

Voice of Baptists

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"The Voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God."
Isaiah 40:3

VOL. 3

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REVIVE US AGAIN

By Harold D. Carver
Buena Vista, Tenn.

"Wilt Thou Not Revive Us Again, That Thy People May Rejoice In Thee?" Psalms 85:6

God has spared our lives for another year, and once again we are nearing the revival season in most of our churches. Many of you have eagerly looked forward to this season, since your last revival. Many of you have not particularly thought about your last revival or your next revival until now. No doubt, there are some of you who for different reasons really kind of dread for the revival season to come.

Regardless of what your feelings may be or may not be concerning this subject, what is needed most is a sweeping revival. In these last days, seemingly more than ever before in history, revival is needed. America, our great homeland, needs revival.

In many cases, the unsaved are blamed for the ills of sin in our individual communities and in our nation. But the word of God teaches that such ills are a result of cold and backslidden children of God. Revival must begin then and flourish through all of God's people, "If my people which are called by my name" (2 Chron. 7:14a).

Revival is not simply a strange, spiritual phenomenon, or just "something" that happens to a whole nation or to a church, which filters down and rekindles the fire in our hearts. But quite to the contrary, revival must begin in the heart of each saved individual until the whole church is rekindled, or, in the national sense, the whole nation is revived.

Revival, then, must be an awakening of God's people which causes them to become active for God. "Vive" means life; "re" means again. So the implication is that the life is already there, the life of Christ in the individual christian. However, it appears that in far too many cases the life has become dormant and needs to be stirred and reawakened. Many of God's people have adopted traits from the insect world. Many insects pass through a certain stage

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MISSIONARY BAPTISTS

By Vernon Roark
North Bend, Oregon

"Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature," Mark 16:15.

I wonder sometimes if we as Missionary Baptists really take to heart what our name implies, and what our God given purpose in life really is. If my understanding is correct, then a missionary is a servant of his master, who has a mission or a work to carry out that his master has appointed him to do. If this is true, every born again believer has a mission to perform, and I will freely say that initial mission is to unite with a scriptural New Testament Church. Many are the scriptures that could be introduced to prove this, but one will be sufficient. Matt. 5:16. Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works, and Glorify your father which is in heaven. As far as concerns Baptists, I challenge any one to present another religious body, that can truthfully claim that Jesus Christ is their only founder and King, and is truly, in

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DOES YOUR CHURCH HAVE A MALIGNANCY?

By Kenneth W. Massey

"For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them of Chloë, that there are contentions among you."
1 Corinthians 1:11

Webster defines malignancy as "the state of being capable of producing death or deterioration." Some churches once in existence are gone. THEY DIED! Will yours become so weak because of contentions that God would move the candlestick out of his place? Disagreement mishandled and magnified becomes a contention. Contentions allowed to run rampant in a church will destroy her spirituality. The absence of God's Spirit leading His churches opens the door for formalism or whatever devil's advocate is most handy.

A crude, laymen's explanation of the cancer process in a human is a viral infection begins in a very small area spreading to the blood stream and bringing terrible sickness and eventual death in many cases. When detected early and receiving proper treatment, hopes for survival are real favorable.

Procrastination (put off doing something that should be done) has victimized many churches. When church discipline should be administered and the revival is approaching, some will say, "let's wait until after the meeting is over or it may hinder." That's the devil speaking in an effort to influence the church to make the first step in the wrong direction.

DISEASED CHURCHES ARE INCAPACITATED

One of the vital doctrines of truth concerning man's work for God is "unity

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VOICE OF BAPTISTS

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REPORT FROM OREGON

By Vernon Roark

The following is a list of offerings we received during January thru April, 1980. I want to thank each individual and church for every act of love you have shown toward us. Thank you so much and may God bless each of you for every letter, prayer, contribution or thought.

Old Union Baptist Church (Home Church)	\$ 736.50
Hauser Baptist Church	996.58
Fellowship Baptist Church (Ind.)	153.00
Elder Roger Fowler (Tenn.)	57.50
Elder Kenneth Massey (Tenn.)	20.00
Elder Charles Patterson (Tenn.)	25.00
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Nelson (Tenn.)	20.00
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Potts (Oregon)	70.00
Mr. & Mrs. David Griffin (Oregon)	50.00
Mr. & Mrs. J. P. Willoughby (Ky.)	10.00
Total Contributions	\$2,138.58
Donations to Hauser Baptist Church:	
Bro. Truman Hedges (Tenn.)	\$ 100.00
Independent Baptist Church (Tenn.)	200.00
Total	\$ 300.00

"If your riches are yours, why don't you take them with you to the other world?"
—Benjamin Franklin

NOTICE

Please notify us of your address change. For each returned paper we must pay 25¢ additional postage.

