



## Network for Revival No. 1 Introductory Issue

### “Prepare!”

Some time ago the Lord impressed upon my wife Patricia and myself the words “*Make ready a people prepared for the Lord*” (Luke 1:17). At the time we didn’t fully appreciate what he meant. We have for many years stressed radical biblical discipleship as called for by Jesus (sadly toned down by much of the modern church). Through such discipleship believers become more ready to serve the Lord and meet him one day. Then, unexpectedly, the Lord began to focus our attention on Revival and we realised that he was calling us to help make ready a people prepared for him to come in Revival.

### “Small fry”

At first we thought in terms of revival in our own local church and area. But then I was challenged to think more widely. Wait a minute though. Are we suffering from delusions of grandeur? The above passage was linked with John the Baptist. Compared with him we are small fry. One of the other things God has impressed on my mind is that, in ourselves, neither we nor anyone else can bring revival. But God delights to use small fry in his great purposes. To change the metaphor, all we can do is to offer the ‘loaves and fish’ of our prayer and preparation. But he can multiply them to feed the multitudes – the multitudes out there who are spiritually starving. In this way, by his grace, we can prepare the way of the Lord.

### Growing mailing list

But be encouraged, even at this early stage there are over 130 clergy already on the mailing list and I expect many more. (I’ve only written to some Anglican clergy so far and have more to write to. I will write to other denominations and lay folk later, but I’m pleased that a few lay folk have joined too). So we’re not on our own. I’m praying regularly for all of you (*feel free to send me relevant prayer topics*). Please encourage others to join. Some may think that other prayer initiatives (“The Kingdom Come” and “24-7 Prayer” etc) mean *Network for Revival* is unnecessary. But please convey to them that, excellent though they are, these initiatives do not prioritise the very necessary regular prayer for Revival as defined at the end of this letter. “Thy Kingdom Comes” is only for 10 days a year and “24-7 Prayer” majors on many different prayer topics. *Network for Revival* is a prophetic call to the church to prioritise praying and preparing for Revival. (See <http://networkforrevival.co.uk/thy-kingdom-come/is-thy-kingdom-come-prayer-for-revival/> and <http://networkforrevival.co.uk/uncategorized/is-24-7-prayer-prayer-for-revival/>).

### “Together”

But we can do it much better *together*. Hence we can network for Revival. We can pray together, even though not physically together. We can encourage and inspire one another. So “*Prepare!*” is not intended to be one-way communication. True, the Lord has taught me a great deal in the last few years and I’ll share that as time goes on. However I am only a catalyst and that is my role in *Network for Revival*. **Please send me material I can publish, including lessons from Scripture, helpful experiences, prophetic insights etc.** Let me know if you want it to be anonymous or with your name attached to it, if I publish it.

### “Pray continually”

The most important priority is to pray ... and pray .... and pray again! I can’t tell you just how much God has blessed me, corrected me, inspired me and instructed me since I started praying seriously for Revival. Yes, it’s demanding and sometimes I have to make myself do it. But it is immensely rewarding. I’m well aware how busy clergy and ministers are. But, as someone said, “I never have time to pray, I have to make time to pray.” I urge you to pray regularly for Revival (in addition to your established personal prayers etc) and gradually to build up the time you spend in prayer.

### ***Set a target***

As a starting point (if you haven't already started) why not pray for at least 15 minutes every week specifically about Revival. Or you may be able to pray for half an hour or an hour each week. Perhaps you could link it with a time of fasting, say, from a weekday lunch.

### ***How to pray***

Don't worry about how you will be able to sustain prayer. The Lord will teach you how to pray as you go along but here are some thoughts I have found helpful:

1. Meditate on the motives for praying for Revival (see <http://networkforrevival.co.uk/overview/>)
  - For God's sake – his grief due to his unrequited love and people ignoring the Cross, but also his joy as his children want to go deeper with him.
  - For the sake of the lost
  - For the sake of the church(In future editions I'll share more about news and trends in society and the church which underline the desperate need for Revival)
2. Plead with the Lord for Revival and don't be afraid of repetition.
3. Prayer is dialogue so spend some time listening. Obviously, it's important to exclude irrelevant thoughts e.g. about work, but you will find the Lord will bring relevant thoughts to mind. I find it very helpful to write them down (on my phone then onto my computer) because it clarifies and adds to the thoughts and enables me to remember them.

### **Be envisioned**

I'll share descriptions of Revival in future editions. But just think of this summary of what happened in the Hebrides in the 1949-52 Revival. Late one evening, after a service had finished and the congregation had gone home, something wonderful happened. People, not just church attenders, were seen coming over the moors, carrying torches and drawn by an unseen power. They stayed in the church until the early hours, having profound experiences of God, especially repentance. Revival had begun. Can you imagine it happening to your church? Do it again, Lord! (Read more about Revival. See <http://networkforrevival.co.uk/books-and-dvds/>).

God bless you, inspire you, guide you and protect you,

Tony

Revival is a supernatural event in the church and society. It is a work of the Holy Spirit which brings: an overpowering sense of God's presence leading to uplifting, inspired worship; an awesome sense of God's holiness leading to a deep conviction of sin, even amongst those outside the church; a supernatural drawing of people together and an outpouring of love for one another, all of which leads to a huge number coming to faith. People's lives and whole communities are transformed.