

## *The Pallbearers of Revival*

*“Revival is the inrush of God’s Spirit into a body which threatens to become a corpse.”—D. M. Paton*

*Revive thy work, O Lord,  
Thy mighty arm make bare;  
Speak with the voice that wakes the dead  
And make thy people hear.  
—Albert Midlane*

A funeral is a ceremony where the bodies of deceased people are laid to rest. Those who transport the casket to the burial place are called “Pallbearers.” These men carry the lifeless remains to the pit, which is known as the grave.

America has not had a wide-spread revival in over one hundred years. Why has the life-giving breath of heaven been withheld? Are there human reasons to account for this lack of heavenly activity? Is it possible that we have been co-conspirators in the cessation of divine energy? Could it be that we bear some responsibility for our dilemma? Have we unwittingly acted as the Pallbearers of Revival?

God can do anything He chooses, but Scripture makes clear that God works in cooperation with His people. We are admonished not to commit sins against God the Holy Spirit: “Grieve not” (Eph. 4:30); “Quench not” (1 Thes. 5:19); and Resist not (Acts 7:51). Committing any of these grievous offenses against the third Person of the Trinity carry deadly consequences. God’s message to the church in Sardis was, “Thou hast a name that thou livest, and art

(continued on next page)

### In This Issue

- The Pallbearers of Revival
- Our Schedule
- Testimonies
- Looking ahead
- Prayer & Praise
- Family News
- See What’s New

**“You may be a converted, earnest, active, and even praying Christian, but the Devil does not care one bit if you have no faith.”**

**—Paget Wilkes**

empowered

To learn more about the Men’s 2017 Prayer Advance, click on this link >> [www.christlifemin.org/home/prayer-advances/men/](http://www.christlifemin.org/home/prayer-advances/men/)

To learn more about the Ladies’ 2017 Prayer Advance, click on this link >> [www.christlifemin.org/home/prayer-advances/ladies/](http://www.christlifemin.org/home/prayer-advances/ladies/)

dead” (Rev. 3:1). They had a glorious history and a good reputation, but the life-giving breath of God no longer resided with them.

No longer was Sardis a birthing center for new-born souls where joy and excitement prevailed. To the contrary, the stench of spiritual death rested on them.

All kinds of factors have contributed to the “anti-revival” mentality which is so prevalent today. For some it is a theological grid which forbids divine interruptions. These have developed a militant prejudice against the whole notion of a divine visitation. Others lack the desire and vision for revival. Without going into an exhaustive explanation, here are a few reasons for the prevailing climate of apathy.

### **Unbelief**

An older lady met God in a reviving encounter. She had prayed, “Lord help my unbelief.” Afterward she commented that it seemed as if God interrupted her prayer and said, “I can’t help your unbelief, but I can forgive it if you confess it as sin.” Unbelief does not need “help,” it needs to be confessed!

This besetting sin is a primary barricade which blocks the life-giving breath of God. Even Jesus was hindered from doing many mighty works because of the oppressive atmosphere of unbelief in His hometown. Other villages saw miracles. Other towns saw the dead raised to life and other amazing occurrences, but not Nazareth. Think of it; lack of faith tied the hands of Jesus so He did no mighty works there. The climate of non-faith even hindered the Son of God. Their unbelief quenched God’s miracle working power. Like Israel of old, they limited God through their unbelief.

Faith creates a welcoming environment where God settles down and makes His abode. Once the restriction of unbelief is removed, God’s power can be freely manifested. One pastor stated, “We tend to believe our doubts and doubt our beliefs.” But we must not only believe our beliefs, we must believe God for things unseen. “As thou hast believed, so be it done” (Mat. 8:13).

### **Paralysis of Analysis**

Most of us were trained to be critical analysts rather than open-hearted recipients. Back in my Bible College days, a well known preacher spoke during the chapel hour. This man had a famous sermon which he preached over and over. Scores of people had professed faith in Christ after hearing this message. In homiletics class my professor and classmates tore this man’s message to shreds. They complained about his misuse of the text and faulted him for all manner of infractions. There I sat listening as his character and ministry were denigrated. Finally, I could take no more and came to his defense. The entire class time was wasted by scrutinizing per-

(continued on next page)

## **Our Schedule**

- May 1-4  
Revival Summit  
East Park Baptist Church  
Decatur, IL
- May 7-8  
Revival Summit  
Hope’s Point Baptist Church  
Shelbyville, IN
- May 12-15  
Revival Summit  
Orangeville Baptist Church  
Plainwell, MI
- May 22-25  
Revival Summit  
Thomas Terrace Baptist Ch.  
Lynchburg, VA
- May 30  
AMT - The Wilds  
Brevard, NC
- July 28-30  
Student Prayer Advance  
Community Baptist Church  
Chantilly, VA
- Aug 7-10  
Prayer Summit  
Faith Baptist Church  
Toms River, NJ
- Aug 13-14  
Iron Man Conference  
Faith Baptist Church  
Martinsburg, WV



