



THE END ■ TIME

Revival

AND

Great

AWAKENING

Joel Hitchcock

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DR. JOEL HITCHCOCK

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Introduction: The Historical South African Revival

On December 31, 1855 Reverend Andrew Murray performed the wedding ceremony of my “Oupa Koen” who was my great great grandfather on my grandmother’s side in Graaf Reinet, South Africa.

However in my personal capacity as an evangelist, missionary and revivalist, my intrigue with Andrew Murray is his legacy of revival and great spiritual awakening. What happened in South Africa during his lifetime was connected to the mighty move of God that was happening simultaneously in the United States of America.

Andrew Murray was the son of a Scottish Presbyterian minister who settled in South Africa, learned Dutch, and devoted himself to God’s work there. Andrew followed in his father’s footsteps. One day Andrew was concluded a worship service for the English speaking congregation. He then went to the Dutch service, already in progress. On his way to the Dutch Reformed Church he realized that something wasn’t quite right. A loud noise came from the church. It sounded like a disorderly, confused conglomeration of voices.

History tells us he did “een drafstappje” (a fast paced walk) to the building to see what was happening. I can just imagine the dignified Rev. Murray speeding up to fix the problem! When he entered the building he found the place in apparent disorder. People

were praying out loud at the same time. People were confessing their sin. Some were on the floor unable to deal with the strange conviction that had come upon them. A deep sense of guilt was upon many, and they were praying to God to forgive them and deliver them from that burden.

Rev. Murray tried to bring order to the place, but no one noticed him or cared to pay attention. He got a hold of JC de Vries, who had conducted the preliminaries. Outside he explained what had happened. Parishioners had been invited to suggest a song. One young lady in the back suggested one, and then asked if she could pray first. She then delivered a moving passionate prayer. Then it happened. First, someone started sobbing. Then someone else started asking for forgiveness, and the influence spread through the whole congregation until the combined voices formed a beautiful harmony of prayer and repentance.

Rev. Murray went back into the church. "People, I am your pastor. Listen to me, and be quiet," he tried one more time. "God is a God of order, but here all is disorder!" With that he stomped out of the church.

But later on a stranger approached him. "Are you the pastor of this church?" he asked. Andrew affirmed that he was. The stranger continued, "Be careful what you do to these people today; for I have just returned from the United States, and the same things you are witnessing here are happening there also. The two don't even know about each other."

With that the convicting power of God also gripped Andrew Murray. He realized it was a work of God. For the next six weeks all Andrew could do was sit in the back of the church and weep. He would not preach. He just sat there and wept. Finally, after six weeks they carried him to the pulpit in his chair; and when he opened his mouth, it was as if words burning with divine fire proceeded from his lips.

The revival became a community-wide awakening as people became converted. The revival spread throughout the Eastern and Northern Cape to other towns such as Calvinia, Stellenbosch, Tulbagh, Ceres, Robertson and Paarl, and as far north as the Zuid Afrikaansche Republiek, in the town of Hartebeestfontein.

Some came to the services with the intent of mocking the strange behavior of the worshipers, only to find themselves also seized with the same conviction. A common manifestation of the Holy Spirit's working in the meetings was that people fell out under His power, or "fainted" as they put it in those days. An example of that is the report about a godly woman Ms. Hessie Bosman, who later married Rev. McKidd, who set up the first foreign missionary station for the Dutch Reformed Church. "She attended, and was the third to engage in prayer that evening. While she was pouring out her heart, the whole meeting broke forth into prayer while she fell unconscious to the ground. I carried her out to the parsonage, where they were some time in bringing her round. That night she had to remain the guest of the parsonage, and next day she was herself again." (1)

Initially Murray very much opposed such manifestations, but came to the conclusion that God was at work.

Such manifestations were not a proof of the validity of the revival, but were very real manifestations that happened as the Spirit moved upon people. The validity of the revival was rather found in the complete commitment to Christ that came about in the lives of those touched by the revival. Andrew wrote that “To my mind the most striking proof that we truly had the Holy Spirit among us in the late movement is to be seen what He is doing in stirring up in the hearts of believers a desire after a more entire surrender to Himself and His service’ (2)

The following is part of an eye witness account by JC de Vries of what happened in that revival:

“On a certain Sunday evening there were gathered in a little hall some sixty young people. I was leader of the meeting, which commenced with a hymn and a lesson from God’s Word, after which I engaged in prayer. After three or four others had (as was customary) given out a verse of a hymn and offered prayer, a Colored girl of about fifteen years of age, in service of a farmer from Hex River, rose at the back of the hall and asked if she might propose a hymn. At first I hesitated, not knowing what the meeting would think, but better thoughts prevailed and I replied, Yes.

“She gave out her hymn-verse and prayed in moving tones. While she was praying, we heard as it were a sound in the distance, which came nearer and neared, until the hall seemed to be shaken, and with one or two exception, the whole meeting began to pray – the majority in audible voice, but some in whispers. Nevertheless, the noise made by the concourse was deafening.

“A feeling which I cannot describe took possession of me. Even now, forty-three years after these occurrences, the events of that never-to-be-forgotten night pass before my mind’s eye like a soul-stirring panorama. I feel again as I then felt, and cannot refrain from pushing my chair backwards and thanking the Lord fervently for his mighty deeds.

At that time Rev. A. Murray was minister of Worcester. He had preached that evening in the English language. When the service was over, an elder passed the door of the hall, heard the noise, peeped in, and then hastened to call Mr. Murray, returning presently with him. Mr. Murray came forward to the table where I knelt praying, touched me, and made me understand that he wanted me to rise. He then asked me what had happened. I related everything to him. He then walked down the hall for some distance and called out, as loudly as he could, People, silence! But the praying continued.

“In the meantime I too kneeled down again. It seemed to me that if the Lord was coming to bless us, I should not be upon my feet but on my knees. Mr. Murray then called again aloud, People I am your minister sent from God, silence! But there was no stopping the noise. No one heard him, but all continued praying and calling on God for mercy and pardon. Mr. Murray then returned to me, and told me to start the hymn-verse commencing ‘Help de ziel die raadloos schreit’ (Aid the soul that helpless cries). I did so, but the emotions were not quieted, and the meeting went on praying. Mr. Murray then prepared to depart, saying, ‘God is a God of order, and here everything is confusion.’ With that, he left the hall.

“After that the prayer meetings were held every evening. At the commencement there was generally great silence, but after the second or third prayer the whole hall was moved as before, and everyone fell to praying. Sometimes the gathering continued to three in the morning. And even then, many wished to remain longer, or returning homewards, went singing through the streets. The little hall was soon quite too small, and we were compelled to move to the school building, which also was presently full to overflowing, as scores and hundreds of country-folk streamed into the village.

“On the first Saturday evening in the larger meeting-house, Mr. Murray was the leader. He read a portion of Scripture, made a few observations on it, engaged in prayer, and then gave others the opportunity to pray. During the prayer which followed on his, I heard attain the sound in the distance. I drew nearer and nearer, and suddenly the whole gathering was praying.

“That evening a stranger had been standing at the door from the commencement, watching the proceedings. Mr. Murray descended from the platform and moved up and down among the people, trying to quiet them. The stranger then tiptoed forwards from his position at the door, touched Mr. Murray gently, and said in English: ‘I think you are the minister of this congregation. Be careful what you do, for it is the Spirit of God that is at work here. I have just come from America, and this is precisely what I witnessed there’
(3)

Today Andrew Murray’s books are still read all over the world. I pray that this little book will serve to whet your appetite for another mighty move of God such as this.

How Hungry Are You For a Mighty Move of God?

This question is one we should all ask ourselves. Why? Because God is known to move among the hungry. The recipe for dead religion is complacency. Once we get into a religious rut we are in danger of spiritual death. This is why many Christians are stuck in a spiritual groove. The only difference between a groove and a grave is its depth. If we stay in a groove we are destined to wind up in the grave. Our seminaries then become cemeteries. Our tall church steeples then appear to be just the tallest tombstones among the ones surrounding them.

Thank you for being willing to read through this discussion about the revivals of the past. But let me just start by making something clear. I am not praying for a “good ol’ fashioned revival.” Why not? Because we are not living in the days of old. What we need to reach this generation will take much more than the revival of the past. We need a fresh move of God. We need what He is doing NOW.

We need something that will totally devastate the modern evils of our day. Sexual perversion, the occult, greed and other sinful practices are so strong in our day. God will just have to grant us a greater revival than our faithful spiritual forerunners had!

However, the God of the past is the same God of the now. And by studying what He has done in the past, we discover nuggets of spiritual truth and clues of what He may do now.

The Difference Between Revival and Awakening

Many people talk about these two concepts as if they are one and the same thing. Even though they are obviously very closely related, and even though I will use the terms interchangeably myself, it is important to segregate the two concepts. They are not watertight. They complement one another. They are an integral part of one another. I am aware that it is probably only a matter of semantics, but in order to distinguish between the supernatural influence of the Spirit on the church and the world, I will be using the word revival when I refer to the renewal in the church, and the word awakening when referring to the world. Basically, revival is what happens to the Church. A Great Awakening is what happens to the world.

Revival:

Oh, how the Church needs revival! We can be so dead. We can be in church every Sunday and still act as if God does not exist. Many of our services are void of the life-giving power of the Holy Spirit. We can become so accustomed to a lack of the reality of Him that we think the status quo is like it is supposed to be.

Someone said that if the Holy Spirit would be taken away from the Church today, most churches would still survive—because they can do their religious show without Him. They know how to sing “three hymns and a her.” They know how to dress someone up like mother and call him father. They know how to clap off beat and preach back to the preacher. They know how to say “Come on now” and “Preach it to me” at the right moments. A good orator who can eloquently preach three points and a poem and whip up a crowd into frenzy is considered an anointed man of God.

