



REVIVE AMERICA

A CALL TO REVIVAL IN THE LAND THAT WE LOVE



DEAN HICKMAN
STAN TOLER

REVIVE AMERICA

A CALL TO REVIVAL IN THE LAND THAT WE LOVE



DEAN HICKMAN
STAN TOLER

Copyright ©2016 by Dean Hickman and Stan Toler. All rights reserved.

Published and Printed by Dust Jacket Press. Copyright ©2016

Revive America: A Call To Revival In The Land That We Love / Dean Hickman and Stan Toler

ISBN: 978-0-9969958-9-4

All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION ®. NIV ®. Copyright 1973, 1978, 1984 by the International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Publishing House. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked (KJV) are taken from THE HOLY BIBLE, King JAMES VERSION, Public Domain.

Scripture marked (NKJV) taken from the New King James Version. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Scripture marked (NASB) taken from the New American Standard Bible, © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977 by the Lockman Foundation. Used by permission.

Scripture marked (MSG) taken from The Message, Copyright © 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 2000, 2001, 2002 by Eugene H. Peterson.

Scripture quotations marked (NLT) are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2007 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photo-copy, recording or any other—except for brief quotations in printed reviews, without the prior written permission of the publisher.

Cover and Interior Design: D.E. West / ZAQ Designs

Digitally Published by Dust Jacket Press at Smashwords

Smashwords Edition, License Notes

This eBook is licensed for your personal enjoyment only. This eBook may not be re-sold or given away to other people. If you would like to share this book with another person, please purchase an additional copy for each person you share it with. If you're reading this book and did not purchase it, or it was not purchased for your use only, then you should return to

Smashwords.com and purchase your own copy. Thank you for respecting the hard work of this author.

www.dustjacket.com

DEDICATION

To Jim Hill one of the greatest gospel singers of all time and writer of one of the most beloved songs, *What A Day That Will Be*. You have inspired Dean Hickman to become a great ten- or singer and your song has comforted Stan Toler in the loss of his father since he was a teen.

A C K N O W L E D G E M E N T S

Special thanks to Adam Toler and Dust Jacket Publishers, to Jerry Brecheisen and Ron McClung for their editorial excellence, and to D.E. West for graphic design. Thank you all for helping bring this project to life.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

[Cover](#)

[Title](#)

[Copyrights](#)

[Dedication](#)

[Acknowledgments](#)

[Introduction](#)

[One](#)

[Two](#)

[Three](#)

[Four](#)

[Five](#)

[Six](#)

[Seven](#)

[Eight](#)

[Nine](#)

[Ten](#)

[Eleven](#)

[Twelve](#)

[Thirteen](#)

[Fourteen](#)

[Fifteen](#)

[Sixteen](#)

[Seventeen](#)

[Eighteen](#)

[Nineteen](#)

[Twenty](#)

[Twenty-one](#)

[Twenty-two](#)

[Twenty-three](#)

[Twenty-four](#)

[Twenty-five](#)

[Twenty-six](#)

[Twenty-seven](#)

[Twenty-eight](#)

[Twenty-nine](#)

[Thirty](#)

[Thirty-one](#)

[Thirty-two](#)

[Thirty-three](#)

[Thirty-four](#)

[Thirty-five](#)

[Thirty-six](#)

[Thirty-seven](#)

[Thirty-eight](#)

[Thirty-nine](#)

[Forty](#)

[Forty-one](#)

[Forty-two](#)

[Forty-three](#)

[Forty-four](#)

[Forty-five](#)

[Forty-six](#)

[Forty-seven](#)

[Forty-eight](#)

[Forty-nine](#)

[Fifty](#)

[Fifty-one](#)

[Fifty-two](#)

[Fifty-three](#)

[Fifty-four](#)

[Fifty-five](#)

[Fifty-six](#)

[Fifty-seven](#)

[Fifty-eight](#)

[Fifty-nine](#)

[Sixty](#)

[Sixty-one](#)

[Sixty-two](#)

[Sixty-three](#)

[Sixty-four](#)

[Sixty-five](#)

[Sixty-six](#)

[Sixty-seven](#)

[Sixty-eight](#)

[Sixty-nine](#)

[Seventy](#)

[About the Authors](#)

[Song and Songwriter List](#)

INTRODUCTION

When you mention **Revival** and **Weather** in the same conversation, the talk will probably drift toward weather faster than it will toward revival. We are a weather-obsessed people. Many will stick it out through the local or national news just so they can hear the weather report.

Attitudes brighten with a “partly sunny” and dim with a “partly cloudy,” even though they’re the same. Rain percentages determine whether the car will be washed or not. A storm forecast can push a family picnic off the planning calendar. But as the old adage suggests, the same people that talk about the weather are helpless to do anything about it.

Revival is another story! We can’t do anything about the weather, but we can change the atmosphere with a REVIVAL. And it only takes that “sticking through the news to hear the weather report” to remind you of the need for revival. The chances for severe spiritual storms in the culture of America are rising at an alarming rate.

We believe that Salvation Army founder William Booth’s prediction of a “day when there will be Christianity without Christ, politics without God, religion without the Holy Spirit, and the preaching of heaven without hell” describes today’s spiritual climate.

This book offers personal and churchwide solutions for seeing revival in America. REVIVE AMERICA combines two main components of the great revivals in history: the combination of POWERFUL MUSIC and MESSAGES. The lyrics of present and past gospel songs and hymns set the tone of revival meetings, preparing audiences for the powerful preaching of God’s Word.

The altar furniture may be different, but the response to an invitation for an outpouring of God’s Spirit on lives and families is the same. The fronts of churches and auditoriums are increasingly

being filled with believers seeking a fresh touch from God, and unbelievers seeking a first-time relationship with Him.

In brief chapters, REVIVE AMERICA will give you tried and tested steps for drawing closer to God in a culture that is turning from Him. Some of your favorite song lyrics will draw you into the steps you can take to rekindle spiritual fire in your heart. And the “Revive America Prayer” at the end of each chapter will help you focus on praying for revival.

Revival isn’t for the history books; it’s for your daily journal. You don’t have to look back to see the “good ol’ days.” You can make these the best days your soul has ever experienced. That is the burning desire of our hearts. The Day of the Lord is approaching like a fast-moving rain cloud determined to quench the thirst of a desert wilderness. We pray that before that great day, all of us will experience one last revival that will be greater than all the rest.

— *Dean Hickman & Stan Toler - 2016*

*Oh, love of God, how rich and pure! How measureless and strong!
It shall forevermore endure— The saints' and angels' song.
— The Love of God*



CHAPTER 1 THE BOUNDARIES OF GOD'S LOVE

How much evil is ENOUGH? It seems like the world has brazenly stepped closer to “that” line. Gruesome violence, epidemic addiction, glorified fornication and adultery, celebrated perversion, accepted infanticide, and un-leashed sacrilege form just the top layer. Underneath is a near total rejection of biblical values.

Sadly, our own nation may be leading the competition to stretch the boundaries of God’s love. It not only commits “all of the above,” it even passes laws and ordinances to banish Him from its government and communities.

The fact is, world or national evil will never exceed God’s love! God’s love has no boundaries. Jeremiah 31:3, ***I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.***

But God is a God of justice as well as love. He can pour out a sea of wrath against evil without losing a droplet of compassion for evil doers. Romans 11:22 (NASB), ***Behold . . . the kindness and severity of God.*** God gave His creation a free will, a choice whether to serve Him or not. Deuteronomy 30:19, ***I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live.***

Revival includes a rekindled love for Christ and the lost, like the song: “Revive us again, fill each heart with Thy love.” Jesus looked over a city that rejected Him and sighed, ***Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing*** (Matthew 23:37).

So, our prayer for revival isn't to better our global position or berate the wicked. Our prayer is to have our hearts filled with the pure and measureless love Christ has for the world's lost—in their current condition.

REVIVE AMERICA PRAYER

Lord Jesus, give me a love without limits for a people without boundaries. Amen.

*I've traded my shackles for a glorious song, I'm free! Praise the
Lord! Free at last!
– I'm Free*



CHAPTER 2 FREE AT LAST

Martin Luther King Jr. gave a historic message to over 200,000 attendees near the Lincoln Memorial in Washington. The August 28, 1963, “I Have a Dream” speech was only 17-minutes long, but a single, 8-second phrase helped to make it one of the most memorable in history: “Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!”

Go back even further; think of the thousands who streamed through Ellis Island seeking freedom to work and freedom from ethnic persecution. Go further still; imagine the stirring of the hearts in the Pilgrims, those first immigrants to America, who sailed to these shores in search of freedom. They left behind what they once held dear for something they would soon hold priceless.

They, too, must have breathed the sigh of liberty: “Free at last.”

Those who have knelt at the Cross of Christ understand. They once were shackled to their sins, but in a moment of surrender to Christ, they discovered the truth that ***If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed*** (John 8:36).

Courts may tinker with the Constitution, but they can’t amend God’s law. Matthew 5:18, ***Until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law.***

True Christ-followers keep the laws of the land, but all the while they know that there is an even higher law. And they have a burning desire to see that the principles of God's higher law are observed in their society.

* * *

REVIVE AMERICA PRAYER

Father God, forgive us as a nation for forsaking the principles of Your law in our government, our commerce, our education, our media, and our homes. In our hearts, help us to go back to the Cross, back to the place of surrender to Your will for our lives. Amen.

There is coming a day when no heartaches shall come, no more clouds in the sky, no more tears to dim the eye; all is peace forever more, on that happy golden shore, what a day, glorious day that will be.

– *What A Day That Will Be*



CHAPTER 3

REVIVE THE LOOK

Each year, over 20 million people take a cruise. No matter how luxurious the ship, how bountiful its meals, how unique its entertainment, or how interesting its ports of call, its passengers usually end up thinking about home. From departure to arrival, there's a longing that won't be met until the ship is safely tied to the dock of its home port.

Gifted songwriter, Jim Hill, painted that picture in song: “All is peace forever more on that happy golden shore.”

America must revive its look. It spends too much time staring at the pavements instead of scanning the horizons. It is too accustomed to tears and clouds. Media moguls and news editors claim, “Bad news sells!” Producers of violent “action films” pocket the profits from its fans. America has bought the glamour of gloom at a tragic price: another day, another homicide, ho-hum. One more suicide by a hopeless-hearted addict, it is what it is.

Early American settlers trembled in fear of the unknown, but hope held them steady. They had that look! We need to re- vive our “look.” How? By looking back— through the eyes of patriots who believed the best in the face of the worst. By looking up—humbly

kneeling before God on the carpeted floors of our time, as those pioneers knelt on the dirt floors of theirs—to ask God to revive our hope in Him, so that we can once again look up—and ahead.

* * *

REVIVE AMERICA PRAYER

O God of hope and promise, we acknowledge that we have lost our focus on the sinful condition of our culture. We repent as a nation and as its citizens, and we ask You to burden our hearts for revival and give us a new look of faith and hope. We ask in the name of Your only Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

*God bless America, land that I love; stand beside her and guide
her, through the night with a light from above.*

– God Bless America



CHAPTER 4 GATHERING CLOUDS

Since 9/11, “God Bless America” has been sung during the seventh inning stretch at most major league baseball games. Witten by Irving Berlin in 1918, it was revised in 1938 as a prayer-song during World War II. We seldom sing the intro, but it is spot on: “While the storm clouds gather far across the sea, let us swear allegiance to a land that’s free; let us all be grateful for a land so fair, as we raise our voices in a solemn prayer. “

Storm clouds are gathering across the sea—and at home. And only prayer can scatter these clouds. Psalm 33:12, ***Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people He chose for His inheritance.***

Verses 14-15 of that Psalm are a wake-up call: **From His dwelling place He watches all who live on earth— He who forms the hearts of all, who considers EVERYTHING THEY DO** (emphasis added).

Twenty-first-century living is unique in American history, but are we living it in a WAY that we have never lived? Do we now laugh at the things that used to make us blush? If “nothing is sacred,” does that include our values? Are we presuming on God’s blessing?

If God is to continue to bless our nation, we must break the cycle of selfishness: The selfishness that breeds greed; the greed that breeds lust; the lust that breeds hatred; the hatred that breeds violence; and the violence that breeds destruction.

We love our land, but God asks us to love Him more. Wherever there is a lack of pure love for God, there is a lack of revival. And we need spiritual revival more than any other national or personal gain!

* * *

REVIVE AMERICA PRAYER

Lord, thank you for the countless ways You have blessed us. But we acknowledge with repentance that in many ways, we have presumed on Your blessing. Revive our love for You, and through the blood of the Savior, forgive our careless living. Amen.

Faith of our fathers, we will love, both friend and foe in all our strife; and preach Thee, too, as love knows how, by kindly words and virtuous life. – Faith of our Fathers



CHAPTER 5

FEEL THE EMBERS

Once it was common for people to leave their house without locking the front door. When did we become a nation of Neighborhood Watches and Crime Stoppers? When did we become a nation of fear rather than faith?