## Prayer Advance Testimonies

*"This MPA has been so sweet that if you have the next one in a barn in the middle of a muddy field, God willing, I'll be there."*

*"The Prayer Advance is like a power wash for the soul!"*

—Alexandria, VA

*"The Men's Prayer Advance has been a tremendous blessing to me personally. This was my third consecutive advance."*

*"This Prayer Advance is one of the best things you can come to. It is helped me so much."*

*"The LPA was once again a tremendous blessing. God moved in a quiet and purposeful manner. He gently encouraged, restored hope and revived hearts."*

*"I had the privilege of attending the very first Ladies Prayer Advance and have never forgotten that experience and the change it made in my life. Since then, I have had the opportunity to attend multiple years."*

ceived defects, rather than appreciating this brother's faithfulness and effectiveness. Here was a man, who knew incredible blessing on his ministry, being scrutinized by a group of ministerial midgets!

God has not given us the right to judge, but a mandate to love. Of course we must be discerning and stay true to the Word, but the man who overanalyzes everything is not a candidate for revival. Instead of delineating the faults of others, we would do well to ask, "Lord, what do you see that is wrong in me?"

B. T. Roberts comments, "Preachers who never have revivals never weary of calling attention to everything objectionable in the methods of those who have powerful revivals ... O ye fault-finders, beware lest when your Lord come, ye be found smiting your fellow servants, instead of working with them!"

### Pride

Pride is the pathway to spiritual suicide. James chapter four and verse six tells us that God resists (opposes) the proud, but gives grace to the humble. Clyde Staples Lewis writes, "No one is proud because he is clever or good looking. He is proud because he is more clever or better looking than someone else." Haughty people are quick to make comparisons with those deemed inferior, and the assessment always goes in favor of the one making the comparison. But Scripture warns about the foolishness of comparing ourselves with others (2 Cor. 10:12). Pride is not only thinking we are better than someone else, it is thinking we are better than we really are!

Nothing grieves the Lord quicker than Devilish pride. This sinister transgression was the first sin to destroy the calm of eternity. It changed angels into devils. The original sinner, Lucifer, was a beautiful, powerful, and anointed cherub. In Ezekiel we read, "Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee...Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty" (Ezek. 28:15,17). Satan became so infatuated with himself that he attempted to dethrone God. Because his heart was lifted up he endeavored to exalt himself by bringing God down. Self-exaltation is the satanic trade-mark—the master sin of the devil. One of the Puritans said, "The man who exalts himself wages war on God."

Obadiah uncovered pride's true nature, "The pride of thine heart hath deceived thee" (Oba. 1:3). Here we see man's capacity for self delusion through the deceitfulness of pride. Adam sought to escape his guilt by blaming Eve. She, in turn, blamed the devil. Someone said, "Adam blamed Eve. Eve blamed the serpent, and the snake did not have a leg to stand on." This disposition to blame has been passed on to the lot of us. "If it wasn't for my mate, I would be victorious." "If it wasn't for my children, I could live for the Lord." That's like the student who said, "If it wasn't for my teacher, I

(continued on next page)

could make it to the next grade!” Modern counseling will tell you it is always someone else’s fault.

You and I are not responsible for everything that happens to us, but we are entirely responsible for how we respond to what happens to us. Make no mistake; it is nothing other than pride which has created a victim mentality among so many. There will be no revival where there is blame shifting and rationalizing.

Not only is pride devilish and deceitful, it is also incredibly destructive. “Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall” (Pro. 16:18). It is impossible to overstate the damaging effect of pride. There is no spirit in man more opposed to the Spirit of God than the spirit of pride. So offensive is pride that there can be no point of meeting between a proud heart and a holy God.

One spring I invited a friend over to call in the “big gobbler.” Having hunted turkeys my entire life I had never got anything, except feathers. This man was an expert and I knew I needed help. He set up decoys and began using different calls to lure in the big bird. As he was calling we heard a gobble and we knew we were in the right place. Soon we heard a commotion and saw a gang of hens headed our way. Boy was I disappointed because this was “gobbler season” and it was against the law to shoot hens. As the gang moved toward us a giant gobbler appeared about twenty-five yards behind the hens. He was in full strut. His chest was poked out, tail feathers in broad span, and wings dragging the ground as he strutted back and forth. The hens were busy searching for food—paying no attention to his antics. I thought to myself, “This is just like high school!” As the hens got closer they spooked and scurried off. But the gobbler kept strutting, oblivious to his environment. In a matter of moments he walked within range, and we enjoyed our Thanksgiving meal with him that year. Do you know what spelled his doom? It was his mindless prancing which blinded him to the presence of potential danger. Pride goes before destruction.

