But among many Democrats and even casual observers President Obama's tone is cited as one of the chief catalysts for his outstanding early poll numbers. "Despite record job loss," said one Democratic aide, "there's still hope in America." Indeed, from the beginning of his presidency the percentage of people who believe the nation is headed in the right direction has risen from 19 percent to 42 percent, according to a recent ABC News-Washington Post Poll. Minus that calming influence, these numbers would not exist and neither would the President's agenda as we know it.

INSPIRATIONAL REFERENCES FOR THE MONTH

Come to me with your ears wide open. Listen, and you will find life. Isaiah 55:3 (NLT)

The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life.
Revelation 22:17 (NIV)



THE SUSAN BOYLE PHENOMENON!



TV personality Simon Cowell and the Old Testament prophet Samuel may or may not be related. But they have something in common. And before you think I am being too unkind about their similar blunders, I will quickly confess my own tendency to commit the same error of judgment.

Perhaps you remember Samuel's reaction to the various sons of Jacob who were brought before him. God had told him Israel's next king would be in the number and Samuel thought he spotted him in Eliab – a man with commanding presence. But the Lord restrained Samuel from anointing him.

Samuel had gone through the lot of them without a signal that a royal person was in view. Ah, but there was one more. And when a young David was standing before him, he may have thought his trip had been wasted. Then the Lord signaled to Samuel that David was the one to anoint as the nation's next leader. Not Eliab, but David. Not the tall, commanding man; but the young, ruddy lad.

Simon Cowell is not only a judge on "America's Got Talent" but for a sister English program called "Britain's Got Talent." He was unimpressed with his perception of a 'frumpy and unattractive' 47-year-old Scottish woman who walked onstage. Her hair was gray, thin, and unstyled. It turns out that she was the last of nine children, had been deemed "slow" by her teachers and had spent the bulk of her adult life taking care of aged and sick parents.

Susan Boyle explained that her dream was to be a professional singer. A studio audience alternately groaned or giggled at her naïve aspiration. Everybody appeared ready to let her embarrass herself and leave the stage – so someone with real talent might emerge from the wings. Then she must have made people who know music groan when she said she was going to sing a famous piece from *Les Miserables*. Oh, you just knew it was going to be a disaster!

Then came the moment. This unremarkable and nondescript woman who has never been married – who says she has never even been kissed! – opened her mouth to sing. And did she ever. Within the first few bars of "I Dreamed a Dream," people who had laughed were

either speechless or on their feet to cheer! Simon Cowell was wide-eyed and enthralled. Her performance is almost certain to guarantee the career and success that have been her unlikely dream for all these years. Karaoke behind her now, may she be a phenomenal success!

And may the rest of us be reminded again not to judge books by their covers, not to be so dismissive of the dreams of our children, or so prone to capitulate to the incredulity or jeers of others toward our own aspirations.

If you are one of the few remaining souls who haven't seen the video yet, please go to:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9lp0IWv8QZY>

Listen. Feel the lump in your throat and the goose bumps on your arms.

The next time you are tempted to judge by sight, let it be your warning.

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.



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
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**

