

## *The Parameters of Revival*

*“The prayer for revival is ultimately a prayer based upon a concern for the manifestation of the glory of God.”*

—Martin Lloyd Jones

*Revival “changes the moral climate of a community.”*

—A. W. Tozer

A little girl spoke to her father as they were pulling out of the driveway, “Daddy, where are we going?” The father responded, “We’re going to revival.” The tiny girl replied, “Daddy, have I ever seen one?” What a question! Have you ever witnessed the extraordinary working of the Holy Spirit in revival? One man put it this way, “We go through some meetings, but some meetings go through us.” The need of the hour is meetings that go “through us!”

The word revival is sparingly used in the Bible. Though rarely used, the concept of spiritual resurgence is woven throughout the entire fabric of Scripture. In fact, the history of Christianity is the unfolding drama of repeated renewals.

Periodically, God must send times of refreshing or else the entire Christian enterprise would fade into oblivion. Revivals have been taking place throughout the earth since Pentecost. The scope and scale have varied, but these outpourings have brought new life time after time. I believe it was Leonard Ravenhill who said that “Revival is when God gets so tired of being misrepresented that He personally takes the field to clear up the discrepancies.”

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**“God would not have us merely ‘take a stand,’ He would have us walk. Too many have taken a stand and are still standing—for years they have made no progress.”**  
—Vance Havner



### Student Prayer Advance 2016

July 28-30, 2016

Chantilly, VA

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What constitutes a real revival? How large and impressive must it be before it can accurately be referred to as “revival?” Are there revivals taking place on earth today? What are the levels, or parameters, of revival? To comprehend revival in our generation it is imperative to understand its scope.

### **National Revival**

In 1904 the Spirit of God invaded Wales. The nation was touched in an astonishing way. The entire fabric of society was impacted. God and eternity took center stage and the things of the world grew strangely dim. The bars closed down as the hearts of the fathers were turned to their children. Judges were presented with white gloves because there were no criminal cases to try. Police formed quartets to sing in the meetings as crime virtually ground to a halt while the nation was under the glory cloud.

Northern Ireland experienced a season of refreshing in 1859. God used the Wesley brothers and George Whitefield to impact England. Jonathan Edwards and many others saw the Great Awakening in the United States.

The great American prayer revival in 1859 made an incredible impact on our country and the world. A city missionary named Jeremiah Lanphier, called a prayer meeting on Fulton Street in New York City. Within six months 10,000 businessmen were praying daily for revival. A mighty spirit of prayer descended across the nation. One man traveling from Omaha to New York remarked, “The whole nation is a prayer meeting!” Without mass meetings or human organization, historians estimate that two million people were born again during that time.

The mighty Korean Revival of 1907 laid the groundwork that prepared thousands for eternity. News of the awakening in Wales and India came to the missionaries in Korea. William Blair and Bruce Hunt stated, “We had reached a place where we dared not go forward without God’s presence. Very earnestly we poured out our hearts before Him, searching our hearts and seeking to meet the conditions. God heard us and gave us an earnest that week of what was to come. Before the meetings closed the Spirit showed us plainly that the way of victory for us would be a way of confession, of broken hearts, and bitter tears.” Of this season of prayer, Jonathan Goforth said, “The early church did great honor to God the Holy Spirit by dropping everything and spending ten days in prayer to prepare for His coming. I have told how the missionaries spent one to several hours each day for months in preparing a way in their hearts for the Holy Spirit ... They honored God and appreciated the gift of the Holy Spirit by meeting in the church for prayer at five o’clock—not five o’clock every evening, but every morning through the fall and winter of 1906-7. They honored God the Holy

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## **Our Schedule**

- June 26 - AM  
Mt. Airy Bible Church  
Mt. Airy, MD
- July 12  
Pastor’s Fellowship  
Crossroads Baptist Church  
Fredericksburg, VA
- July 28-30  
Student Prayer Advance  
Community Baptist Church  
Chantilly, VA
- July 31 - Aug 5  
Family Camp  
America’s Keswick  
Whiting, NJ
- Aug 7-10  
Prayer Summit  
Faith Baptist Church  
Toms River, NJ
- Aug 13-14  
Iron Man Conference  
Faith Baptist Church  
Martinsburg, WV
- Aug 21 - AM  
Homecoming Service  
Goodview Baptist Church  
Goodview, VA
- Aug 26-28  
Iron Man Conference  
Bible Baptist Temple  
Stonewood, WV



## Prayer Advance Testimonies

*"This was my first year and I thought that the accommodations were very nice. This whole conference has been an extreme blessing to me."*

*"The Men's, Ladies', as well as Couples' Prayer Advances have been an absolute blessing to my wife and I."*

*"This was my first time at an MPA I really enjoyed it."*

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

*"This Advance was one that I was a bit apprehensive about and thought that I might not attend, because of the new location and issues that it presented in my mind. However, I was pleasantly proven wrong on some of those issues and the messages were apparently all tailored to hit me square in the heart, so I am very glad that I came."*

*"Food was great! preaching was great! Worship was great!"*

Spirit by six months of prayer and then He came as a flood."

