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DOING GOD'S WORK, GOD'S WAY, FOR GOD'S GLORY

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REVIVE US AGAIN!

Dear Brother and Sisters in Christ,

In Psalms 85:6, the psalmist passionately cried to his Lord and God, "Will you not REVIVE us again, that Your people may rejoice in You?" I believe, with all of my heart, that the greatest need of the contemporary church in America is a thorough baptism of repentance, resulting in a "revival" of New Testament Christianity! We don't need another "man-concocted" program or plan. We don't need another religious technique or tactic. We don't need another humanistic gimmick or gadget. As Dr. Stephen Olford once said, "We need an invasion from Heaven, that would bring the conscious awareness of the Living GOD!"

Certainly, if we would honestly evaluate our corporate and personal spiritual condition, in light of the plumb-line found in the Book of Acts, we would have to acknowledge our desperate need of revival. There seems to be such a smothering apathy and spiritual lethargy which is blanketing so many local congregations. There is such a tragic decay of "heart-felt passion and spiritual energy", among so many who profess to be followers of the Living God. At the same time, there is a growing conformity within the church to attempt to do God's work by using worldly methods and diluted messages! Men, in denominational leadership positions, attempt to promote humanistic ideas in their efforts to carry out the supernatural work of God. Simultaneously, the professing church is exhibiting a tragic lack of true passion and sincere compassion for the lost and dying souls that surround us! There also appears to be a "great compromise" of commitment and convictions among those who claim to be disciples, concerning the unquestionable rights of the Lordship of Jesus Christ. What is even more catastrophic is the "pitiful willingness" of so many, to display this anemic version of Christianity before a lost and dying world.

But you might say, "Brother Ed, I don't see the word 'REVIVAL' throughout the entire Book of Acts". Well friends, that is because these believers did not need a revival! They were walking in the victory and vitality of New Testament Christianity. They had a burning desire to live "Christ-centered" lives. They were involved in passionate, persevering prayer, for the salvation of souls and the glory of God. They went anywhere, to anyone, at any cost with the saving message of the Gospel. They gladly gave their money and possessions, liberally distributing them to others, who were in need. They were ready and available to be involved in voluntary sacrifice and even suffering, if necessary, for the greater extension of the Kingdom of Jesus; and the greater expression of the glory of Jesus! They delighted in the Lord; they gloried in the Cross; they rejoiced in persecution; and they were on fire for the Lord and His great mission! Surely, if we honestly evaluated our present condition in light of that plumb-line, we would see our desperate need of both personal and corporate revival.

If you survey the history of the Christian church, you would discover that there has not been a constant and consistent record of spiritual achievement. Rather, you would realize that there has been a number of spiritual "ups and downs". There have been periods in church history when the body of Christ was overflowing with spiritual vitality and victory! These glorious times of re-awakening often followed seasons of spiritual drought and dryness. That fact of history is a wonderful encouragement to me. Because, brothers and sisters, we would have to agree that we find ourselves in the middle of what the psalmist called "a dry and thirsty land"! I submit to you that we are in desperate need of a mighty revival that would blossom into a "spiritual awakening". It may very well be our only hope in this nation! There is a spiritual darkness and death that abides over this materialistic generation, like none we have ever encountered in the western world!

Friend, when I use the word "revival", I am referring to a God-wrought revival of "light and heat"!

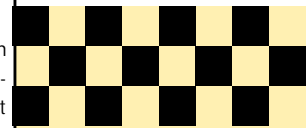
Light - a return to the sound doctrine of the Word of God!



Heat- a passionate, flaming, red-hot consuming love for the Lord of the doctrine!

Again, you may ask, "Ed, why do you say that we need a mighty revival of both light and heat?" Because light without heat will produce only a cold orthodoxy. However, heat without light will result in only a faulty fanaticism. I have been in over 600 Baptist churches throughout this country. I would have to say that the vast majority of Southern Baptist Churches have a terrifying deficiency of either light, or heat; or tragically, both!