REVIVE US AGAIN

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of their development in a cocoon woven around them. Life is there, but they remain inactive or dormant and to those looking on there is no visible life. What a picture of many today! The life which was planted in regeneration has become clothed in a cocoon of worldliness and from all outward appearances life has vanished away. We as God's people must wake up, shed the cloak of worldliness, and become active for God that He may be glorified, and that our sons and daughters may be saved.

The recipe for such a revival—"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" (2 Chron. 7:14) AND WHO HATH HEARD SUCH A THING? WHO HATH SEEN SUCH THINGS, SHALL THE EARTH BE MADE TO BRING FORTH IN ONE DAY? OR SHALL A NATION BE BORN AT ONCE? FOR AS SOON AS ZION TRAVAILED, SHE BROUGHT FORTH HER CHILDREN. SHALL I BRING TO THE BIRTH, AND NOT CAUSE TO BRING FORTH? SAITH THE LORD; SHALL I CAUSE TO BRING FORTH, AND SHUT THE WOMB? SAITH THY GOD" (Isaiah 66:8, 9). The address has been made to God's people, to those who have been born again (John 3:3, 5, 7). To those who have repented to God and exercised faith in Jesus Christ (Acts 20:21). The Bible leaves no doubt as to the subjects in this address. As we further study II Chronicles 7:14, we find there the conditions for revival: **to humble ourselves, to pray, to seek God, and to turn from sin.**

First, God's people must humble themselves in His sight. "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise" (Psalms 51:17). "For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I will dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones" (Isaiah 57:15). Humility is not necessarily meekness, quietness, reservation, or bashfulness. Nor is humility merely the recognition of our insignificance, personal sorrow, or despondency. God looks upon the heart

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every respect, their Master.

Now I call your attention to our text beginning at the last two words, "Every Creature". This is an overwhelming command. Every creature is to be reached with the message of life; each boy, girl, man, woman, every race, creed and nationality. Impossible? No. Our King is an all powerful, and all wise King, and will furnish us with Grace to be able to accomplish our purpose. Heb. 4:16.

Preach the Gospel, which the apostle Paul declared to be the power of God unto Salvation to every one who would believe, Rom. 1:16. To preach the Gospel, is to proclaim, both formally and informally, the good news that Jesus Christ died for our sins, according to the scriptures, that he was buried and rose again the third day, according to the scriptures, and was seen alive by many witnesses. I Cor. 15:3-4.

"All the world" is our field of labor. No local community, no province, city, state, county, no principality, no Kingdom, not one square mile on this whole world is to be excluded from our efforts to preach the Gospel to every creature.

"Go Ye", this very phrase denotes a command to action to a particular people. When the command was given, the number was 120 souls. What a seemingly impossible task for so few in number. But in obeying the command of the Lord, their number grew and they found that God did supply what they could not, when they went into action, being led by the Holy Spirit. Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature. This is an impossible command to us as individuals, but as the body of Christ on earth, the True Church, being led by the Holy Spirit, and empowered with grace from His Throne, we can and must do all to fulfill this command.

I know that not every one will be called upon by God to go into a foreign city, a distant state, another country, or even around the block to start a mission, pastor a church, or witness to a lost soul, but every one who is a member of the Lord's Church is under command to action. If it be no more than to attend Church and Sunday School, and grow in Grace and Knowledge of the Lord. If we are willing to take action, then God will take our obedience and magnify it and cause us to fulfill our purpose. Remember, every child of God was born of the Spirit, because someone was obedient to the Command of Jesus, our Saviour, Priest, and King. Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to Every Creature.

DOES YOUR CHURCH HAVE A MALIGNANCY?

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of the Spirit in the bond of peace." "Can two walk together except they be agreed?" (Amos 3:3) When the great victory of Pentecost was sent from heaven, the people were in one accord (agreement).

Though disagreements will arise in all churches, they should not be tolerated after becoming contentions. The church at Jerusalem had a disagreement concerning circumcision, but was settled once and for all.

Some of the diseases that afflict churches are as follows: members uniting with a false church; members leading drunken and riotous lives, and failing to attend services; members committing adultery, having turned their backs on the church; contentious and unreasonable members.

All of these diseases diminish the strength of the church. So we learn from the Scriptures that we should withdraw from such, when correction of their lives is not made. Now, in many churches, it is more likely that one will be excluded for drunkenness or joining a false church, though you haven't seen them in ten years, than for the contentious member to ever be corrected. The drunk and the deceiver from the faith should be disciplined, and the contentious member also.

