

# McCLAIN MINISTRIES

Since 2000 A Monthly Christian Newsletter Publication

August 2009

But those who wait on the Lord  
Shall renew their strength;  
They shall mount up with wings like eagles...



## This Month's Issue

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

## Life Events

### Happy Birthday!



Praying God's blessings this birthday from  
beginning to end

Shefonia Candia  
Betty Hardy  
Jannice Horton  
Cheryl Hudson  
Evelyn Magee  
Mary Jordan Smith  
Sylvia Washington  
Delilah Porter

## Happy Anniversary



**The Sanders' & Daniels'**  
Celebrating your enduring LOVE

# MELVA'S CORNER

## INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGE

### GOD'S PLAN FOR YOU IS PERFECT PART VIII



#### GROWN WEARY?

I can not possibly complete this series without addressing the inevitable likelihood of growing weary at some point as we live-out our dream.

I suspect there are some weary people reading these words.

Some are weary because the weekend was filled with activity. The lawn work had to be done. The kids had baseball or soccer games to play. It was hot, so the pool was the best place to be. The meals had to be prepared. The laundry had piled up and had to be done. The house had not been cleaned in weeks. The garbage had to be taken out. The car had to be washed. You have a good life and appreciate all the blessings God has given you, but you are weary.

Some are weary because it's Monday morning and you had to get up and go back to work. You've had your coffee or your juice or your diet drink or your workout to get you going. But, you're dragging. Your schedule for the week includes meetings, discussions, phone calls, and possibly some unexpected travel. Or, just some plain physical labor. You like your job and the people you work with but you are weary.

Some are weary because you have begun another week of wondering if this will be yet another week of frustration, disappointment, and hopelessness. You've dreamed dreams, trusted your heart, listened to the wisest of counsel, but still you are left with more questions than answers. You are weary.

Some are weary because of promises that have not been kept. Some are weary because of lies that have been told. Some are weary from the burden of guilt and shame that you carry with you wherever you go. Some are weary because your heart has been broken and love appears to always be just beyond your reach.

For those who are weary, listen to Isaiah's words of comfort:

**"To whom will you compare me?  
Or who is my equal?" says the Holy One.  
Lift your eyes and look to the heavens:  
Who created all these?**

**He who brings out the starry host one by one and calls them each by name.  
Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing.**

**Why do you say, O Jacob,  
and complain, O Israel,  
"My way is hidden from the Lord; my cause  
is disregarded by my God"?  
Do you not know?  
Have you not heard?  
The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator  
of the ends of the earth.**

**He will not grow tired or weary, and his  
understanding no one can fathom.  
He gives strength to the weary  
and increases the power of the weak.**

**Even youths grow tired and weary, and  
young men stumble and fall; but those who  
hope in the Lord will renew their strength.**

They will soar on wings like eagles;  
they will run and not grow weary,  
they will walk and not be faint  
(Isaiah 40:25-31 NIV).

For those who are weary, consider the words of Jesus about rest:

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light (Matthew 11:28-30 NIV).

Are you weary? Hope in the Lord! There your strength will be renewed. With wings you'll soar like eagles. You'll run and not grow weary. You'll walk and not be faint. Go to Jesus. He will give you rest.

The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest." So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place (Mark 6:30-32 TNIV).

How do you restore your energies after you have reached the spiritual exhaustion point?

What do you do when the fatigue debt has mounted so high in every dimension of your life — physical, emotional, and spiritual — that you do not think you can do one more thing?

Where do you go for renewal when plenty of sleep won't relieve the bone-weariness that pulses through every fiber of your being?

These are not hypothetical questions. You probably know that from personal experience. There is a kind of tiredness that nothing seems to relieve. This kind of ex-


haustion comes at the end of a long spiritual battle or from being the long-term caregiver for a loved one or from ministering to people repeatedly until you are completely depleted or from battling a long and debilitating illness or from . . .

For many of us who have found ourselves in such wearisome conditions, retreat and rest are often prescribed. They are also much desired. Yet many find such restful retreats remedy their weariness for just a short time, only to learn its return has left them feeling completely and perpetually "burned out."

Elijah's example of rest and refreshment after his exhaustion is a good one. Food and rest were not enough for Elijah to be renewed (I Kings 19:1-7), although they were part of his healing. What Elijah needed most, however, was to be in the presence of God. He needed to have God minister to him and speak directly to his heart (I Kings 19:8-18). God spoke to Elijah in a gentle whisper (I Kings 19:12) and called Elijah back into service, reminding him there were others out there still serving the LORD God (I Kings 19:18). One of these in particular needed Elijah to prepare him to lead God's people (I Kings 19:15-17).

