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revive

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Corona del Mar beach - over 500 young people baptized monthly

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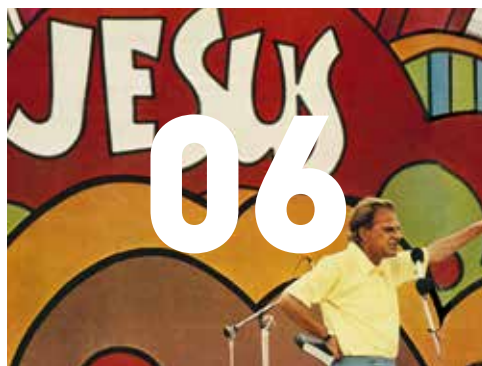
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THE SIGNS OF A JESUS REVOLUTION

Divine entropy does not exist—the Holy Spirit's power has not been winding down over time. Jesus Movements are happening in the world today. God's work is flourishing across the planet!

JESUS TOLD STORIES

Film is the story-telling medium of contemporary society. A great film communicates to a broad audience. In fact, a Christian blockbuster would quickly get the gospel around the world.

I WALKED INTO A JESUS REVOLUTION

Sammy Tippit gives us a stunning glimpse of God's activity in America in 1970. Join him on his journeys as he reminisces about his experiences during the Jesus Movement.

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ONE WAY

► Encouraging signs are on the horizon. A growing number of people believe we need a new Jesus Movement. As we read encouraging accounts of how the Lord worked in a previous generation, our hearts can fill with hope. Jesus' power can transform a dark, dirty, polluted, situation in an instant!



SPIRIT OF REVIVAL

Byron Paulus
Executive Director

***There is One Way,
Jesus, who cleanses,
heals, and forgives.***

 @ByronPaulus

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Byron'.

Some of the world's greatest athletes are scheduled to compete in some of the world's dirtiest waters. Rio's filthy waters captured the headlines recently as the world anticipates next summer's Olympic Games.

According to a recent report, "Human feces, condoms, Ramen noodle wrappers, plastic bags, chocolate milk cartons . . . no, they're not scraps of waste at the local landfill. They're the many treasures found in Rio de Janeiro's waters—the ones the best athletes in the world will compete in at next year's Olympics."

The U.S. rowing team went to train in Rio this year. Eleven of them got sick just rowing in it. That's how toxic the water is!

I couldn't help but draw a spiritual parallel to our world today. Imagine if a news reporter said something like this:

Extreme sin pollution has become a contagion in popular culture. Raw sin runs through the open air in churches, government buildings, cities, marketplaces, and universities. As a result, people are almost certain to come into contact with disease-causing viruses that will prove hazardous to their souls.

I don't expect to hear that on the news anytime soon, but it's the truth. Spiritual "sin pollution" is far more hazardous than sickening earthly water.

So what do we do when we find ourselves rowing through a culture filled with sin? Even worse, what do we do if we detect that pollution in our own churches, or even in our own hearts?

This issue of *Revive* prayerfully anticipates movements of authentic Christianity—as people look to Jesus instead of themselves; as people lay aside pride and prejudice; as people set apart time to really seek God, His Word, and His will.

Specifically, we're diving into a particular moment in American history which might

serve as an example of how God can work even in dark situations. A particular revival, dubbed by some as the Jesus Movement, occurred in the United States during the 1960s and 1970s.

Although usually remembered by Americans as an era of rebellion—"sex, drugs, and rock 'n' roll"—a powerful spiritual awakening took place simultaneously and resulted in thousands coming to saving faith in Jesus. Many international ministries and mission agencies (including Life Action) were founded during this time. (My own life was transformed by God in the early '70s, leading me into a life-long pursuit of another spiritual awakening.)

From its inception, the whole movement was symbolized by an index finger raised toward heaven and the simple slogan "One Way." Jesus is still the One Way.

So as we read encouraging accounts of how the Lord worked in a previous generation, our hearts can fill with hope. As we study movements of spiritual power in history, we can look to the future with vision and expectation. Jesus' power can transform a dark, dirty, polluted, sickening situation in an instant!

Our world desperately needs this kind of revival.

There are signs on the horizon that encourage me. A growing number of people believe that a new Jesus Movement must commence—one birthed not in human strategy, but by the Spirit of God.

For this, we open our hearts. We must ask Jesus to do His divine work. We must humble ourselves before Him in repentance. As the Scriptures encourage, "Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you" (James 4:8).

And then we mobilize—to share the Good News with our generation, that there is a way. There is One Way, Jesus, who cleanses, heals, and forgives.

Lord, do it again! And let it begin in me.



WHERE WILL YOU LEAD YOUR CHURCH IN THE NEXT 18 MONTHS?

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Life Action events typically schedule one year in advance, in churches with a weekly attendance of 500 or more.

A BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF REVIVAL

► What does revival look like? What can we expect to see when God changes a life or makes His manifest presence felt in a congregation? Here's a first-hand telling of what radical obedience and dramatic life change looked like for one man.



CONVERSATIONS

Del Fehsenfeld III
Senior Editor

There are corporate spiritual breakthroughs and seasons when the Holy Spirit works with extraordinary power.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Del'.

I was sixteen, perched high above the crowd, watching from a utility balcony. Hundreds of people had been gathering night after night for more than six weeks in a major metropolitan area, and I wanted to know why. I certainly didn't want to miss even one night, since it suddenly seemed like God had come to church.

I'll never forget the evening when I could see people bowing their heads as if in succession, moved by an unseen force, in what looked like a wave moving horizontally across the congregation. Some were beginning to weep.

There was a profound sense of sobriety, with hundreds standing to offer testimony of radical steps of repentance. Affairs were confessed and marriages healed. Interpersonal reconciliations were too numerous to count.

People reoriented their priorities and reassessed the purpose for their lives. Scores of seminary students were given a whole new grid for what happens during a manifest visitation of God's Spirit.

And then there were steps of radical obedience on the part of ordinary people. I'll never forget the authenticity of an engineer named Rick.

One of the truths presented in the revival meetings was the principle of having a clear conscience with God and others—in other words, being able to say personally that there was no wrong done that had not been made right by taking responsibility and making an honest confession.

The problem for Rick was that he had a secret. And when he heard that truth, he knew obedience to God might cost him everything.

Rick's job involved top-secret military projects requiring high-level security clearances approved by the FBI. Rick had his clearance, but no one else knew he had lied about past drug use to get it. Willful misstatements could be punished by imprisonment. Rick knew God

was prompting him to confess his false statements, even if that meant he went to jail.

After a sleepless night and taking a day of personal vacation to mull things over, he again filled out his paperwork (this time with amended statements), put it in an envelope, and made the long walk down the hall that led to security for his corporation.

Several weeks later, Rick was notified that his security clearance had been suspended. Even though he was the supervisor of his project, he was no longer granted admission into his own work area, pending an investigation.

Not knowing what else to do, the company put Rick's desk in the hallway outside the security entrance to his work group! Everyone who walked by would look at him curiously and ask, "Rick, why are you sitting out here in the hall?"

Rick wasn't about to start lying again, so he just told people the truth. For almost a year, he had one opportunity after another to explain that Jesus was now Lord of his life, and that he was making things right regardless of the consequences.