Nobody struts in the presence of God! The kingdom of God is not looking for sponsors, only humble, obedient servants. Just like that gobbler found out, a haughty spirit precedes a fall.

Wherever you find pride you always find its devastating consequences, both vertically and horizontally. Pride not only breaks fellowship with God, it also wreaks havoc in our earthly relationships. Solomon under inspiration of the Holy Spirit wrote in Proverbs, “Only by pride cometh contention” (13:10). The root of all relational conflict finds its source in pride. Here is the reason we have so many church splits, broken homes, and splintered relationships. Maybe one reason God has such antipathy toward pride is because it violates His prayer, “That they all may be one” (Jn. 17:21). Pride is destructive because:

- It divides that which should be united.
- It causes me to look down on others.
- It keeps me from apologizing.
- It causes me to defend myself.
- It makes the sins of others look BIG and my sins look small.
- It causes me to blame others instead of taking responsibility for my own actions, reactions, and inactions.
- It can lull me into a state of complacency.

No sin is more pervasive than this sinister sin. Here is a prayer which is sure to get the attention of God:

*Lord bend this proud and stiff-necked “I”  
Help me to bow the head and die,  
That it may no longer be “I”  
But Christ that lives in me.*

(continued on next page)

## **Limited Frame of Reference**

Our country, like other regions in our world, has a revival heritage. We have many recorded accounts of those times when God poured out His Spirit in our nation. But it has been so long since God sent a wide-spread awakening that the very notion of revival seems strange to many Christians.

A thing is not necessarily wrong just because it lies outside our range of familiarity. How foolish it is to judge the Bible in light of experience instead of letting the Bible be the arbitrator of our experience.

There is more to God, His ways and works, than any human could comprehend in a thousand life times.

You must stop listening to the self appointed religious “Know-it-all’s” who downplay the possibility of revival. The humble man realizes he does not have the full picture. “If any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know” (1 Cor. 8:2).

Some have a preconceived mental framework as to how revival must come. But dictating to God the terms on which He must work displays astonishing arrogance. God will never act in contradiction to His character or the principles of Scripture, but His ways are higher (different) from our ways. The candidate for revival is not a lecturer, but a learner. The man who is humble enough to submit to God and “His ways” is the applicant for revival.

## **Inaccurate Historical Perspective**

The concept of revival is so vague that very few know what you are talking about. Even those who preach about it often speak in such nebulous terms so as to breed uncertainty in the minds of listeners. The whole notion is so “generalized” or “futurized,” that the impact is “neutralized.”

Also, there is the problem of addressing the subject in a way that makes it unattainable for the average person. After hearing all one “must do” in order to “bring revival,” it is a small wonder that most won’t even attempt to take the first step, much less the subsequent steps. Many of us have heard those bombastic sermons which put the prospect of revival “out of our reach.” But a careful study of biblical and historical revivals would create hunger and impart hope for a God-sent revival in our day.

## **Self-sufficiency**

The Church at Laodicea proudly asserted, “I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing” (Rev. 3:17). From their perspective everything was fine. We further read about God’s response to their evaluation, “Knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.” What a difference of opinion concerning their condition! They were satisfied with their status, but God was not.

A man made a shocking discovery regarding his true spiritual state. He testified, “I was having chest pains and discovered it was a stress fracture in my heart of stone.” Hard-heartedness can blind us to our true condition. But once the veil is lifted we clearly see the true culprit—Self.

Self-sufficiency leads to apathy and complacency. In the middle of his sermon a preacher bellowed out, “The two main problems today are ignorance and apathy!” For emphasis he repeated this statement a second time. Then he looked at a disinterested man, slouching with his arms folded on the front row, and thundered, “Sir, what did I just say?” The man passively replied, “I don’t know and I don’t care.”

Ignorance and unconcern extinguish any likelihood of revival fire. The spirit of self-sufficiency can so permeate the atmosphere that it makes congregations virtually “revival-proof.”

## **Imbalanced Preaching**

Perhaps it was an overreaction to the teachings of Perfectionism that caused pastors to preach in a man-

(continued on next page)



## Hallelujah! What a Savior!

“Man of Sorrows!”  
what a name  
For the Son of God,  
who came  
Ruined sinners to reclaim.  
Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Bearing shame and  
scoffing rude,  
In my place condemned  
He stood;  
Sealed my pardon with  
His blood.  
Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Guilty, vile, and  
helpless we;  
Spotless Lamb of God  
was He;  
“Full atonement!” can it be?  
Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Lifted up was He to die;  
“It is finished!” was His cry;  
Now in Heav’n  
exalted high.  
Hallelujah! What a Savior!