I am not surprised that when Jesus saw the weariness of His apostles, the Lord not only told them to go away to a quiet place, but He also called them to be with Him. Getting away wasn't enough. Resting and being alone, far away from the crowd, wouldn't rekindle the holy fire they needed to minister. No matter how restful retreat from the maddening rush may seem at the time, getting away by itself will not restore what is spent. Only the presence of the Lord can renew, restore, revitalize, reinvigorate, and re-establish our spirits. Only the Spirit of God, the breath of heaven, can make dry bones rise again (Ezekiel 37:1-13).

So, as you face the challenges of your life, please, carve out some sacred space and some holy time to withdraw from the maddening rush, if only for a brief respite. But, don't just withdraw, draw close to the only one who can restore your soul!

If you have grown weary, may you find the strength this day to renew your determination to continue to serve God! God is at work in you ([Philippians 2:13](#)), and He won't quit His work until He finishes! ([Philippians 1:6](#)) 

## Higher Mountains...Higher Praises

I want to encourage you today to increase your praise reporting. God inhabits the praises of His people. And we overcome the beast by the blood of the lamb and the word of our testimony.

I wonder sometimes how effective we are at communicating what is important to us. If you are a Christian, sharing that fact should be at the top of our list of things to communicate. How are you doing? The word effective is defined as: "To be productive, efficient, to have the desired effect or to be successful."

Is your Christianity having the desired effect on the world around you? Do people even know you are a Christian? The scriptures tell us:

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven ([Matthew 5:16](#)).

Being gifted and called by God are the basis of all spiritual inspiration in our lives. However, it is our passion and determination to fan into flame that gift that is the fire that fuels our inspiration and shares Jesus' light with the world.

Let me suggest this week that you "let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone you communicate with knows what God is doing in your life and what He can do in the lives of others.

Opportunities! Write that card or letter to a neighbor, co-worker, friend or fellow Christian. Encourage them. Let them know about the love of God and how it can bless you.

Call someone who may be struggling! Take a plate of cookies to a neighbor; visit someone who can't get out much themselves. A neighbor stopped by last week with a loaf of home baked bread. We sat down had a slice along with a cup of coffee and fellowshiped. Wow, did I feel good after she left. Let your light shine, let folks see God living in you.

The One who spoke into existence the stars and keeps the sun its place is at work in you to make you uniquely useful to Him and His people. Begin each day with the knowledge that God is with you, shaping you, and using you for His purposes. Bring alive the reality that no one, at no other time in history, has been you or ever will be you. Acknowledge that God wants to use you in a special way. There's only one you!

Want your praise reports published just email Jannice Horton:

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

We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers. We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ ([1 Thessalonians 1:2-3 NIV](#)).



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

## Home Bible Workshop Schedule

Come and Join Us!



**August 15<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>**  
**Home Bible Workshop**  
**5:00 P.M. CST**

**The Message....**  
**“God’s Plan For You Is Perfect”**

✉ **492 Northpointe Parkway**  
**Jackson, MS 39211**

☎ **Phone: 601-206-4606**

## PRAY FOR OUR TROOPS



Give thanks and praise to God for the dedication and service of our military troops.

Have a Wonderful Summer



GAS PRICES ARE STARTING TO GO



You can make a difference if you care enough.

LET'S STAY VIGILANT



Have you contacted your representative yet?

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



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



## WEBSITE OFFERING

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

### HAPPY YET?

We convince ourselves that life will be better after we get married, have a baby, then another. Then we are frustrated that the kids aren't old enough and we'll be more content when they are. After that, we're frustrated that we have teenagers to deal with. We will certainly be happy when they are out of that stage. We tell ourselves that our life will be complete when our spouse gets his or her act together, when we get a nicer car, when we are able to go on a nice vacation or when we retire. The truth is there's no better time to be happy than right now. If not now, when? Your life will always be filled with challenges.

When you talk to most of the folks my age, sooner or later, the subject of retirement comes up as does talk of what they plan to do when they retire. The thought is that when they no longer have to worry about going to work, then things will be different, and then they will have time to do the things that really make them happy.

While thinking about this, I remembered what Jesus said, **"Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own"** (Matthew 6:34 NIV). I know we are not necessarily considering worry here, but being happy with your life. I believe the principle is basically the same. Also, notice what James wrote.