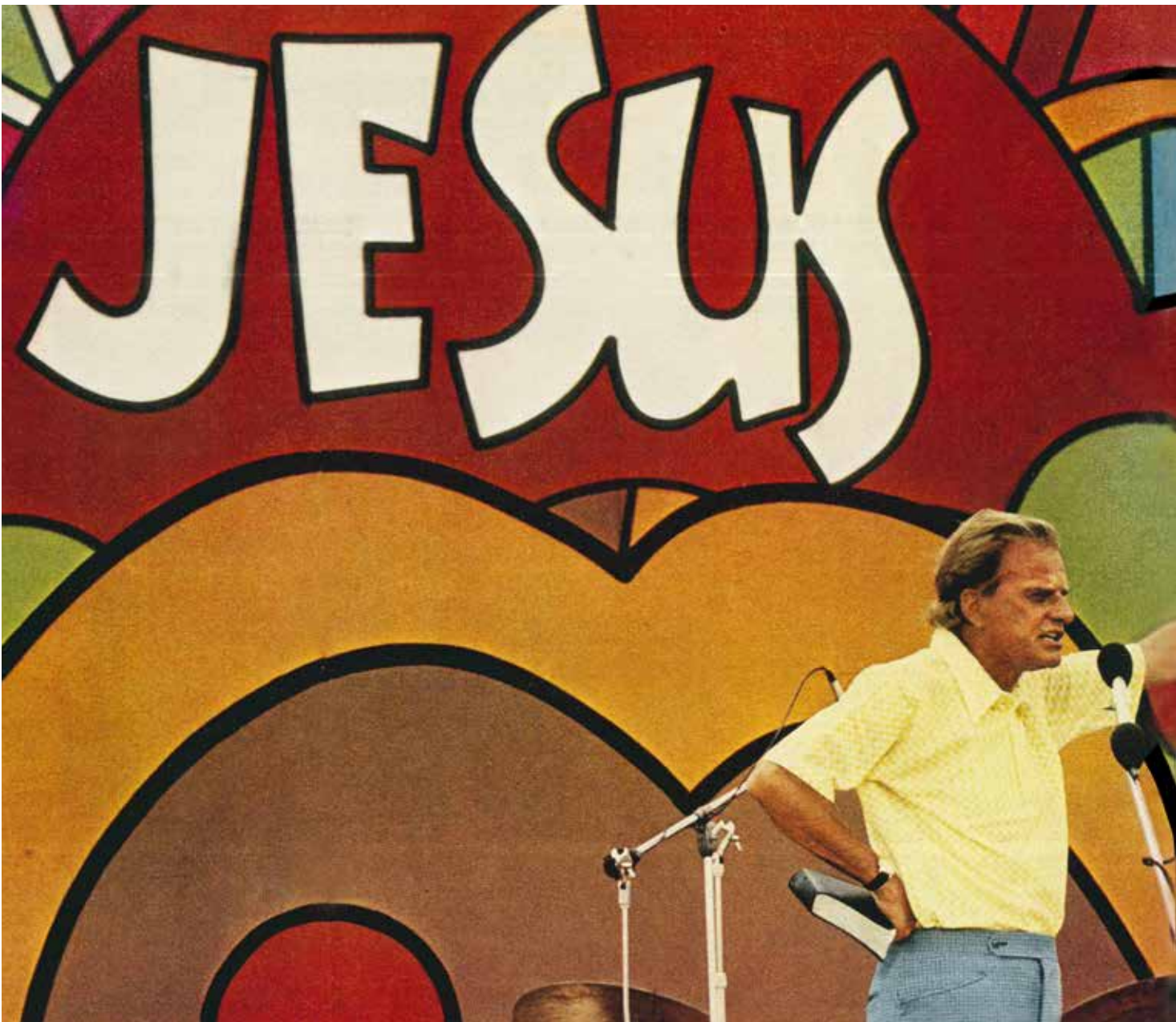
In the end, the Navy asked that Rick be removed from the project. But God had given Rick so much favor with his superiors and co-workers that they transferred him to another big project within the company.

But something even more incredible had happened to Rick. He had gotten off the fence in his relationship with Jesus Christ and gone public with his faith, taking decisive steps to follow Christ as Lord. As a result, scores of his fellow workers got to hear about the Jesus he knew and loved.

There are such things as corporate spiritual breakthroughs and seasons when the Holy Spirit works with extraordinary power.

I was only a teenager, but I know it's true. I saw it from the balcony.

THE SIGNS OF A JESUS RE



VOLUTION



DID YOU KNOW that there were more Christians worshipping God this past Sunday in Ghana, Africa, than in Scotland? Did you know that there were more Christians worshipping God in China than in all of Western Europe?

Jesus Movements are happening in the world today. We don't always see as many signs of it in the West, but God's work is flourishing across the planet. And this is to be expected—after all, in Acts 1:8 Jesus Christ promised the Holy Spirit, who would initiate explosive movements of God:

“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

I've spent a good portion of my life studying the expansion of God's kingdom, and how God works in extraordinary ways to accomplish His purposes. In particular, I've looked at an often overlooked revival that took place in the United States just a few decades ago—church historians call it the Jesus Movement. Here are some things I've learned from it:

A Jesus Movement is a Holy Spirit movement. People cannot just get together and form a gospel movement. That's the way a lot of people think—get a big group of people together, have them sign a document, give a press release, and call it a movement of God.

But if we're going to see a genuine movement of God, it must be a movement of the Holy

Spirit, like in the book of Acts. Jesus didn't say, “You will receive power when you get your act together,” or, “You will receive power when you get your worship going strong.” What He did say is that we will receive power when something outside of us becomes a part of us and gets inside us.

The Holy Spirit is still working powerfully in the world today. Divine entropy does not exist—the Holy Spirit's power has not been winding down over time. We find again and again in the book of Acts that reference is made to the disciples being filled with the power of the Holy Spirit. Peter was filled. Paul was filled. The disciples were all filled. And when this happened, they shared the gospel, lives were changed, and the church moved forward.

Jonathan Edwards, brilliant theologian and pastor at the epicenter of the First Great Awakening, said that one of the distinguishing marks of revival is the work of the Holy Spirit. *There is no spiritual awakening without the power of the Holy Spirit.*

This was true during the Jesus Movement in the late 1960s and early 1970s. In fact, I recently interviewed John Bessanyo, who was the pastor at First Baptist Church of Houston the year they baptized almost 1,700 teenagers. (No church they knew had ever baptized a thousand people before.) He boldly told his church, “I would rather see hippies sitting on the floor worshipping Jesus at my church than sitting on a park bench smoking pot.” All these years later, Pastor Bessanyo describes very simply what happened: “It was a movement of the Holy Spirit.”

Only the Holy Spirit could influence Life magazine, the biggest magazine in America at that time, to make one of their 1972 covers portray a guy wearing a t-shirt that said “One Way” as he pointed to heaven.



Only the Holy Spirit could take a drug addict named Ted Wise in San Francisco, the mecca of the drug culture, and use him to spark a movement toward Jesus, among hippies and drug users, that spread across the nation.

Only the Spirit of God could take a young pastor named Chuck Smith in California, who thought hippies should take a bath, and so change his attitude that he ended up baptizing hundreds of them in the ocean. His first Calvary Chapel then grew from 200 to 2,000 in about six months.

Only the Holy Spirit's activity could explain Explo '72, as Bill Bright called college students together to learn to share the gospel, and 80,000 young people gathered for a week!

Only the Holy Spirit could influence *Life* magazine, the biggest magazine in America at that time, to make one of their 1972 covers portray a guy wearing a t-shirt that said “One Way” as he pointed toward heaven.

Only the Holy Spirit could motivate 180,000 young people to gather on an unfinished expressway in north Dallas to worship God for an entire day.

Like the first Jesus Revolution in Acts, it was obvious that God was at work. Supernatural things were clearly taking place. That's why those God uses to bring revival are not the strongest, but those most dependent on the Holy Spirit.

