

## A PERSONAL WORD FOR YOU from Mack McCarter

### “We Need A Miracle!!”

Over and over again the cry is going up. I have heard the expressions of a common agony in every strata of our society in the past six months. I have listened to high reaching diplomats at asparagus spear brunches in the rarefied air of the Upper East Side in New York City and I have knelt with remarkable people carving out a community in the daily grind of a chaotic life. They utter the same plaintiff moan. University presidents and seminary scholars in all of their erudition are merely echoing the words I hear on the street corners in strikingly articulate simplicity. At the foot of this mountain of need every human stands together. The ground here is level. It is crisis.

And a cry from all of us is rising. From the wealthy and the poor, from the powerful and the dependent, from the global and the provincial, everyone who sees the looming specter of a new dark age in human society, is groaning with sighs too deep for words. And when the words form, they all say, “We need a miracle!” I believe it.

The whole world, gripped by steel fingers of terror, is wrestling for its life and the possibility of its birth. Do we grow through this global adolescence to mature into a planet filled with human beings who have been empowered to seek the good of others? Or do we slip back into the nightmare of grownups acting like petulant children waving death wands at those who are “different?” Do we become *childlike* with one another, or *childish*, imprisoned in sheaths of our own self-centeredness? This is not the crossroads of human history – it is the critical moment.

This is our whole world now standing like the children of Israel with a vast uncrossable sea of uncertainty and danger lapping at our feet and the galloping thunder of a devouring force ready to eat the essence of our lives inexorably nearing. This is not a crossroads. Our global situation needs a miracle.

Very well. It was Clerk Maxwell, the greatest of nineteenth century scientists and the discoverer of the electro-magnetic force, who reminded us, “***Any assessment of history without taking into account the possibility of miracle is a false assessment of history!***” Maxwell believed in miracles! Here the Albert Einstein of his day was unashamedly saying that miracles not only can happen in human history, they will happen over and over.

We need a miracle to fix us, our cities, our politics, our hearts, and our whole moral compass. And Maxwell is saying to us that miracles are possible. Here is how he defined miracle. “A miracle,” said Maxwell, “is an event or occurrence ***within history*** but its chances of happening are so infinitesimally small statistically that it is impossible for us to see them except only in retrospect of their results.” And he went further: “The more complex the system, the more there is the possibility for miracles.” (An earthworm, he pointed out, has much fewer possibilities than a complex society of free willed human beings.)

Who would have thought that the entire might and power of the Roman Empire would have been completely transformed by the birth of a baby in a barn in a backwater province? But collapse the time frame of 300 years into an eye blink of eternity and boom! All is turned inside out and upside down. How does it happen?

I believe that we look for miracles. We look for ***simple solutions***, put them into ***systematic execution***, and boom! ***We will see sophisticated problems solved.***

And I believe with my whole heart that all of us together working in community renewal are a miracle! We are united in the transcendent Doctrine of Doing. And we have packed the action into a plan. And we are seeing the waters begin to part!! So let’s go on across and laugh when we get to the other side!! God bless you for joining this great miracle.