Not all I’m saying here is wrong. In fact, I personally enjoy high powered spirited meetings myself. But what I am saying is we can have a form of godliness without the power. It’s like a glass with no water. It’s like an electrical socket without electricity.

We definitely need a white-hot Holy Ghost experience with God. I cannot figure out why anybody would have a problem with someone advocating an experience with God. We are so wary of emotion that we label all experience as emotion. People forget that the soul is the seat of the will, the intellect and the emotions of man. To be unemotional is just as much error as ignorance.

But what I am talking about is totally different. I’m talking about an experience—an encounter with God. It is when one collides with the real power of the world to come.

Awakening:

Many of us think that revival is an end in itself. But it is not. God's glory is not there to make you glow in the dark. It is there to pierce the darkness. Once revival hits the churches it has an impact upon the community. There is a reason that church historians have called this phenomenon a "Great Awakening."

It is like someone who has been asleep. He has no clue what is going on around him. He is still in his pajamas. His hair looks like it had been worked on for hours by a punk hair dresser. Drool is running from the side of his mouth. His breath smells like a rat. But suddenly someone wakes him up. "Your girlfriend Sally is here!" Once he is awake, he realizes his surroundings. He realizes how he is dressed. And he makes changes and comes out as slick and handsome as Elvis himself.

In the same way I think it's safe to say that most people don't have the slightest fear of God. The world around us is asleep and oblivious when it comes to reality of God. When Heidi and I go preaching at different towns in America and the world, we see people roller-skating, jogging with their iPod's headphones seemingly fixed permanently to their ears, towing their expensive boats somewhere. Many folks are still in bed with a hangover from the previous night's orgies.

People sodomize, womanize, cuss, steal and cheat. It is socially acceptable to live this way. All this is sad, but what is even sadder is the fact that no one is aware of God. Their consciences seem to have been seared. They live with their minds made up that any god is okay. They find some form of satisfaction in their New Age religion. They have a smart answer for everything about Christianity. Christianity is supposed to be to blame for every second war in the world and more.

But something is happening in our churches! And it's not going to remain in our churches only! It's spilling over into our communities. This God-forsaking world is becoming awakened to the reality of God's presence!

"And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst..." (John 8:9.)

"Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on me..." (John 16:7-9.)

In the following chapters we are going to explore some of these amazing accounts of some of the great awakenings of the past. We will start our journey by visiting what is commonly known as the "First Great Awakening."

Past Moves of God

History is rich with tales of great revivals and awakenings. Two very well known ones were the First Great Awakening of 1735 and the Second Great Awakening of 1857.

I will freely make reference to other ministers and ministries, and quote from various sources. As great as these instruments that God chose to use in these mighty moves of God may be, let us remember that just like us, they too are but normal humans just like us, and if God could use them, He can use us also. We honor their ministries, but need to always keep our eyes on Jesus, and not on imperfect man.

Some would say that we shouldn't focus on the past moves of God too much. Of course I would agree that if we remain stuck in the past we will never experience what God wants to do in the present. But I do believe that we can learn valuable lessons from the past moves of God, be inspired by them, and then let our faith loose for a fresh move of God—unequaled by anything history had ever seen before! Let's have a closer look at what God hath wrought...

The First Great Awakening 1735:

Jonathan Edwards

Rev. Jonathan Edwards became totally disgusted with the cold and lukewarm attitude of New England toward God. And for eight years he prayed. Then SUDDENLY the fire from heaven fell—not only on his congregation, but also upon the community. Church history reveals that he preached a message entitled “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God.” The conviction of the Spirit of God was so strong during this meeting that people literally held on to the pillars of the church in a strange fear that they would slip and fall into hell. Here is a quote from one that studied this powerful event, now commonly known as the “First Great Awakening.”

“For a time Northampton was literally filled with the presence of God.... The fire spread thus from town to town and from county to county. It spread not only throughout New England; it passed also to other lands...” (1)

What I want you to notice is that a supernatural power invaded the geographical location. Even though preaching was done, it was not the preaching alone that got the job done. It was when the MANIFEST PRESENCE OF GOD became so incredibly evident, that even the God-forsaken community became impacted with it.

David Brainerd

David Brainerd started ministering at the age of 25. He died at age 29. Yet his four

years of ministry did more to change a community than most do in a lifetime. And the only reason for this is because of the unusual move of the Spirit of God. David Brainerd was the son-in-law of Jonathan Edwards (whom we just discussed). He had a passion in his soul for the salvation of the Native Americans in the New England colonies. However, all his labor did not produce any real fruit of salvation. At times he even had to preach with a drunken translator. I know what that is like, because in one area in Central Africa where we have preached, the only person who could translate into English for me was drunk. I am thankful he helped us out though. He translated for me and we got the job done! My anointing was the “new wine” and the new wine was stronger than the old!

The hearts of the Indians were hard. This made David pray even harder. He would spend hours and days in the woods praying and basking in the power of the Lord. His body began to show signs of shutting down under the stress of his prayers and travel. He was devoted to the cause of the souls of the Indians. One day, as he went on another ministry preaching tour by horseback, a sudden burden for prayer came upon him. A witness said that David Brainerd felt this burden so strongly that he immediately got off his horse and began to pray. After a few minutes the snow around him was drenched with the blood coming from his lungs.

While he was praying, something supernatural happened. The snow around him began to melt under the fervency of his prayer. He finally managed to get back on his horse and head for the Indian village. This time something was different. When he entered the village, the place was under the conviction of the Holy Spirit. Hardened men grabbed the bridle of his horse and asked what they had to do to be saved. Usually David’s audience consisted of a few women and children. But now the whole village was awakened. The atmosphere was filled with sobs and cries of repentance. It was a supernatural move of God. Thousands found peace in Jesus that day.

John Wesley & George Whitefield

I have the privilege to be living and writing this book in an area that was specifically impacted by revival in the past: The Delaware, Maryland and Virginia Eastern Shore Peninsula, also known as “Delmarva.” Just a few miles from here, in the town of Lewes, Delaware an Anglican clergyman stepped on shore many years ago. His name was George Whitefield.

George was a convert and a follower of John Wesley’s Methodism in England. Once he arrived in Lewes DE in America he was asked to speak in the local Anglican Church. The power of the Word of God from this man’s soul made such an impact upon the community that they had to vacate the church. A balcony became his pulpit. Two thousand people thronged the streets to hear this man with the “golden voice.” Benjamin Franklin calculated that 30,000 people could hear George’s voice clearly. But it was more than his voice that impacted the city. It was the MANIFESTED PRESENCE OF GOD!

At times hundreds of people literally fell out under the power of God. It was an unusual phenomenon. When they regained consciousness they were changed people. They did not want to follow the ways of the world. They wanted to do the will of God.

“And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the Lord, so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud: for the glory of the Lord had filled the house of the Lord” (1 Kings 8:10-11, KJV.)

George Whitefield was once confronted by John Wesley for allowing unruly manifestations, he replied that “If you try to stamp out the wildfire and remove what is false, you will equally and simultaneously remove what is real” (1) George Whitefield had been in the Holy Place—God’s Presence. And the Presence he carried with him impacted the community he interacted with.

It was estimated that 25,000 to 50,000 souls received salvation during this move of God. That is one-seventh of the then population of 340,000. Today there are more than 310,000,000 people in the USA (2008 figures.) One seventh of that is 44,285,714. Can you imagine that happening in America today? Such an awakening is possible. We will now continue our journey by exploring the “Second Great Awakening.” The Second Great Awakening was even more phenomenal than the First.

The Second Great Awakening 1857:

Charles Finney

Charles was a lawyer who was converted to Christ, and then became a preacher. He turned the world upside down, or right side up. But it wasn’t really Charles Finney’s talent, wit and intellect that did it. It was the supernatural work of God. Mr. Finney had an EXPERIENCE with God. Here is his story in his own words:

“I rushed into the room back of the front office, to pray. There was no fire, and no light, in the room; nevertheless it appeared to me as if it were perfectly light. As I went in and shut the door after me, it seemed as if I met the Lord Jesus Christ face to face. It seemed to me that I saw him as I would see any other man. He said nothing, but looked at me in such a manner as to break me right down at his feet. It seemed to me a reality, that he stood before me, and I fell down at his feet and poured out my soul to him. I wept aloud like a child, and made such confessions as I could with my choked utterance. It seemed to me that I bathed his feet with my tears; and yet I had no distinct impression that I touched him.

“As I turned and was about to take a seat by the fire, I received a mighty baptism of the Holy Ghost. Without any expectation of it, without ever having the thought in my mind that there was any such thing for me, without any recollection that I had ever heard the thing mentioned by any person in the world, the Holy Spirit descended upon me in a manner that seemed to go through me, body and soul.

“I could feel the impression, like a wave of electricity, going through and through me. Indeed it seemed to come in waves and waves of liquid love; for I could not express it in any other way. It seemed like the very breath of God. I can recollect distinctly that it seemed to fan me, like immense wings.