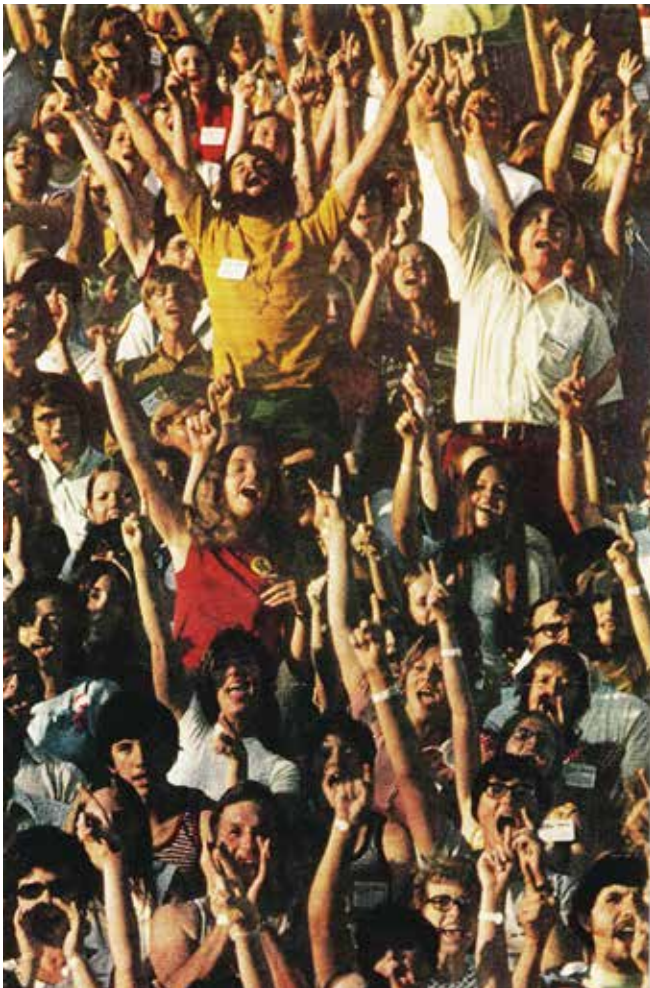
A Jesus Movement is a movement about Jesus. That seems obvious. But there are a lot of Christian movements today that aren't about Jesus. Jesus said, “You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me” (NKJV). Not witnesses to a movement or to something in history; not even witnesses to the Word of God, but witnesses “to Me.”

According to the largest contemporary study on the history of youth and religion in America,* overwhelming numbers of teenagers in our churches are learning a brand of Christianity that is really nothing more than “moralistic therapeutic deism.”

Moralistic: The Bible is taught as an example to imitate. For instance, “David beat Goliath, so you can beat your enemies.” But that's not the point of that story. That account is about God being a great Redeemer; David happened to be His tool. Yes, morality does result when the gospel changes us, but that's the *effect*, not the main point.

Therapeutic: The Bible is framed as truths to make us feel better about ourselves instead of about Christ and His glorious gospel.

Deistic: The Bible is presented as truths *about* God rather than an invitation to relationship *with* God. A lot of young people today don't believe God really cares about their individual, daily life.



In contrast, the two sayings of the Jesus Movement were “One way, through Jesus” and “Jesus is coming back, you’d better be ready.”

I talked to a young lady in a college town who said, “I grew up in a church. All I remember hearing there were two things: ‘Don’t have sex’ and ‘Invite a friend.’ When I got to college, I walked away because if that’s all there was, I wanted to spend my time somewhere else. Then I met Jesus, and He changed everything!”

Oh, that we would lift up Jesus! I fear that we don’t talk about Jesus to lost people because we don’t talk about Jesus with each other!

What if you and I made it an intentional goal during the next thirty days to infuse Jesus into every meaningful conversation? That’s really what they did during the Jesus Movement. They talked about Jesus. Most of them didn’t have a theological background or training; they just knew that Jesus had changed their life, and they told everyone about Him.

A Jesus Movement is about the mission of God. Jesus said, “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses.” Then He gave us His plan: “in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Statistics show that although the vast majority of Christians grew up in a Christian home, very few of those families ever talked about a shared mission to reach their unsaved neighbors with the gospel. In fact frequently (in America, at least), Christian parents raise their children like functional atheists.

For us today, being Jesus’ witness in “Jerusalem” (our local community) means we need to get to know our neighbors; we need to pray for them and care for them in His name. Being His witness in “Samaria” means caring for people we don’t like, or who are different from us. And “to the ends of the earth” means we carry a burden for the global advancement of the gospel.

That’s why we should care about another Jesus revolution in our day. We don’t want to see revival for the sake of revival; we want to see revival because more people will know God.

I have a former student named Dean. His Jesus story happened in the early Seventies, during the Jesus Movement in Mobile, Alabama. He and his girlfriend were living together and smoking pot, and they were arrested for marijuana possession.

In his jail cell in Mobile, Dean found a Gideon Bible and thought, “Man, that would roll a good joint.” So he started tearing pages out of the Bible, picking up leftover cigarette butts, taking the little bit of tobacco left in each one, and rolling himself cigarettes. But while he was smoking pages from Leviticus, he started reading the Gospel of John, and after a couple of weeks, he met Jesus in that jail cell!

Dean went on to graduate from seminary and pastor churches. His children have grown up to serve as missionaries. There is a legacy of faith and grace in his family that is literally touching the entire globe for the sake of the gospel.

Those are the stories we hear when God is at work in a supernatural way. Those are the things that happen when the Holy Spirit moves, when people start focusing on Jesus, and when you and I take our mission seriously.

I’m giving my life to that, and I hope you are too. 🙏

Explained in **Soul Searching: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of American Teenagers, by Christian Smith with Melinda Lundquist Denton, copyright © 2005, Oxford University Press. Also found at www.youthandreligion.org.*



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JESUS TOLD STORIES

ONE FILMMAKER'S VISION OF PUTTING THE GOSPEL ON THE BIG SCREEN

STORIES WITH JON ERWIN

Iver 60% of the Bible is in the form of a story. On a fundamental level, we're wired for stories. When people engage with and put themselves into a story, it changes the landscape of their mind. Sociologists call this "emotional archeology"; it powerfully shapes us.

The story of what happened at a Woodlawn, Alabama, high school plagued with violence, changed me. When I started researching it, and the spiritual movement that transformed it, I was asking, "How did this happen? Was this really true? How could a whole team rife with interracial hatred give their lives to Jesus in one night and decide to love each other? How could that save their school, then spread to their rival high school, and then lead to the biggest football game ever on a high school level in Alabama?"

That's when I discovered that not only did it really happen, but things like it were happening all over the country in that era. A significant move of God in America happened on a massive scale. It was called the Jesus Movement. It was so historic that it was highlighted on the front cover of *Time* magazine in 1971!

Then I started to think, "*Maybe something like this could happen in our time and in our generation!*" I suspect that most of us don't even know this kind of thing is possible.

That's why I decided to make a movie telling the story of Woodlawn High School and this forgotten spiritual awakening. A revival saved that school—a revival where people came to Jesus! If it happened then, it can happen now.

So, for the past couple of years, my heart has been to put this message on a big screen. We want to give the gospel the biggest platform possible in our current generation.

Jonathan Edwards is one pastor from history who really shaped our thinking about revival in the United States. He said that stories of revival in one place spark revivals in another. So we wondered, if we tell the story of the Jesus Movement on a grand scale, might something really special happen again? That's our goal.

STARTING WITH PRAYER

Every revival begins with prayer. There's an incredible scene in *Woodlawn* on the impact of prayer—not normal prayer, but extraordinary prayer. Desperate prayer. I feel that desperation rising in our world today, not just in the movie.

Two months before our movie *Woodlawn* released in October, my good friends the Kendrick brothers released a film called *War Room*, on the subject of prayer. We didn't plan that! Only God could have planned the timing; so I see this movie as a fragment of what God is doing, as we watch things lining up.

The whole project was thoroughly bathed in prayer, and we've been praying for a generation to come back to Jesus. I have a fundamental belief that this generation really wants Christ, they just don't know it yet.

I hope *Woodlawn* can be a tool of instigation for ministry and can make people crave revival and spiritual awakening in their own lives. I want this movie to drive people to the local church. (One of the startling things we learned is that, although there is a mass exodus of the younger generation from the church, that same group is frequenting the movies and buying the majority of movie tickets!)

ANOTHER JESUS MOVEMENT . . . TODAY?

A great film is the perfect way to communicate with people about God's power. Movies are the most advanced form of communication we have available, and there is a chance for millions of people to see this movie all over the world in the span of a few months. That's astonishing. Ten movie theaters open every day in China, and they show American movies, so this really is one way to get the gospel to the world. Through film, it's possible. *And it can happen a lot faster and sooner than we think.*

Learning what a revival really looks like has profoundly shown me that I've never experienced it. I've never seen anything like this in my lifetime. I've begun to crave it for myself, and to confront my own sense of apathy and complacency.

Woodlawn is an inspirational, coming-of-age, triumphant story. But it's also a compelling true story of the power of the gospel and spiritual awakening.

As Christians, we have the greatest story to tell—the story of God's love and power. Don't we? Don't you?