For sure, America’s safety rating drop wasn’t overnight. It was step-by-step:

- One allowance for alternate theories of creation.
- One decree to prohibit prayer in school.
- One acceptance of secular humanistic teaching.
- One ignoring of community moral standards.
- One court decision to devalue unborn life.
- One petition to abandon the biblical standard of family.
- One revisionist writing that denied the faith of our founders.

It wasn’t a non-stop flight; it was a journey of a thousand strides along the wrong path, abandoning God and His Word on the way.

Frederick William Faber’s hymn, Faith of our Fathers, reminds us that a God-fearing nation’s path is lined with belief, devotion, and sacrifice. We make secular or sacred choices over the soil stained with the blood of those who died for our national life.

Can we again be a nation known for “kindly words and virtuous life?” It’s up to us. If we will see spiritual revival in our land, we

will see it first from our knees. We will cry out to God with the psalmist, *Will You not revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You?* (Psalm 85:6).

We will ask God to revive the land—and not stop asking until we feel the first embers of that revival fire warming our own heart.

* * *

REVIVE AMERICA PRAYER

Father in Heaven, You are the one and only hope and source of revival. We repent of the slow but sure direction that has turned us away from You as a nation. And we ask You to revive our land, starting in our hearts. Amen.

*I hear babies cry, I watch them grow, they'll learn much more than
I'll ever know; and I think to myself, what a wonderful world.
– What a Wonderful World*



CHAPTER 6 INCREASED KNOWLEDGE

Louie Armstrong’s famous “What a Wonderful World” song is filled with warm fuzzy reminders. “Trees of green,” “Skies of blue,” or “Friends shakin’ hands” lyrics remind many of a Norman Rockwell picture in the Saturday Evening Post. We all get nostalgic remembering how quickly children grow from in- fancy to maturity.

The 1960’s reminder that children “learn much more than I’ll ever know” mirrors the increased knowledge of our culture. Scenarios have changed; computer screens have outpaced spiral notebooks, text messages made the “note from the teacher” obsolete, and PBJ sandwiches in cafeteria lines have been replaced with canned fruit. But the mandate is the same: to equip children with enough knowledge that they will be enlightened, responsible, law-abiding citizens.

Daniel 12:4 (NLT), ***But you, Daniel, keep this prophecy a secret; seal up the book until the time of the end, when many will rush here and there, and knowledge will increase.*** Accelerated learning is a characteristic of the End Times culture. Everything from online courses to satellite campuses brings education to the masses in warp time.

But what's missing in today's classrooms is even more conspicuous than what's included. Education without moral values only makes smart dummies. We applaud increased opportunities, but agonize over diminished results. The Apostle Paul warned of a people who are *always learning but never able to come to a knowledge of the truth* (2 Timothy 3:7). Our children are taught right from left and never hear a word about *right* from *wrong*! Why? School boards and administrations are committed to political correctness over moral correctness.

Classrooms without a pledge to the flag are as abundant as those without a hint of acknowledgment to religious values. We need revival on church campuses; but we also need revival on school campuses.

* * *

REVIVE AMERICA PRAYER

Heavenly Father, forgive us for ignoring Your Word in our educational systems. Give us the courage to form armies of prayer warriors who will pray for revival in our schools and universities. Amen.

*There's no foe that can defeat us when we're walking side by side;
as long as there is love we will stand.*

– We Will Stand



CHAPTER 7

THE LOVE THAT BRINGS REVIVAL

Singer/Songwriter Russ Taff preached a timeless message in a tiny phrase: “As long as there is love we will stand.” The Apostle John, inspired by the Spirit, penned the Master’s Word to the seven churches in the Book of Revelation. Each church represented the characteristics—good or bad—of their time of influence in history. Some of the characteristics span all seven ages of the church.

The message to the Christians in Ephesus was assuring, yet alarming. They excelled in perseverance and loyalty, but they got a failing grade in another area: ***Yet I hold this against you: you have forsaken the love you had at first*** (Revelation 2:4).

We can’t commit ourselves to the cause of revival in our nation without first being committed to each other. A divided house cannot stand. The song lyric says, “There’s no foe that can defeat us when we’re walking side by side.” The enemy of today’s church brazenly marches against it, conquering as it divides. The church must become a company of believers so in love with Jesus that it influences every other area of its life—including its love for each other.

The early church didn’t impact its world because of its properties, plans, or personnel; it stood out like the North Star because it linked loving arms with others in building the Kingdom of

God. John 13:35 (NLT), ***Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are My disciples.*** “Blest Be the Tie That Binds” is an 18th-century hymn whose message has never been more relevant: “Before our Father’s throne we pour our ardent prayers; our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts, and our cares.”

The love that brings revival is a no-strings-attached love for Christ and His church.

REVIVE AMERICA PRAYER

Lord Jesus, we repent of the things that have divided us. Baptize our hearts with new love, and let those revival fires melt us together. Amen.

Not the labors of my hands can fulfill Thy law's demands; could my zeal no respite know, could my tears forever flow, all for sin could not atone; Thou must save, and Thou alone.

– Rock of Ages



CHAPTER 8

STRONG PILLARS

The longest bridge in America spans 24 miles across New Orleans' Lake Pontchartrain Causeway. USA Today said that for 8 of its miles, you can't see land. It is supported by over nine thousand concrete pilings made of precast concrete 54-inches in diameter.

It doesn't take an engineering degree to understand that the bridge is only as good as its foundation pillars. Thirty thousand cars use the causeway each day, each driven by someone who trusts the bridge, the highway, the builder, and most importantly the pillars.

The length and breadth of America is a mix of barrenness and buildings, with buildings seemingly winning the race. Our skyscrapers touch the clouds with a Tower of Babel-like pride.

Builders cut ceremonial ribbons and for the most part, claim the victory of their ideas and skills.

But 9/11 proved to us that our architectural greatness is vulnerable to enemy attacks, and can crumble into burning cauldrons of death and suffering. We need pillars stronger than concrete and steel—pillars of faith.

As citizens, we have faith pillars, but sadly we've lost some. Prayers used to open our school days and civic meetings. The Ten Commandments once graced the lawns of our court houses. And our freedoms of religion and speech were once unshackled.

It's time for stronger pillars. It's time to reclaim the territories many seem to think they have wrestled away from God. It's time to revive America! We may have to reconstruct our faith pillars through national and personal repentance but we must, if future generations are to have a safe highway. We need God: "All for sin could not atone; Thou must save, and Thou alone. Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in Thee."

REVIVE AMERICA PRAYER

God of Holiness, help us to rebuild our pillars of faith. We confess our pride and self-sufficiency, and claim Your forgiveness and restoration. Amen.

*Living below, in this old sinful world, hardly a comfort can afford;
striving alone, to face temptation's sword, where could I go but to
the Lord?*

– Where Could I Go



CHAPTER 9 LAST RESORT OR FIRST RESPONSE

Someone jokingly said “As long as there are algebra tests, there will be prayer in school.” Of course to us, that’s really not that funny. Why should prayer be a secret weapon in a land whose founders bowed their knees to God for guidance and raised their hands in thankfulness for His blessings? The fact that public prayer is debatable is deplorable!

But prayer isn’t always politically incorrect. Prayer flows unhindered in times of national, community, or personal catastrophe. Even those who mock it or legislate against it, use prayer as an expression of condolence or encouragement in statements or social media posts during crisis times.

Universalism has crept into the spiritual psyche of our nation. Spiritual entitlement is assumed, and God is duty-bound to do as we say. The fact is, God does hear every prayer, but He is under no obligation to answer, apart from His mercy. The Holy Spirit is the doorkeeper to the throne of God, and those who hold the credentials of the Cross through saving faith in Christ have the truest right to enter. Hebrews 11:6b, ***Anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.***

No doubt we are living in “this old sinful world,” where we “face temptation’s sword.” But our first response, not our last resort, must be “Where could I go but to the Lord?” We must have a revival of prayer, calling our nation to pray as a first response.

If America will turn to the Lord, every Christ-follower must volunteer to be a prayer warrior. Not drafted during a disaster, but courageously launching an offensive, facing “temptation’s sword,” armed with the presence and power of Almighty God!

REVIVE AMERICA PRAYER

O God of mercy, forgive us for using our most sacred privilege of prayer as a last resort to the conditions of our nation. I willingly volunteer to be a first responder. Amen.

*Jesus loves me – this I know, for the Bible tells me so.
– Jesus Loves Me*



CHAPTER 10

REVIVAL OF SIMPLICITY

It's amazing how many famous people have roots in the church. From baseball's Jackie Robinson to football's Tony Dungy to basketball's Stephen Curry, from music's Elvis Presley to acting's Brad Pitt, these well-known personalities started their life journey in a church, perhaps memorizing John 3:16 or singing "Jesus Loves Me."

Some held to their faith, and sadly others turned from it. But they can never escape their simple beginning. Back there, in the bleachers of their life, were laypersons or pastors who loved Jesus enough to preach and teach that He was the Living Word, sent from a God who loved people so much that He gave His only Son to die in their place, as an offering for their sin.

Those who fill giant arenas by their name or performance most likely first heard the gospel in a simple song, as they stood before folding chairs in a tiny room. Long after their entrance into halls of fame, or long after their names drop from the headlines, that little message will remain: "Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so; little ones to Him belong; they are weak, but He is strong." We live in a world that has bowed to the gods of technology and gadgetry that promise knowledge but deliver distraction. Loneliness is still the number one killer—and begs the musical question that has the answer, "Who can cheer the heart like

Jesus, by His presence all divine; true and tender, pure and precious, O, how blest to call Him mine.”

The church needs a revival of simplicity. It’s not about its “lights, camera, action,” it’s about simply telling people that Jesus saves. Singer/Songwriter Steve Green nailed it: “People need the Lord. At the end of broken dreams, He’s the open door.”

* * *

REVIVE AMERICA PRAYER

Blessed Savior, give us the wisdom to present the simplicity of the gospel to a convoluted world. Remind me of my own simple roots, and in that reminder, give me a new passion to reach the lost. Amen.

Got any rivers you think are uncrossable? Got any mountains you can't tunnel through? God specializes in things thought impossible; He does the things others cannot do.

– Got Any Rivers



CHAPTER 11

RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS

Israelite Leader, Joshua, had a curbside view of creation that would have been non-stop replays on today's news networks. Not only did he witness God hit the pause button on the sun, he also saw Him press the stop button on the flow of the Jordan River.

In the Jordan River incident, Joshua had been leading Israel on a journey to the Promised Land. Along the way he commanded its armies in successful campaigns against their enemies, while carrying the ark of the covenant. Following God's GPS, they came to the flood-swollen waters of the Jordan. What now? Joshua instructed, "God said we're going through." From the back of the crowd someone probably said, "Why doesn't that surprise me?" Joshua 3:17, ***The priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord stopped in the middle of the Jordan and stood on dry ground, while all Israel passed by until the whole nation had completed the crossing on dry ground.***

Unlike Joshua, explorers Lewis and Clarke had to cross rivers and mountains the hard way. President Jefferson commissioned them to find a water route across the now western part of America, and establish a territory. While dealing with the rugged terrain,

they also dealt with the obstinacy and debauchery of their fellow travelers.

Modern America's journey is just as fateful. Rivers and mountains of humanism and godlessness are barricades to spiritual revival. What now? The song said it: "God specializes in things thought impossible."

Kings and kingdoms will still have to bow at His command. Charge on—because God is still in charge! C. S. Lewis said "I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else."

* * *

REVIVE AMERICA PRAYER

Lord of the impossible, we need a way through the raging rivers and menacing mountains of our time. We trust You, and You alone, for a way through. Amen.

We have a heavenly Father above, with eyes full of mercy and a heart full of love; He really cares when your head is bowed low, consider the lilies and then you will know.

– Consider the Lilies



CHAPTER 12

CONSIDER THE LILIES

If you are a “news junkie” your worry list might be as long as your prayer list. Corrie ten Boom, saintly author and survivor of a Nazi prison camp, addressed worry with a classic: “Worrying doesn’t empty tomorrow of its sorrow, it empties today of its strength.”

From the throne room of heaven to the Mount of Beatitudes, Jesus looked over the present and future condition of His creation and asked a stirring question: ***Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life?*** (Luke 12:25). Worry may be the most practiced—and least profitable—exercise of 21st century living. It is a “disease” that has only one known cure: FAITH.

We can’t be blind to current events, but neither can we be blind to God’s eternal care. The lyrics of “Consider the Lilies” unfold like a homemade quilt over the soul: “Consider the lilies, they don’t toil or spin, and there’s not a king with more splendor than them; Consider the sparrow, they don’t plant or sow, but they’re fed by the Master who watches them grow.”

If God hadn’t proven His care, we wouldn’t even take time to pray—but He has, and we do. Putting our hand of faith in the hand of the Creator is a no-brainer. Sitting far above the alarming events

of time is a heavenly Father who is just as concerned about fixing a sparrow's lunch as He is with the launch of a thousand threats of war.

Let's have a revival of trust in God, not just as a statement on our coinage but as a burning call in our heart. Let's have a revival that turns us from worrying to focusing on the Infinite Provider.

