

# McCLAIN MINISTRIES

Since 2000 A Monthly Christian Newsletter Publication

February 2008

**God's LOVE  
is  
CONTAGIOUS**



## This Month's Issue

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"Are you a World-Changer"



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

## Life Events

### A Reason to Celebrate



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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

### GOD'S BUNDLE OF JOY

**Sylvia Washington**

I would like to introduce my new granddaughter:



#### Tzion Emanee' Sims

Born January 18, 2008, weighing 6lbs.15 oz.  
20 1/2 inches long.

Both mother and child are doing well.  
Praise God!

# Melva's Corner

Are you a World-Changer?



**Bible Text:** 1 Thessalonians 5:16 18

**Central Truth:** When you know you are loved by God, feel secure in His acceptance and experience the peace that comes with that relationship, you begin to understand how to relate to other people.

The world needs lots of positive change. Do you agree?

There needs to be less violence in the world. There are too many angry people on the road and in our workplaces. There are too many abusive words spoken in homes. And there are too many people who never get spoken to except to be criticized, put down, or made fun of. Things don't have to be that way. You and I can change this hateful pattern and drain off some of that savage anger.

The world needs more joy. It doesn't take any great effort to acknowledge people on the sidewalk, in elevators, or at restaurants. Why, it is even possible to smile at clerks and customers. There's something almost magical when clerk and customer smile simultaneously and speak pleasantly. It starts with a simple, natural smile directed at another human being.

We certainly need increased kindness to each other too. Every time you cross paths with another human being, you have the opportunity to see and affirm the image of God. You can build that person up or tear them down. If you do the former, you are

honoring God and affirming human dignity; if you do the latter, you are not so much insulting that person but the God in whose likeness they were created. So racism, sexism and the other hateful "-isms" of the world are totally out of place.

When you know you are loved by God, feel secure in His acceptance and experience the peace that comes of that relationship, you begin to understand how to relate to other people. You love your children on the model of God's own love for you. You build the key relationships of your life on acceptance rather than skepticism. That is, you assign worth to persons as persons and refuse to make others feel they must earn your love by measuring up.

All of a sudden, you can learn from your mistakes rather than be crushed under their weight. You can hold others accountable and still treat them with respect and affirm their worth. You will even develop the ability to distinguish a cold from cancer – treating only the really serious things seriously and otherwise letting some things slide that don't deserve to be blown out of proportion.

If the vicious spirit of harsh judgment invades your world today, be sure it gets there through someone other than you. Be an encourager.

Summing up, I suppose it all translates into Jesus' call for us to love one another. Maybe that's why less rage and more smiles, fewer incivilities and more kindnesses don't sound like such novel ideas. But, hey, the notion here isn't novelty but need, not originality but urgency. Don't you think these little things would make the world a better place for all of us?


"But it's too simplistic!" somebody protests. Are you sure? The world gets changed not only by the mighty exploits of its occasional superstar heroes but also by

the cumulative little deeds of each soul who aspires to a holy thing.

Don't wait for someone else to take the initiative in your workplace, at home, or in your church. No leader needs to give you permission. Just do these right, positive, and wholesome things yourself. If you must, do them alone. Go person to person with them and God will make you into a world-changer.

Pray to be the change you'd like to see in the world.

### Scriptural References:

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you"  
(I Thessalonians 5:16-18) 



### 'How To Keep Your Joy'



Bible Text: John 15:11

**Central Truth:** Joy is more an attitude than a circumstance and a healthy mind-set toward life is rooted in loving and being loved.

"How's it going?"

Is this just small talk, a serious question, or a genuine greeting? And how do we answer? Do we give people what they want to hear, "Fine, and you?" "Great!" "Hi." Or do we share the same facts with them? "I'm feeling lousy, had the flu, and been cough-

ing my head off." "Not that great, I'm behind in my bills, the kids are sick and my spouse is really mad at me."

What situations do you let steal your joy?

**"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." (Galatians 5:22-23)** This scripture is a good benchmark to measure your Christian walk? I haven't gotten a perfect "10's" yet! Notice joy is second to love. So how do we keep the joy that God wants us to have and share with others? How do we keep our joy when our relationship with others is not going the way we want it to go?

The first way to keep our joy is to encourage one another through our tests in life. Have you ever had a cheerleader? You know the person that lets you know they are pulling for you. A cheerleader says things like, "You can do it . . . Keep up the good work . . . I like the way you do that!" Paul tells the church of the Thessalonians to be encouragers, **"Therefore, encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing." (I Thessalonians 5:11)** You love those phrases of encouragement don't you; my bet is others would love to hear them from you as well.