Let's let the world know what happens when God shows up! 🙏



Jon Erwin and his brother Andrew are a directing team that focuses on developing and producing unique stories of redemption, faith, and triumph of the human spirit. Their other films include *October Baby* and *Moms' Night Out*.

I Walked Into a _____ JESUS REVOLUTION

by Sammy Tippit



"This is my wife, Tex,
holding one of the
posters we made
that night." ►

The Vietnam War was raging. American young people went over to Vietnam and didn't come back, including friends of mine. Some went over and came back so disillusioned by what they saw that they got involved in drugs.

Millions were denying traditional moral values, and the sexual revolution was in full swing. Young people were leaving the American church in droves.

In 1970 I was asked to preach a youth evangelistic meeting at a little church in Monroe, Louisiana. Only twenty-five people came to the opening service, and no one responded to the message. The same thing happened the following night.

But on the third night, a man came up to the pulpit and began to weep. He said, "The young people don't come to church because I'm their leader, and I've been a hypocrite, and they don't want to have anything to do with my hypocrisy. I just asked God to forgive me, and I asked my pastor to forgive me; now I want to ask the young people to forgive me, and I want to ask the church to forgive me."

In that one divine moment, God came. Everyone in the building was broken before the Lord.

The next night, the church was packed. Saturday saw the largest attendance in the church's history. On Sunday I had to park blocks away because there were so many cars I couldn't get near the church. The room was full of young people, and many came to Christ.

The next week, we moved onto the university campus. The first building wouldn't hold the people. We moved into a second building, but it wouldn't hold the growing crowds either. With a smile on his face, the pastor said, "Sammy, I've been praying, and I believe we need to go talk to the former governor of Louisiana, who owns the TV station, and ask him for some prime time to tell what Jesus is doing among the young people here."

I didn't think that would happen, but we went and talked to Governor Null. He said, "I'll tell you what, I'll give you two 15-minute slots, prime time, for whatever you want to do." Then he called the mayor and said, "Mayor, I want you to donate the Civic Center to these young people; they're doing something positive for once. If you won't donate it, I'll pay for it, but I'd rather you donate it."

And the mayor donated the Civic Center. On the last night, thousands of young people gathered. The most notorious drug dealer in the area was converted to Christ. The judge was so impressed with the change in her life that he released her to my wife's and my custody, even though my wife was no older than this girl was.

Due to racial tensions, the schools had closed down because of fighting between black students and white students. But as the

awakening continued, the leaders of both groups came to know Jesus, and they were reconciled to each other. The schools reopened because of what God did.

We took a coffee house ministry on the university campus and turned it into a house of prayer. Twenty-four hours a day, we would have students in there praying, seeking God, asking God to move and work.

LET'S TAKE A WALK

One night, my wife and I were in that coffee house praying, and I said, "Honey, I think God is calling me to do something." She said, "Whatever He's telling you to do, I'm with you."

I believe He's calling me to walk across America.

I said, "Wait a minute; before you say that, let me tell you what He's calling me to do! I believe He's calling me to fill a wheelbarrow with Bibles and walk across America, calling people back to the Word of God."

One of the young men in the singing group on campus came to me and said, "Sammy, I believe God wants my wife and me to walk with you." His wife was pregnant. I said, "You can't do that." He said, "God told me to do it." The girl the judge had released to us had to go along, of course, because she was in our custody, so that made five of us!

Then there was a freshman named Ken Hall. He was on scholarship at the university, the first person in his family to ever go to college. He came to me and said, "Sammy, I believe God wants me to drop out of school and walk with you."

Ken's father came to him, when he found out, and said, "Son, you can't do this. You can't drop out of school, because I've been diagnosed with cancer. The doctors have given me two weeks to live. If you go, you'll never see me alive again, and your mother will have no one to take care of her." Ken said, "Daddy, I love you. God knows I love you. But I have to walk, because God told me to walk."

Another young man was a hard rock drummer who had just gotten saved. Richard gave his heart to Jesus, and he believed God wanted him to go with us. But he said, "Sammy, what am I going to do with my drums? God saved me, I'm never going to play them again." I said, "No, the girls are going to drive ahead of us. We'll put the drums on top of the car; somehow God will use them."

So we walked. We went to nearly every major southeastern college campus, and this was our strategy: Walk, and when someone stops, give them a Bible and tell them about Jesus. We would come into a town and pass out Bibles on the streets, telling people about Jesus. When we would get to campus, Richard would set up his drums on the top steps of the administration building and cut loose on a drum solo. When he finished, there would be a crowd, and I'd preach.

I recall one stop we made at the University of Georgia during the time the Kent State riots were happening. There had been a protest against the Vietnam War, and students had been shot and killed by the National Guard; consequently, demonstrations and riots erupted on university campuses all across America.

We walked up with our wheelbarrow full of Bibles and decided to pray all night long. Then we made posters saying, "Real peace is in Jesus."

When everyone gathered on the platform of the administration building, students were yelling, "We need to burn down the building! We need to destroy this place! We need a revolution!"

I was anticipating stones and rotten tomatoes, but no one threw them. And I preached the gospel.

As we were passing out Bibles and gospel pamphlets in the crowd, I slipped up on the platform behind the speakers and began handing out Bibles up there. When the guy who was yelling that we need to burn everything down finished, he turned around and said, "Alright, it's your turn," and handed me the microphone!

I looked out at all the angry students waiting for me to speak. I said, "We need a revolution! Revolution means change! But there's only one way we can have change!" Everyone wondered where I was headed. I said, "It's for the heart to be changed, and the only Person who can change the human heart is the Person of Jesus Christ! Jesus will change your hearts, and Jesus will change our nation, and we can be what God wants us to be!"

I was anticipating stones and rotten tomatoes, but no one threw them. And I preached the gospel. When I finished, I handed the microphone to the next person on the platform. The guy right before me had shouted, "Burn it down!" The guy right after me got up and said, "I just have one question: What would Jesus do if He were here?" And the conversation went from burning the school down to asking what Jesus would do.

Here's the exciting part: What God was doing through our little band was happening elsewhere in spots all over America and spreading around the globe. We had walked into something much bigger than just us—the Holy Spirit was at work!

For example, at the same time and without our knowing anything about it, revival was breaking out in a Methodist college in Kentucky. Some students there at Asbury had been praying and seeking God's face for six weeks, and He had been convicting them of their sin. They had been confessing and repenting of sins and making things right with God. Every morning they would get up early to seek the face of God.

One morning during a campus chapel service, the speaker got up and said, "You know, I just feel I'm not supposed to speak, but there are testimonies that need to be shared. If there are any students who have testimonies, I want you to come down to the front row as we sing this first song, and we'll let you give testimonies."

Students filled that first row. They stood and started sharing how God had convicted them of sin and dealt with them and brought them to repentance. The philosophy professor came up and said to the man in charge, "If you give an altar call, people will come." He gave an altar call, and that service that normally lasted 45 minutes ended up continuing seven days and seven nights!

People from all over the United States heard about what God was doing. They would fly into Lexington, Kentucky, and drive out to Asbury College just to see God at work, morning, noon, and night. The altar was filled with people who had come from all over the United States—people giving their hearts to Christ, people getting right with God.

SPREADING GLOBALLY

In Europe in 1970, there was a wall separating Western Europe from Eastern Europe, which people referred to as the Iron Curtain. The nation of Germany was divided: East Germany was under Communist control, West Germany was free.

At the age of 14, East German youth were forced to decide whether to be a part of the Communist Youth Organization or part of the church. If they chose church, they could not continue their education. So young people left the church en masse.

continued on page 16

Free Way

the NEW campus pass-along

DECEMBER 10, 1972

\$100 and a WHEELBARROW

by Sammy Tippit as told to Jerry B. Jenkins



Sammy (left) was often interviewed by the local news media in Chicago, always taking the opportunity to share his faith.



I was shocked
THAT IN AMERICA
a person could actually
be arrested FOR JESUS
TELLING PEOPLE ABOUT JESUS



Debbie (Tex) Tippit, though expecting her first child, visited Sam as much as possible during his month-long visit at the Civic Center.

