



Network for Revival No. 2 September 2018

Update on the mailing list

Thank God that we now have well over 200 Anglican clergy (and a growing number of others) on the mailing list. I have also written to Methodists in Cumbria but don't have contact details for those elsewhere in the country. I have been in touch with some key figures in Elim and received very encouraging and helpful replies. I am also now writing to Baptists. If you have contacts, please feel free to forward my original message to them. I have very slightly edited the letter for other denominations and can send you a copy if you wish to send it out (but don't worry too much about which version you send). Please note, although I have majored on contacting clergy, ministers, leaders for strategic reasons, I am obviously very happy to have concerned lay folk on the list too.

***Prepare!* is two-way. Please convey any helpful thoughts you have had on prayer for revival. Some may be included in a future issue, with your permission.**

More about how to pray for revival

I wrote last time about motives for praying for revival, pleading for revival, listening to God and recording what you learn. Here are some more suggestions I have found helpful:

Set a target

Decide on how much time you think you should set aside for prayer for revival and determine to keep to it, even if it has to be a 'moveable feast.' For example, in your busy timetable you could perhaps decide to miss a meal which would provide the time and you would also be praying with fasting.

Try to find a peaceful place

If possible, go to a quiet place away from work, the phone etc. Try to find a quiet room or, if you are near enough, a peaceful spot in the countryside.

Meditate on the greatness of God

I have found that meditating on the infinity and eternity of God, and on his love, really inspires my prayers.

Do some spiritual self-examination

Being right with the Lord is crucial to effective prayer and we need God to revive us first.

Ask the Lord for a deeper concern for Revival

This will deepen our passion in prayer

Ask the Lord for greater faith

He will answer this prayer. I have a rationalistic tendency but the Lord has taught me much about faith.

Be alert to spiritual attacks

People who pray seriously for revival are a target for the devil. "Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you" (James 4:7).

A description of revival

In each issue I hope to share with you some brief quotation from those who have experienced revival. This is about the 1949-52 Revival in the Isle of Lewis:

“It is difficult to convey the sense of ‘livingness’ that prevails in a community where God is working. The very air seems to be tingling with divine vitality. Everything, grass, stones, sea and sky, seems to cry out: ‘God is here!’ Even a fly, buzzing around a lamp, became God's messenger to a hardened sinner in Lewis. He watched the insect for a moment, then muttered: ‘If you go much closer you'll get burned.’ The words boomeranged into his soul and in a flash he saw the danger of playing with sin and sought Christ. Duncan* described this revival aura simply and accurately as ‘a community saturated with God’. The presence of God was a universal, inescapable fact: at home, in the church, and by the roadside. Many who visited Lewis during this period became vividly conscious of the spiritual atmosphere before they reached the island.” (*Channel of Revival*, Biography of *Duncan Campbell – who was greatly used by God in the Lewis Revival – by Andrew Woolsey, The Faith Mission 1974 p. 130).

This is what we are praying for.

Is Britain a largely godless society?

One of the main motives for praying for revival is the godless state of our society. But what does the word “godless” mean in this context?

There are many people in Britain who are religious. They can't be called godless although sometimes they are ungodly i.e. failing to live in a way which pleases God. Others are only nominal in their religion and don't really have a living relationship with God. There are, of course, people following other faiths who can't be called godless. But Jesus said: “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6) so these folk have not yet ‘come to the Father (God).’ John states “God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life” (1 John 5:11-12). So, although these folk cannot be called godless, if they don't “have the Son” i.e. a faith relationship with Christ, they don't have eternal life.

What about the rest?

Many show at least some of the following attitudes. They are:

- loving, kind and gentle – but they ignore God
- generous, unselfish and caring – but they ignore God
- doing good deeds – but they ignore God
- patient, forgiving, tolerant and peacemaking – but they ignore God
- faithful to their married partners and loyal to their friends – but they ignore God
- self-controlled, avoiding irritation and anger – but they ignore God
- honest and sincere – but they ignore God
- truthful, avoiding negative gossip and slander – but they ignore God
- concerned to promote justice – but they ignore God

These good people have never realised, or have forgotten, that, as Jesus says, “the first and greatest commandment” is “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” Loving your neighbour is very important but it is the second greatest commandment. (Matt 22:37-39). So, largely unwittingly, these good folk are breaking the most important requirement that God makes of us. For all their goodness, they are godless.

If we were charged with a serious crime it would not be relevant to claim in court that we had actually kept all the other lesser laws. We would be found guilty. Similarly, it would not be relevant to plead before God that, although we had ignored him, we had been good in many other lesser ways.

Whereas we praise God for the minority who are truly ‘godly,’ we need Revival to cause people to take notice of God.

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

Tony

The aim of *Network for Revival* is to help make ready a people prepared for him to come in Revival. God delights to use “small fry” in his big purposes. Prayer in the context of seeking holiness is our priority. Please pray for the Network as I pray for you daily (*feel free to send me relevant prayer topics*). Please encourage others to join.

“Prepare!” is meant to be a dialogue not a monologue. ***Please send me material I can publish, including lessons from***

Scripture, helpful experiences, prophetic insights etc. But try to keep it brief. Let me know if you want it to be anonymous or with your name attached to it, if I publish it.

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.