When He comes,  
our glorious King,  
All His ransomed  
home to bring,  
Then anew His song  
we’ll sing:  
Hallelujah! What a Savior!

—Philip P. Bliss 1875—

Isaiah 53:3 *“He is despised  
and rejected of men; a man  
of sorrows, and acquainted  
with grief: and we hid as it  
were our faces from him;  
he was despised, and we  
esteemed him not.”*

ner which stripped people of hope for better things. Statements like, “When you got saved, you got all the Holy Spirit you will ever have.” A better question might be, “How much does the Holy Spirit have of me?” Of course we believe the moment a person is saved he is baptized, indwelt, and sealed with the Holy Spirit. But when Positional Truth is elevated to the exclusion of Practical Experience the outcome is the elimination of spiritual hunger and thirst. The believer receives the Holy Spirit at conversion, but there are many “fillings.”

Here is a man sitting in the pew who is repeatedly told he already possesses everything he will ever receive. In his heart of hearts he must be baffled, because he knows there must be more to it than he has realized. If this is “as good as it gets,” he feels he has been ripped off. If this is all there is to it, then why bother with any further pursuit?

We all realize the danger of seeking exotic experiences, but the greatest danger is remaining like we are. God seeks us and we come to salvation, then we spend the rest of our lives pursuing Him. In Scripture the Christian life is portrayed as a quest:

- “I press toward the mark for the prize...” (Phil. 3:14)
- “So run, that ye may obtain...” (1 Cor. 9:24)
- “Let us run with patience the race...” (Heb. 12:1)
- “To him that overcometh will I grant...” (Rev.3:21)

Oh for preaching which excites and stirs deep longings after God! “Lord, give us burning hearts and let the fire spread.”

“From **“Revival in Our Time: Outside the Box—Inside the Book!”** (Chapter 3) By Harold Vaughan - [CLICK HERE](#) to order from our web-site.

---

## Looking Ahead this year -

- **Student Prayer Advance 2016** — [CLICK HERE](#) to find out more and to register for the Student Advance on July 28-30 at Community Baptist Church in Chantilly, VA
- **Rocky Mountain Men’s Prayer Advance 2016** — [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more and to register for the Rocky Mtn. Advance at Woodside Baptist Church in Denver, CO on September. 15-17
- **Smoky Mountain Couples’ Advance 2016** — [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more and to register for the Couples’ Advance at The Mainstay Suites in beautiful Pigeon Forge, TN on November 4-5. You won’t want to miss this Advance!

## Prayer & Praise

- Physical strength and healing for Debbie
- Physical health and strength for Harold
- Wisdom as we plan for future Advances
- Thankful for tremendous Men's and Ladies' Advances held in new locations this year
- Thankful for God's daily mercies toward us each day

## Contact Us

**Christ Life Ministries**

PO Box 399

Vinton, VA 24179

(540) 890-6100

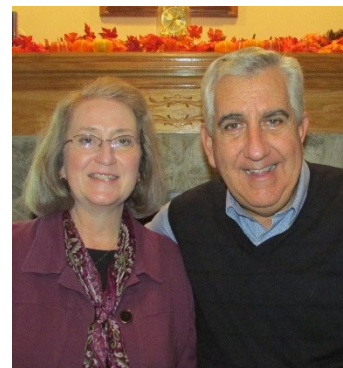
[info@christlifemin.org](mailto:info@christlifemin.org)

Visit us on the web at

[www.christlifemin.org](http://www.christlifemin.org)

## Family News

Since our last newsletter, Debbie was diagnosed with breast cancer. She had a lumpectomy at the first of this year and then six weeks of radiation. The Lord has truly blessed her on each step of this "season" in her life. She will have to be on medication and have frequent checkups for several years but we are praising God each day for her healing and recovery. Debbie has just gone back on the road with Harold at the end of April.



Harold is feeling much better than he was at the time of our last newsletter. He has regained a good portion of his strength and has been having a busy spring schedule. The boys are all busy with jobs and family and are doing well.

## See What's New

- [\*\*CLICK HERE\*\*](#) to see a testimony from last year's Men's Prayer Advance - West in Denver, CO.
- [\*\*CLICK HERE\*\*](#) to see a testimony from this year's Men's Prayer Advance in Roanoke, VA.
- [\*\*CLICK HERE\*\*](#) to go to our web site and check out all the upcoming advances in our "**Prayer Advances**" section, read Harold's latest article in our "**Blog**" section, browse our "**Shop**" section or listen to one of the many messages in our "**Library**" section.

*"We have a power to shake mountains, and in our experience it barely shifts a grain of dust. We have a power that comes rolling in a great flood, and a mere dribble of it passes into our lives." —Alexander Maclaren*