



McCLAIN MINISTRIES

Since 2000 A Monthly Christian Newsletter Publication

July 2009



**If you BELIEVE,
All things are
POSSIBLE!**

This Month's Issue

LIFE EVENTS



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



PRAISE REPORTS



WEBSITE OFFERINGS
Do You Need a Stress Test?



ANNOUNCEMENTS



PRAYER FOR PRESIDENT OBAMA
Continue to Pray



WORDS FROM PRESIDENT OBAMA

Visit us online at:

www.mcclainministries.org

Life Events

Happy Birthday!



May All Good Things Come Your Way

**Loretha Bradley
Oris Williams
Jesse Sims**

Happy Anniversary



Denise & Ricky Jones
Maintained in Unity and Love by God

Happy Birthday America



MELVA'S CORNER

INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGE

GOD'S PLAN FOR YOU IS PERFECT PART VI



I've heard it in several different forms lately. I've even been guilty of it myself! It is, after all, an easy trap into which we humans can fall. I was recently asked a question this way: "Hey, are you an optimist? Or are you a realist?"

Hold on for just a cotton-pickin' minute! I thought the opposite of optimism was pessimism. But something more than a verbal sleight of hand happens when the opposite of realism is allowed to be labeled optimism.

Reality isn't always an easy thing. That much is true. Reality for some people is a birth defect or blindness or cancer. Reality for others is a job that doesn't pay enough to support a family or simply no job at all. Reality for one fellow I was talking with the other day was neither unemployment nor poor pay for his skilled position but "thin margins" compared to profits he was accustomed to making.

Today's reality isn't particularly pleasant to explore.

Unemployment numbers are unsettling. Nobody really knows if the "stimulus" is going to work to turn around the economy. Although I believe it will. Terrorism has not been contained, even though we are fighting wars in two different places.

We still haven't cured cancer or eliminated heart disease. Why, even Major League Baseball attendance is down 5.3%.

I'm really not suggesting that anyone take lightly the things that are causing so much pain. I'm just offering the idea for you to consider that we may be making things a whole lot worse than they have to be by abandoning optimism. The American people have been known for our optimism, can-do attitude, and willingness to dream big dreams. It would be a mistake to make worry the national pastime (over baseball) or let future generations say that Americans in the twenty-first century came to be known for their anxiety (above optimism).

Harvard psychologist Daniel Gilbert cited a Dutch experiment in a recent *New York Times* article. Test subjects were told they would receive an "intense" shock 20 times. Other participants were informed that only three of their 20 shocks would be intense. Subjects facing mostly mild shocks actually sweated more and had faster heart rates than the others. Gilbert opined: "People feel worse when something bad **might** occur than when something bad will occur."

If he is even close to correct, the Chicken Littles of today's world who go around clucking the line that today's bad times are only destined to get worse are only exacerbating their pain and contributing nothing to making things better.

For all the stuff you and I can whine about this week, I think we would both be smarter to look for something we can affirm and to live a bit more positively.

Perhaps the question we need to ask ourselves is, "What is keeping me from being happy?" Am I waiting for some future event 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!

"A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity," said Winston Churchill, "but an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty." ☒

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 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.

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

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 (I Thessalonians 1:2-3 NIV).



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Home Bible Workshop Schedule



July 11 and July 25

**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.



GAS PRICES ARE STARTING TO GO

↩ UP AGAIN ↗

LETS 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

THE PERSONAL TOUCH

Our lives are so different from what they were for our parents or grandparents. Of course they are especially different in the terms of electronic devices. I remember reading that in the 1950's they were first developing a working computer and it required the space of a small home. Now there are computers that fit into the space of my hand.

We look at time differently, as well. In our parents and grandparents day, folks took more time with things in which we don't seem to place the same level of importance. Mostly I'm thinking about personal relationships. They took time to visit, to stop and talk with friends when they met them unexpectedly. They visited their neighbors, shared part of the latest batch of cookies they had just made, helped repair that fence or paint the house. Today, our lives are ruled by how much we can get done in the shortest amount of time and how long we can continue doing it.

