

McCLAIN MINISTRIES

Since 2000 A Christian Newsletter Publication

February 2007

**JESUS LOVES
ME
THIS I KNOW...**



THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

LIFE EVENTS



MELVA'S CORNER



**FEATURE ARTICLE - A NEW DAYS
DAWNING**



PRAISE REPORTS



ANNOUNCEMENTS



HOME BIBLE WORKSHOP SCHEDULE



NEW WEBSITE OFFERINGS



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Life Events

Happy Birthday



**Sunnye McShann
Michael Williams
Mary Simpson
Rickey Jones
Jan Smith**

Interested Entrepreneurs...



*"Supporting the Entrepreneurs of Today,
Seeding the Entrepreneurs of Tomorrow"*

***You are invited to our 3rd National Bulletin
Board Party***

March 10, 2007

**6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M. - Dinner - Entrepreneurs
& Ministry Members Only**

7:00 P.M.- 8:00 P.M. - Display tour – Public

**88 Keys
Metro Center Mall
(1315 Metro Center Drive)
Jackson, MS
melvamccclain@bellsouth.net**

Melva's Corner

INSENSITIVE? WHO ME?

Bible Text: John 20:31

Central Truth: Hopefully, with a touch from beyond, your own relationships will be changed!

I have been meditating on John's Gospel recently and would like to share some thoughts with you over the next few weeks. No one in Scripture walked more intimately with Jesus. In some special way, John was "that disciple Jesus loved." In addition, no New Testament disciple walked with Jesus longer than had the aged apostle John by the time this Gospel was written.

John wrote his gospel several decades after the other gospels were written. By the time he wrote it, the church had already begun to form some of the crust of institutionalism. When movements begin, they are flexible and fluid; then they gradually form structure and tradition, which serve to stabilize them. But this structure and tradition also tend to immobilize and desensitize them.

And, worst of all, institutionalized religion tends to become less people-sensitive. In fact, religious institutions can end up crushing people, even those people who are most Christian. This kind of institutional immobility was already slowing the Christian movement before John died. Some bishops were becoming dictatorial. Organizational structures were growing more complex. Mini-denominations were taking shape. Policies, creeds, and doctrinal statements loomed on the horizon.

The Christ-follower movement was losing people-sensitivity, too. **And in the midst of all this sat sensitive Saint John, now nearly a century old.** Perhaps John's hair shone silver and his health was dwindling to frail.

All his fellow apostles had long since gone on. Peter, James, and Andrew had been called home. No doubt he felt alone as he faced the changing times.

The aged apostle had witnessed the launching of this movement. Now he saw it languishing.

As John watched the Christian movement institutionalize and lose freshness and people-focus, his mind may have wandered back to the way things were in the beginning. So spontaneous. So flexible. So full of energy, so relationship-oriented and people-sensitive. Why, the very core of Jesus' work had been a three-year relationship with twelve close friends.

Surely John remembered the Messiah at the wedding who solved the wine problem and got the host off the hook. John thought of the blind beggar whom no one noticed except Jesus. He pondered Jesus' tender teaching of the Samaritan woman and His tough, direct encounter with Nicodemus. He saw Jesus' tears as He embraced Mary and Martha, consoling them in the loss of their brother Lazarus.

The apostle also knew that just as institutions become desensitized, so a crust could form around the heart of an individual believer. Relationships can give way to religion, and a Christian can lose his or her "first love."

One can almost hear John thinking aloud. "Jesus was so tender with people, yet so tough with issues. Jesus and people. That is it!" And John remembered.

So John wrote it down. **"These [things] are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name" (John 20:31)** In other words, "I want to build your faith!" In the Gospel of John, "faith" is always a verb; it is never a noun. Faith is

about how you live, not just about what you think is true. Mostly, “verb-faith” in Jesus is about touching and building people the way Jesus touched them. So John packaged his high-powered, faith-building theology in human-interest stories. Stories about people. Stories about relationships. Ordinary encounter after ordinary encounter. Each vignette carefully selected to weave a tapestry of ageless wisdom. Heaven reaching down to humanity, Immanuel among earthlings, the Christ amidst the commoners, Jesus touching people.