* * *

REVIVE AMERICA PRAYER

Heavenly Father, help us to think more about Your care than the cares of earth. I trust You, Father, to settle my heart to face an unsettled world. Amen.

*How can I say thanks for the things You have done for me?
Things so undeserved yet You gave to prove Your love for me. The
voices of a million angels could not express my gratitude. All that I
am, and ever hope to be I owe it all to Thee.*

– My Tribute



CHAPTER 13

GRATEFUL MEMORIES

You might remember where you were when you first heard the line in Andraé Crouch’s classic song, “To God be the glory, to God be the glory for the things He has done.” It may have been in a large arena, at a youth camp, in a church service, or heard on the radio. If you’re like most, it struck a note louder than the clang of the Liberty Bell.

Andraé had composed words and music that, to our generation, universally expressed the gratitude of a sinner saved by grace. “All that I am, and ever hope to be I owe it all to Thee.”

Other songs, older or younger and not less great, may be your song. But none can truly express the inexpressible. A sinless Savior wore the robe of our sin, and bled and died as His Father in heaven had to look away because of His holiness.

We need a revival of grateful memories. In our hearts, we need to go back to that time and place where we first felt the inner thumping of conviction, and walked or ran to confess our sins to the only one who could forgive them. We need to hit the replay button on the song in our hearts when we realized that the sin was gone.

It is pure drudgery to pray for revival in our nation until we have experienced it in our hearts – until our worship regains the luster that shines from us like light rays bouncing off a mirror aimed at the sun.

* * *

REVIVE AMERICA PRAYER

Dear Jesus, thank you for saving my soul, and thank you for making me whole; thank you Lord for giving to me Thy great salvation so full and free. Help me to use those grateful memories as fresh kindling for a revival fire. Amen.

*On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.
– The Solid Rock*



CHAPTER 14 JOEY'S HOPE

Joey Feek's final victory over cancer made the news alongside stock market futures, weather conditions, and political debates. Wife, mother, and singer, Joey, and her husband Rory combined to sing songs of love and hope that caught the world's attention. Together, as Joey and Rory, they were acclaimed in country music and as members of the Gaither Homecoming Friends.

Rory blogged the triumphs and setbacks Joey faced in her courageous, two-year struggle, and then made the announcement that his "precious bride breathed her last" and was "using her pretty voice to sing for her Savior." Joey's hope was fulfilled.

Among the stories Rory had blogged was a time when their dear friend and mentor, Bill Gaither, had made a huge bonfire on his property, which faced toward the window near Joey's hospital bed. "Can she see it?" Gaither asked by phone. "Yes Bill, it's beautiful," Rory said, and added that she was smiling (<http://thislifeilive.com/2016/01/>).

Weathered sticks of wood became fresh flames of hope. It seems almost contradictory, but those who live by God's Word believe ***that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us*** (Romans 8:18), and they know that God can create hope at the very scene of hopelessness.

Why do we live for Christ and pray for revival? Because we have triumphed in the face of human tragedy, and are duty bound to tell others about the solution: Jesus. We don't need to change our message; we just need to rekindle our enthusiasm. We need to pray for revival from the platform to the pew and from our nation's Capitol to the county courthouse.

Revive us all, until the whole world can see the flaming hope, "His oath, His covenant, His blood support me in the whelming flood; when all around my soul gives way, He then is all my hope and stay."

* * *

REVIVE AMERICA PRAYER

God of Hope, rekindle the flame of hope in our hearts. And help us to preach and teach and pray with a fresh touch from You. Amen.

Amazing Grace shall always be my song of praise, for it was grace that bought my liberty. I do not know, just why He came to love me so. He looked beyond my faults and saw my need.
– *He Looked Beyond My Faults*



CHAPTER 15 WINNING BY LOSING

A basketball team in Rhode Island lost a 2016 championship by “winning.” The problem was they celebrated what they thought was a win. With seconds to play, a member of the team blocked an opponent’s shot, and thinking time had run out, the team began a “pile-on” celebration.

The officials huddled and determined there was still one second left on the clock. When the “winning” player tossed the ball in the air in celebration, an opponent grabbed it and called a timeout. Play resumed, the opposing team was given the ball out of bounds (while the other team was still celebrating at mid court). When the “losing” team inbounded the ball, their player caught it, turned, and made a shot. “SWISH!” The ball went through the net to give the “winners” a loss, while the seeming “losers” started their own celebration.

The church in Laodicea, one of the seven churches in the Revelation, had a reputation for celebrating before winning. In Revelation 3:17, Jesus warned them: ***You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing. But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.’***

Compare their attitude to these lyrics in Dottie Rambo's classic song: "I do not know, just why He came to love me so. He looked beyond my faults and saw my need." Revival comes to the church when it confesses that it isn't as hot as it thinks. It may have everything it thinks it needs and not realize what it really needs. God's standards are different from human standards. We only win by trading our PRETENSE for true REPENTANCE.

REVIVE AMERICA PRAYER

Lord, Your Word says that godly sorrow brings repentance. Forgive us for our pride and complacency. Help us to see that our greatest need is more of You and less of self. Amen.

*When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory
died, my richest gain I count but loss, and pour con- tempt on all
my pride.*

– *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*



CHAPTER 16 BEFORE AND AFTER

Whether it is weight loss, muscle gain, or a home renovation, our society is intrigued by the “before and after.” Endless photos show how a person physically changed by using a certain product or practicing a certain discipline. Millions watch house flips and fix-ups on TV and wait breathlessly for the “reveal.”

Isaac Watts’ beloved hymn, “When I Survey,” is a “before and after” song. Its sister song is “Amazing Grace,” which declares, “I once was lost but now am found, was blind but now I see.” Both are a spiritual “reveal.”

Peter wrote about a spiritual “before and after”: ***Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy*** (1 Peter 2:10). Calvary is the marker, the place where the Son of God died for our sins. It’s also a place the Holy Spirit uses to reveal our “before and after” condition.

Jesus said we must be born again. Through faith in Him, we applied the remedy of the Cross and were saved from our “before”—and we determined to be an “after” follower.

Calvary also provided power for victorious Christian living. The same remedy that gave us victory over our “before” can empower

us to live a Christlike “after,” dying to self-powered living and rising to live a Spirit-filled life.

Spiritual “fence riding” is uncomfortable and dangerous. Matthew 12:30 (NLT), ***Anyone who isn’t with Me opposes Me, and anyone who isn’t working with Me is actually working against Me.***

Revival begins with a heart searching determination of where we are on the “before and after” scale. If we’re moving toward the “before” rather than living in the “after,” it’s time to confess it to God in prayer, claim His forgiveness, and go on in victory.

* * *

REVIVE AMERICA PRAYER

Lord, search my heart and show me anything that stands between me and a revival. Amen.

Perfect submission, all is at rest; I in my Savior am happy and blest, watching and waiting, looking above, filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

– Blessed Assurance



CHAPTER 17

SEE WITH YOUR HEART

Nobody ever saw current events like Fanny Crosby. She saw them with her heart. Granted 19th century America was far different than our 21st, but it had its problems. About.com described it: “The 19th century was a rough and tumble time for politics.”

- Brokered convention.
- “Know-Nothing” Party.
- Anti-immigration movement.
- Corrupt city governments.
- Vicious presidential debates.
- “Dirty campaigns.”

Yet in the midst of it all, Fanny Crosby wrote: “all is at rest.” Blinded at 6 weeks from an eye inflammation, she wrote over 8,000 hymns. The beloved songwriter was able to put words of faith and comfort into song for people experiencing conditions she knew about but couldn’t see.

Her secret? For one, she was divinely inspired. Second, she had a peace that rested in her relationship with Jesus: “I in my Savior am happy and blest.” Third, she lived for the future, not just the present: “Watching and waiting, looking above.” Fourth, she

believed that God’s love for her included His care for her: “Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.”

Peace with our surroundings springs from peace with God. People facing the turmoil of modern living have rested in the words of an ancient psalm: ***Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me*** (Psalm 23:3, KJV).

Citizens of this great land need to see more with their hearts than their eyes. Our eyes have seen enough of lowered standards and rising violence. The result is an inner turmoil that drives suicide statistics and divides relationships. Revival is the remedy.

Revival isn’t just a stirring up; it’s also a settling down. It is purposefully aligning our hearts with God’s will and God’s Word—resulting in the peace of His presence.

REVIVE AMERICA PRAYER

Lord, I seek the rest that comes from a renewed relationship with You. I trust You with every circumstance of my life. Amen.

Walk on through the wind, walk on through the rain, though your dreams be tossed and blown; walk on, walk on, with hope in your heart, and you'll never walk alone.
– *You'll Never Walk Alone*



CHAPTER 18 GOD'S ROCK

Why is it when you put the words “nation” and “faith” on the same page, many go into panic mode? “Separate church from state!” they shout, not thinking about the fact that both were built from the same stuff.

Tourists by the millions have visited Plymouth Rock, and either leaned over the railing to touch it or snapped a photo of someone who did. Historically the rock is on the traditional site where the Mayflower Pilgrims supposedly stepped, in the land that would be known as America. The government claims ownership, but it's God's Rock.

He formed it during Creation Week, guided it to its general location, and loaned it to us. We understand the legal ramifications, but our prayer is that those who lay claim would give credit to its true owner: ***The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for He founded it on the seas and established it on the waters*** (Psalm 24:1-2).

Contrary to political or social naysayers, we live in a blessed nation. Our founders were faith people, living by faith in God. They survived those early, rugged conditions with grateful hearts for God's protection and supply. They walked “through the wind”

and “through the rain,” and at times their “dreams were tossed and blown”; but they walked on. Why? Because people of faith know they “never walk alone.” Matthew 28:20, ***I am with you always, to the very end of the age.***

No statute of limitations applies to God’s ownership claims, and His supply has no end. We need a revival of reliance on God. We can trust Him when we can’t trust anyone or anything else. And we pray for both His continual mercy and blessing.

* * *

REVIVE AMERICA PRAYER

Father God, forgive us for crowding You out of our governmental actions and decisions. We acknowledge Your lordship over all the earth—including our nation. Amen.

Let my life be a light shining out through the night; may I help struggling ones to the fold, spreading cheer everywhere to the sad and the lone. Let my life be a light to some soul.
– *Let My Life Be a Light*



CHAPTER 19 PILLARS IN THE COMMUNITY

Every city or town has an upstanding standout: a “pillar in the community.” You know the type:

- Present for every community picnic.
- Chairperson for every meeting.
- Giver for every cause.
- Runner in every charity marathon.
- Nominee for every office.

They sit at the head table for the Chamber of Commerce dinner. Athletic fields are named after them. Their photos hang on hospital walls. Their names are inscribed in bricks of honor. “Pillars” are not all alike, however. Some try to gut the rays of the spotlight, while others stand in the shadows behind the stage curtains.

Jesus is a “pillar” recruiter. But His job description has a qualifier. Matthew 5:16, ***Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.*** His “pillars in the community” are not just go-getters, they’re God-glorifiers. Their deeds spring from devotion to building God’s kingdom, not their fan club.

Pillars in His kingdom come in all shapes and sizes, have a variety of skills, and serve in a plethora of places. But they share

one thing: they are wholly committed to making a “second-handed” Kingdom difference in the lives of others, to let their life “be a light to some soul,” just like someone’s light was to them.

John Wesley said, “Catch on fire with enthusiasm and people will come for miles to watch you burn.” You can be a revival of one—but not for long. When you are filled with a fresh out-pouring of God’s Holy Spirit you will be like a burning torch in the darkest night. And others will draw near for the light—and the warmth.

* * *

REVIVE AMERICA PRAYER

O God, start a fire in my heart from the embers of Pentecost, and then let that fire be a light to souls in my own community. Amen.

Many things about tomorrow I don't seem to understand; but I know who holds tomorrow, and I know who holds my hand.

– I Know Who Holds Tomorrow



CHAPTER 20 THE FEARLESS FAITHFUL

Just a statue? Of course not! The portrayal of a flag-raising on Mount Suribachi during World War II's battle of Iwo Jima is a monument to the fearless faithful. The granite Marine Corps Memorial is a replica of the photograph captured by combat photographer, Joe Rosenthal.

Inscribed on it are these words: "Dedicated To The Marine Dead Of All Wars, And Their Comrades Of Other Services Who Fell Fighting Beside Them." The five Marines portrayed are said to be Michael Strank, Harlon Block, Rene Gagnon, Ira Hayes, and Franklin Sousley, along with Navy hospital corpsman John Bradley. But the 26,000 others who "fell fighting beside them" are best known and beloved by their families.

God bless our troops past and present who face the duties of the day without fearing their tomorrows. Just like warriors of Old Testament and early New Testament times, their mission was more important than their convenience or safety. Hebrews 11:37-38a describes the bravery of our spiritual ancestors: ***They were put to death by stoning; they were sawed in two; they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated—the world was not worthy of them.***

Christ-followers are the fearless faithful. Where are their monuments? They are our churches, colleges, schools, hospitals, mission fields, and inner city shelters. They are the places born from the fearless belief that the Great Commission of the Master includes building and staffing places of learning and caring. And we are modern warriors called to defend those places against secularism. We are soldiers of religious freedom, called to duty for spiritual warfare in our war rooms of prayer.

