

# The King's Highway

Rev. L. K. Mullen, No. 61

## AN ADVOCATE OF SCRIPTURAL HOLINESS

VOL. XXXVIII

MONCTON, N. B., JANUARY 14, 1961

No. 502

### Revival is Our Need

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The Psalmists prayer-petition: "Wilt thou not revive us again, that thy people may rejoice in thee?" is the heart cry of multitudes of God's people these days. But revival never comes to a people unprepared.

This is number one priority. And it must be followed by a consciousness of God's willingness to answer the prayers of His own. In a world engulfed in the monster arms of chaos and spiritual darkness—a world that sits in daily fear—the need is only too evident. In this environment, the church of the living God is weak, powerless and ineffective. Her ministry enchants but does not change. Her message is a lovely song, but fails to carry in its wake conviction of sin. Its voice is disregarded, and the church itself regarded as belonging to an age long ago outdated.

When Jewry was at the furthest point of her degeneration, it was then—just then—that "in the fulness of time God sent forth his Son." And it is in times such as these in which we have our daily lot that God is waiting to do a new thing—make bare His arm, and visit this planet in Holy Ghost revival.

"The God of the Impossible" is ours. When things are their hardest, just then God is willing and waiting to speak afresh. Early in 1904 R. A. Torrey said that Wales was a hard place spiritually. But in that same year—1904—God revived His church in Wales. The church was reborn, the fire rekindled, and as a result—one result among many—multitudes were swept into the Kingdom of God.

The masses are outside our churches. Ninety-five per cent of the population of Greater London never darken the doors of our places of worship. Most regard the church as a matter of convenience for weddings and funerals. The percentage attendance in the U. S. A. is higher than in Britain, but the lack in both of our great lands is worse than tragic. The masses are steeped in wicked unbelief. The forces of evil are great—we dare not underestimate their power—and the wild rush of modernism and the spirit of anti-Christ manifest their evil virus on either hand.

We are not, brethren, an advancing host. Our banners are no longer unfurled to the breeze. We have retrenched. Consolidation has taken the place of aggressive warfare in many of our centers. We no longer dream of revival. Jeremiah's tears—we know nothing of them. By the lives we live, we fail to condemn the world's way. By our preached messages, we fail to awaken men from their sloth and slumbers.

Of course, we have excuses. "Things have changed." "We are living in the last days." "Attractions for young people are more fascinating." The cults of the "silver screen" and "television" are so hard to resist. "But," we ask, "has God exhausted His resources? Has He changed? And has the Saviour lost His love for the masses whom He died to redeem?"

God, the Eternal One, is both able and willing to revive us again. "My blood-bought people, you... prove me now, and see if I will not open the windows of heaven, and pour you out revival blessing."

We must each have a deep "concern" or "passion" for the spiritual state of our nations. Christmas Evans, speaking of the work in Wales, under the ministry of Simon James and himself, said: "The great reason why both of us received this new power in our ministry was because the Holy Spirit put the cause of Christ into our hearts until we became distressed for the salvation of souls and the establishment of the Redeemer's Kingdom among them." Dr. Myron Boyd said once that while he was preparing one of his radio messages, he had before him on his desk twelve books. In each volume one or more of the chapters were devoted to this burden or love of souls. "Regardless of what word was used to express it," he said, "all agreed that our motive for evangelism must be a passionate love and sympathy for those who are missing what we have found." He quoted the words that he saw on David Livingstone's "memorial stone" in Westminster Abby: "Other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice..." Wonderful word—that "must"—and what compelling passion it implies.

You want revival? Then you must seek God on your knees. "If my people will humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will..."

He has promised to avenge His elect—those who cry to Him night and day. Prayer bands have ever been the fore-runners to revival.

Revival comes by way of holiness. A revelation of personal need, given as we seek His face in prayer, will open to us afresh all the gospel promises concerning the inward working of the Holy Ghost. Someone well said: "The work of God would flourish more richly by us if it flourished more richly in us."

John Wesley put it on record that where full salvation (or "holiness," or "entire sanctification") was faithfully proclaimed, there revival blessing always followed. Holiness is the key to the blessing of Pentecost. The dynamic of that eighteenth-century revival here in England was found in the Methodist Pentecost of 1760. It started in Otley, Yorkshire County, and then spread to all parts of Britain and Ireland. And it resulted from Wesley's faithful proclamation of the evangel of entire sanctification. When questioned on the real object in sending his Methodist preachers through the land, Wesley said it was not to form any new sect, or denomination, but "to reform the nation, particularly by the church, and to spread scriptural holiness over the land."

There must be a renewed determination to reach the

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