

A REVIVAL THE PARAMOUNT NEED

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is a joke. This is now true of all Protestantism. When in the memory of those living, any way, of recent years, was a member brought to account for anything? Nothing will restore this glory and power but a Revival—not in one church or denomination—but a nationwide awakening, so that sinners by the thousands in the church, and out, will be brought in humble knowledge of Christ's Lordship by repentance and faith. The churches need redemptive restoration; but it must come in God's way. "If the salt has lost its savor, wherewith shall it (the earth) be salted?" It is a revival for America or Icha-bod.

A fourth reason is the Home. There is no more appalling situation confronting us than the disintegration of the home. Not only has it ceased to be a religious institution, but it is losing its moral fiber. There are legions of causes entering into this phase of our American life, but we are only calling attention to that phase which pertains to a revival. The religious and moral life of a church cannot rise higher than what it is in the home; but we believe the moral power of the home is too far spent now to redeem the situation. Economic conditions, new liberties for women, the amusement craze, the utter decadence of home piety and authority, facilities for Sabbath desecration by the automobile all combine to make the home impossible as a regenerating unit. The home once gave stability to the church, but now the dynamics must revert to the home from elsewhere. Civilization for the future is impossible unless the home is restored to its God-ordained position, and we believe, that it is going to require a nation-wide, Holy Ghost-inspired revival to save the home. Where once the fires of faith and piety burned on the altars of home, now is found discord, ambition, infidelity, and extravagant living. Two million divorced couples in America! Our nation would doubtless be torn to shreds if all the causes for divorce were fully known. The pustule is there even if it is covered with the plaster of social conventionalities. God must come to the American home but he can only come through his own method—the Gospel—and its saving power.

A fifth reason is the Program of the Church. The Church has a task, stupendous, overwhelming; its task is to carry the Gospel to an unsaved world. Oh, the demands that are upon us. People will not feel and respond to these causes when the fires of faith and experience burn low. Some will do and pay from principle; their honor is at stake; but support for the great causes must have the help of all. Think of what six million Methodists could do if they were saved and thrilled with a zeal of holy inspiration. The big task of the Church could be done if her membership had the pentecostal vision. We can scarcely dream of such a glorious period; but we can hope and pray for a revival that will save our homes and our churches from dry rot and apostasy. Our causes will continue to languish—and the worst is not yet—unless we can pray down a revival. Drives, big conventions, set up meetings, inspirational addresses, books, literature and all will not do the job. The "valley of dry bones" must stand up a mighty army.

A sixth reason. Unless we can bring about a sweeping revival millions of souls for whom

Christ died, will be lost forever. Sixty percent of Americans have no religious affiliation whatever. Think of millions of professed religionists who have no salvation, and are as ignorant of God as the heathen; and, worst of all, they are living in the presence of light—churches scattered everywhere. They tell us we have one hundred thousand churches in the United States that ought to be junked, that are not functioning. If we could have a revival just in the membership, and get them on a going-to-church basis we would need double the number of churches we now have to accommodate our membership.

If the Master knew the value of a soul—that it is worth more than the whole world—think of the riches scattered all about us. Not "Acres of Diamonds," but continents of them, precious souls, jewels that can be reached only by a revival.

Then we give as a seventh reason—the salvation of the nation as well as the individual. Nations cannot be saved by armies and navies; God's method is through prophets of righteousness, crying out like a voice in the wilderness, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord," levelling mountains of sin and arrogance; bringing up the valleys of suffering and hopefulness. God has no promise to the nation that forgets him. If our land is ever redeemed to a God-fearing country, where his laws are obeyed and his commandments observed, it must come through the messages of his prophets—ministers of the Gospel—preaching righteousness from center to circumference. Nothing else will meet the present approaching crisis. But as matters now stand, "Judgment must begin at the house of God." We cannot move without, until we move within.

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

Hartland P.O., Natal, So. Africa.

Dear Friends:—I am reminded of this text, "Despise not the day of small things," when I attempt to write a little about our schools. They are so very small and it is such a labor to keep them going, secure suitable teachers, find the money to pay them, and several other items.

Schools that are free are scarce in this land, and while Government helps them, certain conditions must be met which seem too difficult for us at present to meet.

Today the school closed here. The teacher is a good one and could have taught a graded school if she had the material.

Only seven regular scholars for the daytime and about the same number for the night session, which she held at her boarding place, Joeli Mahlaba's home. He himself improved this excellent opportunity and advanced much in his reading. He is a young man still and one of our evangelists.

Though the numbers are few this term, still we feel much encouraged, for the pupils learned well. They were taught to read, write, something of arithmetic, sewing, knitting and crocheting. But the biggest wonder to their friends were some braided mats made from corn husks. Nothing like that had been seen before in this land.

The Bible is the chief text book and the New Testament their reader as soon as they have learned enough to read.

Committing to memory of chapters or separate sections of Scripture forms a part of the daily study.

A poor little heathen, if willing to go to school, can about finish the rudiments of reading and writing in six months, and ever after be able to read Jesus' own words for himself. So, if only a few children learn to read in one term, think what that means! Changes the whole tenor of their lives and gives them a glimpse of the higher plane of Christian civilization.

The children lose their teacher and it was touching to see them crying tears as they tried to sing their farewell song, for this one does not expect to return as she is soon to be married.

One school across Piraan was closed in October as Abel Nkose, the teacher, was planning to plant his gardens and then go to work to buy cattle for "lobola."

Though only fourteen were enrolled, still it is a brave show for a new place among raw heathen. Some girls, still heathen, can now read the Testament. "The entrance of Thy word giveth light." I was much encouraged to see how rapidly they had learned. We hope to open this school again after the watching season is over, as summer time everybody must plant, weed and watch their gardens.

Another school began bravely but the teacher got so homesick she was really ill and left. We could not secure another, but are hoping to be able to get some kind of a one for the coming winter season.

Our largest and best school is at Altona. This has been running well for nearly two years now, with a roll call of thirty and many have learned to read the Word at this school.

Across the Pongola the natives seem to be awakening to their need of education more than they do here, but even there it is a difficult thing to get the parents to see the great need, and to pay for it is harder still.

For years a small school has been held at Entungwini with varying success.

Then we had for a few months one at another point over there also.

Also at two different outposts across the Piraan we have had small schools for six months or more.

There are several new places—I mean where we have never had a school—asking for schools, and how I long to be able to put one wherever they are needed! Schools—if we can only arouse these sluggish people to see it—is one of our best and easiest weapons to fight ignorance and heathenishness.

One other school, conducted by Alfred Metula, one of our evangelists. This is beyond Paulpietersburg about fourteen miles, and from here about thirty-two miles. They have held it in the evenings and had fourteen or fifteen enrolled. It is a good, profitable school and going well, the last report we had.

Discouragements and trials abound, but my soul refuses to be cast down. I remember "David encouraged himself in the Lord." Even when things looked darkest he found he had much to give thanks for. So have we and we do. We praise Him for His beautiful salvation that can make us "steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord." "Not I, but Christ," said Paul.

This is the busy time of year when all work hard and are so tired. Fewer get out to meetings, the Devil is busy with one thing and another, so we must watch, and pray more, lest we fail to help all we should.

We are preparing for Christmas now and expect the best we will have is God's blessing. Long months we have hungered and thirsted for a Holiness revival, but only trials and