* * *

REVIVE AMERICA PRAYER

Master, be our Captain and supply line in facing the foes of freedom, and reclaiming in prayer the territories established by our founders. We don't know what our tomorrows will hold, but we know that You will hold our hand. Amen.

I thank God for the mountains, and I thank Him for the valleys, I thank Him for the storms He brought me through. For if I'd never had a problem, I wouldn't know that He could solve them, I'd never know what faith in God could do.

– Through it All



CHAPTER 21 IN REMEMBRANCE

In every kind of weather, they march. Solemn-faced, with unwrinkled uniform and mirror-like boots, they march. Weapon in hand, shoulders framed, they march. The same sacred steps, forward and back, they march. Never flinching, always parading—the best of the best, in turn, standing guard in remembrance of the Unknown Soldier. In spite of how it regards its history or faces its future, most every American remembers those whose sacrifice brought them to this point in time.

There is a fantastic reminder in an Old Testament event! In 1 Samuel 7, the Israelites had just won a battle over the Philistines, re-claiming the ark of the covenant. Samuel the prophet drew the troops together and celebrated the victory in an unusual way: ***Samuel then took a large stone and placed it between the towns of Mizpah and Jeshanah. He named it Ebenezer (which means “the stone of help”), for he said, “Up to this point the LORD has helped us!”*** (1 Samuel 7:12, NLT).

“Up to this point.” Remembrance is a vital component of revival. David the psalmist said, ***Will You not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in You?*** (Psalm 85:6). “Again” is the key word.

Our felt need for revival comes from the Holy Spirit's convicting us over abandoning a spiritual place we once inhabited—whether it was a close relationship with God, a greater sensitivity to the Spirit's leading, or a treasured devotional time.

Remember how God brought you to this point and determine to trust Him in a new and better way.

* * *

REVIVE AMERICA PRAYER

Faithful God, thank you for proving Your deliverance over my mountains and valleys and problems. Revive my heart with remembrance, and give me a new determination to serve You. Amen.

The blood that gives me strength from day to day, it will never lose its power.

—The Blood Will Never Lose Its Power



CHAPTER 22

IS THERE A POWER FAILURE?

Lost wouldn't know the name, Jeremiah Lamphier. We should. Lamphier was a business-man who came to Christ during the 18th-century revival campaigns of evangelist Charles Finney. Five years later he was appointed lay missionary to downtown New York City. Led by the Holy Spirit, he started weekly prayer meeting during the noon hour, and distributed a simple, information flyer inviting people to attend the meetings at a local church.

The attendance at the start of the meeting was under-whelming. One person showed up: Jeremiah Lamphier. He prayed for half an hour before another person slipped into the room, then another, and by the end of the first meeting six were in attendance. The next week: twenty came, and within a month: forty. Soon they met daily. The first week, over 100 were in attendance. Morning meetings were added, and then churches started holding their own prayer meetings. Revivalist Wesley Duewel said attendees "felt an awesome sense of God's presence."

Newspapers began to report it. Across America, meetings were formed, and soon thousands, in over 150 locations, were praying daily (Wesley Duewel, *Revival Fire*, Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1995.)

Short version: Jeremiah Lamphier was saved by the power of Christ's blood, and began to serve in the anointing of the Holy Spirit. He connected to a power source that sent a revival current across the nation.

2 Chronicles 7:14, ***If My people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.*** The power is still on. A powerful, but often underground, revival movement is happening around the world RIGHT NOW!

Andraé Crouch's song is true: God's resource will "never lose its power."

REVIVE AMERICA PRAYER

Dear Jesus, forgive us for our spiritual power failure. Help us to re-connect to Your revival source by being filled anew with Your Holy Spirit. Amen.

*And He walks with me, and He talks with me, and He tells me I am
His own; and the joy we share as we tarry there, none other has
ever known.*

– In the Garden



CHAPTER 23

THE VOICE OF LIBERTY

Art speaks. Usually not out loud, but it has a message which invites observers to react in unique ways. There are over 6,000 languages in the world, but 2,000 of those have less than 1,000 speakers each. So like “talking art,” not every- one is on the same page.

A treasured statue in New York Harbor includes a poem by Emma Lazarus that includes these words: “Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free.”

The language of the poem may not be understood by all, but the statue speaks in silent ways. It is a voice of liberty. It says “You who need freedom, welcome to its home.”

The Cross of Calvary speaks of a liberty even greater. Before His death, Jesus gave the invitation that would be mirrored in the Cross. Matthew 11:28, ***Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.*** Shortly after that invitation, Jesus sealed it with His own blood. And the Lord of the universe established an unbreakable connection with His creation.

C. Austin Miles’ beloved, “In the Garden,” describes it in a way that millions have understood. The setting is particularly interesting. It describes a serene, spiritual walk in the “garden,” in

answer to God's invitation. But some would say, "Garden?! Don't you know it's a jungle out there!"

That is our dual call to action. First, if we will have revival, we will spend more time "in the garden," even if it's IN A JUNGLE. Second, we will pray that the voice of Lady Liberty will not be silenced, and that we will continue to be the home of freedom.

* * *

REVIVE AMERICA PRAYER

Lord, thank you for a quiet meeting place with You in these times. Forgive us for focusing more on the jungle than the garden. And hear our prayer for revival in our hearts and in our land. Amen.

*I need Thee, O I need Thee; Every hour I need Thee; O, bless me
now, my Savior, I come to Thee.
– I Need Thee Every Hour*



CHAPTER 24 DECLARATION OF DEPENDENCE

Imagine an orchestra concert where the instrumentalists did as they wished—all at the same time. They would play the song they wanted, in the key they wanted, and in the tempo they wanted. But they wouldn't be very far into their performance before the audience would start looking for the exit signs. Music depends on unity to a standard. The orchestration has key signatures, notes, and tempo symbols to which each orchestra member commits in order to make pleasant music.

Or similarly, imagine a nation without commitment to a standard of behavior. It wouldn't be without precedent. Judges

17:6, ***In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit.*** The people were the law. Relativism was the rule; absolutes were obsolete. Sound familiar? It could be a screenshot of our “anything goes” culture. As Ernest Hemingway was quoted in Newsweek, “What is moral is what you feel good after, and what is immoral is what you feel bad after.”

The July 4, 1776, Declaration of Independence is perhaps best known by the first line of its second paragraph: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

Contrary to today's pop ideologies, we are not a people INDEPENDENT FROM God; we are DEPENDENT UPON God, "Endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights." He is the cement that seals the building blocks of our laws and standards of community. The founding fathers' approval of the Creator component in the document is a "Declaration of Dependence," acknowledging Colossians 1:17, ***He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.***

We really do need Him every hour!

* * *

REVIVE AMERICA PRAYER

God of Creation, we confess our total dependence on You. Our ideas and ideologies are nothing without the instruction of Your Word. Forgive us for dependence on self. Amen.

Let me at Thy throne of mercy, find a sweet relief; kneeling there in deep contrition, help my unbelief. Savior, Savior, hear my humble cry; while on others Thou art calling, do not pass me by.

– Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior



CHAPTER 25 POINTING FINGERS

The country preacher wasn't just talking, he was preach- in', excitedly calling his congregation to a deeper walk with Christ, and pointing his finger for emphasis. As is often the case, the preachin' got to the Preacher. The Holy Spirit grabbed him by the heart. He pointed again, but as he did, tears began to flow, and his voice wavered. "Beloved, as I point my finger at you, three fingers are pointing back to me." At sermon's end, he was the first to kneel at the altar, and was soon joined by most of his congregation. Revival was in the house!

"Our nation needs a revival!" is easy to say with the point of a finger. But when we do some heart-searching, we may discover fingers pointing back to us. Isaiah the prophet testified to that scenario. In prayer for others, he saw his own need, "***Woe to me!***" ***I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty*** (Isaiah 6:5). He ministered to the unclean, but when he had the vision of God's Holiness, he realized he was as needy as the people to whom he was pointing a finger.

An old gospel song sums it up, "Not my brother or my sister, but it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer." Of course the

nation needs a revival but so do we! When there's revival in our house, we won't be able to keep it inside.

* * *

REVIVE AMERICA PRAYER

Holy Spirit, shine the light of heaven into every corner of my heart. And as the song says, "While on others Thou art calling, do not pass me by." Begin a revival in my own heart first. Amen.

*Let not your heart be troubled,” His tender word I hear, and
resting on His goodness, I lose my doubts and fears.
– His Eye is on the Sparrow*



C H A P T E R 26

IN GOD WE TRUST

In July 30, 1956, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the law that made “In God We Trust” the nation’s motto. The legislation also included its display on the nation’s currency. The declaration followed the President’s effort to have “Under God” included in the Pledge of Allegiance.

In recent history, both phrases have been the subject of harsh debate. One side claims the motto and pledge are merely outmoded symbols of patriotism and history, while the other claims their importance comes from the convictions of our nation’s founders.

The advantage goes to the “God-trusters.” Isaiah 26:4, ***Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD, the LORD Himself, is the Rock eternal.*** Why trust “sand” when you can build on “rock?”

Or, why set up camp in the temporary, when you can live in the eternal?

Isn’t it amazing that when even those who are “anti-God trust” most always ask for His help when they are in pain or peril? God is the go-to Person in times of local or national tragedy; so why the outcry over the mention of His name in government matters?

The fact is America has backslidened. It began a slippery slide when it forsook its sacred roots and settled for the secular. No wonder it is reaping a harvest of debauchery and division!

Though the national climate is unsettling, those who trust God are hearing “His tender word” and “resting on His goodness.” They know that, with all that is happening in the world, if He can keep an eye on a sparrow, He certainly is watching over His people.

But even as we trust in God, we diligently pray that our fellow citizens will join us. George Washington said, “The propitious smiles of Heaven can never be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right, which Heaven itself has ordained.”

* * *

REVIVE AMERICA PRAYER

Father, forgive our nation for turning from its trust in You. Revive us again. Amen.

*There's room at the cross for you, tho' millions have come, there's
still room for one; yes, there's room at the cross for you.*

– Room At The Cross For You



C H A P T E R 27

ONE MORE

Singer/songwriter, Rodney Griffin, wrote a song that is right on target: “Just One More Soul.” It’s a message to tired workers in a church that may be losing its fire. One line says “a lifetime of labor is still worth it all if it rescues just one more soul.” With an average of 20 percent doing the work of the remaining 80 percent in any given church, the human tendency is to let someone else take their turn. But the church hasn’t thrived and survived in America’s history because it was filled with quitters.

It serves a Christ who said to His heavenly Father, ***I have brought You glory on earth by finishing the work You gave Me to do*** (John 17:4). In approximately 36 months, He taught and preached across His world, trained eleven disciples to “turn the world upside down,” and fulfilled the promises of every Bible prophecy by living, dying, and rising from the grave, on time, and in the right place.

We don’t know how much time we have to reach the nearly 30 percent of Americans (according to one reputable pollster) who don’t claim Christ as their Savior. We do know that we must fulfill our purpose to pray for and win **ONE MORE SOUL AT A TIME** to the Kingdom.

Ira Stanphill's song, "Room at the Cross For You," has been used as an invitation song in churches, camp meetings, and crusades around the world. "Tho' millions have come, there is still room for one," is a line that calls us to action. We may not have a Billy Graham or Greg Laurie crusade platform, but we do have an opportunity to reach a neighbor, co-worker, or fellow student with the gospel. Let's determine to "Keep carrying on."

* * *

REVIVE AMERICA PRAYER

Lord, lay some soul upon my heart, and love that soul through me. And may I always do my part to win that soul to Thee. Amen.

Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face, and the things of earth will grow strangely dim, in the light of His glory and grace.

– Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus



CHAPTER 28 “CRUCIFIXATION”

A friend of ours said that while watching the evening news, the TV reporter announced some Good Friday events in local churches. But she mistakenly described “Good Friday” as a time when “Christians observe the cruxifixation of Jesus.” Our friend commented, “She unwittingly preached a sermon to every believer. The victory of Jesus on the cross ought to be our “fixation.”

We can get so lost in the piles and files of time that we can lose our focus. One dictionary defines “fixation” as a “strong attachment to a person or thing.” Psychologically, the term can be negative; spiritually it’s positive. “Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face” (instead of look to His hands for blessings?).

If we were to characterize the interests of the church in modern America, most likely we wouldn’t say it has the strongest attachment to Jesus in its history. And it probably wouldn’t say with Paul the apostle, *For to me, to live is Christ* (Philippians 1:21).

The 21st-century church may have too many outside interests. Its gadgets, gains, or goings may consume its attention, leaving only complementary space on its calendar for the cause of Christ.

Compare that to the church in state-controlled countries where revival fires burn behind locked doors and shuttered windows.