MAY 2008



Upcoming Schedule

2008

June 1

Sovereign Grace Baptist
Andalusia, AL

June 8—11

1st Baptist
Frisco City, AL

June 21-30

Cuba

July 13— 16

New Life Baptist

Longview, TX

July 20-26

Nicaragua

August 10-13

Foster Road Baptist

Baton Rouge, LA

August 18—25

Uganda

Revival (continued)

We need to return to the LIGHT of the sound doctrine of the Word of God! Some may say that we only need an outpouring of the Spirit of God. But the Holy Spirit of God will only be poured out, by using the sound teachings of the Word of God. The Lord our God will only honor and exalt His own Truth! He will only empower the objective Truth that He has inspired! The Third Person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit, will not and cannot exalt and empower a lie! He will not exalt and empower false doctrine; because false doctrine is a negation of the Truth about the character and the attributes of God; (the truth about God and how He works. The Holy Spirit, who is poured out in true revival, is the same Person who wrote the Word of God. So there must be a revival of the Light – the sound doctrine of scripture!

But there will also be a revival of Heat - a radical re-focusing of the totality of the affections of our hearts and lives on the Lord Jesus Christ! The very center of the passion and purpose of that revived person or church will be concentrated on the Lord Jesus! Did you notice that I did not say that the center of our passion and purpose would be concentrated on the Holy Spirit? Jesus said, "When the Comforter comes He will glorify Me!" The supreme work of the Holy Spirit is to glorify the Person and the Work of the Lord Jesus Christ. When authentic revival comes to us or our church, the Lord Jesus Christ will become, afresh and anew,

◆ THE SUPREME LOVE OF OUR LIVES

◆ THE SOVEREIGN LORD OF OUR LIVES; AND

◆ THE VERY CENTER OF OUR UNIVERSE!

There will be a true restoration of the Lord Jesus Christ as the center and circumference of our lives. Afresh and anew, there will be a true and spiritual revitalization of the "reality and the effects of the Cross" of the Lord Jesus, in all aspects of our living.

Oh, I implore you, as did the Apostle Paul, that the following verses be found true of our lives. "But God forbid, that I should glory (boast) except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified to me, and I to the world." May each of us be able to testify with our lips, "For I determined not to know anything among you, except Jesus Christ and Him crucified."

Brothers and sisters, there has never been a true revival and a spiritual awakening that has not been preceded by a passionate and persistent wrestling with the Lord, in agonizing, intercessory prayer. If we are going to see a true revival, we must first see a true revival of prayer. Would you join me today, in asking the Holy Spirit of God to expose and remove any obstacles in our lives, that are hindering us from experiencing, a heart-breaking travail for a revival of light and heat? Would you be willing today, to consecrate some of your time to be involved in the glorious work of intercession for a Christ-centered, Word-centered, reformation revival? Would you be willing today, to begin to cry out with the psalmist, "Will You not revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in YOU?"

PRAYER CONFERENCE IN ARKANSAS



I have just returned from a glorious week of teaching at First Baptist Church of Bull Shoals, AR. I believe with all of my heart that "true revival and spiritual awakening" is a sovereign work of God. But God uses the means of "passionate, persevering, intercessory prayer" to birth that revival among His people! God took the 10 sessions on prayer and mightily stirred the hearts of many in that precious local body. Many testified to me personally, how the Holy Spirit had dealt with them about areas of their prayer life and their walk with the Lord. I sensed in my heart that the Lord was building great confidence in the people of God to persevere in intercession, for their particular burdens and concerns. It was also so precious to see "lasting fruit" from the "Christ-centered Evangelism" conference that I had the joy of teaching in 2003. The church secretary, (Karen), was gloriously "born from above" during that conference 5 years ago. The Lord continues to work in her life mightily. He who begins a good work is able to complete it. Amen! Also, one of the men shared about his brother's recent conversion, while reading one of our Gospel tracts. Oh friends, the Gospel is STILL the POWER OF GOD unto SALVATION, whether it is heard or read!



TEACHING THE BEATITUDES

Since our last newsletter, I have had the joy of teaching this "12 session" series from the Beatitudes in 3 different churches, in 3 different states. I have entitled it, "The Key to Supreme Happiness and Spiritual Prosperity". The first opportunity to teach this workbook took place at Cornerstone Baptist Church in Grove Hill, AL. The fact that attendance remained the same throughout the week, as that of Sunday morning, was a wonderful confirmation of God's powerful work in our midst! I know that the consistent biblical teaching of Pastor David Curtis has given that local body of believers a tremendous appetite for the Word of God. They truly responded with a wonderful receptivity and teach-ability. As I prepared this particular study, I became well aware that these teachings are not only a wonderful teaching of the "evidences of authentic conversion", but they also reveal the true manifestations of a person who is walking in the "first-love" intimacy of true revival.