With graphic detail and penetrating insight, John takes us on a storybook journey through Jesus’ encounters with human beings. All kinds of people:

- religious people like Nicodemus
- self-righteous people like some Pharisees
- abandoned people like the woman at the well
- frightened people like the woman caught in adultery
- despairing people like Mary and Martha at the tomb of Lazarus
- lonely people like the handicapped man by the pool
- mistreated people like the blind beggar by the road

And the common thread that strings all these souls together is their basic humanity. They had flesh and bones, problems and joys, friends and enemies — just like you and me!

They could have been your neighbors or your relatives. That cranky old coot who lives around the corner? He is in John’s story. That group of church officials who can’t see God? Jesus ran into a few of those. Your mother-in-law? The pregnant teenager? The grief-stricken widow? You’ll see their faces in the pages of John’s writings. And what’s more, Jesus is one of

them; yet in Him you’ll see God act out His own commandment: You’ll watch Him love them as He loved Himself, and you’ll want to love like that!

You will also observe divine people skills, and you can learn them. You will see that God does His most awesome work through relationships. Hopefully, with a touch from beyond, your own relationships will be changed!

Several years ago at a baptismal service, one of my friends was explaining the significance of what she was witnessing to her three-year-old daughter. “See that lady?” the mother said. “Jesus is about to wash away her sins.”


The little girl sat up a bit straighter so she could see better and said with excitement, “Good. I’ve been wanting to see Jesus.”

Me, too, little one. Me, too!

Maybe you have too. Maybe you have heard Jesus’ words about loving your neighbor as yourself and have thought, ‘I’d like to see what He would do with that in my world. Well, now is your chance. Open your heart a bit, and let John teach you how Jesus touched people.

And as you begin your journey through the life of Jesus, pause a moment and ask God: “Heavenly Father, how do I learn to treat people the way you want me to? How do I treat those around me like Jesus did?” When you do, you will hear Jesus whisper to you through John’s Gospel the words of invitation: **“Come and see!” (John 1:38-39)**

Scriptural References:

“These [things] are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name” (John 20:31) 



SIGNIFICANCE IS A GIVEN!

By Melva McClain

Bible Text: John 15:12

Central Truth: We're a community of significance to help those who struggle at believing in their own.

Have you ever asked yourself what the church is? Jesus said it is a community of people — Jesus seekers — who love one another. **"Love one another as I have loved you" (John 15:12 NKJV)**. That's Jesus' command to us. In fact, the Lord said that this love will be the way folks will recognize that we are His followers **(John 13:35)**. And in another place, Jesus told us, **"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13)**.

Millions of people who are lonely and heartbroken could be healed if they will allow God's people to love them and God's people choose to step outside their church boxes and reach out to them with love.

For over a decade, futurists and culture watchers have warned us that as the high tech world invades more and more of our lives, we will need to have a compensating opportunity for "high touch" moments in our lives. These are not experienced through cyber or text anything. These require face-to-face contact, skin-to-skin human touch, and the genuine words of a friend whose face we can see and whose body language we can experience.

As churches have gotten more "mega" and less personal, how are we going to find these "high touch" moments and share them with others who so desperately need them?

How are Jesus-followers going to follow their Lord's example of noticing, touching, speaking, and caring for those who feel alone and abandoned?

How am I going to be a part of the work of God of replacing the loneliness in families?

So why raise the questions without giving any answers? Simple, we need to prayerfully and thoughtfully respond to the crisis as churches, the followers of Jesus, and as individuals. One person can be a powerful blessing and we must choose to be that person of blessing. A group can make an even greater difference when banded together with a commitment to truly be the church that cares like Christ. And churches — small, large, and mega — have a responsibility to do more than build empires and hold services for the already saved: they must touch the hurt of the world. So let's have the questions trouble us until we begin to be part of the answers to the human loneliness epidemic.

All of us have a desire to be significant. We may not want to attract a lot of attention to ourselves in a crowd or be singled out for special attention, but we want to be significant. We want to have a life that matters. The sad thing is we spend so much time trying to gain what God has already given us.

We are made of God's stuff—made in God's image, with significance and authority. He personally made us, carefully crafting us in our mother's womb. He has a plan for our future and a purpose for our being here. When we became Christians—when we trusted in Jesus as Lord and we shared in His death, burial and resurrection in baptism—we were adopted into His family as a full heir to all of His inheritance. As a Christian we have been given spiritual gifts to use to honor God and bless others in our spiritual family. He makes His home in us until we go to His place to live with Him. He will never leave us or forsake us. No one and nothing can separate us from His love. He works even the worst things in our lives out in ways that ultimately benefit us and get us to where He wants us to be. When

Jesus returns, we will share in His triumph and His glory. Sound familiar.