In one sense a revival is a refocus, believers intently focusing on Jesus rather than the world. Striving to be “in the world, but not of it.”

The Scriptures call us to ***throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith*** (Hebrews 12:1-2a).

What consumes our attention influences our action.

* * *

REVIVAL PRAYER

Lord Jesus, forgive us for focusing on Your creation instead of its Creator. Help us to be obsessed with You and Your plan for our lives. Amen.

When your enemies assail and your heart begins to fail, don't forget that God in Heaven answers prayer; He will make a way for you and will lead you safely through— take your burden to the Lord and leave it there.
– *Leave it There*



CHAPTER 29 THE PRAYER FACTOR

The Open Doors organization estimates that over 100 million Christians are living under persecution in the world. The numbers may be astounding, but they are not surprising.

Jesus said, ***You will be hated by all nations because of Me*** (Matthew 24:9b). And note his prophecy wasn't geographically specific.

Clashing cultures in America have resulted in alarming casualty rates. And the count will rise, the closer we get to the end. Even now, jail time for preaching biblical truth or for publicly declaring Christian beliefs is not a rarity. Take a stand against humanistic agendas and it suddenly puts persons and families in peril. Graffiti stains church walls as well as public park fences. Name calling is a cultural norm, and hate groups scribble curses on cardboard signs to belittle the faithful.

But standing alongside us is a Savior who brought a “sword” to the meeting. He is a high priest thoroughly familiar with our condition—and has the scars to prove it. Why do these words, “Take your burden to the Lord and leave it there” have such a ring to them? Hebrews 7:25, ***Therefore He is able to save completely***

those who come to God through Him, because He always lives to intercede for them. Every child of God has a prayer partner who never tires or sleeps.

When injustice becomes a burden, remember the prayer factor: “Don’t forget that God in Heaven answers prayer.” And then review God’s “assurance” policy:

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior (Isaiah 43:2-3).

REVIVE AMERICA

Redeemer Lord, help me to claim Your power and promises in the midst of the predicaments. Amen.

*So let the storms rage high, the dark clouds rise, they don't worry me; for I'm sheltered safe within the arms of God.
– Sheltered in the Arms of God*



C H A P T E R 30

STORM PREDICTIONS

Never in history has there been more technology to predict the weather. But no matter how many Dopplers or Storm Trackers are in-house, the Woolly Caterpillar may still be the go-to system for predicting winter weather. Changes in its 13 variations of brown and red supposedly predict if you'll need snow boots rather than sandals. A rusty color in the middle band of their bodies means milder conditions, but if the middle band is more blackish, you better watch out!

How many times have you heard a human weather fore-caster say, "We just didn't see that coming?" There are times when storms suddenly appear—and even the forecasters have to take shelter.

The bottom line is God rules the planets. Jeremiah 10:13, ***He makes clouds rise from the ends of the earth. He sends lightning with the rain and brings out the wind from His store-houses.*** So, storms may sneak by technologies and technicians, but you can be sure they're on heaven's radar.

Jesus had a conversation with weather forecasters in Bible times. Matthew 16:3b, ***You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times.***

Paul said: In the last days there will be very difficult times (2 Timothy 3:1b, NLT). In other words, there is a 100% chance of “storms” in the end times.

That’s the urgency for revival. Political and social clouds are gathering. Words are being traded for weapons. Terror is a daily reality. And millions of people for whom Jesus died don’t know where to take shelter. Thankfully we can run to the “arms of God.” But let’s take someone with us—someone who doesn’t know Him personally.

* * *

REVIVE AMERICA PRAYER

Dear Father, thank you for your sheltering arms that will hold us steady in the storm. Give us a burning desire to pray for those in our families, communities, and nation who don’t have that assurance. Amen.

O victory in Jesus, my Savior, forever. He sought me and bought me with His redeeming blood.

– Victory in Jesus



CHAPTER 31 WAR AND PEACE

Warfare in the Middle East has been an on- going fact of history. Recent history has seen over

80 major conflicts in the region, resulting in an estimated two million-plus casualty count—in the last decade alone. Peace treaties have been signed and then buried in the rubble of war.

The fallout of those conflicts has impacted nations world- wide, including America.

The causes of war are more than violent actions and reactions. The Bible offers insight into their source. James 4:1, ***What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you?*** Conflict within causes war without. Godlessness, hatred, and greed fuel the fires of war.

Christian believers are caught in the crossfire, and often are among the first casualties. When we sing “Stand up, stand up for Jesus, ye soldiers of the Cross,” it has a fresh and ominous meaning.

And of course, it's not a matter of “here” and “over there” anymore. Lines have been drawn in the sand of our own nation. Sabers have been drawn with a new vengeance against traditional values and beliefs. And those who follow Christ are vulnerable to

unexpected attacks—perhaps in a way not seen since first century times.

For Christ-followers, war zones may change, but the weaponry has already been delivered to the front lines. 2 Corinthians

10:4, ***The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.*** And there's a powerful link: Matthew 16:18b, NLT, ***I will build My church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it.***

The church moves like a mighty army against the forces of hell. But unlike hell's forces, IT MARCHES ON ITS KNEES.

REVIVE AMERICA PRAYER

Lord Jesus, we follow You into the battles of our times on our knees, with every need supplied to meet every enemy faced. Thank you for the peace of knowing our final victory. Amen.

*On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross, the emblem of
suff'ring and shame; and I love that old cross where the dearest
and best for a world of lost sinners was slain.*

– The Old Rugged Cross



CHAPTER 32

FIGHT FOR THE CROSS

Online historians say evangelist George Bennard wrote the first verse of the beloved “Old Rugged Cross” in Albion, Michigan. Supposedly, it was written as a response to verbal attacks he received while ministering in a revival meeting. Just ninety-four miles away—more than

100 years later—in the city of Grand Haven, Michigan, controversy erupted over a 48-foot-tall cross displayed on nearby Dewey

Hill during ten Sundays of the summer months.

A “Take down the Cross” Facebook page proclaimed that displaying the cross was “unconstitutional” and an offense to other religions. One protestor said that “it was just a piece of metal.” The cross lost in a judge’s decision to dismiss the case of those who fought to keep it on the hill.

It’s another setback for Christian believers, who have lost skirmishes over displaying the Ten Commandments, praying invocations at city government meetings, displaying Nativity scenes, and singing “Silent Night” at school events. For nearly

100 years, Gideons International members have placed over one billion Bibles in hotels, motels, and hospitals. But now the

disciples of political correctness are trying—and often succeeding—to abolish the mission.

Soldiers of the Cross are on high alert. The freedom of religion we've enjoyed for ages is under vicious attack—led by Satan himself. And though the cross is still displayed as an art form or jewelry accessory, many of those who admire it or wear it without reproach are those who don't have a clue about its meaning.

The call to active duty includes at least three assignments: First, we must pray that America will turn from its misplaced allegiance. Second, we must volunteer to be prayer warriors. Third, we must be public advocates of the things that matter more than the Gross National Product.

* * *

REVIVE AMERICA PRAYER

Spirit of the Living God, fall fresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, and use me. Amen.

*When the shadows of this life have gone, I'll fly away;
like a bird from prison bars has flown, I'll fly away.
– I'll Fly Away*



CHAPTER 33 FLIGHT PLANS

It is one of history's most popular bumper sticker messages: "God Is My Co-Pilot." Wikipedia contributors say the saying is from the title of a book written in 1945, by Robert Lee Scott Jr., a retired general in the United States Army Air Force. It describes his experiences as a pilot in China and Burma during World War II.

T-shirt shops and sign-makers have kept the slogan alive for over seventy years. Counter messages have made the merchandise circuit as well. One makes a statement about rank, "God Is My PILOT," i.e., God's in charge of the wheel.

The authors can attest that in the multiplied thousands of commercial air miles we have flown, our pilots have never walked back to our seat and asked for advice on the flight plan. Filing the flight plan and then keeping the aircraft on its course is the pilot's responsibility, not the passenger's.

But even the most senior pilot in an airline company can't guarantee a flight without turbulence. Neither does Pilot-God. In John 16:33b, Jesus told his disciples, *In the world, you will have trouble*. (Turbulence!) But he finishes the sentence with an exclamation point, *Take heart! I have overcome the world* (John 16: 33c).

No doubt we live in shadowy times. But one day the clouds will part like a curtain and the Pilot-King of kings will make a promised and glorious landing. That's what Albert Brumley was talking about. "When the shadows of this life have gone, I'll fly away." The Pilot will make a return trip to earth, pick up the passengers who have been washed in His blood, and fly them to a heaven without shadows.

When? Soon. Sooner than the unsaved could ever imagine. And, not a moment too soon for world-weary saints. It's in the Flight Plan!

* * *

REVIVE AMERICA

Jesus, give me a new sense of urgency about helping others make their preparation for Your Second Coming. Amen.

*Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.
– Amazing Grace*



CHAPTER 34 AMERICA'S FAVORITE HYMN

John Newton's "Amazing Grace" is played or sung at almost every state funeral. The 18th century song is a staple in every worship experience—traditional or contemporary. And many funerals or graveside services include an acappella version. It very well may be America's favorite hymn. The Anglican preacher who wrote it was a former slave ship captain, whose experience with God's grace transformed his life.

Titus 2:11, ***For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people.***

Somewhere on the rough seas of his life, Newton traded his sinful wretchedness for God's saving goodness.

Newton was as much a slave to his sinful way of life as the slaves in the hold of his ship were to their buyers. Of course, his physical condition couldn't be compared to the horrendous conditions of the slaves. But inside his heart, he was equally without hope. No wonder he wrote, "How precious did that grace appear, the hour I first believed."

Wouldn't it be wonderful if everyone who ever played or sang "Amazing Grace" had personally experienced it? They would know that standing between the barbed wire fences and freedom of

the soul there is an unearned, grace-filled salvation that frees people from the chains of their past.

And wouldn't it be significant if every Christian truly believed that everyone who performs Newton's song isn't saved because they sing it? A blanket of spiritual universalism has been unwittingly tossed to the world. Author John MacArthur said, "Satan continues his efforts to make sin less offensive, heaven less appealing, hell less horrific, and the gospel less urgent."

Our prayer for revival will be way more intense when we truly acknowledge that the "lost" are not "found," except through saving faith in Christ.

* * *

REVIVE AMERICA PRAYER

Lord Jesus, help me never to waver on teaching the truth that You alone are the way, the truth, and the life. Amen.

*Souls in danger look above, Jesus completely saves, He will lift you
by His love, out of the angry waves.*

– Love Lifted Me



CHAPTER 35

AN AWESOME RESCUE

The news report was captivating. A father in California responded when his daughter was in deadly danger.

While swimming in the family pool, she had come into contact with faulty equipment and was suffering electrical shock. His immediate response was to jump into the pool, knowing it could result in his own death. The 43-year-old executive saved his child, but was electrocuted and died.

The setting is different, but James Rowe’s song, “Love Lifted Me,” captures the selfless love that went into Jesus’ awesome and sacrificial rescue. “I was sinking deep in sin, far from the peaceful shore, very deeply stained within, sinking to rise no more; but the Master of the sea heard my despairing cry, from the waters lifted me, now safe am I.” A rescue like that calls for being devoted to your rescuer, and telling others about the rescue.

In another verse, Rowe explains his mission: “Love so mighty and so true, merits my soul’s best songs; faithful loving service too, to Him belongs.” His rescue demanded a response.

And so does ours. Disciples, Peter and John, faced imprisonment or worse for sharing their rescue story—and the stories of others. Their response to the judges who accused them: *As for us, we*

cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard (Acts 4:20).

For many, their rescue story has whiskers—happening so many years ago that it has lost its luster. For others, it's so fresh they are moved to tears when they tell it. But in both cases, the Holy Spirit can use it to answer the longing of a heart suffering a slow death of hopelessness and guilt. Souls are in danger and need to look above, to the Jesus who completely saves. And it's our mission to tell them they can be lifted out of the angry waves.

* * *

REVIVE AMERICA PRAYER

Father, remind us of our rescue, and then send us to those in danger with a revived heart. Amen.

Oh, you must fight, be brave against all evil, never run, nor even lag behind; if you would win for God and the right, just keep on the firing line.

– Keep on the Firing Line



C H A P T E R 36

FIGHT FIRE WITH FIRE

What image comes to mind when you think of the word “firefighter”? Perhaps someone in fire-fighting gear, climbing a ladder to bravely rescue someone from a burning building. But for some, “firefighter” brings to mind the men and women who are bussed or flown to forests, mountains, or valleys to valiantly fight a moving “wall of flame” that threatens to burn acres of trees, bushes, and grassland.

The U. S. Forest Service Fire and Aviation Management is responsible for the prevention and suppression of fires on 193 million acres of America. Though its technology is cutting edge, some of its tactics haven’t changed since the service was established in 1891. One timeless tactic is to put out fires by starting new ones. Starting a fire line by torching brush in front of the advancing flames starves those fires.