If a choice must be made of which to discipline first, choose the one doing the most damage to the work. The contentious member should be loved, not hated. Suppose all doctors told the cancer patients, "get out of here, and don't come back." The contentious person is no more happy with his life than the church is happy with him. He or she needs help. Only the church can help them. Don't sit and look at the diseased and pray that he will die or leave, but take positive Bible steps to help. What may appear as a small contention today will probably become larger tomorrow, if swept under the rug and ignored in hopes that it will somehow cure itself.

REGULAR CHECK-UPS & GOOD HEALTH HABITS

How do churches avoid these religious malignancies or detect them? The best remedy for avoiding such affliction is to insist on every member of the church finding and filling the place God has chosen for their life in the church. "I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called" (Eph. 4:1). When all members are so busy performing the duties of their re-

KENTUCKY SCHOOL REPORT

The OLD UNION BAPTIST MINISTERS SCHOOL of Bowling Green, Kentucky operating under the auspices of Old Union Baptist Church reports record attendance this year. Ninety-two Baptist ministers, representing a multi-state area, gathered for the Eighth Annual session March 26-28.

Much profitable instruction was offered by Elders F. W. Lambert, James H. Smith, Howard G. Taylor (served in the absence of Elder W. T. Russell, who was in the hospital) and H. C. Vanderpool.

Wonderful harmony and fellowship prevailed throughout the classes. Many rejoiced in the presence and power of God's Spirit made manifest in the Thursday night worship service in which Elder E. F. Prince of McKenzie, Tenn. delivered a spiritual and scriptural sermon.

Tapes of this session are available. Write to:

OLD UNION BAPTIST MINISTERS SCHOOL

c/o Elder Paul Bryson

Route 2

Alvaton, KY 42122

A group picture was made by Elder Jackie Wilburn, but space did not permit including it with this report.

Thanks to Pastor Paul Bryson, the school committee members, and to Old Union Church for all your time, talent and labor rendered in this great cause.

"TAKE MY YOKE UPON YOU, AND LEARN OF ME"

Matthew 11:29

DOES YOUR CHURCH HAVE A MALIGNANCY?

spective church vocations, little time is left for gendering strife and discord. "People with small minds talk about other people; people with mature minds talk about ideas." "Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned" (Romans 16:17). Some churches would stand bold as a lion against an outsider causing confusion, while allowing a member to make shipwreck of the church's progress.

Except men repent they shall perish! Unless we abide by the laws of America, we should expect to be punished. Those persons abusing the limitations of physical endurance, may suffer and/or shorten their lives. Churches failing to fulfill the law of Christ (speak

REVIVALS

JUNE 1

PLEASANT VALLEY MISS. BAPTIST CHURCH - Washington, Ill. Elder Billy Moran of Detroit will serve as evangelist. Elder Larry Taylor is pastor of the church. Services nightly begin at 7 p.m. Everyone is invited!

NORTH CARTHAGE MISS. BAPTIST CHURCH - Carthage, Tenn. Pastor Charles A. Gentry will be assisted in the preaching by Elder Kenneth Massey. Services daily at 1:30 and 7:30 p.m. YOUR PRESENCE IS WELCOMED!

JUNE 15

HENDERSONVILLE MISS. BAPTIST CHURCH - Hendersonville, Tenn. Pastor William R. Overton will be assisted by Elder Kenneth Massey. Services nightly at 7:30 p.m. YOU ARE INVITED!

JUNE 22

ENON CHAPEL MISS. BAPTIST CHURCH - Highway 231 six miles west of Hartsville, Tenn. Pastor Bobby Gann will be assisted in the preaching by Elder Douglas Curtis. Songleader - Bro. J. W. Gregory. Services at 7:30 p.m. EVERYONE INVITED!

JUNE 29

CEDAR BLUFF MISS. BAPTIST CHURCH - Highway 52, Lafayette, Tenn. Pastor James Lawson will have Elder Bobby Gann assisting him in the preaching. Services daily at 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. EVERYONE INVITED!

DOES YOUR CHURCH HAVE A MALIGNANCY?

the truth with love, and unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace), will suffer at the hands of God or lose that indispensable power essential to performance of the Great Commission.

EPILOGUE

As God being our helper, let's demonstrate a sincere love for our brethren and sisters in the church. Should the time come that one of them becomes contentious, will you step forward and prove your love for God, His church in your life, His Truth, the sinners need to hear a liberated pastor preach glad tidings of salvation, and finally, your love for the guilty person. ANYTHING THAT SERIOUSLY DISTURBS THE UNION AND PEACE OF A CHURCH SHOULD BE HANDLED, BUT NOT MISHANDLED!