I parked myself outside City Hall at the Chicago Civic Center on September 2, 1971. For the next 27 days, I stayed there fasting and praying; a big wooden cross beside me. I had been arrested for passing out tracts and talking to people about Jesus, and I felt God wanted me to stay right there until my trial date.

I had at least one friend

with me all the time and often several sympathetic visitors, but I had a lot of time to think about the 24 years of my life up to that point. A few years before I had been (lost) Sam Tippit of Baton Rouge, La., a fun-loving high school student. When I graduated from high school in 1965, I was dating

continued on page 2

But an East German pastor was inspired by reports of God's work in the Jesus Movement in the U.S.A., and he and another man set themselves for one year to pray once a week for revival among the young people in East Germany. After one year, they prayed and fasted for fourteen days. And then they started a Bible study.

What began with about 50 young people coming to that Bible study grew to 100, then to 200, then 500, then 1000. When it got up to 1000, they said, "We've got to start meeting in other places," because youth were coming from all over East Germany. So they started Bible meetings in every urban center.

I received an invitation to come preach in one of the biggest cathedrals in East Germany. Believe it or not, 2500 young people gathered—in a Communist country! They packed in to hear about and worship Jesus. When the service ended and they left, *another* 2500 came in and took their seats. It was an extraordinary move of God!

CAN A JESUS MOVEMENT HAPPEN AGAIN?

When I look back on the Jesus Movement of that era, the main thing that stands out is that *there were a lot of people witnessing and sharing the love of Jesus with other people.*

What God did then, God can do today. But sitting on the sidelines as cheerleaders is no longer an option. The Jesus Movement is a call to Christians everywhere to take the light into the darkness. ☪



Sammy Tippit is an internationally known evangelist, author, and speaker who, along with his wife, Tex, has shared Christ in over eighty nations across the globe. Learn more about his whereabouts and current ministries at www.SammyTippit.org.



"This photo of me carrying the cross is in front of the Democratic National Convention in 1972."



**IMAGINE
YOUR CHURCH
PRAYING FOR REVIVAL
AND SPREADING THE
GOSPEL THROUGH-
OUT THE WORLD.**

ONECRY

**A 4-DAY CONFERENCE
FOR YOUR ENTIRE CHURCH**

The OneCry conference is an opportunity for your church to step inside the circle and cry out for the manifest presence of God. OneCry is a worshipful, prayerful, challenging event that calls people to TURN, PRAY, and UNITE for spiritual awakening.

This conference includes elements for the whole church family. It features creative environments for children, high-impact worship, cutting-edge media, and practical application of biblical truths for adults and youth.

Call our scheduling team for available dates and details: 574-276-1677.

**To learn more about the
OneCry conference, visit
www.LifeAction.org/onecry.**



BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT,
FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.

I AM THE
WAY, AND
THE TRUTH,
AND THE LIFE.

LOVE YOUR
ENEMIES AND
PRAY FOR
THOSE WHO
PERSECUTE YOU
DO NOT
LAY UP
TREASURES
ON
EARTH.

NOT EVERYONE WHO
SAYS TO ME, "LORD
LORD," WILL ENTER THE
KINGDOM OF HEAVEN,
BUT THE ONE WHO DOES
THE WILL OF MY FATHER
WHO IS IN HEAVEN.

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE
BEFORE OTHERS, SO
THAT THEY MAY SEE
YOUR GOOD WORKS
AND GIVE GLORY TO YOUR
FATHER WHO IS
IN HEAVEN.





WHO IS RIGHT SIDE UP?

Jesus' teachings introduced a whole new way for humans to live, a new paradigm that should define the present and *will* define eternity.

He wasn't just a teacher; He is the Lord! He is a Savior who invites you to live life the way it was meant to be lived—by principles that will turn the misguided affections of the world upside down.

These aren't the proverbs of a dead sage, but the manifesto of a living Savior—risen, coming again, establishing a kingdom that will never end.



LOOKING BACK AT HOW IT BEGAN

Many ministries and mission agencies were founded in the United States during the days of the Jesus Movement, including Life Action Ministries. The following is an interview with Life Action's founder, Del Fehsenfeld Jr. (1947–1989).

What motivated you to start Life Action?

I looked around and saw the desperate condition of my nation—educationally, politically, economically, militarily, and morally. It became evident to me that the need in the nation was really no more than a reflection of the church's true spiritual condition.

I began to plead with God to awaken the sleeping church, give us a new view of God, shake us up over our sin, blow us out of our ruts, stir us out of our complacency, and revive and purify the church so that it could once again be used to glorify Him.

Even as I prayed, I knew that another organization, in itself, was not the key. What we really needed was an outpouring of the Holy Spirit—a visitation of God from heaven. But I had just enough

faith to believe that if there was a group of people who would unreservedly yield themselves to *seeking* and *obeying* God, He would grant such a visitation.

So, how did it get started?

In 1970 I was a youth director in Florida. The ministry was really born in one of our youth group's Saturday prayer meetings. As we were praying one night, God challenged me with the question, "Are you willing to go wherever I send you, and do anything I ask you to do?" As I always had before, I quickly responded, "Lord, You know I'm willing to go anywhere for You." In the back of my mind, however, I had always added, "... except Africa."

That night, God brought my reservation to the surface and forced me to face it for what it was. I wrestled with God for two hours in that prayer meeting, until He showed me that it would be far better to be in the middle of a jungle in the center of His will, than to fill the greatest pulpit in America outside of it!

Finally, I said, “Okay, God, if You want me to go to Africa, I’ll resign tomorrow morning.” As soon as I put my whole life and future on the altar and released it all to God, it was as if He said, “That’s all I wanted to know. Now that we’ve got that settled, I have something else I want you to do.”

For the next two weeks, I could hardly write as fast as God gave the blueprint for this ministry. I filled pages with the ideas, philosophy, and direction that came as I waited on God. He gave me the burden to believe Him for a genuine revival in individuals, families, churches, and ultimately across our nation—a revival that would impact the world.

Judy and I turned in our resignation to the church, and two weeks later, with no denomination, no corporation, no millionaire behind us, we stepped out by faith.

What were the first steps?

In the next 60 days, we traveled over 18,000 miles, through 32 states, and sought counsel from over 200 Christian leaders, pastors, businessmen, and laypeople. As we shared the burden and dream we felt God had given us, most of these men agreed about three things: (1) “America desperately needs the kind of revival you’re talking about.” (2) “The idea God has given you sounds tremendous.” (3) “It won’t work!”

At the end of our trip, I got on my knees and said, “Lord, this is impossible. I can’t do it.”

Then God said to me, “Don’t you ever forget it!” God wanted me to remember how impossible this task was so that when He did it, He would get all the glory.

In the next few months, as I traveled preaching the message of revival, we selected five young people who became our first team. I will never forget the night they arrived from all over the country at the Tampa International Airport. I sat them down and said, “Welcome to Life Action!” But the next thing I had to tell them was, “We don’t have any money to buy food, so . . . if we are going to eat tomorrow, we need to pray.” That was the truth! We had literally no money.

That night the team sang in a local church. Some of the people asked, “Do you have any needs?” I said, “Well, we just had a prayer meeting because we need food for the team to eat tomorrow.” The word spread like wildfire, and the people started bringing food to the school we had borrowed for training.

It became evident to me that the need in the nation was really no more than a reflection of the church’s true spiritual condition.

One lady said, “I don’t have anything to do until school starts. I’d like to be your cook.” Isn’t that just like the Lord? We asked for food, and He provided a cook as well!

The next morning, after we had eaten breakfast, I addressed our new team. “God came through! This was a good lesson for us to learn. You see, we don’t have any music, or a music director; we don’t have any outfits or equipment, or any money to buy them with; we don’t have any vehicles to travel in . . . but it really doesn’t matter, because we don’t have anywhere to go!”

Once again, we got on our knees and prayed. Before training camp was over, God had supernaturally provided every one of those needs. I believe God did all of that just to let us know that this was His organization, not ours. He did it to let us know that He was our source, and that if we would look to Him and trust Him, He would take care of our needs.

As you look back at those early days, what is one demonstration of God’s power that you remember?