You see, significance is a sure thing. It's not even an issue. The real issue is whether we can accept it as a gift and trust it as a foundation for our life. We don't have to win God's love or attention. He has already given it to us. His fingerprints are on our DNA and His pencil sketches out our future. So we can trust we are His and not be driven to doubt by Satan's attacks.

We can also help others under the assault of doubt find their significance, too. "If God only had a voice or could touch me with His hands," they say, "then I could know I'm worth somethin'." But then, that's why we're here—to be His voice and touch others as His hands. God didn't call any of us to be solo flight Christians. We're a community of significance to help those who struggle at believing in their own.

Significance is a given if we'll only trust that God came to our life and chose us for His team. Then until we can go home to be with Him, He not only spends the night with us, but He never leaves us!

Isn't it amazing that we are loved and wanted by the King of the Ages, Jesus Christ! Not only that, we weren't chosen out of pity, but to make a difference. We're chosen to bear fruit that will endure! To help insure that productivity, Jesus has promised we can ask for God's blessing on our work for His Kingdom and He will bless us. Incredible!

As Christians, we want to nurture our life in Christ so that it continues to grow consistently and refuse to let it stagnate. We want to continue our growth as God's children by studying His Word. We want our lives to bear fruit for the Master. We want a life that is strong and will endure.


So let's make the rest of today work a little

better — and how about making a commitment to follow today with another and another and . . . Try sharing yourself lovingly and completely with the community of Christ. It will make your day! And theirs too! When indeed this happens . . . Significance is indeed a given!

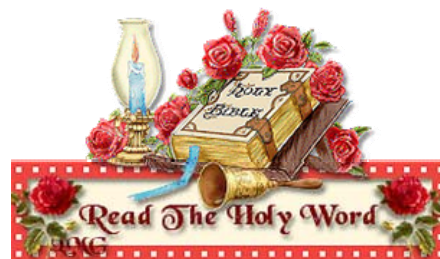
My Prayer:

Give me a heart, O God that is open to your work and a vision that is as expansive as your grace. May my prayers ask for things that bring you glory, expand the borders of your kingdom, and reach beyond the limited things that so often distract me. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Scriptural References:

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty." Revelation 

HOME BIBLE WORKSHOP SCHEDULE



Mark your calendars for the **February 2007** dates. Please plan to attend.

February 3rd and 17th

The Message...

"God's Power Promises"

Includes Nationwide Video Conferencing

 **1050 Ridgeside Drive
Brandon, MS 39042**

 **Phone: 601-824-7498**

Higher Mountains...Higher Praises

THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE

Sylvia Washington

Right now, I praise GOD for all he has done for me and my family and all that he is doing and going to do. **Hallelujah!**

My God is an awesome GOD. HE is always there when I need HIM. When I awake in the mornings, I say, "thank you GOD for waking me and my family up this morning. Thank you that I can breathe on my own. Thank you that I can get up on my own.

Thank you GOD that I can see. Thank you that I can hear. Thank you GOD that my heart beats on time. Thank you GOD that I have a roof over my head. Thank you that my cupboard will never be bare. I just thank GOD that I am here to praise HIM. Sometimes, I just sit and think about how good GOD has been to me and how far HE has brought me, never ever to leave me alone and it brings tears to my eyes because HE loves me so much.

If you have ever felt GOD'S LOVE, You can't help but to love HIM back because HE loves so hard. GOD's love teaches you to be obedient and blessings come from obedience. Bless the Name of **JESUS!**

HIS GOODNESS, MERCY AND HIS TRUTH ENDURES FOREVER!

Lena Williams

Wow 2007!!!

I humbly testify to the loving kindness that our Heavenly Father poured out upon me and my family during 2006. He kept us.

I am sincerely grateful and I honor HIM for bringing us all into 2007, and setting before us breakthroughs and opens doors of

endless possibilities to prosper in our spirit souls and bodies.

I am expecting great things to happen this year . . . as we seek to serve Him . . . breakthroughs are already happening as we give voice to His WORD. I am looking forward to welcoming our new healthy grandson into the world in March. I am also looking forward to growing my business; "Illum-A-Nation" and participating in helping others grow theirs as well. I am receiving more and more information and revelation each day. The God that we serve . . . He is able and I am thankful.

