



Network for Revival Prepare Issue 56 – December 2025

We need Revival to counteract the dangers facing the world

There are, of course, numerous good things about our world. But there are also an increasing number of serious problems and dangers facing the world. Political and military action are inadequate. We *desperately* need God to intervene more extensively in Revival, which will affect society as well as the church.

Good things in the world

In Society

We can be grateful that there is a lot of love for family and neighbour and good deeds by charities. Many countries benefit from health care, social work, education, emergency care, policing, justice and democracy. Then we enjoy art, creativity, literature, drama, music and science, much of which is good. *(However, we need to take seriously the bad side of society - briefly summarized below).*

In the Church

Some churches manifest faith, love, sincere worship, biblical teaching, true discipleship and unity. Some churches carry out evangelism and outreach. Some churches emphasize prayer. There is some spiritual and numerical growth, and the “Quiet Revival” continues. *(But, sadly, there is a great deal of superficial spirituality and wrong behaviour, including some unbiblical sexual behaviour and approval of such behaviour. Many churches are seriously declining).*

There were many good things in the world Jesus lived in. But he told us quite clearly to keep watch for the signs of the End, nearly all of which were negative things. So, we must do that now.

Dangers facing the world

- ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**, which has seriously bad as well as good potential.
- CLIMATE CHANGE**, the world weather is clearly in a serious and dangerous state, and worsening.
- DISEASE THREATS**, with scientists/medical experts preparing for another pandemic.
- ECONOMIC THREATS**, including growing inequality, unstable financial markets, geopolitical instability, etc.
- FAKE NEWS AND CONSPIRACY THEORIES**, which are facilitated by extensive modern electronic communication.
- GENETIC ENGINEERING**, which has dangers of intentional and unintentional bad results.
- PERSECUTION**, with more Christians being persecuted than ever before.
- POLITICAL OPPRESSION**, the growth of extremism and dictatorship.
- RELIGIOUS OPPRESSION**, with increasing restrictions on legitimate Christian activity and speech.
- SECULARISM**, which is increasingly marginalising Christianity, endangering the welfare of society.
- SEXUALITY ERRORS**, which radically promote unbiblical sexual behaviour causing extensive harm to individuals.
- SOCIETAL DECLINE**, including the serious undermining of marriage and the family, and democracy.
- SURVEILLANCE**, which can easily be misused to move towards an oppressive surveillance state.
- TERRORISM**, including Islamic extremism and other terrorism, which are growing.
- WAR DANGERS**, with cyber attacks, military actions and serious threats from extremists like Vladimir Putin.
- WORLD GOVERNMENT**, with the drawing together of very powerful countries like China and Russia.

When we look at this list, it is obvious that we desperately need divine intervention.

We desperately need revival in the church: repentance, committed, (not half-hearted) discipleship; submission to God's Word; worship which is uplifting and honouring to God (frequently being “lost in wonder love and praise”); in-depth prayer; passion for evangelism.

We desperately need the Quiet Revival to grow exponentially and to affect the nation as the threats listed above indicate is urgent. We need Revival to become worldwide.

The world is heading for serious consequences if there is not a world revival. We should not just accept the negative prophecies in Scripture and do nothing about them. Rather, we should seek victory in the world.

In previous issues of Prepare, we've looked at updates on some of these dangers, and I intend, in the future, to include updates on the above issues, as well as information on Revival and how we Christians and churches should further God's purposes, especially in prayer and preparation for Revival. The dangers are a strong motive for prayer for Revival, and Jesus tells us to keep watch for them.

The Ulster Revival (1859) had powerful effect on society

Throughout 1858, hundreds of prayer meetings were started in Ireland and many preachers preached about revival. Early in 1859, there were remarkable manifestations of the Holy Spirit. Some of these manifestations **took place in churches, others outside church buildings. For example, in the crowded market in the town of Ballymena, a young man suddenly fell on his knees and cried out to God, "Unclean!" He began praying, "God be merciful to me, a sinner."**

On March 14th 1859, a large crowd gathered for a special prayer meeting at the Ahoghill Presbyterian Church. For practical reasons, the crowd had to stand outside in the rain whilst a layman preached very powerfully. By the end of the meeting, hundreds were kneeling in the rain in repentance, calling on God in prayer. The meeting was the first of many conducted throughout Ireland in the revival that followed.

According to some estimates, 100,000 people were converted in the 1859 revival that swept through Ireland. Often even physically strong people fell prostrate on the ground, unable to move for several hours.

One distinctive feature of the Ulster Revival was the spiritual movement among children and teenagers. At one such meeting, an Irish clergyman counted forty children and eighty parents listening to the preaching of twelve-year old boys.

One report states: **"The phenomena that sometimes accompanied conviction in the Ulster Revival weren't nearly as dramatic as the social change growing out of the meetings. According to civic records, crime was greatly reduced in 1860, and judges in Ulster found themselves on several occasions with no cases to try. In County Antrim, it was reported that the police had no crimes to investigate and no prisoners in custody."**

Another report said the revival "made a greater impact on Ireland than anything known since Patrick brought Christianity there." One observer described the effect of the revival in terms of "thronged services, unprecedented numbers of communicants, abundant prayer meetings, increased family prayers, unmatched Scripture reading, prosperous Sunday schools, converts remaining steadfast, increased giving, vice abated, and crime reduced."

Similar revivals broke out in England, Scotland, and Wales. In Wales alone, an estimated 10 percent of the total population was won to Christ during the revival. As had been the case in Ireland, lives changed by the revival resulted in a significant decline in crime in many communities.

As I said above, how desperately we need a revival which will powerfully affect society as well as the church. The 1859 Ulster Revival and others did this.

Let's pray for this to happen again

Tony

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](#)).