The second way to keep our joy is to put a different spin on our setbacks. I say this not to minimize the great obstacles that sometime block our way, but to reexamine the way we look at problems. **"Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its works so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything." (James 1:2-4)** Wow, now that's a different spin on setbacks.

In that scripture, James is saying that whenever trouble comes your way, let it be an opportunity for growth and joy. That setback can help your endurance to be more fully developed, and then you will be strong in

character and ready to face anything in the future. Ever question a setback God allowed to happen to you, only to find out later that your maturity and spirituality levels grew deeper? God may be calling you to a higher level of maturity and spirituality for your relationship to move to deeper intimacy.

The third way to keep our joy is to pray. Hopefully, the most important relationship to you is with God. Any relationship involves an investment in time. Listen to this investment, **“Keep on praying, no matter what happens . . .”** (I Thessalonians 5:17-18). What is ironic is the verse right before this one is **“Always be joyful.”** They literally go together.

Joy in relationships and life are very hard to find some days. We're almost programmed by advertisers to be dissatisfied with everything so we will want to buy something new to fix our frustration. Finding God's joy is the one great antidote.

Joy is more an attitude than a circumstance and a healthy mind-set toward life is rooted in loving and being loved.

Ralph Waldo Emerson said, **“What lies behind us and what lies in front of us pales in comparison to what lies within us.”** In other words no matter how bad our past was, no matter how troublesome our future may be, we have the Spirit of God within us and that is a wellspring of joy for the days ahead. So resist those things that steal our joy by encouraging those we love, by being our own spin doctor and by praying with thanksgiving! If we'll do this, we'll not only add more joy to our life, but also have joy to share with those we love.

### **My Prayer:**

Heavenly Father, thank you so much for saving me from sin, death and futility. Thank you for giving me the assurance, through your Holy Spirit, that I can come

before you with exuberant and overflowing joy. Your love and grace have not only given me hope but have made me your child. Hear my heart and be blessed by my songs of praise. In the name of Jesus I pray and will shout your praise forever and ever. **Amen.**

### **Scriptural References**

**“These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.”** (John 15:11)

## **HIGHER MOUNTAINS...HIGHER PRAISES**

**NO WEAPON FORMS AGAINST US SHALL PROSPER**

**Jannice Horton**

My Daughter, Shanice woke up Sunday morning just like usual. We went to Sunday school and by the time Praise and Worship Service started she was complaining of chest pains. I took her to the nurse's station. The nurse checked her vital signs and blood pressure and said they were normal. She gave her some Maalox and aspirin and suggested I take her to the emergency room just to be safe.

We prayed that all would be well, that we would not be in the waiting area for long. We agreed in prayer. They check her out thoroughly and did not find anything. They gave her some Mylanta and some ibuprofen.

**OBEDIENCE IS BETTER THAN SACRIFICE**

**Robert Smith**

Hey Melva, let me take a moment to share this praise report with you. The word **“AWESOME”** is one I personally reserve for usage when I'm referring to God, or Jesus, or the Holy Spirit, or things pertaining thereto. I don't use that term in reference to anything/anyone common or ordinary. God moved last night on my behalf in an **AWESOME** way!! First of all, yesterday, yet

again, there was a need to sow into a close friend's life. He shared with me that he & his family are in such dire straits that he has had to make an appeal to our church just to get utilities paid, and was now fighting past the shame of making an appeal to me, before they have utilities cut off. After a few moments with the brother in ministry & encouragement, I blessed him with a "love offering" when I saw him at choir rehearsal.

Right after that conversation, an opportunity for a few more moments of ministering encouraging to someone occurred arbitrarily. A young woman who was doing some work in our home all of a sudden ended up in a long conversation with me. She was sharing with me her desire to get to know God after having lived a pretty rough life. She's now finding herself under the employ of a Christian woman (her & her husband are friends of mine). Recently she was also in a long conversation with a good friend of mine whose house she was doing work in as well (a member of my church). That young woman committed to coming to visit my church next Sunday. Hallelujah!

Talking with this young woman was obviously very important, even though the time spent carried over into my Intercessory session time! But, I had to be obedient to the Holy Spirit with both dialoguing with that young woman, as well as going right away to the choir rehearsal, where I was to be a blessing to the brother who I mentioned was in desperate, immediate need.

There's a reason that the obedience was key. As I was on the way home following that rehearsal, I got a phone call out of the clear blue, with a person saying that they were sending a HUGE monetary wedding gift to LaWanda and me . . . overnight! HALLELUJAH! Now, I admit that I was trying to refuse receiving money from them . . . so was my wife, LaWanda. But, we realized and acknowledged later that it was

indeed a move of God on our behalf for this unexpected blessing to occur! And just think of God's TIMING. I'd just had to fight off negativity earlier in the day regarding doubtful thoughts and emotions about not having YET seen God perform MATERIAL miracles in my/ our life during these last couple of weeks of our intercessory movement! Wow! Glory to GOD! WAY TO GO, GOD! I'm truly humbled, in different ways! This was something I had to share right away with you!! I praise God, and I appreciate you for being a mighty instrument!

**THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NOTHING GOD CAN'T DO!**

Carolyn Cooper

**December 30, 2007 Prayer Request:** A friend of my brother, is scheduled for open heart surgery tomorrow morning. I don't have any details regarding the hospital or surgeons' name.

Please stand in the gap with us as we petition God for a successful procedure and a full and speedy recovery for Guy Hancock.

**January 6, 2007 Praise Report:** Guy had his open heart surgery Friday and is doing great. He asked me to thank everyone for praying for him. He should be going home some time this week.

**THE MIRACLE OF PROPHECY**

Melva McClain

On Saturday January 19<sup>th</sup> I was having lunch with a group of ladies at a local restaurant. One of the ladies was a minister who upon first meeting her immediately prophesied over me. It was an amazing prophecy that included powerful words of encouragement. Another issue in the prophecy concerned my right knee that I had been praying over for sometime. No one other than God knew of this. The minister gave me instructions as to what to do about my knee.

I followed those instructions the next day, January 20<sup>th</sup>. And my knee is just perfect. Hallelujah!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Home Bible Workshop Schedule



Mark your calendars for the months of **February - April 2008**. Please join us and take the next step in your walk with God.

**February 2**

Home Bible Workshop  
5:00 P.M. CST

“The Power of Intercessory Prayer”  
Includes Nationwide Video Conferencing

**February 23**

Home Bible Workshop  
5:00 P.M. CST

“The Power of Intercessory Prayer”  
Includes Nationwide Video Conferencing



### 1<sup>ST</sup> QUARTER TELECONFERENCE

**February 16**

8:00 A.M. CST

☎ Toll Free Dial-In Number  
1-888-422-7124  
Participant Code: 730940

### 2<sup>ND</sup> QUARTER TELECONFERENCE

**April 26**

8:00 A.M. CST

☎ Toll Free Dial-In Number  
1-888-422-7124  
Participant Code: 730940



## 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.



### Thoughts on Love...

There comes to my heart one sweet strain,

A glad and a joyous refrain,

I sing it again and again,

Sweet peace, the gift of **God's love**.

Peace, peace, sweet peace,

Wonderful peace from above,

Oh, wonderful, wonderful peace,

Sweet peace, the gift of **God's love**.

*Peter Philip Bilhorn*

# WEBSITE OFFERINGS

## MESSAGE EXCEPTS

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

### JUST PREACH THE GOSPEL

The Greek word euaggelion, which was translated “gospel” in seventy-four New Testament verses, was so rare in writings outside of the New Testament that it’s only found twice in extra-biblical manuscripts. The reason for this is because this word not only meant “good news,” but was actually describing “beyond good news.”

Much of “Christian culture” today associates the Gospel with these statements: “You’re a sinner. If you don’t repent, you’re going to be lost.” Now, these are true statements. There is good and evil, a God and a devil, and you do need to repent and receive salvation, but even though all of that is true, it’s not “good news.” It’s not “the Gospel.”

As a matter of fact, it’s the complete opposite of what Paul was teaching. Roman 2:4 says it’s the goodness of God that leads us to repentance, not judgment and condemnation. That is what Paul was talking about, and that is “good news.”

### HOW GOD ANSWERS PRAYER

All of us have had experiences when it didn’t look like our prayers were answered. But is that really what happened? The Bible says in Matthew 7:7, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." Is that true? Well, many people say it couldn't mean what it appears to say, because they can cite experiences where they asked for something and didn't receive. But you've got to make the decision stated in Romans

3:4, to "Let God be true, but every man [or in this case, every circumstance] a liar." God's Word is based on truth, not our experiences.

This is one of the reasons so much doctrinal division has come about. The Word is clear, but when someone tries the Word and doesn't see the promised results, rather than admit that they could have failed, they say something like, "That truth must have passed away" or "It must not have been God's will," etc. God is not the one who failed to answer, but rather we are the ones who have failed to receive.

What actually happens when we ask in prayer is that God moves immediately and gives us the answer in our spirits. We are responsible for believing it and acting accordingly to bring the answer into the physical world.

### WE HAVE BEEN REDEEMED

Understanding redemption, the complete forgiveness of our sins, is foundational to understanding the New Covenant and how God deals with us today.

If you're born again and still asking questions like these: "Can I lose my salvation?" "If I die with unconfessed sin, will I go to heaven?" or "Does God answer the prayers of someone who still sins?" then you do not understand redemption.

Redemption is very practical, and your understanding of it will determine what you are able to receive from God, not just in the so called 'here after', but here and now.