With flames of evil moving across the land, we are God’s fire line, fighting fire with fire. The disciples became a fire line in the Upper Room, following the Resurrection of Jesus. Acts 2:2-3, ***Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to***

rest on each of them. They were set on fire by the filling of the Holy Spirit. And they established a fire line in their community that resulted in flames of faith spreading the gospel message throughout the world. Like the lyrics of “Keep on the Firing Line,” they were determined to be “brave against all evil.” They were determined never to run, “nor even lag behind.” So let’s keep the fire line open, fighting the fires of evil with the fire of Pentecost.

REVIVAL AMERICA PRAYER

Holy Spirit, start a fire in my heart that will quench the doubt and disobedience spreading throughout our land. Amen.

*Redeemed and so happy in Jesus, no language my rapture can tell.
– Redeemed*



CHAPTER 37

SOME THINGS YOU JUST CAN'T PUT INTO WORDS

The blind songwriter, Fanny Crosby, saw the unseen and experienced the unknown. She took by faith what we discovered: Faith and fact merge in the message of salvation. Fact is that the calendar supports the birth of Christ, and 500 witnesses of His day witnessed His resurrected presence. And by faith, untold millions in our day have followed the unseen Savior. 1 Peter 1:8, ***Though you have not seen Him, you love Him; and even though you do not see Him now, you believe in Him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy.***

Peter wrote of the “inexpressible” and Crosby wrote of the happiness “no language can tell.” It’s the “know-so salvation” Paul wrote about: ***I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day*** (2 Timothy 1:12b).

Fanny Crosby described her experience as being “redeemed, and so happy in Jesus.” Her salvation brought her contentment greater than her circumstances. Surrounded by un- seen dangers, living dependent on others, only imagining the beauty around her, she walked through the darkness with this confidence: “I know that the light of His presence with me doth continually dwell.”

There are some things you just can’t put into words. Salvation from your past. Hope in spite of the headlines. God’s loving

acceptance in a world of hate and rejection. Inner abundance in a world of want. It's a God thing! Don't try to dissect it; just enjoy its wholeness.

But there are some things you CAN put into words. To the thirsty, you can tell them of living water. To the guilty, you can tell them of saving forgiveness. To the empty, you can tell them of the Holy Spirit's infilling. To the fearful, you can tell them of a solid rock faith.

* * *

REVIVE AMERICA PRAYER

Lord, thank you for what You did for me, so that I can be a living witness of what You will do for others. Amen.

I may have doubts and fears, my eyes be filled with tears, but Jesus is a friend who watches day and night; I go to Him in prayer, He knows my every care, and just a little talk with Jesus makes it right.
– *Just a Little Talk With Jesus*



CHAPTER 38 SNAKES IN THE GRASS

Doubts and fears” could be a news headline today. It also could describe the more than six million Americans who have been diagnosed with a phobia. Over 80 percent have health related fears. And 30 percent have fears associated with their past. There is even a fear of fears: phobophobia.

World events, combined with unpredictable weather or economic conditions, can give the shakes to the heartiest citizens—and give Wall Street a few jitters as a sidebar. People of every generation have had their “snake in the grass”—their real or imagined foe that could harm them or their loved ones.

This generation is no exception. Stocks jump or dive. Health costs leap. Employment slides. And the “open door” policy in most homes has been replaced with a deadbolt lock and a Rottweiler. We are locked in, with security bars over our windows, listening for the hissing sound of our “snake in the grass.”

And how does Jesus answer our fear? He calmly says, ***Do not let your hearts be troubled*** (John 14:1a). What?! Isn’t He supposed to know what’s going on? He does: ***You believe in God; believe also in Me*** (John 14:1b). Creator God is in the house!

Satan once slithered through the grass of Eden's Garden and tried to destroy the future. But God stepped on his tail and said, ***I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel*** (Genesis 3:15). True, God's Son was struck and killed. But God raised Him up and forever destroyed the Snake's plan.

Are you fearful of world conditions? As the song suggests, "Have a little talk with Jesus." He "watches day and night."

* * *

REVIVE AMERICA PRAYER

Lord, thank you that I can trust You with my yesterdays and tomorrows. Amen.

Too many miles behind me, too many trials are through; too many tears help me to remember, there's too much to gain to lose.

– Too Much To Gain To Lose



CHAPTER 39

ARE YOU HISTORICAL, OR HYSTERICAL?

If you want a piece of automotive history, it will cost you. Think \$3.8 million for a 1967 Chevy Corvette. (And that's without a radio or heater.) The limited edition car was built for the race track, not the highway. Of course, if you could afford the sale price, you could afford to add a heater and a radio!

But not everyone buys something because of its historical value. Many antique collectors are discovering that collectibles are losing their value. Why? Partly because a younger generation wants the “new” rather than the “old.” And some would say we are so focused on the present and future, we have forgotten our past. Hopefully not, because where we came from sets the sails for where we are going.

Israel's leader, Joshua, is a biblical example. When the Israelites, carrying the ark of the covenant, came to the Jordan River, it miraculously parted and they crossed on dry land. Afterward, Joshua chose twelve men from Israel's twelve tribes, to pick twelve stones from the dry river bed and set them as a sign at the Israelite's next camp. He said, ***When your children ask you, 'What do these stones mean?' tell them that the flow of the Jordan was cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord*** (Joshua 4:6-7).

Are you hysterical about the future? Or are you historical? That is, do you worry more about where you are going than how far you've come? Dottie Rambo wrote, "Too many miles behind me, too many trials are through . . . there's too much to gain to lose."

As hearts hunger for holiness, they feed off examples of God's past outpourings. Be a Spirit-filled storyteller. Start a new flame of revival with life illustrations of revivals past.

* * *

REVIVE AMERICA PRAYER

O God, revive me again, fill my heart with Your love. And may my soul be rekindled with fire from above. Amen.

I thank God for The Lighthouse, I owe my life to Him. Jesus is The Lighthouse and from the rocks of sin, He has shown the light around me, so that I might clearly see. If it wasn't for The Lighthouse, where would this ship be?
– *The Lighthouse*



CHAPTER 40 IT'S ALL ABOUT HIM!

Standing at the center of every spiritual renewal is the Lord Jesus Christ. It's all about Him!

He is the Axis, around which moves the Kingdom of God. He is the Fulcrum, the pivotal point of every Christian belief. ***He is the Cornerstone, the connecting foundation of our faith. He is the head of the body, the church; He is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything He might have the supremacy*** (Colossians 1:18).

True revival is the re-establishing of Christ's supremacy in the hearts and lives of His followers. Until then, everything else is robotic, a "religion by rote learning"—going through the motions until we're comfortable with it. Author Mark Wilson said, "Revival is the life of Jesus poured into human hearts."

Ronny Hinson's song, "The Lighthouse," is a testimony to the centrality of Christ: "Jesus is The Lighthouse . . . I owe my life to Him." He is God's solitary solution for the forgiveness of sin and growing faith. There is no getting around Him. Acts 4:12, ***Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.***

It's all about Him!

Is He supreme in your heart and life? Does everything depend upon and revolve around Him? Revival is taking decisive—and even desperate—steps toward Him, bowing humbly at His feet, and rising with a mission to make Him the rule and ruler of your life.

* * *

REVIVE AMERICA PRAYER

Lord Jesus, I exalt You with all my heart. In a world of danger and distraction, You alone are the source of salvation and safety. Amen.

*Who am I that The King would bleed and die for, who am I that He would pray not my will, thine Lord; the answer I may never know, why He ever loved me so, but to that old rugged cross He'd go, for who am I?
– Who Am I*



CHAPTER 41

HOW TO BEGIN A REVIVAL

Revival begins with Jesus. His story is an awesome journey from heaven's throne to a manger cave, where He was born of a virgin. As a child He grew in wisdom, stature, and in favor with God and man, always obedient to His Father's mission.

At the age of 30, He "went on the road," preaching and teaching, performing miracles, and discipling followers. At 33, He went to "an old rugged cross" on the hill of Golgotha, where He died to pay the penalty for the sins of every man, woman, boy, or girl.

His broken body was carried to the tomb in what looked like the ultimate defeat. But it wasn't the end of the trip! Three days later, He broke down the door! And later, He ascended into heaven to sit triumphantly at His Father's right hand.

Why all the details? It's because He asks of every follower, "Who do you say that I am?" When we give the correct answer, "Christ the Messiah," we acknowledge that He is the only way to heaven. And, following in His way includes being spiritually reborn by His Holy Spirit—two births, one physical and the other spiritual. John 3:5, *No one can enter the kingdom of God unless*

they are born of water and the Spirit. So you “begin a revival” by being sure of your connection to Christ.

The dictionary says “Revival” is “an improvement in the condition or strength of something.” So you can’t have “Revival” unless you have been “Re-born.” Revival is for the “found,” not the “lost.” It is intended to tune them up, to send them out—to the unbeliever.

REVIVE AMERICA PRAYER

Dear God, I submit my heart to Your review. I want to be sure of my connection to Christ, my Savior and Lord. Amen.

*Shackled by a heavy burden, 'Neath a load of guilt and shame;
then the hand of Jesus touched me; and now
I am no longer the same.
– He Touched Me*



CHAPTER 42

REVIVAL SETS PRISONERS FREE

The tallest and largest trees may have a deadly secret. Inside their trunk, they may unwittingly be hosting an insect that will tear at their strength, sap their inner nourishment, and eventually cause their death. It's the Borer Beetle, a tiny species with a voracious appetite. It not only eats the wood, it lays eggs that hatch into duplicate foragers.

Guilt is like the Borer Beetle, in the form of an inner remorse for breaking God's laws on purpose. And it eats on the inside, tearing at the inner strength and sapping the emotional nourishment of the guilty. Because our nation has a sin problem, it also has a guilt problem. And sometimes its citizens who stand the tallest, or stoop to the lowest, are suffering the worst of its agonizing effects.

Revival is God's answer to that national problem. The Scriptures make a stunning declaration! Galatians 3:22, NLT, ***But the Scriptures declare that we are all prisoners of sin, so we receive God's promise of freedom only by believing in Jesus Christ.***

Those who don't know Christ or have fallen away from Him are all in the same category: prisoners. So those who know Him gather their resources, renew their vows to Him, pray for His revival

power, and launch a full-scale attack against the cell blocks of Satan.

The result: the soldier-saints are supernaturally revived and the shackled prisoners of guilt and shame are supernaturally released. Both the saint and the freed can say with the beloved Bill and Gloria Gaither song, “Then the hand of Jesus touched me, and now I am no longer the same.”

REVIVE AMERICA PRAYER

Spirit of God, I need a brand new touch from You. Let a national revival start with a revival in my own heart. And then let it spread until the redeemed of the cities and the nations can say, “Oh the joy that floods my soul.” Amen.

O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder, consider all the worlds Thy hands have made; I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, Thy power throughout the universe displayed. Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee, how great Thou art.

– How Great Thou Art



CHAPTER 43

AS NEAR AS A PRAYER

When was the last time you took a long look at the night sky? Maybe you started to count stars, and then stopped in frustration. There were too many, too far away.

The task is greater now. Astronomers have discovered a new galaxy 13.4 billion light years away. Thirteen billion light years away! Comprehending the vastness of the universe could leave you with chills along your spine. But the chills turn to warmth when you know that the Creator of those far-away galaxies is as near to you as a prayer: “Then sings my soul, my Savior, God to Thee”—a God great enough to tiptoe across the planets, yet small enough to camp in your heart.

Another line of the beloved song says, “And when I think that God, His Son not sparing, sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in, that on that cross, my burdens gladly bearing, He bled and died to take away my sin.” God made the first move, salvation.

You could live a lifetime and not comprehend how great God is—or how close He longs to be to you. Sometimes He seems far away. Suffering or sorrow clouds your vision. World events

distract you. But He hasn't budged: ***I the LORD do not change*** (Malachi 3:6).

Prayer is talking to God. So when He seems distant from you or your family, or your nation, it's time for a talk. It's time to confess the distractions and claim the warmth of His forgiving presence. That's when revival begins.

* * *

REVIVE AMERICA PRAYER

Creator God, I want to draw so close to You that I will hear Your whispers over the noise of these times. Forgive me for allowing my carelessness or concerns to create a chasm between us. I need You, and my nation needs You. Amen.

I don't want to get adjusted to this world, to this world; I've got a home so much better, and I'm gonna go there sooner or later.
– *I Don't Want to Get Adjusted*



CHAPTER 44

REVIVAL ADJUSTMENTS

According to a 2015 NPR interview with Iris DeMent, composer of “I Don’t Want to Get Adjusted,” the singer/ songwriter launched her career as a five-year-old member of her sisters’ trio in a small Pentecostal church (“For Iris DeMent, Music is the Calling That Forces Her Into the Spotlight,” available at www.npr.org). Active in her church until the age of 16, she said she left the church and its beliefs. Now known as a country and folk singer, she has received wide acclaim.

The composer wouldn’t be the first, and sadly not the last, to move on from the church and its beliefs. The “None” category in religious affiliation surveys has spiked alarmingly. The trend is not surprising for students of the Bible. Paul says, ***Don’t let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs*** (2 Thessalonians 2:3a). The King James version calls that rebellion “a falling away.” Before the second coming of Christ, many will abandon christianity and christian beliefs.