“No words can express the wonderful love that was shed abroad in my heart. I wept aloud with joy and love; and I do not know but I should say, I literally bellowed out the unutterable gushings of my heart. These waves came over me, and over me, and over me, one after the other, until I recollect I cried out, ‘I shall die if these waves continue to pass over me.’ I said, ‘Lord, I cannot bear any more’; yet I had no fear of death.” (1)

It is evident that Charles Finney had a very real experience with the manifest power of God. And what God did TO him, He started also doing through him. He started preaching from town to town. One day in New York the people were so touched by God’s awakening power that Mr. Finney says:

“I had not spoken to them more than a quarter of an hour, when all at once an awful solemnity seemed to settle down upon them; the congregation began to fall from their seats in every direction, and cried for mercy. If I had had a sword in each hand, I could not have cut them off their seats as fast as they fell. Indeed nearly the whole congregation were either on their knees or prostrate, I should think, in less than two minutes from this first shock that fell upon them. Every one prayed for himself, who was able to speak at all... . My heart was so overflowing with joy at such a scene that I could hardly contain myself. It was with much difficulty that I refrained from shouting, and giving glory to God.” (2)

In Utica, New York the power of God pervaded the place in an awesome way. No one seemed to be able to escape that manifest Presence of God. Says Mr. Finney:

“The place became filled with the manifest influence of the Holy Spirit...That hotel became a centre of spiritual influence, and many were converted there. The stages, as they passed through, stopped at the hotel; and so powerful was the impression in the community, that I heard of several cases of persons that just stopped for a meal, or to spend a night, being powerfully convicted and converted before they left the town. Indeed, both in this place and in Rome (NY) it was a common remark that nobody could be in the town, or pass through it without being aware of the presence of God; that a divine influence seemed to pervade the place, and the whole atmosphere to be instinct with a divine life.” (3)

The following story captured my imagination when I read it as a teenager in the outback of South Africa. I have this event memorized because of preaching about it so many times. (You can read Finney’s own account hereafter.) Mr. Finney went to a factory. All he wanted to do was to see the place. Everyone was busy with their chores. Then he noticed someone with a trifling spirit look at him and talk to a bystander as if they knew him. He knew none of them. All he sensed was their danger. He didn’t go up and preach to them. He just looked at them under the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

One girl became very agitated and broke a thread. She then wanted to mend it but

started shaking all over. Finally she collapsed to her knees and started to cry out to God for mercy. Then suddenly the one next to her got it and also cried out to God for mercy. The impression spread through the whole factory without Charles Finney even saying a word!

Eventually the manager came in and saw what had happened. He said that it was more important for those souls to be saved than for the mill to continue working. They drove all the mules out of their room, and only then did Charles Finney get the opportunity to speak.

God had awakened the world out of their hypnotic sinful state. Here is the story in Charles' own words:

"I once preached, for the first time, in a manufacturing village. The next morning I went into a manufacturing establishment to view its operations. As I passed into the weaving department I beheld a great company of young women, some of whom, I observed, were looking at me, and then at each other, in a manner that indicated a trifling spirit, and that they knew me. I, however, knew none of them.

"As I approached nearer to those who had recognized me they seemed to increase in their manifestations of lightness of mind. Their levity made a peculiar impression upon me; I felt it to my very heart. I stopped short and looked at them, I know not how, as my whole mind was absorbed with the sense of their guilt and danger. As I settled my countenance upon them I observed that one of them became very much agitated. A thread broke. She attempted to mend it; but her hands trembled in such a manner that she could not do it.

"I immediately observed that the sensation was spreading, and had become universal among that class of triflers. I looked steadily at them until one after another gave up and paid no more attention to their looms. They fell on their knees, and the influence spread throughout the whole room. I had not spoken a word; and the noise of the looms would have prevented my being heard if I had. In a few minutes all work was abandoned, and tears and lamentations filled the room.

"At this moment the owner of the factory, who was himself an unconverted man, came in, accompanied, I believe, by the superintendent, who was a professed Christian. When the owner saw the state of things he said to the superintendent, "Stop the mill." What he saw seemed to pierce him to the heart.

"It is more important," he hurriedly remarked, "that these souls should be saved than that this mill should run." As soon as the noise of the machinery had ceased, the owner inquired: "What shall we do? We must have a place to meet, where we can receive instruction." The superintendent replied: "The mule room will do." The mules were run up out of the way, and all of the hands were notified and assembled in that room. We had a marvelous meeting. I prayed with them, and gave them such instructions as at the time they could bear. The word was with power. Many expressed hope that day; and within a few days, as I was informed, nearly every hand in that great establishment, together with the owner, had hope in Christ." (4)

Soon the fire of God hit the lumber region. By now the revival and awakening had spread eighty miles. Noonday prayer meetings hit New York and Philadelphia. It later

reached from Omaha to Boston—it was called a prayer meeting 2,000 miles wide. Finney reports:

“The divine fire appeared in the most unlikely quarters... Nor was the blessing confined to the land. The Spirit of God moved upon the face of the water, and a multitude of seamen saw a great light. It was as if a vast cloud of blessings hovered over the land and sea. And ships, as they drew near the American ports, came within the zone of the heavenly influence. Ship after ship arrived with the same tale of sudden conviction and conversion. It was wonderful beyond words! In one ship a captain and the entire crew of thirty men found Christ out at sea and entered the harbor rejoicing.” (5)

For a period of six to eight weeks, at the height of the revival, 50,000 people were converted per week. A conservative estimate of the overall sum of converts has it at 500,000! (Estimates range between 300,000 and 1,000,000.)

The Unicoi Mountain Revival 1896

Three laymen, Billy Martin, Joe Tipton and Milt McNabb claimed that they had supernaturally experienced “sanctification”— and were so eager about the subject that these three evangelists wanted the whole world to know about it. They preached about it everywhere they could. They met with another enthusiastic group of believers who congregated in Camp Creek in the mountains that served as a border between North Carolina and Tennessee. Suddenly the Presence of God fell—not only upon the Shearer School House where they were meeting, but upon the whole community. Several classical Pentecostal churches have since sprung from this revival, like the Church of God (Cleveland TN) and the Church of God of Prophecy, etc.

“Spiritually deprived souls crowded into the plain frame building each night, coming in unbelievable numbers from farms tucked far away in the valleys or on the mountainsides. The distances from which the people came would not seem too far today, but fifteen, twenty, or thirty miles is as a long distance when it is made on foot over steep terrain or in buggies, wagons, and oxcarts over twisting, rutted trails and along dry creek beds.

“Still the people came. Almost from the outset, the schoolhouse was too small for those who came, but quickly the crowds became throngs that spilled out over the slopes trying to hear and see. They came from everywhere to learn about this new doctrine of holiness— even though it was not really new but only an old belief being reasserted after years of neglect by the spiritual followers of Wesley. The people were hungry for the pure and simple faith preached by these untutored men who knew no complex theology and whose logic began and ended with ‘Thus saith the Lord.’” (1)

Just as suddenly as this holiness revival began, the first noteworthy recurrence of the Pentecostal practice of praise to God in a celestial language took place. This glorious ecstasy would later be dubbed as the “baptism in the Holy Ghost.” The experience was vehemently opposed. Believers were not only ridiculed; but now they were also shot at, their churches burnt, and they became subject to all forms of violence. But they had experienced God, and there was no turning back.

The Irish Revival of 1859

When a revival and awakening visited Ireland in 1859, it initially produced conversions “of a comparatively quiet type.” The conversions were not sensational and very real and sincere. As the revival gained momentum, there was “a great smiting down” as men and women “fell to the earth and continued for days in a state of utter prostration. Others were suddenly pierced as by a sharp sword, and their agonized cry for help was heard in the streets and in the fields.” (1)

Again, an “aweful Presence” would envelop sinners and convict them. Children at school became so troubled regarding sin in their life that they had to be dismissed to go home and find peace with God. The revival was so evident even in the notorious districts, so that “Belfast became like a city of God.” (2)

There is something about real revival that when it happens, even the so-called conservative elements melt before its fire. When a certain professor Gibson was asked about the so-called excesses and extravagancies, he asked “Who at such a time would criticize or grudge to these new-gathered souls the overflowing fullness of their joy?” (3)

Multitudes gathered on the banks for the river Bann—so many that they had to split them into about eight different groups, each addressed by a different minister. One minister said “I never saw before, in any audience, the same searching, earnest, riveted look fixed upon my face, as strained up to me from almost every eye in that hushed and apparently awe-struck multitude. I remember, even whilst I was speaking, asking myself, ‘How is this? Why is this?’ As yet, however, the people stood motionless, and perfectly silent.” This was followed by spontaneous cries all over the vast multitude—some of them physically prostrate under the convicting power of the Holy Spirit.

The convicting power of God so spread throughout Ireland that no one was safe—they could not even hide from it within their own homes. For example, “An elderly woman, the mother of a family, who had been a careless, cursing creature, and one greatly opposed to the revival, was suddenly and violently prostrated on her own kitchen floor. When I first saw her she was rolling on the ground and writhing with agony...The bystanders were overawed; all felt that influences more than human were at work. A medical man was sent for, but he fled at the sight, declaring that it was a case for a cleryman, and not for a physician....For days she continued weak in body and distressed in soul. But at length the light broke, her bonds were loosed, she saw and embraced Christ, obtained peace, and was filled with a joy unspeakable and full of glory.” (4)

An owner of the largest saloons became so convicted that after his conversion, he disposed of “every puncheon of whiskey, and barrel of beer and ale, every bottle and glass” and replaced them with groceries by the next morning. One can only imagine the look on the face of a regular customer who came into the store that day, for his customary glass: “He opens his eyes, and stares and wonders. And still his wonder grows when he steps out of the shop and finds that the sign-board is gone. ‘Tis strange, passing strange! Either God or the devil is here. Some say, ‘He is gone mad like the rest. He has been

bewitched; he has taken the revival’” (5)

It is estimated that in Ulster alone more than 100,000 were brought under its gracious influence. If God could do such a glorious work in Ireland, can he not do so again today—not only all over the world, but also in that great country in modern times?

The Welch Revival 1904

Some believe that there is no other example in either Biblical or church history in which a region was so quickly or radically transformed for righteousness, or the world so impacted, as happened during this revival. (1)

I think that perhaps God gave the world the Welsh Revival to serve as a prototype of what He wills to do in the end times before the second coming of our Lord Jesus. Evan Roberts was the central human figure during this awakening. Some say it was because he prayed so much that revival broke out in Wales. Others say that even he was a mere product of the revival. I think both are correct. There are also hosts of unsung heroes that paved the way for revival long before Evan Roberts came along.

His first encounter with God was when he was only thirteen years of age. He introduced a phrase that has again surfaced in modern times: WWJD: “What would Jesus do?”