# CATCH THE VISION OF OUR GIRL'S SCHOOL IN AFRICA

THE FIRST LETTERS FROM OUR GIRLS ARE NOW TRANSLATED FROM FRENCH INTO ENGLISH AND I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE SEVERAL OF THEM WITH YOU

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From Balima Agnes

Dear Friend,

I write you this letter to bring you up to date on the current news and to receive yours in return. But above all I would like to present myself and allow you to know me.

I am Agnes Balima. I was born on May 9, 1994. I am a student in level 6 in the College D'enseignement a General (C.E.G) of the Department of Tibga. TIBGA which houses the CEG is the chief place stated on the department and is situated to the west and a distance of 40 km from HFada Gourma, chief place of the province of Gourma and of the region to the east (our province is our region). I am in the farming village of Bolontou, 9.5 km to the west of TIBGA.

My father Francois Baima is a farmer and my mother Clarisse Tougma is a housewife. We are a family of 6 children with 5 girls and 1 boy. Our baby is one good girl of 4 months. During my vacations, I help my parents in their work in the country. I always help my mom at the same time during the course of years.

I like to play in the company of my classmates and friends. I like music and travel. At home we eat, rice, corn, beans, pancakes, and sorghum or corn pasta. I really like fresh sauce and gumbo.

I myself strive to work hard in class. I want to succeed in my studies and become a nurse.

My dear friend, how are things at your home? How are your parents, your brothers and sisters, and your classmates at school? Are they well? At our house here, we are well.

The problem of our country this year is that the season of rain was not very good in the beginning. In the middle, we had too much rain with flooding and towards the end not any rain at all.

With this news, I leave and hope for your response to my letter. I will go for now and\* leave you until next time.

From Agnes Balima

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**From Alice Savadogo**

**My name is Alice Savadogo. I am 14 years old. My father is named Vincent Savadogo and my mother is Natama Kosine. In my family we have eight. Five girls are married. We have two that go to school, my oldest brother Antonine and me. Me, I am in the 6<sup>th</sup> level of the College of Enseignement General of TIBGA. I walk to school. My village is named Guidpende and it's found at a distance of six kilometers from the school. The inhabitants of my village are farmers. I like to eat rice and soup. I like to listen to music and dance. In my life I would like to tour the colonies on vacation. I also like reading and travel.**

**When I grow up I would like to become a teacher for educating and to give an understanding to the children, building a world of tomorrow. There are wars, crimes, and attacks because the people don't have a good education. I want to become a teacher to educate the children to write about all this.**

**I would like one day to know about Europe. I've heard of this continent from television and books. I have never gone there, but one day I would like to.**

**Goodbye, and see you soon.**

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**From Yougbare Pascaline**

**It is with heartfelt joy that I write you this letter to give you my news and receive yours in return. Above all I give you my sincere, cordial and amicable greeting. How are you and your family? Here we are in good health, and we wish it is the same at your house.**

**My name is Yougbare Pascaline and I am from a family with a farmer father and a housewife mother. My father is a polygamist with 3 wives. We are a family of 15, with 6 girls and 9 boys. I am at the College D'insignement General (CEG) de TIBBA in level 5.**

**My hope is to one day become a teacher at the CEG. I like travel and I like to take trips during vacations. I want to write to you and thank you for your kindness. I give you my most profound wishes. Thank you and goodbye until next time.**

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**From Clarrise Natama**

**Dear Friend,**

**It with great thanks that I write you this letter to give you my news, but first to give you my very sincere greetings.**

**First, I thank you very much for the help and I ask you for more help. For my studies, I want to become a nurse. I ask you for help in my journey. I ask you for help with nourishment, like rice, spaghetti, and seasoning. I want to greet you very much because you chose to be our friend. My parents, my sisters, and my brothers send you their best wishes.**

**It is this news that I pass on to you.**

# McCLAIN MINISTRIES

## AFRICAN SCHOOL PROJECT

### Our goal is fourfold:

1. Build a school that includes 4 classrooms, 2 bathrooms and 1 administration office at a cost of approximately \$25,000.
2. Provide 300 Girl's Secondary School Scholarships at a cost of \$117,000
3. Supply 160 benches for the new school at a cost of \$6400
4. Supply 100 benches for existing schools at a cost of \$4000

Our total target goal for this project amounts to \$152,400.

Here is how you can help with this vital project:

School contributions:    \$25    \$50    \$75    \$100    other \_\_\_\_\_

Scholarships:

\$75 (1 year of secondary school including uniforms)

\$450 (6 years of secondary school)

other \_\_\_\_\_

Benches:

Bench for school \$40 (*specify no. of benches*) \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you in advance for your support!**

**Please send to:**

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

# 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**