At the beginning of our second year, we held meetings in a small town near Tampa. By Tuesday night of that event, there were so many people coming that many had to be turned away from the auditorium.

During that week, God transformed the lives and marriages of two men who had just started a brand new radio station. They were so concerned about all those people being turned away, they decided to broadcast the evening services live over the radio. Eventually the owner offered us an entire week of air time, from sign-on to sign-off!

When we went on the air that first morning, two of us started out by talking about the meetings. A caller rang in to offer a testimony of what God had done in his life. Then the phone rang again, and someone else wanted to share. In fact, from that moment until Saturday night, five days later, from sunup to sundown, the radio station’s three phone lines were constantly

We want to see God bring
His people back to loving
Him with all their hearts.
We want to see people
experience the joy of the
Christian life—not just
enduring Christianity,
but really enjoying its
Author, Jesus.

busy. People even called asking how to be saved. Some of them gave their lives to Christ right then, on the air!

One high school student called and said, “The Christians on our campus are so excited about what God is doing that we’re taking our lunch break and getting our lost friends to listen to the program on our car radios. Today one of my classmates got saved listening to the broadcast.”

Midweek, a pastor came into the station to give a testimony. He had become embittered and immoral, lost his wife and family, and destroyed his testimony and ministry.

He said on air, “Many of you people know me. Today I decided that life wasn’t worth living. I drove across the Tampa Bay Bridge, intending to jump off and end my life. In the middle of the bridge, for one last time, I started turning my radio dial across the stations. When I came to this station, which I didn’t even know existed, it was as if God put His hand on the dial and wouldn’t let me turn it any farther. He moved into my car, put His arms around me, and said, ‘I forgive you. If you will repent, I will change you.’

“I was so gripped by the presence of God that I could not do what I had planned. I drove across the bridge, got out of my car, got down on my knees, repented, and got right with God. Now I have come to ask forgiveness from this community for my failure as a pastor and as a Christian.”

By Saturday night, it was estimated that the listening audience of this radio station had jumped from an average of 300 per hour to over 60,000.

Since the early '70s, Life Action has been visiting churches across North America, prayerfully creating contexts where people can seek and obey God like this. What are we expecting as we set aside time for these events?

Some people think of “a revival” as a few days of nightly meetings (hopefully no longer than an hour and a half!) with messages geared to bring lost people to Christ. The problem is that the church is loaded, not with lost people, but with believers who are spiritually barren, hurting, backslidden, drowning in selfish and materialistic values, chained to moral impurity, in financial bondage, and bitter over marital conflicts and rebellious children. Christians in this condition, who know nothing of the joy and victory of the Spirit-filled life, don’t have the capacity to reach out to their lost friends, neighbors, and associates.

We’re looking for churches that are ready to clear their calendar and give God their undivided attention—people who are willing to pray and fast and seek God, believing Him to expose sin, cleanse hearts, and pour out His glory, presence, and power. We want to see God bring His people back to loving Him with all their hearts. We want to see people experience the joy of the Christian life—not just enduring Christianity, but really enjoying its Author, Jesus.

As people begin to deal with unconfessed sin through humility and repentance, their relationships with others will be affected. Those who have wronged each other will seek forgiveness, make restitution, and be reconciled. Marriages will experience new oneness, communication, and love.

People will stop living for themselves, and will begin serving others. The reviving presence of God in a church eliminates indifference and complacency, and creates new zeal and hunger for the things of God, as well as new concern for evangelism. We have seen entire communities impacted for Christ as a result of the transformed lives of believers. 🙏



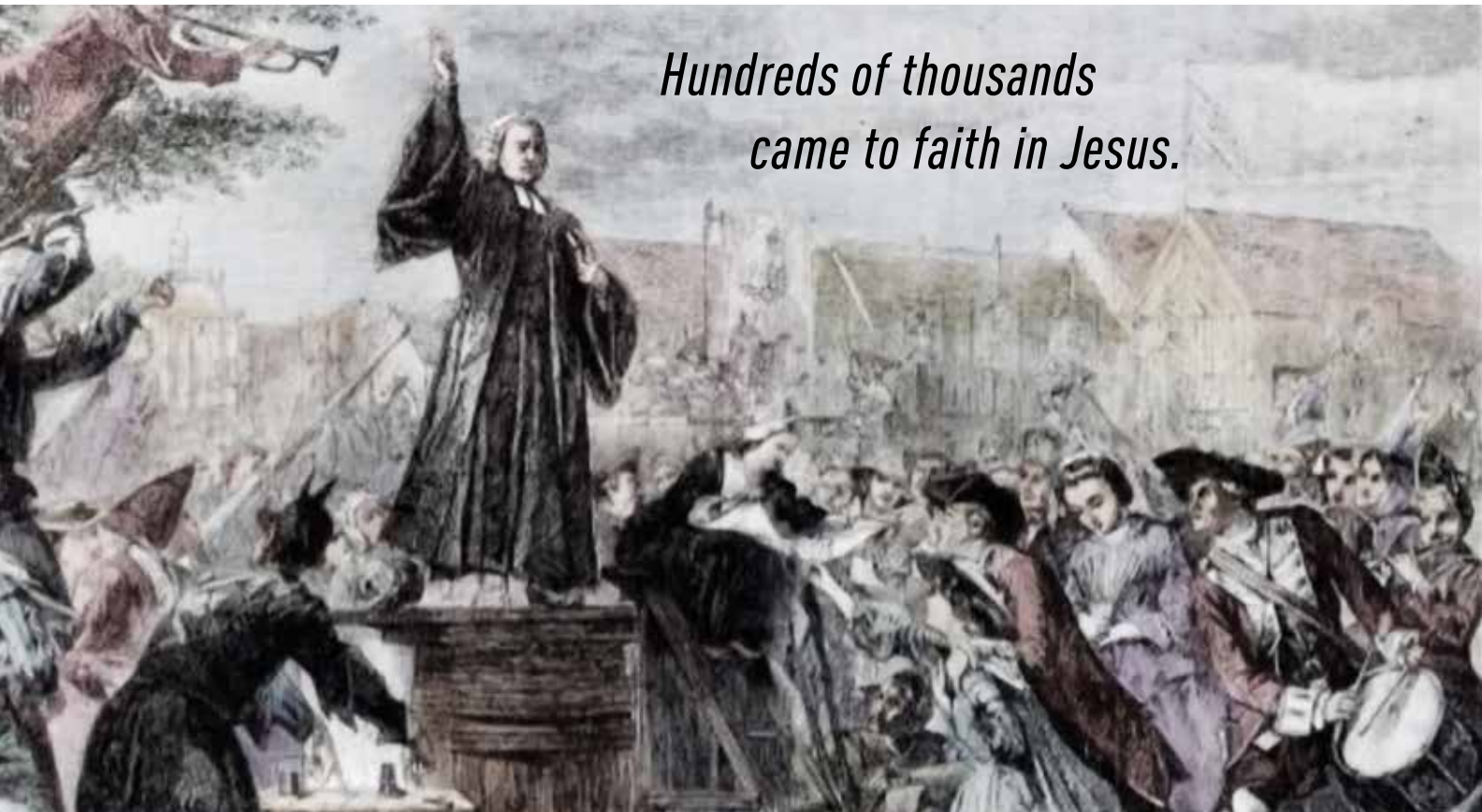
*Del was fond of saying,
“As long as God is on His throne,
revival is as possible as the sun
rising tomorrow morning.”*

Del Fehsenfeld Jr. went home to be with the Lord in 1989. Today, the ministry he founded continues to impact churches with the call to revived life in Christ, believing that an outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the church can lead to spiritual awakening among the lost.





IS REVIVAL HISTORY *PRESCRIPTIVE OR DESCRIPTIVE?*



*Hundreds of thousands
came to faith in Jesus.*

DR. RICHARD FISHER

I went to the doctor two weeks ago for a checkup. He looked me over and evaluated my test results. After explaining the *description* of my physical situation, he wrote out a *prescription* for me to fill and follow, so I could improve my health. (He also

described what would happen if I followed his advice, and what would happen if I did not. In effect, my doctor preached to me!)