**"Now listen, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.' Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears**

**for a little while and then vanishes"** (James 4:13-14).

Perhaps the question we need to ask ourselves is, "What is keeping me from being happy?" Am I waiting for some future event(s) that I think will change everything, make everything better, or make things different? Am I waiting for someone else to change their life, their attitudes, their likes or dislikes, believing that will make me happy?

The psalmist gives us some insight into finding happiness when he tells us, **"Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the LORD his God"** (Psalms 146:5)

Where is your hope? Where do you try to find happiness? True hope and happiness is based on and found in our relationship with our Lord.

May God grant you true happiness this day and forever!

### WALKING THE TALK!

This will be a difficult article to write – without being misunderstood at a very serious level. Some will hear the theology as legalism, while others will hear the context as judgmental. Of which it is neither. At any rate, I think we are avoiding saying the obvious for the simple reason that it is either difficult or unpleasant. So here goes . . .

People who are going to fly the public flag of Christian faith have a special responsibility to put their behaviors where their mouths are.

There! I've said it. And I have no worry that my atheist friend or Muslim neighbor will not misunderstand it. But there is still the gnawing uncertainty about lots and lots of people who share my confession of faith that there is a God's will. Some of us have

gone to great lengths to defend the indefensible and to wink at evil.

- If you win a national beauty contest and simultaneously become a Christian celebrity for staking out a heterosexual view of marriage, it just might come back to haunt you that you posed semi-nude for a job with Victoria's Secret.
- If you are a clergyman who has committed himself to celibacy and called others to embrace a lifestyle that reflects Christ's holiness, you likely should not roll around on a beach in the arms of your girlfriend.
- If you are a politician moving onto the national stage by virtue of your clear and unequivocal stand for "traditional values," perhaps you should mark it down somewhere that an affair will almost surely be found out and exposed.

Hey, forget all about the "God thing" for a moment. The issue here isn't even religious versus secular. The issue is simple consistency. In the language of Alcoholics Anonymous, it is called walking the walk – as opposed to merely talking the talk. If I say one thing, my behavior shouldn't cancel it out.

It isn't thinly-veiled legalism to make this point. A theology of grace says that no one is good enough to be saved apart from God's mercy. It doesn't mean that one who is saved has no obligation to pursue what is right and grow in His likeness. Standards for right living are necessary. That no one lives those standards perfectly cannot become an excuse for double standards.

There is certainly no personal judgment (i.e., condemnation) here. We all make mistakes; I have certainly made my share. There is, instead, the collective judgment (i.e., awareness) that life in a glass house

should make all of us less likely to throw stones. When one of the rocks someone has thrown at other people boomerangs, the damage is often fatal.

Consistency is tough, all right, but hypocrisy is so much worse. 



## PARTNERSHIP COMMITMENT


**THANK YOU** partners for doing your part. You are truly a blessing to McClain Ministries. Your faithful commitment and support is greatly appreciated. If you have not yet made a commitment to partner with us for **2009**, please ask the Holy Spirit to speak to and guide your heart about it. If you will do your part God will do His part.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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# PRAY FOR PRESIDENT OBAMA



Since President Obama entered the White House, there has quite a bit of speculation both about his spirituality and his use of a BlackBerry. It turns out the two issues are linked.

Mr. Obama revealed in an interview with ABC News that he starts every morning by reviewing a "devotional" he receives on his BlackBerry from his Faith and Neighborhood Initiatives Director Joshua DuBois. The message includes Christian passages and scripture and sometimes quotes from other faiths to reflect on, the president said.

On top of that, Mr. Obama said he prays every night before going to bed. "When you're in this job, I think that every president whose had it is constantly humbled by the degree to which there are a lot of issues out there, and the notion that one person alone can solve all these problems I think you're cured of that illusion very quickly," the president said. "This is something where you just hope that you are aligning your work with His purposes and that you're attuned to the needs of the people you're there to serve."

Mr. Obama said his family has not yet picked a church in Washington because they are concerned about disrupting any congregation's regular services and they are also trying to make the transition to their new home easier for the Obama daughters. The president has, however, been attending a church in Camp David. "I've got a lot of stuff on my plate, and I need guidance all the time," he said.

Let the Holy Spirit guide your prayers for our President and our nation as you intercede for the following issues.

