



Network for Revival October 2018

Thank God

There are now almost 320 people, mainly clergy and ministers on the mailing list. (But lay folk are most welcome).

Revival for God's sake

God's primary motives for working in the world are for his own glory and to express his infinite love. Many Christians don't appreciate the depth and infinity of God's love – he *is* love. But also many don't appreciate the importance of God's name being honoured and glorified. His name is profoundly dishonoured in our nation - he is being ignored or rejected, as well as blasphemed. Deep concern for this to be corrected is the top motive for prayer for revival.

The Lord blesses, guides protects and delivers his people for his name's sake

The Lord promises that he will defend Jerusalem for his own sake as well as David's sake (2 Kings 19:34; Isa 37:36). He also gave the law for the sake of his own righteousness (Isa 42:21). In other words the law is not only given so that people will know how to behave. It was given so that God's name would be glorified.

The Lord forgives and has mercy on his sinful people for his name's sake

Israel rebelled against the Lord and failed him. But the Lord redeemed them. He makes this clear through Ezekiel: *'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: It is not for your sake, people of Israel, that I am going to do these things, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you have gone. I will show the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, the name you have profaned among them. Then the nations will know that I am the LORD, declares the Sovereign LORD, when I am proved holy through you before their eyes ... I want you to know that I am not doing this for your sake, declares the Sovereign LORD. Be ashamed and disgraced for your conduct, people of Israel!'* (Ezk 36:21-23, 32. See also 1 Sam 12:22; Psa 106:8; Ezk 20:9 cf v 14, 22, 44; Ezk 48:9-11). Through Isaiah the Lord makes the amazing statement *"I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more"* (Isa 43:25). He forgives sinners for his own sake.

We should pray for forgiveness, guidance, help, protection, deliverance and restoration for the Lord's name sake

Since the Lord forgives, has mercy, blesses, guides, protects and delivers his people for his own sake (the sake of his name), a fundamental ground for our prayers should be that our requests are for his sake, not primarily for ours or the sake of others. The Psalmist prays for forgiveness for God's name sake (Psa 25:11; 79:8-10). He prays for deliverance and guidance for God's name sake (Psa 143:1; 109:21; 31:3 cf Jer 14:7, 21; Dan 9:17-19).

We should pray for Revival for the Lord's name sake

Britain has a sizeable church and a huge Christian heritage so we can apply the wording of the prayers in these Bible passages to our country. Our prayers for revival could be as follows (based on these passages with slight word changes):

"May your mercy come quickly to meet us, for we are in desperate need. Help us, God our Saviour, for the glory of your name; deliver us and forgive our sins for your name's sake. Why should the nations say, "Where is their God?"

Now, our God, hear the prayers and petitions of your servant. For your sake, Lord, look with favour on our nation and its church. Give ear, our God, and hear; open your eyes and see the decline of the church that bears your Name. We do not make requests of you because we are righteous, but because of your great mercy. Lord, listen! Lord, forgive! Lord, hear and act! For your sake, my God, do not delay, because your church and your people bear your Name."

“Although our sins testify against us, do something, LORD, for the sake of your name ... For the sake of your name do not despise us blot out our transgressions, for your own sake ... Do not let yourself be defamed? Do not yield your glory to another.”

Let us pray for Revival for God’s sake

Practical advice on how to pray for Revival

When I started regular prayer for revival I was unsure how to pray, how to make good use of the time set aside. I couldn’t just repeat “Lord, bring revival” time after time after time! But as I pressed on the Lord taught me so much – way beyond my expectation. Here are my basic suggestions (including a couple I’ve mentioned before):

1. If you are praying on your own, determine to keep to your times of prayer as agreed with God. If you persist you will find it is a very rewarding experience spiritually. It is good, however, to pray with one or more other people.
2. Have a clear vision of what you are praying for i.e. a clear vision of revival. Read descriptions of revival and watch DVDs about it. (See <http://networkforrevival.co.uk/books-and-dvds/>).
3. Use your imagination to envision Revival – “see it happening” in your area.
4. Pray for a deep prayer concern for Revival. (The Lord will give you or deepen your concern).
5. Pray for a sense of grief at the dishonouring of God’s name, at the grief of the Lord over the nation and church, at the plight of the lost.
6. Plead with God repeatedly for revival. Don’t be afraid of repetition. Jesus encouraged persistence in prayer.
7. Pray for personal holiness – for God to deal with your failings and weaknesses and draw you much closer to himself. We need personal ‘revival.’
8. Prayer is a dialogue with God. Spend some time “listening” to what God has to say, including about prayer topics. You’ll be surprised. I suggest you write down your thoughts. But don’t allow this to crowd out intercession.
9. *[This is really important]* Lay down other prayer topics e.g. prayer for personal/family needs, current and imminent events in the church or society, including the on-going ministry of the church and its outreach/evangelism. Major on praying for God's supernatural intervention in the church and society, including points 4-7 above.
10. The important thing about prayer for revival is to press on, resisting all hindrances and deflections - and the Lord will teach you how to do it.
11. 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

[Port of Ness, Isle of Lewis 1949-52 Revival] “As we approached the church, there seemed to be an aura around the whole area. Conversation died and people eased themselves into their seats in silence. The church was packed with young and old. When the people sang, oh, the shivers chased themselves up and down my spine. I had never heard singing like this. They sang the psalms from their hearts. The words rose to heaven in a power that could only be sensed but not described. The singing was fire! It went right through you.”

Quotation about revival

Tony Cauchi: “Revival’ is when God reveals Himself in awesome holiness and irresistible power. It is when He visits the world of men to impart a fresh vision of His glory and grace and simultaneously to reveal man's sinfulness, inadequacy and desperate need of God's mercy. During times of revival God's people are restored from backsliding, carelessness and inactivity. They become preoccupied with the things of God. They become intensely prayerful, attending God's house more frequently for fellowship and worship. They develop a hunger for the preached word

which illuminates and powerfully penetrates the hearts of its hearers, bringing conviction and response. Believers develop a passion for souls and become deeply concerned about the spiritual welfare of the lost.”

The church desperately needs revival

I have written a fairly detailed short paper on what is going on in the church in Britain. See <http://christianteaching.org.uk/blog/churchissues/the-church-desperately-needs-revival/>. It includes some positive factors but also faces up to the serious challenges and problems facing the church:

- Widespread decline in church attendance in Britain
- “Digital religion” – the weakness of ‘electronic Christianity.’
- Unbelief e.g. about the Resurrection amongst those claiming to be Christians.
- Distrust in the church and clergy, partly because of the sexual abuse issue
- Controversy in the church over homosexual practice, including amongst Evangelicals.
- Confusion and compromise over sexuality in the House of Bishops and General Synod.
- Serious division in the Church of England and Anglican Communion, including a rival Anglican Church in England.

God bless you. I am praying for 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.