The good news is that while a “falling away” is happening, a “leaning forward” is also going on. Matthew 24:14, ***And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.*** A great PROCLAMATION will happen before the great REVELATION.

God has not only equipped His church with the latest communications technology, He has equipped it with a promised revival. Acts 2:17a, ***In the last days, God says, I will pour out My Spirit on all people.***

So don't adjust to the world. Join the turnaround. You have "a home so much better." The winds of adversity may blow at Category 5 strength, but each gust is an opportunity to cuddle closer to Christ and the Cross.

* * *

REVIVE AMERICA PRAYER

*Father, align my heart to Your will, and strengthen me to refuse the world's invitations. Thank you for Your revival promises.
Amen.*

Now I've given to Jesus everything, now I gladly own Him as my King; now my raptured soul can only sing of Calvary!
— At Calvary



CHAPTER 45 IT PAYS TO DIE

If you are a celebrity, you might say it pays to die. For example, a former pop star has made over \$800 million SINCE his death, six years ago. The list of deceased celebrity millionaires goes on—just like their income from royalties, product sales, branding rights, auctioned items, and investments. The trouble is, once you're gone your purchase options are zero.

Only in God's kingdom is death a pathway to life. Jesus said, ***Unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds*** (John 12:24). William R. Newell's, "At Calvary," captures the essence of Jesus' message: "Now I've given to Jesus everything, now I gladly own Him as my king." You can't "own" Jesus as King until King Jesus "owns" you!

That transfer of spiritual assets—the giving of everything to Jesus—is a dying to self that the Holy Spirit uses to execute your "Spiritual Last Will and Testament."

What is that dying? It is the voluntary giving up of YOU, by YOU, to JESUS.

Giving up your . . .

- Attributes.
- Abilities.

- Authority.
- Acquisitions.
- Accomplishments.
- Aspirations.
- Affiliations.

Paul put it this way in Romans 12:1: ***I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.*** You become a spiritually “dead person,” walking in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Revival grows from the soil of surrender. It may be watered with tears and nurtured with effort, but its blooming is the result of a person, church, organization, or community dying to self and living for God.

REVIVE AMERICA PRAYER

Lord Jesus, thank you for giving Your life for me. In return, I give You nothing less than everything I am and everything I have. Use my surrender as a token of my need for revival. Amen.

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow, because He lives, all fear is gone; because I know He holds the future, and life is worth the living, just because He lives!
– *Because He Lives*



CHAPTER 46 BECAUSE HE LIVES

You can't change every world condition, but you can change one: your attitude. Imagine it: you can be one person out of 300 million Americans, and in a troubled, global population, one of over seven billion people in the throes of untold political and social conflicts, who can sing "It is Well With My Soul."

When you were born into God's kingdom, you inherited a "spiritual island of calm" in the middle of any troubled sea. John 14:27, ***Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.*** The Savior, who controlled the waves, also controlled the grave—and everything between.

The adage that a sea of water can't sink a ship unless it gets inside has never been more relevant. Interestingly, the "stirrings" of a revival result in a "calm" to those who are being revived.

In almost every nation, one or more citizens has probably heard the song, "Because He Lives." Written by Bill and Gloria Gaither during the politically turbulent 60's, its message spans the ages of war or peace: "Because He lives, all fear is gone."

Your resources to face national or international turmoil may seem paltry, but they are powerful: one step of faith in Christ; a Bible, for studying and applying His promises; a prayer time, for updated instructions from His headquarters; a fellowship of believers, to keep you encouraged and protected with intercession; and a determination to move you closer to the living Savior—who will whisper calming words through His Holy Spirit.

Remember, David supplied the “attitude” and God supplied five stones to slay a giant!

* * *

REVIVE AMERICA PRAYER

Lord, I long for a revival that will deal with my attitude of fear. Fill me with your peace, and make me Your ambassador to others who need it as well. Amen.

*He is the source of all our strength, the One who watches over us,
here in America.*

– In God We Still Trust



CHAPTER 47

SILENT MAJORITY NO MORE

When the music group, Diamond Rio, sang “In God We Still Trust” during a 2005 concert, it’s said that the audience immediately stood to its feet in a lingering, standing ovation. But some people considered it “politically incorrect.”

Snopes.com, the website that verifies whether Internet legends are true or false, said a Florida elementary school rehearsed the song to sing as part of a school assembly. Parents of two students filed a lawsuit against the school, claiming violation of the children’s first amendment rights by forcing them to choose between a “proselytizing” and “sectarian” song or sitting out the entire performance. A U.S. District Judge issued an injunction against the song’s performance at the school.

America’s roots are woven in faith.

You place your hand on His Bible, when you swear to tell the truth,

His name is on our greatest monuments, and all our money too.

And when we pledge allegiance, there’s no doubt where we stand:

There’s no separation, we’re one nation under Him.

The controversy over the song is history, but the message is as fresh as the latest staged protest. Our freedoms are being threatened

by the noisy few, while the majority votes with its silence. But the voice votes of our founding patriots ring in our ears. Their documents of democracy prohibit attempts by the few to shackle the rights of the majority. Our laws include the privilege of expression without punishment.

A silent majority no more! Onward to the polling places, podiums, public forums, performance stages, and production studios of America, to proclaim the majority belief that God is still our provider and protector. But first to the altars, where we ask God to hold His judgment until we unite in prayer for what could be our last revival before Christ's return.

* * *

REVIVE AMERICA PRAYER

Father, You are our strength and refuge. Allow me to do my part in bringing revival to America. Amen.

*Just as I am, without one plea, but that Thy blood was shed for me,
and that Thou bid'st me come to Thee;
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
– Just as I Am*



C H A P T E R 48

THE VETTING PROCESS

Have you ever been vetted? Every few years, key words or phrases take laps in leadership circles. “Paradigm,” “out of the box,” or “FYI” are a few relics. In their place, words like “path” or “vetting” have become buzzwords. The dictionary says that “vet” is a careful and critical examination of something (or someone.)

Government and corporation appointees are “vetted” to check their background, loyalties, or qualifications. If you’ve applied for a job recently, you’ve gone through the vetting process.

Vetting isn’t new. In one sense, God has used it forever. In the beginning, He “vetted” His creation and pronounced it “very good.” King Solomon went through God’s “vetting” process. 1 Chronicles 28:9, NLT: ***And Solomon, my son, learn to know the God of your ancestors intimately. Worship and serve Him with your whole heart and a willing mind. For the LORD sees every heart and knows every plan and thought.***

Jesus had a vetting policy. Matthew 7:21, ***Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of My Father who is in heaven.*** And New Testament leaders were “vetted.” ***Deacons are to be worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not***

pursuing dishonest gain. They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience. They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons (1 Timothy 3:8-10).

Are you willing to go through God's "vetting process"? Are you willing to allow the Holy Spirit access to the "hard drive" of your heart, revealing attitude, entertainment, service, or relationship files that could "corrupt" God's revival program? If so, you're headed for a revival!

* * *

REVIVE AMERICA PRAYER

Lord, I come to you just as I am. Start the "search" now, and clean up the "files" that prevent me from experiencing revival. Amen.

*He who fed the multitude, turned the water into wine, to the hungry calleth now, "come and dine."
– Come and Dine*



C H A P T E R 49

GOD'S DINNER BELL

Restaurants still advertise “home cooking,” but the source usually doesn’t match the sign. It’s more like serving warmed-up, processed food, shipped from vendors a thousand miles away. Today’s “dinner together” is more of a dream sequence, imagining the scene of a Thanksgiving meal at the Cunningham’s house on TV’s Happy Days.

Most just settle for a “grab and go” meal at one of the 160 thousand fast food restaurants, standing in line with a few of the 50 million Americans who eat fast food every day (www.feedingamerica.org).

If there are farmers in your family tree, you’ve probably heard about the dinner bell. To workers baling hay or plowing fields all day, there wasn’t a sweeter sound than the familiar clanging, calling them to the supper table. Put that supper scene into a modern perspective, with the sickening fact that nearly 50 million Americans live in “food insecurity.” So, 50 million eat fast food each day while nearly 50 million may be hungry.

The only thing worse than being hungry, is being hungry without hope. There is another hunger problem in America. It’s not as obvious, but it is even more deadly. It is spiritual hunger, the desperation to fill aching spaces in the soul that only God can fill.

Jesus grieved over both, weeping at the death of His earthly friend, Lazarus, and agonizing over the spiritual hunger of fields (masses of people) ripe for harvest (salvation). The hunger that food can't fill is a hunger to be free from the past, fulfilled in the present, and hopeful of the future. Jesus said ***Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled*** (Matthew 5:6). Today's shouts in the streets are actually spiritual hunger pangs. And God is ringing His "dinner bell"—inviting the hungry of soul to "come and dine." Revive America, O God!

REVIVE AMERICA PRAYER

Father God, help me to be a server in Your kingdom, bringing spiritual food to the hungry of heart. Amen.

*I am weak but Thou art strong; Jesus, keep me from all wrong; I'll
be satisfied as long as I walk, let me walk close to Thee.
– Just a Closer Walk With Thee*



CHAPTER 50 YOUR WALKING PARTNER

Can 145 million be wrong? A government website says more than 6 in 10 Americans walk for transportation, fun, or relaxation. Another reason is the exercise factor. Walking is called the easiest form of exercise for physical fitness, putting less strain on back muscles and leg joints. Walking is also a proven way to burn calories and lower blood pressure.

The most prominent walker in Bible times was a man named Enoch. An ancestor of Noah, he lived 365 years. But the quality of his walk was more important than the number of steps he logged on his pedometer. Enoch's walking fame was more about his choice of a walking partner than it was about his technique or miles walked. Genesis 5:22b, ***Enoch walked faithfully with God 300 years.***

Thee," is unknown, but his or her message has influenced the church for generations. It has a simple melody and lyric, yet its impact is powerful: "I'll be satisfied as long as I walk with my walking partner, Jesus."

For some, living for and walking with Jesus is as perilous in the twenty-first century as it was in the first. The letters of the apostles catalog their first century costs, including imprisonment, torture, deportation, public mockery, and execution. Sound familiar? Today

in many countries, those who walk with Jesus are paying the same price (and that is why we walk along- side them in prayer).

We walk with Jesus because He strengthens us as we walk. We walk with Him because He prays for us as we walk. We walk with Him because He guides us as we walk. We walk with Him because He promised to walk us to the finish line.

* * *

REVIVE AMERICA PRAYER

Lord Jesus, thank you for being my strong leader and guide in these times. I need you every step of the way, every single day. Amen.

*Beulah Land, I'm longing for you, and some day on thee I'll stand;
there my home shall be eternal, Beulah Land, sweet Beulah Land.
– Sweet Beulah Land*



CHAPTER 51 A STRANGE CAMPSITE

On The Weather Channel's website, there was a story about strange campsites. The first article included the photo of a person reclining on a rectangular, trampoline-like apparatus ON THE SIDE OF A CLIFF. Its aluminum frame was held above and beneath by several ropes anchored to the cliff's rock side.

The smiling camper was hanging in mid-air, above a drop of hundreds of feet to a canyon floor. Campers who have used the Portaledge™ for years, say the device is comfortable and safe.

Christ-followers are familiar with strange campsites. Paul compared our bodily residence on earth to a tent-dwelling. ***For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands*** (2 Corinthians 5:1). And the parallel to the portable ledge is striking. This world is a perilous and impermanent campsite for those whose faith is in the Lord of the heavens.

But we're not camping alone. Our tent is in a campsite of fellow believers, who are struggling with the same conditions, looking for a final home. That's what singer/songwriter, Squire Parsons, was talking about. "Beulah Land" is the promised land of heaven, the home country of the soul saved by grace. But it's not a portable

ledge hanging on a cliff; it's a solid and permanent place: "And some day on thee I'll STAND."

Perhaps you've camped with family or friends next to other campsites. Your food is simmering on the grill, and you get the idea to invite the other campers to dinner. Suddenly, strangers become friends, and share the same meal.

Revival is about people of faith, adjusting to camping in the precarious conditions of earth, praying for, and inviting, strangers to faith to the lifesaving nourishment only God can provide.

* * *

REVIVE AMERICA PRAYER

Jesus, I thank you for the sacrifice that nourishes me with forgiveness and hope. Revive my mission to share that meal with others. Amen.

*Come home, come home, you who are weary, come home;
earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, O sinner, come home!
– Softly and Tenderly*



CHAPTER 52

THE REUNION REVIVAL

There are many ways to describe a revival, but “reunion” may be one of the best. A reunion planning, anticipation, and atmosphere is electric. Whether it’s a family, school, sports, or church event, the reunion of members, family, friends, classmates, or fans is a celebration of memories. Years of history are bridged in the first five minutes. And the question, “Do you remember when?” will be asked repeatedly.