Not too many really took much notice this shy, slender, young mine worker. But God noticed him in the bowels of the earth. He always carried his Bible with him and was prone to prayer. Evan and a friend prayed for God to baptize them with the Holy Spirit. Hundreds of hours were spent in private prayer and communion with God. And every prayer was a step closer to destiny.

The Spirit of God came upon him one day. It boomed through his spirit: “You have to be bent!” And that became his heart cry, “Lord, bend me!” And God bent him. God broke him. Not with some tragedy, but the Holy Spirit was preparing him to be broken and humble and to realize his nothingness before the mighty power of God.

After spending a short time at a Bible College, he returned to his hometown by the direction of God. He saw a vision of an arm outstretched towards Wales. And within his spirit a supernatural knowledge was birthed: God was going to send Wales a revival.

Evan obtained permission to conduct revival meetings in a small little church. No one expected what was about to happen. These small meetings grew into a major revival that lasted for the next two weeks. It then spread like wild fire across the country of Wales. Something strange began to happen. Many of the attendees either started crying or laughing because of the bubbling up of the Spirit of God within them. The revival seemed to have no strict format. There were no choirs. They didn’t even take offerings. They never sang out of hymnals. They did not have a revival committee. They didn’t even advertise. (That doesn’t mean that if we mechanically follow the same format we would have the same results. But we do need to have the same kind of hunger for a move of God.)

Sometimes Evan didn’t even preach. Sometimes nothing seemed to be happening, but the meetings were charged with the tangible presence of God. At times Evan would sit on the front row of the church for three hours—not saying a word, or doing anything. If this happened during a time of no revival, he would probably be the only one still in the

church. And the church caretaker probably would have asked him to leave so that he could lock the building.

But fellow worshipers sat there with him. Some sang spontaneous songs or testified about something God did for them. And then it would happen again. The place would explode with the manifest presence of God and manifestations associated with his anointing: laughter, prayer, crying, repentance, brokenness....

When Evan did preach, he at times focused on the four points God gave him: (1) Confess every sin you know about, (2) introspect your soul for anything that might be doubtful, or a secret sin (3) confess the Lord Jesus Christ openly (4) obey the Holy Spirit 100% (2)

The secular media of the day reported under the headlines “Great crowds of people drawn to Loughor:”

“Congregations stay till half-past-two in the morning. A remarkable religious revival is now taking place at Loughor. For some days a young man named Evan Roberts, a native of Loughor, has been causing great surprise at Moriah Chapel.

“The place has been besieged by dense crowds of people unable to obtain admission. Such excitement has prevailed that the road on which the chapel is situated has been lined with people from end to end. Roberts, who speaks in Welsh, opens his discourse by saying that he does not know what he is going to say but that when he is in communion with the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit will speak, and he will simply be a medium of His wisdom.

The preacher soon launches out into a fervent and, at times, impassioned oration. His statements have had stirring effects upon his listeners. Many who have disbelieved Christianity for years are again returning to the fold of the younger days.

“One night, so great was the enthusiasm invoked by the young revivalist that, after his sermon which lasted two hours, the vast congregation remained praying and singing until two-thirty in the morning! Shopkeepers are closing early in order to get a place into the chapel, and tin and steel workers throng the place in their working clothes.”(3)

Evan then preached in Aberdare and prophesied that the revival was going to hit the whole country. He began carrying the revival torch to every city where he preached.

It was said that everywhere he went spontaneous prayer meetings would start: in mines, factories, schools, shops; and everywhere one went a “holy awe” seemed to be evident. An eyewitness of this revival made these remarks:

“Then a young man arose, and with rapt upraised face prayed as though he were in the presence of the Almighty. The entire atmosphere of the room was white-hot with spiritual emotion, and my chief thought was: This is a picture of what must have occurred in the early church in the first century of the Christian era. A hymn was now started, and my attention was riveted on Evan Roberts, who stood in the pulpit and led the music with face irradiated with joy, smiles and even laughter. What impressed me most was his utter naturalness, his entire absence of solemnity. He seemed just bubbling over with sheer

happiness, just as jubilant as a young man at a baseball game.” (4)

“A sense of the Lord’s presence was everywhere. It pervaded, nay, it created the spiritual atmosphere. It mattered not where one went the consciousness of the reality and nearness of God followed. Felt of course, in the Revival gatherings, it was by no means confined to them; it was also felt in the homes, on the streets, in the mines and factories, in the schools, yea, and even in the theaters and drinking-saloons.

“The strange result was that wherever people gathered became a place of awe, and places of amusement and carousal were practically emptied. Many were the instances of men entering public-houses, ordering drinks, and then turning on their heels leaving them on the counters untouched. The sense of the Lord’s presence was such as practically to paralyze the arm that would raise the cup to the lips.” (5) Imagine that!

Even the secular press such as the Evening Express released a Revival Edition, which reported on the revival. Sales of the newspaper soared.

It seems unbelievable, but it really happened: even soccer teams disbanded and the stadiums were left empty because of lack of interest. Revival became the interest of the day. At the time of the revival, soccer was the obsession of the people. But God’s presence changed that. As a South African I know how popular Rugby is. The first time I took my wife Heidi to South Africa the French were playing against the South Africans. It was as if suddenly, at four-thirty p.m., people just evaporated from the streets. Every bar and club was filled with Rugby enthusiasts.

The Welch people were no less obsessed with soccer. Yet the revival became more popular than sport. Can you imagine the Super Bowl being canceled by virtue of revival?

Whole communities came under what also has been termed “the spell of God.”

The Azusa Street Revival 1906

Ten years later a part-time African-American preacher became stirred as he was listening to Rev. Charles Parham preaching about holiness and the initial sign of the baptism in the Holy Ghost. Though some have labeled Parham as the father of the Pentecostal revival and William J Seymour its catalyst, I think that it may not be appropriate to label them as such. A modern Pentecostal experience had already happened at the Shearer School house in the Unicoi mountains in 1896—ten years prior to the 1906 Azusa Street outpouring. The Pentecostal experience is not the brain child of a mortal—it is a work of God Himself. However, we may give credit to these humble servants of God who were powerful instruments in the hands of their Master. I love the way Dr. John G. Lake describes Seymour's passion for more of God in one of the sermons Lake preached in the early 1900's:

“Later Brother Parham was preaching in Texas. A colored man came into his meeting by the name of Seymour. In a hotel in Chicago he related his experience to Brother Tom and myself. I want you to see the hunger in that colored man's soul. He said he was a waiter in a restaurant and preaching to a church of colored people. He knew God as Savior, and as the Sanctifier.

“He knew the power of God to heal. But as he listened to Parham he became convinced of a bigger thing, the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. He went on to Los Angeles without receiving it, but he said he was determined to preach all of God he knew to the people. He said,

“Brother, before I met Parham, such a hunger to have more of God was in my heart that I prayed for five hours a day for two and a half years. I got to Los Angeles, and when I got there the hunger was not less but more. I prayed, ‘God, what can I do?’ And the Spirit said, ‘Pray more. But Lord, I am praying five hours a day now.’ I increased my hours of prayer to seven, and prayed on for a year and a half more.

“I prayed God to give me what Parham preached, the real Holy Ghost and fire with tongues and love and power of God like the apostles had.” There are better things to be had in spiritual life but they must be sought out with faith and prayer.

“I want to tell you God Almighty had put such a hunger in that Negro's heart that when the fire of God came it glorified him. I do not believe that any other man in modern times had a more wonderful deluge of God in his life than God gave to that dear fellow. Brother Seymour preached to my congregation, to ten thousand people, when the glory and power of God was upon this spirit, when men shook and trembled and cried to God. God was in him.”(1)

His little mission located on 312 Azusa Street, Los Angeles, California became the scene of the modern outpouring of the Holy Spirit just like in Acts 2 and in the Unicoi Mountains. But this time it spread like wildfire all over the world to where currently there are more than 550 million Pentecostal/Charismatic believers around the world. According

to Vinson Synan of the Regent University, 25% of Christians back in 1998 already were Pentecostal/Charismatic, and according to missions' expert David Barrett, the movement continues to grow at a pace of 19 million adherents per year! (2) It is said to be the fastest growing religious movement in the world—growing faster than Mormonism, Watchtower and Islam, and if it had been single church denomination, it would be the second largest in the world. (The Roman Catholic Church is the largest.)

Even though many denominations have sprung forth from this visitation of God, the experience was not restricted to a single denomination. People from across the vast spectrum of churches have come under the glory of the Latter Rain.

The reason for this Latter Rain is to ripen the harvest so that we can now reap it before the soon return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

When reading about the Great Awakenings of the 1700's, 1800's & 1900's it might seem so remote, since it feels so long ago. However, God blessed the world with a modern day Awakening not too long ago, called "the Hebrides Revival."

The Hebrides Revival 1952

It only happened a few years ago, but from 1949 until 1952, God visited this little island northwest of Scotland. In quality it may probably have been the greatest revival and awakening in history. When the dust settled, virtually every single individual of the population of 3,000 was serving God.

It started when a few souls met in a barn to pray. They were very much stirred by the terrible spiritual conditions of their island. They were quickened by 2 Chronicles 7:14: "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." To them this sounded like a covenant. A covenant is an agreement, or a deal. One agrees to do one thing, and the other party responds by doing the other. They determined that they were going to do their part of the deal. God would do the rest.

So for months they prayed three times a week from 10 p.m. often until 4 or 5 in the morning. One night they experienced a renewed dedication to God after they confessed their sin. Miles away God directed some praying older ladies that Duncan Campbell should conduct some special meetings and revival would come.

After a "normal" first special meeting about thirty people went to a house close by to pray. And then suddenly it happened. They all knew intuitively that the long awaited revival had become a reality.