The book of 2 Chronicles records four periods of revival in Judah after Solomon's kingdom was divided:

Under Kings Asa and Jehoshaphat [15–20]

Under King Joash [23–24]

Under King Hezekiah [29–32]

Under King Josiah [34–35]

These accounts are predominantly *descriptive*. There would

be no way to replicate the events as they transpired. The words spoken were spoken in context to God's people of that era, and we should be careful in making direct correlations to our own era.

However, within the story, we hear the prophetic voice calling

the people to repentance, which leads to revival. The *prophetic* aspects of these stories, I believe, are *prescriptive*.

For example, 2 Chronicles 15:1-7 is an example of a prophetic prescription for revival. Second Chronicles 7:12-15 can also be seen in this light—God’s prescription for revival among His covenant people. The Psalms (51; 84-85) and the Prophets (Isaiah 55; Micah 6:6-8) abound in prescriptive guidelines for revival. Most of these prescriptive elements are valid for any period of history (repentance, prayer, humility, etc.).

An example of this can be found in 1 Corinthians 10, where Paul used lessons taught in the Old Testament to guide the early church in the ways of God. In this case, our challenge is to see what God has done in the past (the descriptions), then glean principles that apply in our own situation (the prescriptions).

The Great Awakenings

In the history of the West, particularly the United States, there is a rich heritage of revival movement:

The First Great Awakening of the 1740s “not only brought life back to the church,” it “kept England and America from the horrors of the French Revolution.”*

The Second Great Awakening of the 1790s changed society, “resulting in the abolition of slavery, the end of child labor abuse . . . the move for universal literacy, and the reformation of prisons.”*

The Layman’s Prayer Revival of the 1850s started in the lives of individuals praying for God to work in and through their lives, and grew into the great D. L. Moody evangelistic campaigns across the world.

In each of these instances, the *descriptions* we read are encouraging. Hundreds

of thousands came to faith in Jesus. Thousands of new churches were planted. Vision and joy and reconciliation spread across the landscape.

So, should we go back and engage in the same methodology used in those days, expecting God to work in the same way again? Probably not. In all likelihood, God will move in a unique way in our time, in our context.

But we can learn. We can listen for the prophetic voice, the *prescription*, in the stories we read. For example, public repentance has been a common thread in most revival stories, as has been the clear proclamation of the gospel. Hypocrites were confronted; false converts were challenged to really follow Christ. People prayed with passion. These are aspects of revival history we would do well to emulate!

Description or Prescription: *The Cry of Our Hearts!*

Revival is about restoring *life*. To experience revival is to live again, to get a second chance. Thus, the need for revival implies something is very wrong—somehow I have lost my way, and I need drastic intervention.

I can still recall the panic that set in as I made my way to the surface of the cold waters of the New River in West Virginia. I had made the decision to go white-water rafting down the New River Gorge with a group of aging men who knew better. The river was ten feet above normal and running fast. This made it very exciting—or very dangerous, depending on your perspective!

As we ran the rapids, our boat took on more water than we could bale. We were completely submerged . . . and heading straight toward a six-foot hydraulic. To the right was a whirlpool, so we decided to meet the hydraulic head on.

We lost. Instantly, all I knew was dark, wet, and cold. I thought of Jonah! I reached

out to God and started moving in the direction my life jacket took me, hoping it knew the way to the surface. Several seconds later, I burst through water and breathed . . . again!

That brief and terrifying experience changed my life. When faced with my own death, I wanted to live. When faced with my own inability and confusion, I wanted God to help me.

The desire for spiritual revival is much like my experience in the New River Gorge. I suppose I could analyze it academically and figure out what elements were descriptive or prescriptive for others. *But would that even matter?*

I needed air! I wanted to live! And I moved in the only direction I knew, toward the light, toward the surface.

Such is our need for revival. God has saved people from dark and desperate situations before, and He can do it again. Nations have been filled with violence and anger before. Idols have lined the streets before. Churches have been filled with compromise before.

And revival has changed everything before. It can happen again, and it can start in the same humble ways that previous revivals have started—when we recognize our great need and cry out to God, the Reviver.

That’s the prescription we need to follow!

*Elmer Towns, *The Ten Greatest Revivals Ever*, (pp.2-3).



Dr. Richard Fisher has served as a professor and regional director with Moody Bible Institute.



COMMISSIONED AT CAMP

A desire for outreach and missions is the natural overflow of a revived heart. This year, Life Action Camp's focus was on the Great Commission, and how God invites families to work together as teams, in both local and global mission.

The following testimonials were shared with us by adults, teens, and even children as they encountered the call to Great Commission living. Our prayer is that many more will join them in sharing the gospel, until the whole world hears. Let's pray for a Jesus Movement in our time!



Challenged to begin praying daily with our children about who we can share Jesus with, and to begin a search for a global project and a local project to share Christ with others.

Acknowledged the fact that I needed God. During these days, I've realized that I can't do life on my own. I have relinquished control and given it all to the Lord!

Shifted out of neutral and recommitted my life to Jesus, my first love. I will be focusing more time, energy, and talents on the Great Commission.

Learned that we need to engage in a more global ministry that we have not been diligent in. God has commissioned us to go and make disciples!

Millions of people in the world have never heard of Jesus. I'm going to save up my money to buy Bibles for them.

Understand the "why" of my family now, the purpose for all of our activity—it is to work together to share Jesus, our greatest treasure, with others!

God put it on my heart to reach out and minister to my high school. I really want to be a disciple of Christ and make an impact on this world.

Excited to have more family meetings to discuss, pray, and plan missions we can do together.

Overwhelmed with excitement as to what my little family can do for Christ in the world, our community, and even in our home.

Ready to have the "go" attitude. I'll start serving wherever He needs me to.

THE HEART GOD REVIVES

► What kind of heart does God revive? What is required in my heart to experience ongoing, continual revival? Thankfully, God's Word tells us specifically how we can best prepare ourselves for His great work in our lives.

"The fog just lifted from my eyes and gave me the opportunity to be honest with myself."

"I didn't know where the tears were coming from. I'd never cried like that before."

"I've never experienced anything like it since, but it will never leave me. I will never forget that."

These were all statements made by people who experienced an extraordinary movement of the Holy Spirit in 1995 when I spoke on the subject of "The Heart God Revives."

No human being can take the credit for what happened that day. It was a work of God.

But what kind of heart does God revive? And what does it take in my heart to experience ongoing, continual revival?

Consider these Scriptures, and I think the answer will be plain:

Thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite" (Isa. 57:15).

The Lord is near to the broken-hearted and saves the crushed in spirit (Ps. 34:18; cf. Ps. 51:16-17).

Then we have these words of the Lord Jesus:

Blessed [to be envied, happy] are the poor in spirit [those who are bankrupt, those who are poverty-stricken, those who are destitute, those who have no resources of their own], for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed [happy, to be envied] are those who mourn, for they [those who mourn over their sin, those who grieve over that which

grieves the heart of God] shall be comforted [with the comfort that only God can give] (Matt. 5:3-4).

The heart God revives is the broken, contrite, humble heart. We are tempted to think of revival as primarily a time of joy and blessing. And at the right time, it will be. But in the ways of God, the way up is first down.

We will never meet God in revival until we have first met Him in brokenness. The epistle of James calls us to this kind of encounter with God:

Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. [But there is a process.] Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. [First] Humble yourselves before the Lord, and [then] he will exalt you (James 4:8-10).

It is possible for there to be many tears without brokenness; and there may be, in some cases, genuine brokenness apart from the shedding of tears. Brokenness is not a feeling or an emotion. It is a conscious choice, an act of my will.

Brokenness is not primarily a one-time experience or a time of crisis in my life, though it may include those. Brokenness is rather a continuous, ongoing lifestyle—one of agreeing with God about the true condition of my heart and life as He alone can see it. It's a lifestyle of unconditional, absolute surrender of my will to God.

Brokenness is the shattering of my self-will so that the life of Jesus may be released through me. The *broken* heart is the heart God revives.



FROM THE HEART

Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth
Revive Our Hearts Radio Host

***We will never meet
God in revival until
we have first met
Him in brokenness.***

 @NancyDeMoss

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Nancy".



