



## Network for Revival December 2018

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### Revival and the message of Advent

Christians are currently celebrating the season of Advent about the first and second comings of Jesus. Sadly, the second coming (and associated events) tends to be soft-pedalled, partly because of unhelpful, naive and rather extreme interpretations of the subject, but also because of a rather negative rationalism on the part of some people.

However, Jesus taught that we should watch out for pointers towards the End Times (Matt 24 – I find the idea that he was only referring to events surrounding the Roman sacking of Jerusalem in AD70 completely unconvincing especially verses 42-44). Also Paul said the Lord's return should not be a surprise, even though it will '*come as a thief in the night*' (1 Thess 5:1-11). So some of us need to reinstate the subject of the End Times.

But the New Testament also teaches that we are to "*look forward to the day of God and speed its coming*" (2 Peter 3:12). The apparent delay in the coming of the day of God is because God is "*not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance*" (2 Peter 3:9). Similarly, in Acts 3:19-20, Peter says: "*Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, and that he may send the Messiah, who has been appointed for you – even Jesus.*" Hence in the eschatological Book of Revelation Jesus called the church not just to take an interest in the End Times but to come to repentance (Rev 2-3).

**So praying for Revival (alongside evangelism and living "holy and godly lives") is a very important way of speeding the coming of the day of God, the return of Christ.**

When the Lord spoke to Patricia (my wife) and me about Revival he seemed to be underlining Luke 1:17 "*Make ready a people prepared for the Lord*" which was John the Baptist's calling. And that is an excellent motive for prayer and preparation for Revival. We are praying for the formation of a people prepared for the Lord – a more numerous people than can be achieved by evangelism (although evangelism remains an important priority).

So, by the grace of God, we are seeking to hasten the return of the Lord by making ready a people prepared for the Lord through Revival.

I attach an article I have written entitled "Revival and the 'End Times.'" It is also available on <http://christianteaching.org.uk/blog/biblical/revival-and-the-end-times/>. It concentrates on the following points:

- We are called to live in the light of the Return of Christ
- We are called to take note of the 'signs of the times' (and I relate this to various current concerns in the world).
- We are called to hasten the return of Christ by praying for revival

(I have written much more on the subject – both a full version and a summary - at <http://www.christianteaching.org.uk/eschatology.html>.)

### Could you meet with others to pray for Revival?

Some of you are already doing so but it would be really helpful if those praying on their own (also very important) could possibly pray even with one other person. Then we can rely on the promise of Jesus "*Truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them*" (Matt 18:19).

### A quotation about revival

The Rev William MacLeod, converted in the Lewis Revival, and whom I have had the privilege of meeting and talking with, said that the conversion of people in the revival "caused great anticipation. Interest in the things of God quickened and all around us folk were expecting great things from God. Everywhere they were praying, trusting and

waiting on God to work.... When we were swept into the kingdom, our expectancy rose and we were looking for new converts and praying that more would come and join us in our joy... An atmosphere of expectation and certain hope possessed us as we watched the Spirit of the Lord in the community breaking down barriers, bringing conviction and leading one and another to salvation.” (*Sounds from Heaven* about the Lewis Revival by Colin and Mary Peckham, Christian Focus Publications, 2004, p. 195-7).

## Thank God

There are now over 400 people, mainly clergy and ministers on the mailing list (but lay folk just as welcome) and more responses are coming in.

I hope you will encourage others to go on the mailing list – lay people as well as clergy/ministers.

God bless you and have a really joyful Christmas.

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.