"As they left that cottage that morning, they found men and women seeking God! Lights were burning, in the homes along the road— no one seemed to think of sleep. Three men were found lying by the roadside, in a torment of CONVICTION, crying for God to have mercy upon them!" (1)

When God's Presence supernaturally swept over the island over the course of the next three years, incredible things started to happen. For example, the Spirit fell upon men in a butcher's truck and they were all converted before they even came to the meetings. Six hundred people who were under conviction gathered at a police station and fell to their knees in repentance.

In a nearby town called Arnoll God's people earnestly prayed in a house until it literally "shook like a leaf" as God turned loose His mighty power! Dishes rattled upon the sideboard; an elder exclaimed: "An earth tremor?"

Wave after wave of Divine power swept throughout the room. Simultaneously the Spirit of God swept through the village. People could not sleep: Houses were lit all night. People wandered in the streets under great conviction. Other knelt at their bed sides calling on God to pardon their sin.

"Within 48 hours the drinking house, usually crowded with the drinking men of the

village, was closed...nearly every young person between the ages of 12 and 20 had surrendered to Christ, and it was reckoned that every young man between the ages of 18 and 35 could be found in the prayer meetings!” (2)

In Berneray: “...everywhere people came under great conviction of sin. Fishermen out in their boats, men behind their looms, men at the pit bank, a merchant out with his truck, school teachers examining their peers, were gripped by God and by 10 O’clock the roads were black with people, streaming from every direction to the church....

Many gripped each other in fear. In agony of soul they trembled, many wept and some fell to the ground in great conviction of sin. Three men were found lying by the side of the road, in such distress of soul that they could not even speak. Yet they had never been near the church...not an individual escaped fearful conviction...” (3)

Scriptural Support for Revival and a Great Awakening in the End Times

Myths

There are those who have questioned the Biblical validity to believe for such a move of God, especially in these “last and evil days.” Here are a few myths I would like to address:

MYTH # 1: “Such a move of God cannot happen because the Bible says only a few will be saved.”

The scripture for this statement is found in Luke 13:23-24: “Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them, Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.”

Some people have used these words to “prove” that only a few people can be saved, but we have to read this in context. Look at verse 26. It says, “Then shall ye begin to say, We have eaten and drunk in thy presence, and thou hast taught in our streets.”

It is very clear that Jesus was only making a specific reference to the generation which had actually eaten and drunk in His presence, and literally heard him teaching in their streets.

Every generation has a choice whether or not they will enter in at the strait gate and walk on the narrow way. That generation didn’t, but this generation still has a choice. Some are under the impression that they are the only ones who would be saved. But God loves the whole world, and He is “not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9.)

MYTH # 2: There is going to be a great apostasy, or a great falling away, in the end times. Surely no one can expect a mighty soul-saving revival in these days?

Let us first look at the scripture in 2 Thessalonians 2:3: “*Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition*” (KJV.)

The Greek word for “falling away” is *apostasia* or *apostasion* (see Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance, Greek word number 647). (1) It means “something separated” or “a divorce.” It describes to us the spirit of the end times. There is a great separation between the children of light and the children of darkness. The holy are becoming even more holy. The just are becoming even more just. The evil also are becoming more evil.

Revelation 22:11 describes it this way: *“He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still” (KJV.)*

Keep in mind that the word translated “still” is really the Greek word *eti* which means “to a greater degree.” So whatever we thought was “holy” will become even more intensified, polarized and separated from its evil counterpart “unholy.” People are not going to be lukewarm in the last days. They will be either hot or cold.

MYTH # 3: Most of God’s people’s love will wax cold.

“And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.” (Matthew 24:12, KJV)

This warning is applicable to every generation. God warns believers that the love of many that loved the Lord may become cold, but it doesn’t necessarily mean that would be the case with most of them. Those who love the Lord and keep on loving Him will experience an even more fervent love for Him than in the ever!

Each generation is faced with the challenges of sin. But we are also presented with the glorious choice of righteousness! Instead of choosing unrighteousness, let us choose an increased level of righteousness that is available for us. This is to be the church’s finest hour!

MYTH # 4: The End Times are marked with doom and gloom—not revival and evangelism.

Matthew 24 lists some signs of the times: *“False Christs, wars, rumours of wars, famines, pestilences, earthquakes and persecutions” (KJV.)*

These predictions are not only applicable to the first century, but continue to be applicable to our generation. Two days ago (at the time of this writing), the most devastating earthquake in history tore up Turkey with thousands upon thousands killed. But these signs are not THE sign just before the end.

Verse 14 states these defining words: *“...THEN the end shall come.”* When? Let’s look at the prophecy just before the word then so that we can see which phenomenon is the sign before the end.

“And this Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness to all nations: and then the end shall come” (KJV.) I want to shout Hallelujah, because the preaching of the gospel, resulting in the greatest influx of souls into the Kingdom of God will be the last and greatest sign before the second coming of Jesus.

The Latter Rain

James 5:7 says: *“Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain”* (KJV.)

The church had experience the early rain in the book of Acts. But now is the time of the latter rain. The difference between the early rain and the latter rain was that the early rain served to get the seeds germinated and sprouted. The latter rain was to get the crop ready for harvest. Well, the church was indeed germinated with a great outpouring of the Holy Spirit. It is in these end times we can expect the last and final latter-rain outpouring of the Holy Spirit. God is pouring out His rain upon the church and the world. There is a mighty harvest coming in. And then our God, the husbandman, will receive the fruit of the earth: the church of the last days.

“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord” (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, KJV.)

Jesus said “But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest” (Matthew 9:36-38.)

The Early Rain refers to the initial outpouring of the Holy Spirit during early church times. The early church was born in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:1-4 says: *“And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance”* (KJV.)

This initial experience with God, and the consequent early history of spiritual power that the primitive Church displayed was the early rain. It was the spiritual rain that germinated the seeds of the Church. Just as seeds would sprout in the Middle East after the early rain, the Early Church likewise sprouted up and grew by the supernatural power of God.

The book of Acts gives us an indication of that power that was present. The believers in the upper room were originally mocked because they appeared drunk. But they were not drunk, they were filled with the Holy Spirit, or the new wine (Acts 2:13.) The early church operated in great power. Look at a few examples: A lame man was spontaneously

healed after Peter and John invoked the Name of Jesus in prayer on his behalf (Acts 3.) The impure in motive Ananias and Sapphira were struck dead by God and great fear came upon the Church (Acts 5.) The sick and demon-possessed were laid in the street with the hopes that Peter's shadow might fall upon them after which their healing would occur (Acts 5.) Paul not only struck an enemy of the truth with blindness (Acts 13,) but made a lame man to walk (Acts 14:9.) And most importantly, history teaches us that the whole known world was reached with the Gospel within the first 150 years.

This supernatural element continued throughout church history in similar to what we witness in the book of Acts, but the power of God was largely diminished. Miracles and evangelism made way for theological debates. Worship was compromised with paganism. Religion and politics merged.

Later on an apostate church would fall into and go through the dark ages; but men like Huss, Luther and others would bring certain reform to the Church in the limited light they had. In 1886 a Baptist preacher, Richard Spurling, and his son R.G. Spurling would passionately preach a return to holiness and the precepts of the New Testament for ten years. And then something happened that could probably mark the beginning of the Latter Rain: The revivals of the late 1800's and early 1900's. It was to be found in the Unicoi Mountains of North Carolina and Tennessee in the South Eastern United States. Then it popped back up at the Azusa Street revival and all over the world, with impressive speed and spontaneity. I feel that this phenomenon has been indicative of the outpouring of the latter rain before the literal second coming of the Lord.

Some of my Personal Experiences in Evangelism, Revival & Awakening

In the next few pages I would like to share with you some of my own personal experiences. Obviously my experiences seem pale compared to the great revivals that have come and gone before us, but I hope that my few testimonies will encourage you to believe that God can use you too.

The Awakening in my High School

Because we lived so far out in the country, my parents and I agreed that I could stay at the boarding school for the last two years of high school. That way I could be involved with school activities such as sports on a regular basis. A friend and I started meeting in a room together to pray. A couple of other boys also joined at times. I also regularly went to a place where I could pray alone, and I liked to pray loud and unrestrained.

There was a place outside behind some buildings where we could pray. About five of us made what we called a “holy scrum.” That meant we huddled together in a circle and prayed.

We prayed for one of our friends who also wanted to be baptized in the Holy Spirit and praise God in a heavenly language. His desire was granted that very day, as he uttered his praise to God.

I noticed some of the student leaders walking by while we were praying. I think they were spooked when they heard these loud voices praying in other tongues. I was later called to the boarding school housefather’s office during the 9:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. study hours. Very fatherly and seriously he asked if I was one of the students who had been back behind the carpentry class building. I answered Yes. “And what were you doing there?” he asked. “We were praying meneer (i.e. sir)” I replied.

“And is it true that you were speaking in strange languages?” I replied, “Yes, sir.” Nodding his head he continued: “Okay, and is it true that at one time you were also throwing one of the boys up in the air?” Of course not! “No, we didn’t do that, sir.”

I was then told not to continue this. I told him that I would do what he had asked me. But I didn’t realize that I couldn’t stop the fire that had already started. Nor did I want to stop it. I just continued praying without inviting anyone else, but they came by themselves and we just prayed together again.

We prayed together much, and I believe that it was prayer that prepared the boarding school for a small-scale awakening. I made a decision that for a time I was going to lead at least two people to the Lord every day. My pastor gave me an evangelistic tool called “Evangelism Explosion.” It really came in handy. But I did not expect something like this would happen. It was as if the movement spread like fire. Converts would bring their friends to us for prayer. Within a week and a half 35% of our boarding school made a decision for Christ. That totaled about 70 souls! And what is even just as phenomenal is that half of them were baptized in the Holy Spirit.

I ran into one of them after many years and found him still to be serving the Lord. (Update: I have recently heard of another one of them who is now pastoring a growing church!)