We plan our days and then work at the plan. Of course that is not all bad. We are supposed to manage our lives wisely, aren't we? I do that so it must be alright! Right? I generally spend part of my early mornings corresponding and writing. However, I think that I may have discovered that I've fallen into a trap. As I have been reviewing my typical day lately, I've found myself far too often jotting off a quick email note rather than picking up the phone and calling personally or making a visit. It is more efficient to do this cyberspace-style, isn't it? I can stay in contact with more people, over a greater distance, in less time.

So, I am a better manager, right? We are, after all, only a keystroke away. That is what I told a friend recently.

Something is lost in all of this. It is the personal part of relationships. There is something about the sound of the voice of my friends or the clasp of a handshake that warms my heart. Yes, it feels good to receive an email from a friend, but I feel more of a sense of peace, a sense of warmth and encouragement, when we talk.

I know that you are sitting at your computer reading this thought. You are comfortable, you are protected, you are safe and spam filtered as you sit in that chair and only a keystroke — the delete button — away from removing anything you don't like. But, let me encourage you to make some personal contact with someone today — perhaps someone you haven't talked with or visited with for far too long. You need the contact. You both need the encouragement.

The writer of the book of Hebrews puts it this way:

But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness" (Hebrews 3:13 NIV).

While I can't personally contact everyone who reads this, I can encourage you to reach out and encourage someone in your own life — in a personal way that involves the sound of your voice and the touch of your hand.

STAYING COOL THIS SUMMER

While pouring water over your head might feel good; it does not have any affect on your core body temperature -- make sure you put plenty of water and other fluids into your body. Always wear light-colored and loose-fitting clothing

PRAY FOR PRESIDENT OBAMA



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

- **North Korea threats.** Some 100,000 North Koreans packed Pyongyang's main square Thursday for an anti-U.S. rally as the communist regime promised a "fire shower of nuclear retaliation" for any American-led attack.
- **Missionary killed by Al-Qaida.** Al-Jazeera TV reports Al-Qaida's North Africa branch is claiming responsibility for the killing of an American aid worker who was shot dead in June in Mauritania's capital. The group says 39-year-old Christopher Ervin Leggett was killed for allegedly trying to convert Muslims to Christianity.
- **Families and victims of D.C. train collision.** Among those who lost their lives in the collision and derailment on the Washington metro rail network in June that killed train operator Jeanice McMillan and eight other passengers were a military general (Maj. Gen. David F. Wherley Jr. and his wife Ann), a Bible school teacher, and single moms balancing work and children. Dozens more were injured. Investigators continue to look into the cause of the accident.
- **U.S.- Arab relations.** President Obama will return an ambassador to Syria, filling a post that has been vacant for four years. The move is designed to deepen America's role in the Middle East as the President seeks to promote peace among Israel and its Arab neighbors and improve U.S. relations in the region.

- **Unemployment in the nation.** President Obama says “it’s pretty clear now that unemployment will end up going over 10 percent...because of the fact that even after employers and businesses start investing again and start hiring again; typically it takes a while for that employment number to catch up with economic recovery.” He also said the economy is not yet experiencing “actual recovery yet.”
- **Substance abuse among our Troops.** According to the U.S. Army, the number of Army soldiers enrolled in alcohol treatment programs has doubled since 2003. The rate is currently 11.4 per every 1,000 soldiers. Marine Corp statistics show a similar trend, with Marines screening positive for drug or alcohol problems increasing by 12 percent since 2005



WORDS FROM PRESIDENT OBAMA



THE IMPACT OF THE MEDIA

In the sounds and images broadcast from Iran over the last week, we've seen professional and citizen journalists act as a voice for those who want to be heard, bearing witness to universal aspirations of democracy and freedom. Often at great risk, and sometimes with great sacrifice, they do it because the rest of us need to hear the stories that they tell. In recent years, we've seen the same courageous reporting in Iraq, in Afghanistan, and the Congo, and in every dangerous corner of the world. And everywhere there's a story that needs to be told. — President Obama, June 19 at the Radio and Television Correspondents Association Dinner, Washington, D.C.

INSPIRATIONAL REFERENCE FOR THE MONTH

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn.

Isaiah 61:1-2 (NIV)



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 _____

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