REVIVE US AGAIN

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of man and is not moved by the passions and pains of our carnal nature. Humility is simply the attitude of thinking of ourselves no more highly than we ought to think. To truly realize that we are just sinners saved by grace, and that in God's sight we have no merit, but there must be a complete freedom from vanity. Pride must be cast away through the realization that we are **beggers** at the throne of mercy. God commands that we humble **ourselves**. "But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth more grace unto the humble. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you" (James 4:6, 7).

Secondly, God's people must pray. We need to simply go down on our faces before God or to fall prostrate before His holy presence. In short, we must acknowledge and confess our sins to God and be willing to put them away before seeking His pardon and forgiveness. David said, "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me" (Psalms 66:18). With our slates made clean through God's forgiveness, then and only then are we ready to petition God in behalf of others.

Thirdly, God's people must seek God's face until they find Him in prayer. Having reached a condition where the prayer lines are open to God, we must pray intercessory prayers in behalf of our lost friends. In this regard, we must seek, seek, and seek until their needs are met, as God lays great stress upon **persistence** in seeking Him. In Luke 11:5-10, we find an account of this teaching. This lesson is illustrated by a man who had received into his home a visitor with much need. The man did not have the provisions needed by the visitor. Whereupon he went to his friend already in bed, and ask provisional favors of him. At first the friend would not arise and grant the request, but verse eight, the latter part, declares "yet because of his importunity (persistence, steadfastness), he will arise and give him as many as he needeth." So it is with God's people today, and as a condition preceding revival, we must seek God with persistence until we find Him.

Finally, the text tells us that God's people must turn from their wicked ways before he will grant the outpouring of His mighty, powerful, and awakening Spirit which we so urgently need. However, "the rub" (rejection, resistance) often appears at the point of our turning. David had the right admonition in Psalms

139:23, 24. "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." The apostle Peter tells us, "For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God." (I Peter 4:17a), If we are to be truly successful in revival, we must be willing to lay aside all the things that so easily beset us.

We must turn from all personal sin and worldliness. "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (I John 1:8, 9). "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world", (I John 2:15, 16). So many people today have misconceptions and distorted views as to what sin really is. Society as a whole, has become far too permissive and immoral by embracing the worldliness as described by John. But God has not changed and has not softened toward sin. He is no more tolerant of sin today than he was in Noah's day when the world was destroyed by the Great Flood, or in Lot's day when Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed by fire and brimstone. God will not fellowship sin, and sin will not go unpunished.

We must also turn from our indifference, insensitivity, and passiveness towards lost souls. Lost sinners are all around us. Do you have concern for them? If so, what have you done about it? How many can you truthfully say that you have attempted to lead to Christ in the last twelve months? These questions should sober each child of God.

We are definitely living in stiff necked, dry eyed, cold hearted and formalistic times. But God is still omnipotent, and can send revival today as in yesteryear. Our text stated that, when God's people meet His conditions, then follows forgiveness for sins and healing for the land.

We will now consider some such examples. In I Kings 18, we find the account of God's prophet Elijah who was confronted by devilish powers in the persons of Ahab and Jezebel. The test then was "the fire that fell" and this is the same test that must be proven before the world today. God provided the consuming fire in answer to Elijah's prayer, and it is God that must also send

His great spiritual power if we are to have revival today.

We find another illustration in the city of Nineveh repenting at the preaching of Jonah. It is interesting and worthy of our consideration that God had more problems with His disobedient servant than He did in delivering a wicked city. I believe this same problem continues to exist and hinder revival today.

A final example we may consider to strengthen our faith and draw new courage can be summoned from a study of the city of Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost. The disciples numbering all together about an hundred and twenty as a small flock compared to the total residents in the city at that time. However, they had all continued with one accord (agreement) in prayer and supplication (humble beseeching) to God before this great day. When the day of Pentecost was fully come, His great power fell from heaven upon the disciples and the city was turned upside down by the Spirit of God. As a result, a great host of calloused, hard-hearted and unbelieving Jews repented and were saved. It is amazing what God can and will do when His people humble themselves, pray, seek His face, and turn from their wicked ways. May each one who reads this writing be filled with a desire to be revived again. May our attitude be, if we can not see revival in America, let us have one in the state in which we reside. If we do not see revival in our state, may we seek to have one in our respective church. If we do not see revival in our church, may we seek one in our family. If we do not see revival in our family, may we find the rekindling and reawakening in our personal hearts. Oh Lord, may revival begin in me!

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FREE TAPE

Anyone interested may order, free of charge, a cassette tape containing the Sunday School Hour and Sunday's Sermon of the regular services held at Independent Baptist Church on April 27, 1980. Bro. Ray Smith teaching the Adult Class is recorded on Side One with the sermon, "A Great Saviour, and a Great Salvation" by Pastor Kenneth Massey on Side Two.

Address your orders to:

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