When God's Conviction Invaded a New Year's Party

As a Holy-Ghost-filled teenager I had made a commitment that I would dance before my Lord and never dance to secular music. So what do you do when you live on a holiday resort on which folks drink and party, and it seems like the greatest thing to do? You go and commune with the Lord. I remember dancing before the Lord praying and praising God for hours in a room while the world was having their party.

In retrospect this sounds silly, but sometimes I would even climb onto the roof where the party was and praise the Lord under the beautiful vast African starry sky. I would also stretch down my hands to the party beneath my feet and ask God to save their souls. Sometimes I would go and talk to folks outside and lead them to Christ. One night about four people received Jesus as their Savior.

On another night I went inside the place. It was on January 1st and it was only about ten-thirty p.m. The atmosphere was one of partying. The music was loud. I remember the words of one song, "Baby makes her blue jeans talk... ." I sat there for ten minutes. I prayed for every person in the place under my breath. I prayed, "Lord, save _____ and take him out of here; and Lord, save _____ and take her out of here." There were about seventy people at the party and I prayed for everyone.

After ten minutes I went outside. Walking past the speaker I prayed, "I declare this dance an unsuccessful flop in Jesus' name!" With that I went outside and went to the swimming pool about a quarter mile from there.

After about ten minutes I came back to where the dance was. There was no music. I went inside. No one was there except five kids who were watching TV. Three older folks were drinking around a table. And the disc jockey was putting away his music gear.

I went up to him and asked him where everyone went. "Nobody wants to dance tonight," he said. I felt like exploding with joy on the inside. Something supernatural happened that night, and I was in the middle of it!

Preaching on the Streets

During the three years in which I attended full-time Bible Seminary starting in 1987, all I wanted to do was preach and pray for the sick. On many Saturdays I would go downtown and find the blind and the lame beggars and lay my hands on them in full public view and ask God to heal them. My pulpit and congregation was the corners of the streets of Pretoria—the beautiful capital of South Africa.

The first time I preached on the streets there, a newspaper man threw a crate at me. I was so pumped with adrenaline that I didn't realize he was hostile toward me. I just thankfully used his crate to stand upon and kept on preaching! When I did my part, my Bible school friends in turn mounted it and kept on preaching. Later the guy came and took back his crate. Very funny indeed!

One day while I was preaching on the streets in Pretoria, I heard someone shout at me, "Preach it, Brother." I turned and saw that the encouragement came from Nicky van der Westhuizen, South Africa's premier evangelist at the time, and a man whose ministry I had come to love since I was a kid.

I had even asked God that He would use me like he used Nicky, and even more if God allowed. When I saw him that day I was so encouraged. Here was a man whom God was using in such a powerful way with miracles, signs and wonders. I knew that as the end times grew closer and closer, God would pour out His Spirit to do even greater things than what Nicky had experienced.

The Spirit of Revival

I have an uncle who was mightily used by God—Evangelist John Hitchcock. His ministry, and others like him—such as Nicky van der Westhuizen and Reinhard Bonnke, would impart the Spirit of Revival in me.

As I listened to my Uncle John Hitchcock preach, I figured he was the most awesome preacher in the world. I remember the power and authority he displayed as he preached, prayed for the sick and cast out devils. I wanted to become a preacher just like him.

He had an awesome testimony. When he was three years old he was diagnosed with laryngitis, which left him with a stammering, stuttering tongue. He told me that he had only once met a man whose stutter was as bad as his was. He could not even say his name! At school he would try to talk in class, be ridiculed by his class mates and eventually run out of class crying. When he applied for a job in his twenties, his new boss said, “Good Morning, John.” They both climbed the stairs to the next level, before he finally was able to reply, “G-G-Good morning, Sir”

One day he heard Billy Graham preach on the radio and as he listened to George Beverly Shea sing, Uncle John gave his heart to Jesus and was born again. He immediately had a passion to share Jesus with the world, but due to his stutter he couldn't. But he did what he could. When his friends preached on the street corners, he would play the piano accordion to help draw a crowd.

Yet the desire to preach God's word continued to burn within him. One day he was seeking to be completely immersed into the power of the Holy Spirit, and it happened. He fluently spoke in a heavenly language and uttered praise to God switching between English and tongues. As he listened to himself speaking fluently, he thought, “Is this me? Is this the real me?” But to his disappointment his stutter returned later on. However, every time he sensed God's Spirit coming upon him, he would be fluent again.

One day God spoke to him and said, “As I was with Moses, so I will be with you.” He went to a street corner in Johannesburg, and slipped into a phone booth. He started praying until the power of God's Spirit descended upon him again. While feeling the Spirit on him, he quickly exited the phone booth and preached on that street corner

saying, “Cleanse your hands ye sinners...!” His words came forth perfectly fluent. This became his way of preaching for the rest of his life: Pray till the Spirit comes, then go preach. Later in his life he would hold big crusades in churches, halls and stadiums.

He also became a powerful in the prophetic ministry. He prophesied to another brother, that God would use him to usher in revival in South Africa. His name was Nicky van der Westhuizen.

Nicky eventually resigned from his healthy church to go into a season of fasting and prayer. Little did he know that he would be seeking God for nine more months. People that didn't even know him came and knocked on his door. They told him that they didn't know who he was, but that God had led them to his house. He then informed them that he

was praying for revival. After the nine months were up, he had fifty-three people who prayed with him for revival. They then went on a thirty-five-day fast and held meetings in an old 400-seater tent. By the end of the thirty-five days, the power of God was so strong that nine deaf people were healed without anyone even praying for them! They had to get a bigger tent and then started having meetings in a 1,000-seater tent. Within three months this also was too small. They started using a 2,000-seater tent that also became too small, and they then had to erect a huge tent that could seat more than 4,000. (When Morris Cerullo preached for him, they drew a crowd in excess of 5,000.)

Many years later Nicky also resigned from his new assembly so that he could travel freely as he held evangelistic outreaches. Kenneth Copeland helped him purchase the world's second largest tent that could seat 25,000 people. (Bonnke's was the largest.) I read that by the end of the crusade in Mabopane 35,000 people had thronged the tent. I was there during my Bible School years. It was awesome.

I'll never forget a newsletter I received from Nicky van der Westhuizen when I was only 13 years old. It encouraged the reader to set aside a day of fasting and prayer. I leaped onto the occasion. I fasted for the first time in my life, drinking water only. That night I asked the Lord if He really wanted me to become a preacher. And that night God spoke to me and said, "Yes, My son, I want you to become an evangelist." I have never considered any other career. This is all I can do and all I want to do.

I devoured Brother Nicky's tapes and videos and was struck with amazement at the great healing miracles, signs and wonders that accompanied his ministry.

Later in his life he made some wrong choices and his whole ministry collapsed. For about four years he went into obscurity, and after his repentance continued in ministry on a smaller scale. He felt lead to go on a 40-day fast, and on the fourth day of this fast I had the privilege to drive him to a ministry appointment. In the car he told me that he had repented from his "pride, arrogance and haughtiness." I was so blessed to hear this great man repent like that. He was so desirous to be used by God again.

He had asked God what he had to do to be used by Him again. God told him to fast forty days, pray six hours per day, and shave off all his hair as a covenant between him and God. He did that. He had lost so much and didn't even have a car to drive that day. This is a man that used to preach alongside great men of God like Reinhard Bonnke, and Benny Hinn—men who had also greatly impacted my ministry and shaped my teen-age development in the Lord. I felt honored to take him to minister at a senior center an hour and a half away.

When we arrived I realized he had gone all that way just to pray for one older lady. One thing about Nicky was that he always prayed expecting something to happen. He shared a scripture with her and encouraged her to believe God for a healing miracle. We then laid hands on her and he prayed a prayer of faith. He put his fingers on her eyes that were about 90% blind. Then he also put his fingers in her ears that were about 80% deaf. After prayer she was immediately healed of her deafness. She kept on saying how clearly she could hear. And then after five minutes she started saying how clear everything started to look around her. It was so evident that the Lord had touched and healed her.

The nurses who knew how bad her state of health had been were amazed and startled, and took him to other rooms to pray for other people. There was such a demand on the gift of healing. The next week he flew down to the Eastern Cape and drew a crowd of 7,000 and then another crowd of 14,000.

Other men like him also imparted the passion for revival in my heart. And many others like me have had that same passion imparted into them by the previous generation.

A year later Nicky died in a car accident. The brother who sat in the back of the vehicle and survived the crash told me that when Nicky and his wife saw the lights of the oncoming car, they grabbed each other's hands and shouted "Jesus!" With the Name of the Master on their lips they entered into eternity. I was saddened by some poor judgment on the part of Nicky at the prime of his life and ministry. I feel that we can still draw from the good. We can also learn from others' mistakes and not repeat them. It will be to our advantage to take seriously those chilling words from the Book of Proverbs, that "Pride cometh before the fall..." Revivalists should consistently and voluntarily humble ourselves before God.

I determined that I would especially give my wife Heidi and my children Anthony, Rebekah, Timothy and Trey first place after God. I believe that a strong marriage will in turn make for a strong ministry. A ministry can only be as strong as the marriage. If the marriage fails, the ministry fails. If a minister fails, we must react with much love. Correction and discipline is better than anger and condemnation. God is more than able to restore our fallen brothers and sisters—soldiers wounded in battle. However, by the grace of God the prudent revivalist will avoid the snares and pitfalls of the enemy.

Carrying a Cross and Proclaiming Christ

I felt lead to begin carrying a cross in different cities in South Africa. It would be a prophetic call to repentance and a visual reminder of what Jesus did for us. I carried the cross everywhere: on the streets and in shopping malls, and even in black townships that were considered very dangerous for white people. But I loved my black brothers and sisters in the Lord and a passion for evangelism drove me on. TL Osborn said “Christ’s passion drove Him to the cross. Our passion drives us to the lost.”

I had preached my first message when I was twelve. It was to about one hundred people on the holiday resort. I also had preached to the trees and birds every Sunday afternoon. I still have one of the tapes I recorded. At age sixteen I started to do cross-cultural preaching. I preached to the black workers on the holiday resort.