### Regional Revival

O LORD, I have heard thy speech, and was afraid: O LORD, revive thy work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years make known; in wrath remember mercy (Habakkuk 3:2, emphasis added).

Here is a prayer for a broad, sweeping move of God. Habakkuk is beseeching the Lord for an across-the-board downpour. He is praying for God's work at large. Revive thy work expresses a longing for a corporate outpouring with far reaching implications. Intense needs call for an extensive work.

John Knox prayed, "Give me Scotland or I die." Two elderly sisters, one blind and the other physically handicapped, asked God to invade the Hebrides, and it happened! There are seasons when things degenerate in such a wide-spread manner that only a move of global proportions will suffice. Surely this is an appropriate prayer today. With signs of spiritual death and decay on every hand, we desperately need a fire-fall.

At times the Spirit of revival has gripped geographic regions. What begins in one church is extended to surrounding congregations. The sacred flame spreads from community to community. Historically, districts in the Scottish highlands have seen spiritual resurgences. The circuit riding Methodist witnessed similar movements. These area-wide renewals remind us of that promise, "I will pour...floods upon the dry ground" (Isa. 44:3).

Remember how God chose a reluctant missionary named Jonah to bring the message of judgment and repentance to Nineveh? He had personal revival in "Whale University" and hurried to warn the city of impending judgment. The king had ears to hear and called on the entire city to humble themselves and repent. The raging wrath of God turned away from the inhabitants as they bent low before the Lord. Nineveh was spared and 120,000 people were saved!

The Ranchers Revival in Nebraska moved from community to community in the 1980's. The Fisherman's Revival started in 1921 and was centered in the northeast coastal area of Scotland. Jock Troup became the leading evangelist who later preached from 1932 to 1945 in the great "Tent Hall" in Glasgow. A regional revival is expansive in its scope.

### Local Church Revival

E.M. Bounds was born on August 15, 1835. He practiced law until he felt a call to the ministry and was ordained as a Methodist in 1859. He served as a Confederate Army Chaplain during the Civil War. As a result he was captured and held as a prisoner of war for a short time. Bounds returned to Franklin, Tennessee after his incarceration. Upon his return "he found the church in a wretched state."

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Immediately he sought out a half dozen men who really believed in the power of prayer. They met every Tuesday night and got on their knees to pray for revival, for themselves, the church and the town. Lyle Dorsett writes, “For over a year this faithful band called upon the Lord until God finally answered by fire. The revival came down without any previous announcement or plan, and without the pastor sending for an evangelist to help him.”

God does not send revival to denominations or certain select groups. He sends revival to individuals whose hearts are “thirsting.” It seems that the congregations which are blessed with local church revival are always led by a pastor who is longing for the presence of God. Those who are content to live without revival will not see God touch down in a powerful way. But those who desperate for the presence and power of God find what they are looking for. Personally, I have never seen a local church renewal that did not have its origins in the heart of the under-Shepherd.

The Moravian Revival of the Eighteenth Century was one the most productive since Pentecost. John Greenfield writes of what occurred around noon on Sunday, August 10, 1927. “While Pastor Rothe was holding the meeting at Herrnhut, he felt himself overwhelmed by a wonderful and irresistible power of the Lord and sank down in the dust before God, and with him sank down the whole assembled congregation, in an ecstasy of feeling. In this frame of mind they continued till midnight, engaged in praying and singing, weeping and supplication.” That which began with the man in the pulpit set in motion the blaze in the pew.

Regardless of the general spiritual climate, local churches can experience the fresh breath of heaven. When the majority in a given body is refreshed, a local church revival has taken place.

### **Interpersonal Revival**

Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee? (Psalms 85:6, emphasis added).

Note the words “revive us.” Here the Psalmist is praying for himself and those closely associated with him. He is not asking for a revival of God’s work at large, rather, he is beseeching God for his own heart and those closest to him.

The most intense revivals are those where the people get judgment-day honest with God, themselves, and others. When you have people willing to say out loud, “Lord, you are right and I am wrong,” you are in an atmosphere where God can work. Wherever you find a group of individuals humble enough to take the witness stand against their own hearts, you will find an Interpersonal Revival. It is no less powerful than a Local Church Revival—only less extensive.