ARE YOU READY FOR A JESUS MOVEMENT?



Revival is a work of the Holy Spirit, just like salvation itself—it is new life from God. In that sense, we can't make a revival happen or start an authentic spiritual movement. But we can ready ourselves, pray with vision, and start sharing our faith expectantly. Throughout Scripture and church history, God has always responded to the humble obedience of His people. Today is no different!

WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO DO?

HUMBLE YOURSELF

Revival never comes to proud hearts, or to those who refuse to receive God's help. Admitting your need for Him and your desperate hopelessness apart from Him is part of what the Bible calls having a "broken spirit" (Psalm 51:17). This attitude of brokenness before the Lord is absolutely a prerequisite for His work to begin.

☐ I have admitted my need for God, my utter dependence on Him.

GET HONEST WITH GOD

God cannot bless with His presence those who are holding onto their sin. Open your heart to the probing of the Holy Spirit; let Him reveal what aspects of your life need to change and what sins need to be confessed. Ask God's forgiveness for all of your sins; hold none of them back. Let His cleansing power forgive, restore, and transform you (Psalm 32:5).

☐ I have confessed all of my sins to the Lord, as specifically as I can.

REPENT OF YOUR SINS

Repentance means turning from everything you know to be sin, toward God's best plan for life (2 Peter 3:9). In other words, repentance is a thorough and complete change of mind and heart about sin and righteousness. It involves full surrender to Jesus Christ as the Lord of your decisions, thoughts, behaviors, and priorities. Repentance requires that you make a clean break with sin; that you rid your life of sinful influence and instead pursue purity in the power of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:17-24).

- ☐ I have turned away from my will so that I can obey God's will.

EMBRACE AND EXTEND FORGIVENESS

When we have repented of our sins and placed our faith in Jesus Christ, the Bible assures us of God's full and final forgiveness of our sins. We can rejoice that He will never remember them against us again (Isaiah 43:25) and that fellowship with Him has been restored (1 John 1:5-7). But as we pursue revival, it is also important that we clear our "sin accounts" with each other. Just as God forgives us, we are called to forgive those who have wronged us; and just as we confess our sins to the Lord, we are also to confess specific sins to those we have wronged, so we can proceed with a clear conscience (Acts 24:16).

- ☐ I have forgiven those who hurt me, based on Jesus' love.
- ☐ I have sought forgiveness from and/or made restitution to those I have hurt.

WALK IN OBEDIENCE

Obedience is doing what Jesus tells us to do with the right heart attitude because He is the Lord of our lives (Luke 6:46). In every category of life, we are called to say yes to Jesus Christ, to His way of living and loving. Carefully consider His commands and His example so you can grow in your faith. In God's Word, read His perfect law that will revive your soul (Psalm 19:7). And in prayer, seek His guidance for your daily decisions.

- ☐ I am saying YES to God in every category of my life, as far as I know.

SEEK GOD'S KINGDOM FIRST

The purpose of a revived life in Christ is so we can take the kind of kingdom action that honors Him—organizing our lives around His priorities, engaging in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20), and extending the love and light of Jesus in every direction. Revival fire in our hearts results in a stepped-up commitment to this mission, and in the kind of bold faith God uses to change the world. When we begin seeking the kingdom of God and His righteousness above everything else in this life (Matthew 6:33), we move from the sidelines to the front lines of God's kingdom advance.

- ☐ God's kingdom is my first priority, and I am sharing my faith with others.

ANY JESUS MOVEMENT IS ONLY ABOUT Jesus.

How much does Jesus occupy your thoughts, prayers, and conversations?

In the past thirty days, I have:

- ☐ **Prayed to Jesus** about needs or decisions in my life
- ☐ **Talked to friends** about what Jesus has done for me
- ☐ **Worshiped Jesus** in song or other expression
- ☐ **Shared Jesus** with someone who needed the gospel
- ☐ **Given a generous gift** in Jesus' name, for His kingdom
- ☐ **Made an intentional effort** to honor Jesus in my family life
- ☐ **Thought about the mission** Jesus has in mind for my life

The message of the gospel isn't complicated. And the gospel is the power of God that brings salvation (Romans 1:16).

- ☐ **I am ready to share** the Good News about Jesus with someone else.
Key verse: 1 Peter 3:15
- ☐ **I respond to opportunities** to tell people about Jesus.
Example: Peter and John, Acts 3
- ☐ **I make new opportunities** to tell people about Jesus.
Example: Paul in Athens, Acts 17

EQUIP // FIVE VERSES TO LEARN AND BE READY TO SHARE

John 3:16; Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8-9; John 5:24; Romans 10:9

ENCOURAGE // THREE PASSAGES TO INSPIRE YOUR NEXT STEP

The destination of our lives: Revelation 21:1-8

The mission of our lives: 2 Corinthians 5:14-21

The celebration of our lives: Matthew 25:14-30

ENGAGE // HOW WILL YOU SHARE JESUS THIS MONTH?

I will pray for an opportunity to speak to _____ about Jesus.

I will give a gift to _____ to help spread the gospel.

I will ask God to help me _____.

WHAT WILL IT TAKE?

► God is doing marvelous things in this world. Pastors are saying yes to the most impossible assignments. When people lay everything on the altar before God and set their hearts on the Great Commission, movements of authentic Christianity are born. Will you join them?



NEXT STEP

Dan Jarvis
Managing Editor

We can join our brothers and sisters across the world in seeking first the kingdom of God.

 @DanJarvisUS

A stylized, handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Dan'.

What will it take to see another Jesus revolution? On a recent trip to Sri Lanka, I met a village pastor who gave me the answer—and since the moment we spoke, his words have shaken me. After hearing his testimony of miraculously finding Jesus as a Hindu priest, I asked him specifically about his vision.

“That each and every place on this island would have a church planted,” he replied, with resolute intensity. He has already been organizing to help street beggars, orphans, and those most in need, heralding a specific message for them: “You are loved—loved with an everlasting and gracious love, the personal love of Jesus.”

And many are responding. From jungle huts and crowded marketplaces, men, women, and children are hearing the Word of God and putting their faith in Jesus Christ. My friend now pastors six different congregations, and more than one hundred children attend his village Sunday school. In just one month’s time, forty-seven new believers were baptized.

There are many more pastors like my friend. Thousands, actually, are proclaiming the gospel, planting churches in previously unreached areas, enduring poverty, risking persecution, saying yes to the most impossible assignments—all throughout South Asia. Even though this region is still home to most of the world’s yet-to-be-reached people, the statistics are rapidly changing!

The amazing stories reported in this issue of *Revive* mirror, in many ways, the kind of spiritual movement occurring now in places like India, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan. When people set their hearts on the Great Commission—when they lay everything on the altar before God—things start happening. That’s when movements of authentic Christianity are born!

I asked my pastor friend what challenge he might have for Christians across the world who would read my report. He said, “We don’t have a fight with human beings, but with

demonic forces. We have to teach people to go out with the gospel. We must stand firm—faithfully, truly, holy, with all that we are, to do this work. It is a great privilege to serve God. He is doing marvelous things in the world.”

He offered me encouragement from the book of Jude: “But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life.”

But he wasn’t finished. His voice was quivering and his eyes were filled with tears. “The Lord God is choosing us from the dust, for His work, not our work. With our last breath, we are to run to Him. That is my vision; that is my hope.”

I was speechless. Can I imagine working with my whole heart for God, sharing the gospel, serving and loving the needy as Jesus did, all the way up until my last breath? Then, in that final moment, turning and running toward my Lord?

Can I imagine enduring persecution and scorn, taking bold leaps of faith and specific steps of obedience, spending my energy and my heart until the very end, then collapsing into the arms of Jesus, to rest for eternity with Him?

The message we’re called to proclaim is so simple. The vision Jesus has set before us is so clear: Everyone everywhere needs the gospel. And we have been commissioned by Him to share it. We can share, we can give, we can plant, we can go. We can join our brothers and sisters across the world in seeking first the kingdom of God, above all other pursuits.

If we really want a Jesus revolution, in our own families, in our own cities, or across the planet, that’s what it will take.

You.

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