UP CLOSE & PERSONAL

Melva McClain

January 28 will mark three (3) years of retirement and the utter joy of being in full time ministry. I just can't express the honor of having the opportunity to serve our Master without constraints. The fulfillment of a dream come true drives my every waking hour to help others see the realization of their dreams. And for those who have chosen to assist in that quest . . . I express a heartfelt thank you.

"Great Minds Discuss Ideas . . . Average Minds Discuss Events . . . Small Minds Discuss People"

"GRATEFUL"

Jannice Horton

I want to give God all the praise and then some more. He is so good to us. My daughter, Shanice was putting on deodorant and she said she heard something that sounded like a tear in her neck. She became still, afraid of the unknown. Her dad asks if she could move her neck, she tried and immediately experience excruciating pain. We rushed her to the emergency room and the doctor told us she had pulled a muscle in her neck. The doctor recommended ice packs for the 1st 48 hours then use heat. Perform

gentle range of motion to her neck throughout the day and take Motrin for pain and inflammation.

It was hard for her to swallow; stand and sit for long periods of time and she was unable to play her instrument (clarinet). We prayed and called on Jesus. Today she is much better and ready to start the All City Band Recital.

Praise The Lord for His Healing Hands. Jesus breaks every fetter and He says be Free.



WEBSITE OFFERINGS

(Article Excerpts)
www.mcclainministries.org

THAT THING CALLED LEADERSHIP!

Leadership is a tricky thing. It doesn't happen because one has the most impressive title — President, Executive Director, CEO, Mom, Elder, or Senior Pastor. The most impressive office does not a leader make — corner with glass, monster desk, art on display. Leadership is subtler. And it is essential to success.

A real leader creates a culture of leadership. It's not cute shirts or chants. It's a subtle, intangible "feel" that operates at a level below the surface. Yet everybody entering that culture senses it and is energized by it.

Leadership doesn't bully and try to make others yield. It lifts heads and builds confidence so people can perform well. It creates a healthy culture where every person feels valued and wants to contribute to the success of the whole.

Good leaders don't build cult followers. They build confident people.

THE LEARNING TREE

EARLY CHURCH HISTORY

During the first six decades of the first century CE, Judaism was composed of about two dozen competing factions: Sadducees, Pharisees, Essenes, Zealots, followers of John the Baptist, followers of Jesus of Nazareth and followers of other charismatic leaders. All followed common Jewish practices, such as observing dietary restrictions, worshiping at the Jerusalem temple, sacrificing animals and observing the weekly Sabbath.

The triumph of Christianity is actually a very remarkable historical phenomenon. We begin with a small group from the backwaters of the Roman Empire and after two, three centuries go by, lo and behold that same group and its descendants have somehow taken over the Roman Empire and have become the only tolerated religion of the Roman Empire by the end of the 4th century. That is a truly remarkable development.

BIBLE WORKSHOP

New Addition

BIBLE GATEWAY - VERSE OF THE DAY

Jesus...Sweetest Name I know
Happy Hearts Day



PARTNERSHIP COMMITMENT

THANK YOU partners for doing your part in **2006**. 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 **2007**, 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.

HOW TO CONTACT MELVA

✉ 1050 Ridgeside Drive
Brandon, MS 39042

☎ Phone: 601-824-7498 or

Cell phone: 601-955-6722

✉ Email: melvamclain@bellsouth.net

IN HIS PRESENCE



AT THE 6:00 P.M. HOUR OF PRAYER

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

Bring all of your cares and burdens to the altar and encourage others to do the same.

Lives are being changed. Breakthroughs are happening in 2007.

2nd Quarter Teleconference



Saturday, April 28, 2007
8:00 A.M. CST

8:00 A.M. CST
Toll Free Dial-In Number
1-888-422-7124
Participant Code: 730940

Quarterly teleconferences are one of many of the ministries communication tools. These conferences allow us to share the uncompromised Word of God, as well as fellowship with our members in a spirit of unity that has literally changed the lives of those who participate.

