



Network for Revival Prepare Issue 42 - January 2023

The Moravian Revival

In 1722 Count Nicholas von Zinzendorf of Saxony in Germany allowed a number of persecuted Protestant Christians from Moravia and Bohemia (parts of the Czech Republic today) to build a village on his estate. They called their community Herrnhut, “the Lord’s Watch.” In August 1727 they met together to celebrate Communion and something remarkable happened. They had been aware that their relationships were not what they should be. They were divided and critical of one another. They were constantly arguing. However, that night they had a powerful experience of the presence of God, which led them to pray for a baptism of love. They began to pray seriously, including overnight.

A few days later, in a Sunday evening service, the Lord met with them powerfully. They all fell to the ground before him, praying, singing and weeping until midnight.

One historian writes: “It was nothing less than an outpouring of Christian love which immediately replaced the distrust and dissension of the past. Those who had been at odds, made their peace. Not only so, but a mighty urge, again like the first Pentecost, came upon them to carry the Gospel out to those who had never heard it.”

A Moravian historian wrote “The Holy Ghost came upon us and in those days great signs and wonders took place in our midst. From that time scarcely a day passed but that we beheld His almighty workings amongst us. A great hunger after the Word of God took possession of us so that we had to have three services every day, viz. 5.00 and 7.30 a.m. and 9.00 p.m. Every one desired above everything else that the Holy Spirit might have full control. Self-love and self-will, as well as all disobedience disappeared and an overwhelming flood of grace swept us all out into the great ocean of Divine Love.”

Two weeks after the Sunday service mentioned above 24 men and 24 women covenanted to pray around the clock, each couple praying for an hour. This 24-hour praying continued for a hundred years, and it has been described as a hundred year prayer meeting. Hundreds of missionaries were sent out. Also, John Wesley visited the Moravians and was profoundly affected by them. This contact led to his conversion.

This account gives yet another confirmation of the profound importance of corporate prayer in praying for Revival.

Preparing for a church which is radically biblical in the power of the Spirit: Achieving unity in vision

A church prepared for Revival

History shows that, whereas some Revivals last a long time, other revivals can fade away fairly quickly or even go off the rails. We need to be prepared for Revival in prayer and holiness. But we also need churches to be prepared to follow up people affected by revival, especially those with no Christian background. Such churches need to be radically biblical in the power of the Spirit. If you are not in church leadership or in a sympathetic church, the strategy we recommend can work out in a home group. In fact, such groups are part of the strategy we recommend. Prayer is fundamental, as is seeking to go on being filled with the Spirit.

It was the night he was betrayed, the night he had the Last Supper with his disciples. Clearly, his prayer topics on such a traumatic night would be profoundly important ones. He majored on praying for the unity of the church. He prayed to the Father “that all of them may be one, Father ... that they may be one as we are one – I in them and you in me – so that they may be brought to complete unity” (John 17:20-23). Desire for the deep unity of the church was a priority for Jesus, as he began his walk to death. Yet the church, over the centuries, has tolerated division, often over minor matters. On the other hand, in modern times it is accepting agreeing to differ over primary issues. Agreeing to differ over secondary issues can be acceptable, but Jesus’ prayer shows it is not acceptable over primary issues.

It is crucial that the church should be united over basic biblical teaching, because that is clearly Jesus' passionate desire, but also because only a united church will achieve God's will and purpose for it. The devil works overtime to divide the church, because division will hinder its purpose.

I realised early on in our Essex church, that we needed prayerfully to commit ourselves fully to a common biblical vision of the church. I remember the saying "If you aim at nothing, you hit nothing." The church should, of course, be aiming to be what the Bible says it should be. I prayerfully worked on what this vision should be, in preparation for sharing it with the leaders, seeking their support for it.

This prayerful adoption of the vision by the leadership and then the membership was absolutely fundamental to the mini-revival which God brought to our church. This is the shorter version of the vision we believe God led us to adopt (the longer version is in the attached file):

To encourage each local church to be a united fellowship, 'one in heart and mind,' whose members are:

- 1. Committed to Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord**
- 2. Baptised and regular at communion.**
- 3. Experiencing the power of the Holy Spirit.**
- 4. Doers of the Word, not hearers only.**
- 5. Resisting the Devil**
- 6. Living by faith.**
- 7. Seeking holiness before God.**
- 8. Involved in intercession and 'hearing' God.**
- 9. Offering wholehearted worship to God.**
- 10. Committed to each other in unity and love: loyal to each other including the leaders; encouraging each other to live according to biblical principles.**
- 11. Discerning one another's gifts and practising "every member ministry."**
- 12. Involved in evangelism and social concern, by love, word and power, in the light of the return of Christ.**

You are free to adopt this Vision, which is expanded in the attached file, and I would urge you to do so, in your church, if you are a church leader, or in a housegroup, if you're not. Obviously, we taught people the biblical foundation to the vision and so produced a 20-session discipleship to go with it (I'll return to that, and other relevant resources, in a future issue). We also prayerfully encouraged them to be practically committed to fulfilling the vision in the power of the Spirit. It transformed our church by the grace of God.

It is very important to note that, shortly before he prayed so earnestly for the unity of the church, Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would come to help them, teach them and guide them into all truth (John 14:16, 26; 16:13). In-depth prayer, openness to the Spirit, and being filled with the Spirit are crucial in preparation for Revival. But they are equally crucial in moving the church to being radically biblical in the power of the Spirit, rather than being lukewarm, which Jesus finds seriously distasteful (Rev 3:15).

God bless you,

Tony

PS. A NEW ARTICLE I HAVE WRITTEN

In addition to the serious persecution of Christians around the world, there are growing trends towards the oppression of Christians in Western countries. These include extreme definitions of "hate speech" leading to restriction of Christian free speech, including in universities. This article examines all this, including recent political decisions, examples of clear oppression of Christians etc. See **"THE OPPRESSION OF CHRISTIANS IN THE WEST"** at [The-oppression-of-Christians-in-the-West.pdf \(christianteaching.org.uk\)](https://christianteaching.org.uk/The-oppression-of-Christians-in-the-West.pdf)

OTHER ARTICLES I HAVE WRITTEN You may find these articles helpful. Feel free to circulate them to others. Further details and hyperlinks to the articles are in the attached file. You can also find the articles, and many others at <https://christianteaching.org.uk>

APOLOGETICS

Is the Bible historically reliable?

Life-long atheist philosopher Antony Flew embraces belief in God—a summary of his book.

BIBLE

Did Jesus suffer the wrath of God on the cross? (New article)

DEVOTIONAL

Dealing with bitterness

ESCHATOLOGY

An Outline History and Background to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

Main Millennial Views (charts)

PASTORAL

A certain hope (a short booklet about life after death, preparing for death and what lies beyond. Suitable for those who have not yet come to faith as well as believers)

In Network for Revival God has called us to “make ready a people prepared for the Lord.” This includes:

- Encouraging people to seek holiness and true biblical discipleship.
- Encouraging people to major on prayer for Revival.
- Encouraging churches to be radically biblical in the power of the Spirit (see [Church Development](#) for information and resources).
- Encouraging people to “Watch!” for the return of Jesus (Mk 13:32-37 – see [Eschatology](#)).