Also, I had the joy of teaching this workbook at Grace Church in Lake City, FL. There was a precious core of believers that exhibited an insatiable appetite for the Word. Even though they had just moved into their new facilities, the week prior to the meeting, they fought through their physical and mental exhaustion. They manifested a desire and determination to hear and apply these foundational truths for Christian living! Then I taught this workbook series at Friendship Baptist Church in Baton Rouge, LA. Again, the last evening was as large or larger in attendance than the Sunday morning worship! There was wonderful liberty in every session; as well as the manifest evidence of the Spirit of God's presence among the body of Christ. Pastor Rusty Reed writes, "What a tremendous impact these teachings have had on the lives of our people. I received calls and e-mails from as far away as Iowa, telling me that they have heard about the working of the Holy Spirit in this meeting. Hearing the truths of the Beatitudes preached, with such clarity and passion, is powerfully effecting the body of Christ that meets at Friendship Baptist Church. Also Bro. Ed, I must testify that we, at Friendship Baptist Church, are so blessed to be a part of your international ministry. We love the opportunities that God has given you to reach out to nations like Cuba, Kenya, Russia, Romania, Nicaragua, etc. with the truths of the Word of God". On Sunday afternoon, the children's department presented a gift for the foreign mission work, from the funds they had personally raised through their own labors of love. It was quite touching to my heart. These children and their parents are constantly praying for me, as I travel to many different foreign fields, planting the truths of the Word of God. It is the prayers and support of people like this, which enable me to go all over the world, holding pastors' and church-planters' conferences. Dianne and I are so thankful that there are brothers and sisters like you, who are involved in voluntary sacrifice for the purpose of standing with us; as we go all over the world with the life transforming truths of the Word of God.

REVIVAL MEETINGS & RETREAT

Dianne and I had the precious opportunity to serve together at Don Avenue Baptist the weekend of April 11-13. Friday night through Saturday, Dianne taught the ladies and I taught the men. It was a precious opportunity to pour God's mighty Word into the lives of brothers and sisters from that local body. I am so thankful for the years of sweet fellowship that we have had with Pastor Craig James and his family. The following week, the Lord gave me the privilege of preaching my first revival meeting, at Mt. Vernon Baptist in Jasper, AL. I immediately sensed a "oneness of spirit" with Pastor John Gates and his staff. The messages focused on personal and corporate revival for the body of Christ. The people sacrificially gave of their time and commitment to hear and respond to the Word of God, throughout the week. I believe that the Lord was speaking powerfully, both to individuals and to that local body corporately. Always, one of the wonderful blessings of these weeks is the privilege to meet new brothers and sisters in the Lord Jesus. I am so grateful to the Lord for these opportunities to serve God's people. Also, the Lord opened a wonderful opportunity to preach to the body of Christ at Shiloh Baptist near Selma, AL. It was a wonderful blessing to serve with Pastor Bill Gardner once again. I had preached revival meetings for Bro. Bill at 2 previous churches. God has given him a very fruitful ministry at Shiloh. It was also an absolute pleasure to serve alongside of Nathan Hamilton, who led us in worship throughout the week. There were 2 particular evening services that really 'stick out' in my mind. We have all seen the films of our tainted history involving Selma, AL. However, on both Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, a black congregation from Selma joined us, as we worshipped the Lord together. It was so precious to see such a large and loving response to those interracial services. I believe that God produced "eternal work" in the lives of many people that week.