- **Supreme Court nominee Sonia Sotomayor. The Senate Judiciary Committee delayed its vote on Supreme Court nominee Sonia Sotomayor until Tuesday, July 28. After the Judiciary Committee vote, the full Senate is likely to follow the standard timetable of four or five days of debate before voting on the nominee. When confirmed, Sotomayor would become the 111th Supreme Court justice.**



- **U.S. Army expanding.** Defense Secretary Robert Gates says the size of the U.S. Army is being increased by 22,000 to help meet deployment needs for the continuing operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and because of political turmoil in Pakistan. The Army currently has total Troop strength of 547,000.
- **Religious rights of U.S. students.** A newly launched campaign is reaching out to public school students, teachers and parents across the nation to promote greater awareness about the fundamental right that students have to religious expression. "Students have the liberty to express their faith at school," clarifies Eric Buehrer, president of Gateways to Better Education, in the Christian Post. Buehrer has teamed up with the Alliance Defense Fund for the National Free to Speak Campaign. Over the past 15 years, the U.S. Department of Education has issued guidelines on freedom of religious expression in public schools three different times. Included in the guidelines are statements clarifying a student's right to share their beliefs, pray, evangelize, read Scripture, and invite students to participate in such activities so long as they are voluntary, student-initiated, and not disruptive or coercive.
- **Education system reform.** President Obama has announced "Race to the Top," a competition for nearly \$4.4 billion in grants. Under the program, states would use the funds to ease limits on charter schools, connect teacher pay to student achievement, and move toward common academic standards.
- **Health care reform delayed.** Health care reform legislation that President Obama had hoped could be completed and ready for him to sign by August will now likely be delayed until September.
- **Unemployment benefits late for millions.** According to the *New York Times*, decisions involving unemployment benefits for more than a million applicants have been slowed while hundreds of thousands have waited months for checks. In response to the crisis, states are taking on billions in debt and are increasing the pressure to raise taxes or cut aid. Currently, as many as 20 percent of initial payments are later than the usual three week delivery timeframe.



- **Troop deaths in Afghanistan.** July was the deadliest month for American and international forces in Afghanistan since the U.S.-led invasion of 2001. At least 37 U.S. Troops have died in July in Afghanistan.

**U.S. pullout from Iraq intact.** President Obama says the recent violence in Iraq has not changed the U.S. timetable for removing combat brigades from Iraq by the end of next August and all troops from the country by the start of 2012.

# WORDS FROM PRESIDENT OBAMA



... ON SPACE EXPLORATION



We now have a wonderful NASA administrator in Charles Bolden and the deputy administrator Lori Garver. We are confident that they are going to be doing everything that they can in the decade to come to continue the inspirational mission of NASA. But I think it's fair to say that the touchstone for excellence in exploration and discovery is always going to be represented by the men of Apollo 11. So I'm grateful to them for taking the time to visit with us. The country continues to draw inspiration from what you've done.

—President Obama, on the visit of Apollo 11 astronauts Neil Armstrong, Michael Collins, and Buzz Aldrin to the White House on the 40th Anniversary of man first walking on the Moon.



# INSPIRATIONAL REFERENCES FOR THE MONTH

Now we ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. And we urge you, brothers, warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone. Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else. Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. I Thessalonians 5:12-18 (NIV)

## GOD HAS A POSITIVE ANSWER

### YOU SAY

You say: 'It's impossible'

You say: 'I'm too tired'

You say: 'Nobody really loves me'

You say: 'I can't go on'

You say: 'I can't figure things out'

You say: 'I can't do it'

You say: 'I'm not able'

You say: 'It's not worth it'

You say: 'I can't forgive myself'

You say: 'I can't manage'

You say: 'I'm afraid'

You say: 'I'm always worried and frustrated'

You say: 'I'm not smart enough'

You say: 'I feel all alone'

### GOD SAYS

God says: All things are possible

God says: I will give you rest

God says: I love you

God says: My grace is sufficient

God says: I will direct your steps

God says: You can do all things

God says: I am able

God says: It will be worth it

God says: I Forgive you

God says: I will supply all your needs

God says: I have not given you a spirit of fear

God says: Cast all your cares on ME

God says: I give you wisdom

God says: I will never leave you or forsake you

### BIBLE VERSES

(Luke 18:27)

(Matthew 11:28-30)

(John 3:16 & John 3:34 )

(II Corinthians 12:9 & Psalm 91:15)

(Proverbs 3:5-6)

(Philippians 4:13)

(II Corinthians 9:8)

(Roman 8:28 )

(I John 1:9 & Romans 8:1)

(Philippians 4:19)

(II Timothy 1:7)

(I Peter 5:7)

(I Corinthians 1:30)

(Hebrews 13:5)



# 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**  
492 Northpointe Parkway  
Jackson, MS 39211



# GLOBAL OUTREACH MAILING LIST

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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**Send To:**

**McClain Ministries**  
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