So it wasn’t strange for me to go into black townships. Because of widespread communist intimidation, I knew it was dangerous; but I felt willing to die for the Lord. I had seen graphic video footage of people burning to death with the consent of the leaders. One day God did something I will never forget as long as I live.

I went deep into a township to find a good place to start carrying my cross and testify about Jesus. (Just before this I had also gone into another township and met about 200 saints marching on the streets advertising a crusade by Evangelist Ralekholela. They put me in the front, and the Lord blessed. Thousands came to the tent crusade and were healed and saved.)

But this time there was no crowd of Christians. It was May 1st, and in South Africa it was considered a communist day of celebration. I finally arrived in an area where there were a lot of people. When I stopped there I realized it was a communist rally. I felt like leaving town immediately! But something made me go in there. I was the only white person among thousands of black folks. I have always felt comfortable preaching to my black brothers and sisters by candlelight in their little abodes; but now I was among communists, and I was not comfortable. Their flags were proudly displayed. Their music was beautiful as they sang about the revolution. A man took me to where the VIPs sat. That was much safer, he said. Otherwise, the youth could “tear you to pieces,” he explained.

One by one well known speakers spoke. Much of what they said was very racist. “The black soldiers are going to drive the white soldiers away, and their children will bathe in their father’s blood!” I felt very intimidated as I sat there listening to this kind of rhetoric. Eventually it was the main speaker’s turn to speak. I recognized him because I had seen him on national television many times. His message was not filled with racism and inflammatory speech as the others.

Before he left, I went up to him and commended him for some of the good things he said. I also said to him, “Remember to tell the people that Jesus is the only way to get to God, and only He is the One Who can give South Africa social justice.” He nodded his

head. Little did I know that he would be elected to be South Africa's president eight years later: President Thabo Mbeki. After he left, I thought it would probably be wise to leave before the crowd dispersed. But when I arrived back at my vehicle, I put on my sackcloth and started carrying the cross around the stadium.

Someone noticed me and came to enquire what I was doing. I told him that I was telling people about Jesus and that He is the only one by whom we can be saved. He took me to another person. They talked in their language and took me to another. Finally I was standing with my cross at the entrance where the soccer team normally runs onto the field. The man next to me said, "You are going to speak for us." I tried to act normal, but my heart was beating hard. Then I heard the announcement: "We have our white comrade to speak for us today!" Maybe someone thought I was a liberation theologian or something.

I walked up there with shaky knees. I handed my cross over to the moderator of the meeting, and he handed me his microphone. My first words were stuttered out and I tried to use some humor to break the ice. And then I became serious, and as I talked I sensed the anointing of the Holy Spirit and as best as I can remember, said this:

"The French revolution was about to spill over into England many years ago. But there was a man named John Wesley who preached behind his father's tombstone. Many people came to hear him there in the cemetery. His message was that in his country it was going to be either REVIVAL or REVOLUTION. He chose Revival, and God brought revival to England.

"And today I am also choosing for Revival. And I am choosing JESUS CHRIST, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD, THE ALPHA AND OMEGA, THE BEGINNING AND THE END, THE ONE WHO WAS AND WHO IS AND WHO IS TO COME, and THE ETERNAL GOD OF GLORY. HALLELUJAH!"

I still remember the mighty power of God surging through my body and soul. When I said "Hallelujah!" all the people cheered and responded with a roaring "Hallelujah!" And I felt like I was right at home in a good old Camp Meeting. I led them in one of the many Christian songs in their language which I had learned through the years preaching to the workers at home. When I exited the stadium, people were shaking my hand, wanting my address, thanking me for preaching to them the "good words of the Lord." I felt so safe, and the atmosphere was filled with the peace of God. I knew that the devil had suffered a blow that day.

God calls me to Revival in the USA

In October 1994 the Lord spoke to me to go to America. In obedience, I went to America without knowing any details. All I knew was that the Lord had sent me, and that I was going to obey Him. I had obeyed Him before by going on missionary journeys to twenty-five countries by the time I was twenty-five years old and all worked out fine because He who sent me was with me. It would be on this trip that I would meet my future wife Heidi for the first time. (Heidi and I had been pen pals for three years and three months.) When I saw North America below me from the airplane, God spoke to me again and said, "Welcome home, My son." I didn't know what He meant. I met Heidi and her parents and went to church with them that first Sunday. And God spoke again. "My son, I brought you here to be part of the great revival I am bringing to this country. And I am placing her by your side to be part of it."

Heidi's pastor, who had introduced us, also performed our wedding ceremony on June 3rd, 1995; and we have been preaching around the country and the world ever since. After I received my resident alien card, we went to Africa for almost a year. We held crusades in South and Central Africa. At times had meetings with one thousand, two thousand, and even five thousand in attendance. In addition to our international ministry, we have labored for Revival in America. This Revival will awaken the world to the Presence of God.

There have been outbreaks of revival all over the USA, and in many other places in the world. God is reviving the local church, but He is also spreading that revival through traveling ministries, and by way of the media such as on radio, television and the Internet. I truly believe that we are in a time of the end-time latter rain.

For example, one day I was filling in for another evangelist at a church in Baltimore, MD. And even though the East Coast of America was experiencing some of the most severe snow storms, a revival broke out for three weeks. I later listened to my own tapes, and I know they couldn't possibly have come because they thought I preached that well! I could tell I still had a lot to learn when it came to preaching. No, it was because of the manifest presence of God.

One lady was on her way to buy "another bottle" when something tugged on her coat and supernaturally drew her into the church! She was prayed for and she screamed that she could feel the devil inside of her. But God delivered her. I saw her the next day in the service, and she had literally gone through a metamorphosis. I could hardly recognize her. Instead of the bloodshot eyes, breath smelling like alcohol, tight pants and a hard look, she had been transformed into someone full of the beauty of Jesus.

Another man's name was Danny. After being in the revival for two weeks, he testified that he had been delivered from crack and cocaine earlier in the revival and that he was still free! At first he had been reluctant to share his testimony in public though. In one of the services he noticed that the speaker on his right hand side suddenly boomed very loud. He wondered why the sound man did that. Then he realized that it hadn't been the

speaker, but that his one deaf ear had just popped open and that he could hear clearly. This stunning miracle gave him the courage to tell the congregation publicly what the Lord had done for him.

It is important to remember that God wants to use the United States of America to spread revival all over the world. Whatever happens in the USA naturally spreads across the globe. Just imagine what kind of impact it would have upon the earth internationally if a major awakening takes place here in the United States?

Massive International Evangelistic Outreaches

When I wrote this book in 1999, I wrote these words in this chapter: “Recently we had a small crusade in South Africa. Eight-hundred people received decision cards to indicate their salvation. Soon we will have 20,000 people in a meeting, and the number of converts will be staggering.”

That was 11 years ago. Since I wrote this preceding paragraph, we have held several international soul winning miracle campaigns. When comparing the crowd to a baseball stadium he was familiar with, a pastor friend of mine from the USA estimated the crowd on the final night to be around 40-50,000 people.

I hope that soon we will conduct a crusade where more than 100,000 people would attend a single service, and that the combined attendance would be a quarter of a million people. And that at least 100,000 people will make decisions for Christ in that crusade. Thereafter the vision of this ministry is that such a crusade be held every month, with the expectancy that one million people will make a decision for Christ every year. I pray that I will be able to reach at least 50 – 100 million souls in my lifetime.

In my early 20's I had the honor to have dinner with Evangelist Reinhard Bonnke and his family in their house in Frankfurt, Germany. He made the statement that in the few years before the second coming of the Lord we would see more people saved than in the last 2,000 years of church history.

I told him about a dream I had when I was 14 years old. I dreamed I was catching fish with a pastor in a place called “Bonn.” The Bible says we are to be fishers of men, so I understood my dream to mean that I was going to win souls in a place called “Bonn.” I didn't even know such a place existed. When I told my father about the dream, he told me that at that time Bonn was the capital city of Germany. For years I just remembered the dream. So in 1991 I told Reinhard Bonnke that I was just going to Bonn to see the place I had dreamed of as a young teenager. He picked up the phone and talked in German to a Pastor Uphoff. By the time he put down the phone, I was scheduled to preach on the market square in the middle of Bonn!

The next day I lead the Bible study for his sixteen staff members in the Christ For All Nations head office. One of them asked my name again because they said God was going to use me mightily, and they wanted to remember my name when He did so. And then I set out to Bonn. Like in all secular societies, German people are not very receptive to the Gospel; but that day a small crowd of people from the streets listened to me preach. Thirteen people publicly raised their hands to accept the Lord! In the secular culture of Germany I thought that was quite extraordinary. I don't know if this was the total fulfillment of my dream. Maybe God will send me there again to lead many other souls to Christ. I hope so.

Evangelist Reinhard Bonnke had a profound impact on my life and ministry. When I was 16, I watched one of his videos. I made benches similar to the ones I saw on his

video and had an outreach to the Africans who worked on the resort where I was raised. About 20 or 30 people came to the meeting. Years later he would give me an opportunity to preach a short message to a half million people in his crusade in Nigeria.

His ministry has recorded almost 60 million salvations so far. I believe that the consistent labor of faithful pastor in local churches, the labors of missionaries in far off countries and the great gospel campaigns held by fiery evangelists and other laborers are all part of the building momentum towards another great worldwide awakening to Christ.

The Next Generations of Revivalists

I had a dream the other night of Oral Roberts (who is still alive at the time of this writing—1999*.) I noticed that he was singing a song in front of an audience, with his wife by his side. Everyone stood up praising the Lord, but Heidi and I remained seated. At the end of his song it was my turn to stand up and preach. I think this is such a beautiful picture of the men of God of the previous generation ending their ministries and lives, and now a host of younger men and women of God are getting ready to stand up and take up where they left off.