CUBA OUTREACH JUST AHEAD



Bro. Garry Morrison and I are scheduled to teach over 300 church planters in Santiago de Cuba, at the East Baptist Convention Seminary. PLEASE PRAY for the religious visa from the Cuba immigration department to arrive. We have already received permission from our Treasury Department. Garry and I have previously taught the Beatitudes workbook to 250 of the church planting missionaries. But in June, we will teach this study to the remaining 300. Once again, they have committed to use this material in their training of new believers. This teaching can be very productive, as they teach these truths throughout the convention for the Glory of God! We are having much difficulty trying to find plane tickets this time from Miami to Cuba. The planes do not fly on a daily basis. So far, every flight I have found has been completely sold out. Please pray for this door to stay open for us to teach the Word of God to our precious Brothers in this crucial time in history.



MISSIONS GALORE!

JUNE—CUBA

JULY—NICARAGUA

AUGUST—UGANDA

OCTOBER—RUSSIA

DECEMBER—CUBA

This will be the first visit to Uganda. The team from Kenya is making all the needed preparations for this conference. This is another amazing open door that God has given to plant the truths of "Christ-centered Evangelism" into the hearts of men, who have been contaminated with man-centered evangelism, humanistic gimmicks and gadgets and unsound doctrine.



HOME OF GRACE

The Home of Grace is a ministry for ladies with drug and alcohol addictions. Women from several states go through this program. Even the prison system has been sending women to these facilities. Dianne and several women from a local church have the opportunity to teach the Word of God, once a month in this venue. Continue to pray that there will be fruit that remains from this outreach. We have great confidence that the Word of God never returns void.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS AND SUPPORT!

By reading through this newsletter, along with seeing the schedule, you will understand why this newsletter is late. I have been extremely busy with many opportunities of ministry. Even though the schedule has been grueling, I am very grateful for every open door of service. There is really no way to put into words all the various experiences that we encounter, through each day of ministry. However, we attempt to give you a glimpse of the opportunities that you are so intricately involved with, as you support us both financially and through your prayers. Since our last newsletter, the Lord has once again used this ministry as a conduit to provide for many different areas of ministry.

First, we were able to supply the funds for the purchase of 2 used vehicles. These vehicles will be used for evangelistic outreach and pastor training; one in Kenya and another in Russia. George Wafula, the translator of my workbooks and tract, and my interpreter in Kenya, is also a teacher in the Bible college. He trains young pastors and evangelist, teaching in several different cities in Kenya. George has been faithfully teaching materials that I have taught in the past conferences to these precious young men. He desperately needed a vehicle for all of his travels. The Lord burdened our heart with this need, and we begin to pray. God provided an extra blessing for our ministry through you, our faithful supporters. So we used the extra funds to purchase a used vehicle for George's ministry. It is not only a great blessing for George, but it will also be a blessing to every one of those young pastors that he is equipping for the ministry!

Then, just a few days after the opportunity in Kenya, we heard from Valeri Tolkachev, our translator and interpreter from the Russian Baptist Union. He is not only a church-planter, but he is also the director of a Christian Alcohol and Drug Rehabilitation Center. Last year, while in Russia, Dianne and I witnessed first hand, this young man's devotion and passion for the Lord and this ministry. God is using Valeri to reach many young Russian men with the good news of the Gospel. Alcoholism is a horrific epidemic in Russia, especially among the young men. Valeri's ministry is bearing much fruit for the glory of God in this area of outreach. Many have been converted and totally delivered from alcoholism, by the grace of God. We discovered that Valeri was also in desperate need of a vehicle, to be used for the Christian Rehabilitation Center. Immediately, I knew the Lord was prompting our hearts to be a channel of blessing to help with this need. The Lord, once again, miraculously provided enough funds to purchase a used vehicle. Friends, these additional funds were provided without us saying a word to anyone. but to our heavenly Father. Once again, God provided through you. We were merely the conduits of your eternal investments into the Kingdom of God.

Besides these needs being adequately met, we also needed to send funds to begin the preparations for the upcoming conference in Uganda. Preparations are already being made for over 600 pastors and evangelists to attend our first "Christ-centered Evangelism" Conference in this nation. Why do I share all of these details with you? Because our desire is for you to realize how vitally important you are to everything that the Lord is doing through this ministry. God is hearing the prayers of His people that call out to Him. He is using your financial gifts across the globe, in the building up and edification of His Kingdom. So with much humility and gratefulness, we say Thank You for standing with us in these vital days. Truly the Lord desires for us to call upon Him and to be faithful to His Kingdom work, in these days.

Ed & Dianne Lacy