It was New Year’s Day, 1739 in London at the Love Feast in Fetter Lane. John and Charles Wesley, George Whitefield, several other Oxford Methodists, and about sixty Moravians were present in the meeting. Wesley writes, “About three in the morning, as we were continuing instant in prayer, the power of God came mightily upon us, insomuch that many cried for exceeding joy, and many fell to the ground. As soon as we were recovered a little from that awe and amazement at the presence of His Majesty we broke out with one voice—“We praise Thee, O God; we acknowledge Thee to be the Lord!”” Here we see an interpersonal revival which had enormous repercussions.

### **Personal Revival**

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, thou wilt revive me (Psalms 138:7, emphasis added).

One preacher, as he stood before the congregation in his opening remarks said, “I hope you did not come here to hear me talk about revival, I hope you came to be revived.” Revival is not just something to talk about, it is something to experience!

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## Blessed Assurance

Blessed assurance,  
Jesus is mine!  
Oh, what a foretaste  
of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation,  
purchase of God,  
Born of His Spirit,  
washed in His blood.

Refrain: *This is my story,  
this is my song,  
Praising my Savior  
all the day long;  
This is my story,  
this is my song,  
Praising my Savior  
all the day long.*

Perfect submission,  
perfect delight,  
Visions of rapture  
now burst on my sight;  
Angels, descending,  
bring from above  
Echoes of mercy,  
whispers of love.

Perfect submission,  
all is at rest,  
I in my Savior am  
happy and blest,  
Watching and waiting,  
looking above,  
Filled with His goodness,  
lost in His love.

By Fannie Crosby, 1973

*"For the which cause I also  
suffer these things: neverthe-  
less I am not ashamed: for I  
know whom I have believed,  
and am persuaded that he is  
able to keep that which I have  
committed unto him against  
that day." 2 Timothy 1:12*

Verse seven, in Psalm 138, is a prayer of confident expectation: "Lord, I am walking in the midst of all

kinds of perplexities and problems, but You will revive me." The focus here is not on local church or interpersonal, but personal revival.

Arthur Wallis commented, "Revival is divine intervention in the normal course of spiritual things. It is God revealing Himself to man in awful holiness and irresistible power." This is precisely what

happened to Isaiah when he said, "Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, ... for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts" (Isaiah 6:5). Job echoed the same sentiment, "I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes" (Job 42:5-6). Close encounters with God bring an intense conviction of sin.

Not only do the things of earth assume their true size in the light of God's presence, but we also gain an accurate estimate of ourselves. One man prayed, "Father, turn me upside down! Father, turn me upside down! Because what's on the top should be on the bottom, and what's on the bottom should be on the top; Lord, turn me upside down!" Personal revival is when an individual meets Christ in a fresh and living way, bringing him back to his "first love."

In this chapter we have looked briefly at the parameters or levels of revival: National, Regional, Local Church, Interpersonal, and Personal. Is your heart longing for a fresh encounter with the living God? All revival is personal in nature, and the scope depends on the number of individuals involved.

"From **"Revival in Our Time: Outside the Box—Inside the Book!"** (Chapter 4) By Harold Vaughan - [CLICK HERE](#) to order from our web-site.

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## Looking Ahead this year -

- **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

- Praise for daily strengthening for Debbie
- Physical health and strength for Harold
- Thankful for three great meetings in the Mid-west
- Thankful for time to rest and reflect on God's blessings
- Prayer for the successful sale of our travel trailer
- Pray for wisdom concerning future meetings

## Contact Us

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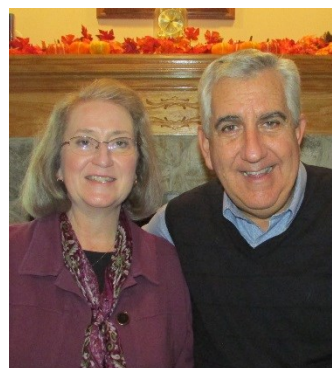
## Family News

Debbie continues to gain her strength back every day. Please pray for her continued healing. She was able to be back on the road with Harold in May which was a blessing for him.

Harold has had a busy first part of the year and is looking forward to a little time off to "recharge". Please continue to pray for Harold as he prepares for the last half of the year.

Michael and Laura are busy with work and family. Please pray for God's complete healing of Michael's Crohn's disease.

Brandon is getting acclimated to his new job and is busy mowing 15 yards! Ashley and the girls are well. Stephen and Emily have just moved into their first home. He is seeking God's will for future vocational direction. All of the little ones are out of school now and are looking forward to a fun summer and spending time with Grammy and Poppy.



## See What's New

- [CLICK HERE](#) to see a new testimony from this year's Men's Prayer Advance in Roanoke, VA from Dale Cunningham.
- [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.



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