Conclusion

I must point out that although emphasis has been placed on the historical moves of God discussed in this book, that there have also been other moves of God not discussed in this book. For example, I have not made reference in this writing to the after effects of some revivals such as the rise of the temperance movement and the great healing revival of the 1950s, nor have I made much reference to the incredible outpourings of the Spirit as witnessed in the 1990s and into the new millennium. Such moves of God have not been of less importance, and some modern moves of God are still finding their proper place in history. The moves of God discussed herein have been mentioned as examples of revival and awakening.

This book was also not intended to be a detailed extensive historical document. Rather, I hope that it will serve to create a desire for a glorious move of God's Spirit.

Dear reader, I believe that this book finds itself in your hands by Divine appointment! Perhaps it was meant to be that you were supposed to read this book. God wanted you to be blessed by this message. Would to God that we would surrender to the hunger within us, seek God passionately, and pray the prayer of Isaiah the prophet:

“Oh that thou wouldst rend the heavens, that thou wouldest come down, that the mountains might flow down at thy presence, As when the melting fire burneth, the fire causeth the waters to boil, to make thy name known to thine adversaries, that the nations may tremble at thy presence! When thou didst terrible things which we looked not for, thou camest down, the mountains flowed down at thy presence” (Isaiah 64:1-3, KJV.)

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All scripture quotations are taken from the King James Version of the Bible. Emphasis by the author.

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Pictures: Unless otherwise noted, all pictures courtesy Joel Hitchcock Ministries. Other pictures used courtesy as follows: John Wesley - nndb.com and wesley.nnu.edu; Nicky van der Westhuizen - Nicky van der Westhuizen Jr; Charles Finney – sogmin.org; Andrew Murray - library.uwinnipeg.ca; Jonathan Edwards – ConnecticutHistory.blogspot.com; David Brainerd - wmcarey.edu; Evan Roberts - revival-library.org; William J Seymour – aaregistry.org; John Hitchcock – John Hitchcock Ministries; Duncan Campbell – flickr.com; Hitchcock Family – Barefoot Studios.

Special thanks to my wife Heidi and also to Charles & Shean Shields and Susan Robinson who assisted in the editing of

this book.

Addendum: Photo Album



Joel & Heidi Hitchcock with their
four children—
Anthony, Rebekah, Timothy & Trey (2010)



Joel as guest addressing Reinhard
Bonnke's campaign in Nigeria



Tent Revival, Asheboro, NC

The Early Days



Picture: Ministry under a tree in Malawi



My translator and I evangelizing in rural Malawi. Upgraded to motorbike. Traveled from Johannesburg to Dar es Salaam through South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Mozambique, Malawi and Tanzania for the Gospel



Preaching in the open air on market in Malawi

Joel Hitchcock Miracle Campaigns



Tucupita, Venezuela



San Felipe, Venezuela



Other, Venezuela



Cabimas, Venezuela



Other, Venezuela



Dominican Republic



Kothagudem, India



Miryalguda, India



Sialkot, Pakistan



Sialkot, Pakistan



Gulu, Uganda



Guest Speaker in Douala, Cameroon



Guest Speaker in Yaounde,
Cameroon



Guest Speaker in Yaounde, Cameroon



Halia, India



The Great Gospel Tent: 20,000 square feet (120 feet wide, 170 feet long,) 48 ft trailer, 65 kw generator at the Harrington Fair Grounds, Delaware USA



Asheboro NC



Soul winning, miracle signs and wonders tent revival in Quebec, Canada

Healing Ministry



Cameroon: Could not raise his hand over his head without pain. He can now hold a chair up high with it.



Healing of her eye in Hyderabad, India



Douala, Cameroon—Was Deaf and Mute but can now Hear and Speak



Gulu, Uganda—Boy from School for Deaf



Ministering to the needy in an open air outreach in Gulu, Uganda



Ministering to the sick in Norway



Ministering to the sick in Eersterust, South Africa



Administering healing to her eye in
Hanamkonda, India



Ministering to the Telugu-speakers in Hyderabad, India



Ministering to the Banjara Gypsies of India



Ministering to the needy in Kothagudem, India



Ministering in the Demonstration of the Spirit and of Power



Hearing restored in India



This was the man who saw a “hand” moving towards him, then a voice that said that he was healed. These glasses were thick! But he could see perfectly!



Picture: Miracles in Gulu, Uganda



Picture: Eersterust, South Africa—Healed!



Eersterust, South Africa: Administering healing to his eyes



Put your faith into action! No more pain



With my uncle John Hitchcock in a tent crusade



Being interviewed by Rodney Howard-Browne on Christian Television Network



With Evangelist Anannias Ralekholela



Guest speaker at Gospel Fire, Vereeniging, South Africa



With Reinhard Bonnke



Heidi & Joel with Oral Roberts

*Note: Heidi and I had the wonderful privilege to meet with him in his home in California just a few months before he went on to his eternal reward in 2009.



Heidi & Joel with TL Osborn

THE END TIME REVIVAL AND GREAT AWAKENING

The Prayer of Salvation

Father God, I come to you today admitting that I am a sinner. I am a lost sinner and I cannot save myself. I need a Savior and His Name is Jesus. Lord Jesus, come into my life. Come live in my heart. You stand at the door and knock. I hear Your voice and I open the door. Thank You for coming in. Wash my sins away with Your precious blood. Cleanse me and make me brand new. I repent from my sin. By Your Holy Spirit You give me power over sin. For I cannot overcome sin in my own power, but I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. It is not by might, nor by power, but by Your Spirit that I am able to overcome. I accept You today Jesus, as my Savior and as my Lord. Thank You for accepting me and that You will never cast away anyone who comes to you. Because I believe Your Word is true and that You cannot lie, I can confidently say: I am saved. I am born again. I am washed clean in the Blood of Jesus. My sins are forgiven and I am on my way to heaven. I have received eternal life. And with the power of Your Holy Spirit I will continue to serve you and walk with you. In Jesus Name I pray, Amen.

The Prayer of Deeper Dedication

Father God, I have already accepted Jesus as my Savior and Lord. But Your Word teaches that I should either be cold or hot, but not lukewarm. I repent of a lukewarm dedication to You. I ask that the fire of Your Spirit will come upon me this very day. Baptize me with Your Holy Spirit and fire. I confess my sins and I ask You for forgiveness. Thank you that You forgive when I sincerely confess my sins and repent. I pray that Christ will be manifested in and through my life. Come Lord Jesus, come and live and dwell and manifest Yourself in and through me by Your Holy Spirit. May I represent You. May I influence the world with Your love. Touch others through me. I recklessly abandon myself into your hands. I give you my all, and I hold nothing back. All I have is yours. Use me for Your glory. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Friend, if you prayed this prayer sincerely and believing, I believe that God is right now answering your prayer. Start reading the Bible, get into a Bible believing church, and communicate with God daily.

About the Author

The supreme truth of the ministry of Evangelist Joel Hitchcock is his message and revelation on the believer's union with God in Christ. Joel teaches that the believer is one with Christ, filled with God and in the process of being transformed into the image of the Son of God. He also teaches and demonstrates the manifestation of the Indwelling Christ in the believer's personal life as well as to a hurting and needy world around us.

Joel teaches that this union is effected by the incarnation, sinless and supernatural life, atoning death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by the subsequent outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

The following is a short bio: Joel Hitchcock experienced a revelation about the omniscience of God when he was eight. This experience immediately compelled him to become a preacher of the Gospel. Shortly afterward he received Christ into his heart after reading a gospel tract. He preached his first message when he was twelve. During a fast at age 13, he asked God if he really should become a preacher. He heard the voice of the Lord saying "Yes my son, I want you to become an evangelist."

Joel started spending much time in prayer and the study of the Word, and read the Bible from cover to cover. At an early age Brother Joel had a strong interest in the supernatural things of God, which still continues in his life today. He would see visions during prayer, and hear the voice of the Lord. Joel pursued a miracle healing ministry of signs & wonders and many have witnessed the supernatural healing power of God in his ministry. Thousands have witnessed many healing miracles such as cripples walk, the blind see, the deaf hear and the mute speak. Those bound by unhealthy habits and in Satan's grip are set free.

Joel Hitchcock completed his theological education at the Full Gospel Church of God's Berea Theological College, and continued his theological studies through the University of South Africa. He entered the full time ministry in 1990 and in 2010 he received his Honorary Doctorate of Divinity degree from the School of Bible Theology Seminary and University in recognition of his efforts in world evangelism.

Joel initially entered the ministry as a chaplain during his military service in the South African Army. He then began traveling as an itinerant revivalist to more than 40 different countries of the world. While much of his ministry has been in churches and tent revivals in the United States and South Africa, he also carries a strong anointing for international mass crusade evangelism. Many thousands of souls have attended his miracle campaigns. Reports about these city-wide campaigns can be read about at www.joelhitchcock.com. Joel hopes to win 100 million souls to Christ in his lifetime.

Joel has written several books and his anointed preaching of the Word reflects scriptural fidelity and a desire that people would be touched and changed by God. Joel is a friend of pastors and considers a powerful move of the Spirit of God in his meetings his greatest reward.

Joel is married Heidi, a native of the State of Delaware. They have four children—

Anthony, Rebekah, Timothy, and Trey. Joel and Heidi teach their children to love God and the ministry. Joel Hitchcock Ministries is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit corporation and files an annual report to the Internal Revenue Service of the United States. Credentialed as an ordained bishop in the Church of God (Cleveland TN,) he reports monthly to its state and international offices.

Joel is well received at many churches with different denominational backgrounds and styles. Brother Joel wants you to encounter God and experience Jesus by the Holy Spirit.

For more information about Joel Hitchcock Ministries, such as Joel's blog, videos, products, itinerary or how to support international soul winning ministry that is accompanied by miracles, signs and wonders:

www.joelhitchcock.com

www.joelhitchcock.blogspot.com

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