National Bulletin Board Party Planning Session

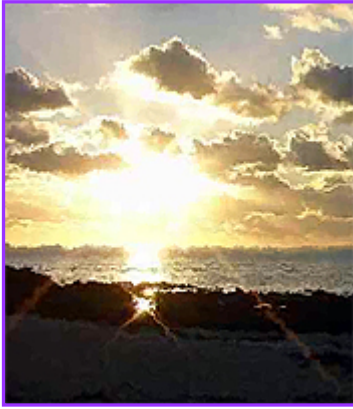


Saturday, March 3, 2007
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
1050 Ridgeside Drive
Brandon, MS
601-824-7498

FEBRUARY IS WOMEN'S HEART DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH



**Promote awareness among
women of all ages.**



A NEW DAY IS DAWNING

What has God put inside of you?

Do you look at the New Year and worry if you're really up to the changes it will present.

Fear about change, uncertainty about opportunities, and worry about the future steal more from us than thieves ever will. There's just something in our human nature that makes us afraid. We don't want to lose what we have, so we pull back from anything that might threaten it — even "things" that might be a whole lot better.

We fear the consequences of our possible changes. So most of our New Year changes are short-lived and mere window dressing.

As Christians, however, we have the power to change without fear. We can reach out and embrace new opportunities with great expectation. We can welcome the future with excitement.

You see, God has promised His power to help us change. That power is the Holy Spirit (**Ephesians 3:14-21**). This is the same power that raised Jesus from the dead (**Ephesians 1:17-19**). This is power to not only change, but to be transformed (**II Corinthians 3:18**).

While we change, God's grace assures us that the important things in our lives will not be lost. As our hearts seek after Jesus as Lord, we can welcome changes and seize opportunities knowing that nothing can separate us from His love for us (**Romans 8:31-39**). Jesus' love and presence will not change or leave us (**Hebrews 13:5-8**).

While some may fear the dawn of the New Year because of the changes it WILL bring, as believers we can welcome the dawn of this New Year with anticipation. In this New Year, Jesus will be working to change us to be more like Him and to be more of a blessing to those around us. His work in us WILL happen. The real question is this: Are we going to let fear rob Jesus of His goal in us, or will we seize the opportunities and seek the changes that bring Him glory?

Let's welcome the dawn of our New Year with anticipation and courage, remembering the apostle John's promise, "Perfect love drives out fear!" and the reassuring words of Jesus to His storm tossed disciples, "Fear not. I am!"

In this New Year, what is in your heart? Specifically, let me ask you three questions to help reveal the answer to the question:

What is your burden?

What is your vision?

What is your passion?

I would describe a burden as something that is deep down inside of you. It is something you think about and are deeply concerned about. It is something God has put there.

God can also give you a vision of something He is calling you to embrace. It is something in the future. It is a possibility of something bigger than you are.

Passion, according to Webster's New World Dictionary, is "an extreme, compelling emotion; intense emotional drive or excitement." I would describe it for those of us who are believers as something we are really excited about doing for God.

What has God put in your heart? Has He given you a burden for a certain problem, group of people, or situation? What are you doing about it? If He put it there, shouldn't you be responding? Paul had a burden for newly planted churches. He said in describing his challenges and sufferings, "besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches." (II Corinthians 11:28 NKJV)

When it comes to vision, most of us remember the great message of wisdom, "**Where there is no vision, the people perish.**" (Proverbs 29:18 KJV) The Spirit's leading is a critical part of your destiny in God. (Galatians 5:25) The Bible says that Paul followed the vision God gave him: "**Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision.**" (Acts 26:19) We too want to go the way the Spirit leads and God's Word reveals, rather than simply setting out on our human wisdom, which can be misguided. (Proverbs 14:12)

When it comes to passion, doing God's will can be as exciting as it can be challenging. Fulfill your destiny in God. Enjoy the excitement of serving Him. Jesus said, "**The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.**" (John 10:10 NKJV) Paul reminded Christians in Asia, "**For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.**" (Ephesians 2:10) Oswald Chambers wrote, "Not often, but every once in a while, God brings us to a major turning point — a great crossroads in our life. From that point we will either go toward a more and more slow, lazy and useless Christian life, or we become more and more on fire, giving our utmost for His highest — our best for His glory."

New Year's Resolutions are good. Getting out of debt, losing weight, and spending more time with your family are all good goals. By now, however, many folks have already lost interest in their resolutions. However, as you pray and listen, what burden, what vision and what passion has God put inside of you? Pay attention to that burden. See how you can walk in obedience to that vision. Enjoy the passion of knowing that you are doing what God put you here to do because A New Day Is Dawning. 📖



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: \$ _____

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Work Number _____

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Brandon, Ms 39042**

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

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