Sometimes a reunion turns into a revival. (And it doesn’t always involve a large number of participants.) Jesus told the story of a reunion turned revival that involved a father and his son. We refer to the son as a “prodigal.” In the parable, he had walked away from family and faith to experience the neon lights and plastic promises of the world—and ended up as a head waiter in a pig pen.

Let’s pick it up at the point when the prodigal remembers what he had, takes the big step toward home, and finds himself near the property line. ***So he got up and went to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him*** (Luke 15:20). The son repents. The father forgives. And the celebration begins—with dinner on the grounds. The portrait Jesus painted of that reunion could be titled

“Revival.” It had all the components: remembrance of better days; admission of current need; heartfelt repentance; a turnaround decision; and a belief in the father’s restoration. Who knows what the father standing by the gate was thinking, but it had to be something like this: “Come home, come home, you who are weary, come home.”

* * *

REVIVE AMERICA PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you for patiently waiting for my return to the place I need to be, to begin a revival in my heart that will spread to others. Amen.

I'm trusting to the unseen hand that guides me through this weary land.

– The Unseen Hand



CHAPTER 53

WISDOM ON DEMAND

Sometimes it seems like people have time for every- thing but the right thing. Their calendars are filled, but many of the squares include scribbled reminders of activities that distance them from God’s plan, instead of drawing them to it. So, instead of managing their time, time manages them.

Like the Psalmist’s prayer, ***“My times are in Your hand”***

(Psalm 31:15), revival includes surrendering to God’s time and timing. Ecclesiastes 3:1, ***There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.*** He drew the schematic for your life before the first planet was formed. You can have revival alone in a hospital room, prison cell, office, or kitchen, by surrendering everything you are in every situation you’re in, totally to God and His plan for your life.

“On demand” is the password of the day. People switch merchants and entertainment quicker than a mouse click if they don’t deliver products or services in a “timely” manner. But “quicker” doesn’t guarantee “better,” in the same way that “now” isn’t always better than “later”—except when it comes to saving faith in Jesus Christ (see 2 Corinthians 6:2).

Living in pre- or post-revival times takes the faith of a martyr, the skill of a surgeon, the understanding of a scholar, the tenacity

of a soldier, and the wisdom of a Solomon. But the good news is the One who resourced them is the same who equips every follower of Christ—ON DEMAND. James 1:5-6a, NLT, ***If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and He will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. But when you ask Him, be sure that your faith is in God alone.***

Seeking God's wisdom as you walk through the mine fields of these times is as simple as a prayer. And now is the time to pray!

REVIVE AMERICA PRAYER

Father God, I ask for Your wisdom to be an influencer who is revived for these times of so many troubling questions. I surrender my time to You. Amen.

*O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave o'er the land of the
free and the home of the brave?
– The Star-Spangled Banner*



CHAPTER 54

THE ANSWER TO AMERICA'S QUESTION

You could be an American citizen for decades and not read through the words of its National Anthem. Granted, the most familiar are in the first verse, and are sung at every civic or sporting event. A cheer of patriotism ascends when the last words, “O’er the land of the free and the home of the brave” are performed.

But the spirit of the anthem is in the fourth verse. It is perhaps the most stirring and most relevant. Yet it lies silent among the dusty documents of history.

O thus be it ever when freemen shall stand
Between their loved home and the war’s desolation!
Blest with victory and peace, may the heav’n rescued land
Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation.
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just, And this be our
motto – “In God is our trust,”
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave
O’er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

Its first verses were written in longhand on the back of a letter by an amateur poet, Francis Scott Key. His majestic song-pledge was set to a John Stafford Smith tune, and became America’s National

Anthem in 1931. The lyrics were inspired by Key's 1812 view of our flag flying over Fort McHenry, after surviving a night of bombardment (<http://amhistory.si.edu/starspangledbanner/the-lyrics.aspx>).

But obviously the remaining verses were penned after further reflection. The fourth verse almost perfectly answers the question in verse 1, "Does that star-spangled banner yet wave, o'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?" The answer: YES, IF, THE COMMITMENT OF VERSE 4 IS CARRIED OUT! ". . . And this be our motto: 'In God is our trust'. . . the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave o'er the land of the free and the home of the brave."

REVIVE AMERICA PRAYER

Lord, help me to be a warrior willing to defend America's true beginnings. Amen.

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest, sun, moon and stars in their courses above join with all nature in manifold witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

– Great Is Thy Faithfulness



C H A P T E R 55

THE STEWARDSHIP OF CITIZENSHIP

Ask not what your country can do for you — ask what you can do for your country.” That sound bite from

President John F. Kennedy’s inaugural address came near the end of the speech, but it defined the rest.

The Preamble of the Constitution is a job description for Americans. It begins with a “We,” as a commitment shared by government and people. There are five duties America’s citizens were to fulfill to “Establish this Constitution for the United States of America.”

1. Form a more perfect Union.
2. Establish justice.
3. Insure domestic tranquility.
4. Promote the general welfare.
5. Secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity.

The hands-on management (stewardship) of The Constitution was to be shared by people of linked hands—and hearts.

The faithfulness of God is a pattern for that stewardship. Thomas Chisholm’s hymn says it: “Summer and winter and springtime and harvest, sun, moon and stars . . . join with all nature in manifold witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.”

Planets and seasons join with nature to praise their Creator and Manager.

The spread of first century revival was due partly to Christian citizens' stewardship: ***They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need*** (Acts 2:45 NLT). The Apostles also shared as they could. To the lame beggar, Peter said, ***Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you, In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk*** (Acts 3:6).

Every citizen has abilities that could meet needs categorized in the Preamble. The church is not exempt. In fact it has an edge. It has abilities energized by the Holy Spirit. And so energized, Christian citizens can set the pace—addressing “duties” of the Constitution with divine solutions.

* * *

REVIVE AMERICA PRAYER

Creator God, help me to follow the example of Your great faithfulness by serving others in Christ's name. Amen.

*I hasten to the place where God my Savior shows His face; and
gladly take my station there, and wait for thee, sweet hour of
prayer!*

– *Sweet Hour of Prayer*



CHAPTER 56

ALL HANDS TO THE BATTLE STATIONS

General quarters” is a military alarm on a Navy ship, calling “all hands” to their “battle stations.” From that position, the ship and its sailors are defended from seen or unseen enemies. The scenario is far different from William Bradbury’s “Sweet Hour of Prayer,” but its second verse is a similar call to “general quarters,” where intercessors “gladly take” their “station.”

It doesn’t take a “security intelligence report” to know that our national Ship of State has drifted into enemy waters. Some of its course direction is intentional and some unintentional, but the result is the same: vulnerability to enemy attack.

Satan and his soldiers have waged a lingering war against the Ship and its sailors, while they sail, seemingly oblivious to the dangers. It’s just like Bible times: ***The kings of the earth did not believe, nor did any of the peoples of the world, that enemies and foes could enter the gates of Jerusalem*** (Lamentations 4:12).

The attacks are unprecedented, combining open warfare with cyber-attacks, using our tools of progress as weapons of mass destruction. 1 Peter 5:8, ***Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.*** Accordingly, Paul the Apostle calls the church to its

“battle stations”: Ephesians 6:18a, NLT, ***Pray in the Spirit at all times . . . Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers.***

You can be at your “battle station” 24/7, interceding for the Ship and its citizen-sailors. If committing to an “hour of prayer” makes you gulp, even five-minute per hour prayers in an average 15-hours awake time equals one hour and fifteen minutes total. Bottom line, there is enough time to pray, if we creatively take the time to pray.

REVIVE AMERICA PRAYER

Spirit of God, thank you for calling me to my prayer battle station. Guide my prayer for my nation and my fellow citizens. Amen.

*This world where I roam cannot be my home, I'm bound for that
home in the sky.*

– Goodbye World, Goodbye



C H A P T E R 57

DUAL CITIZENSHIP

Actress Nicole Kidman is an Australian citizen who was born in Hawaii, making her a dual citizen of the United States. She is one of several well-known citizens who have the privilege of dual citizenship (<https://citizenpath.com/american-dual-citizenship>).

In a strong sense, Christ-followers, well-known or lesser-known, also have dual citizenship, no matter where they live. They have citizenship by being born into or living in the country of their birth. But when they were born again through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, they became citizens of God's kingdom. Philippians 3:20-21, ***But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables Him to bring everything under His control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like His glorious body.***

At the same time we pledge allegiance to a flag, we pledge allegiance to a Savior, who is King above earthly kings. Jesus spoke about responsibilities to both. Luke 20:25b, NLT, ***Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and give to God what belongs to God.*** Paul added a personal touch, ***I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; but it is***

more necessary for you that I remain in the body (Philippians 1:23-24).

We are dual citizens with dual responsibilities, both God-honoring. We pay taxes, vote, obey the law, and serve our community because of our earthly citizenship. We tithe, declare our allegiance, keep God's law, and serve others because of our heavenly citizenship.

We know our final home is our real home. Ours is a temporary or work visa, granted by God to do whatever it takes to bring others into His Kingdom before our earthly time is up. That's why we're so desperate for revival in the land!

REVIVE AMERICA PRAYER

Master, thank you for my country, and thank you for the Kingdom. Send revival to my country so that others will join me in Your Kingdom. Amen.

*What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!
– What a Friend We Have in Jesus*



C H A P T E R 58

THE AMERICAN LONELINESS

Time magazine reported that loneliness is deadly. It quotes an article in the journal, *Perspective on Psychological Science*, “The subjective feeling of loneliness increases risk of death by 26%.” (“Why Loneliness May Be the Next Big Public-Health Issue,” <http://time.com/3747784/loneliness-mortality/>.) The authors say further, “Texting and social media have made it easier to avoid forming substantive relationships.”

It only takes a couple of minutes in a casual dining restaurant to see why. Tables of one or a group of ten or more are occupied by people who could be marked “Present” in a roll call, but their behavior says, “Absent.” Cellphones in hand, the diners seem to ignore guests around them.

The social trend is obvious. Apartment buildings, condos, and subdivisions are filled with people who don’t know the person or persons next door. Technology is front and center of most friend or family gatherings.

Jesus had a warmer, more personal relationship with His close disciples. He told them, ***I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from My Father I have made known to you*** (John 15:15).

The apostle Paul envisioned a warm relationship between Christ followers as well. He wrote, *Laugh with your happy friends when they're happy; share tears when they're down.* (Romans 12:15 MSG).

Loneliness is not only deadly; it is also the enemy of revival. When we feel isolated, our moods can drag us down and make us less concerned about others. To see the nation revived, we must care about others. We must care enough to pray – for our- selves and for them, that they may come to know the Savior, who invites us to “carry everything to God in prayer.”

* * *

REVIVE AMERICA PRAYER

Lord Jesus, thank you for never leaving us nor forsaking us. You promise that You are with us always. Please help us to show others You that they may come to know You as well. Amen

*I saw the light, I saw the light, no more darkness, no more night.
– I Saw the Light*



CHAPTER 59 LOSING THE LIGHT

Lighting is a major factor in painting or photography. To both arts, light source adds nuances of depth and beauty to the painting or photo. When the artists begin to “lose the light” by the setting sun or cloud cover, the creative process is a wrap for the day.

Country music star, Hank Williams Sr., wrote “I Saw the Light.” It was supposedly inspired by a comment his mother made while driving the yet-unknown singer home from a performance. Legend or not, it’s said when she saw the lights of a nearby airport and awakened her son to see them, the lyrics to the song were born.

His story doesn’t have a happy ending. Substance abuse marked both his life and death. CST News reporter, Don Boys, wrote, “Country singer Hank Williams, Sr., held the world in his grasp then lost it all in the back seat of his Cadillac dying from a drug overdose.” (www.CSTNews.com, November 26, 2007).

The lyrics seem to indicate that Williams had knowledge of the gospel story, but moved away from it to seek fame and riches. The unknown question is, “When did he start losing the light that he saw?”

The Bible is filled with light. In Genesis 1:3, God opened the curtains of creation with a decree: **“Let there be light,” and there was light.** John the Apostle wrote, Jesus is the **true light that gives light to everyone** (John 1:9). And later John said, If **we walk in the**

light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin (1 John 1:7).

Light is also an energy source, physically and spiritually. Lose light, and you lose spiritual beauty and energy. Move toward it, and it revives you. The prayer of revival is a moving back to the light.

REVIVE AMERICA PRAYER

O God of light, forgive us as a nation and citizens for moving away from the light of Your holiness and truth. Amen.

*He set me free, yes, He set me free, He broke the bonds of prison
for me.*

– He Set Me Free



C H A P T E R 60

THE WARDEN FREED FROM PRISON

The story of the jailer freed from prison is one of the great road stories along the curves and straightaways of Scripture. It started with Paul and Silas' ministry to a fortune-telling slave woman possessed by a demon spirit. In the power of Jesus' name, Paul commanded the spirit to leave her. It left immediately, and she started a new life.

Her owners were upset because she quit the fortune-telling business. Acts 16:19-20, ***They seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to face the authorities. They brought them before the magistrates and said, "These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar."*** "Tossed into jail and shackled, Paul and Silas didn't pout; they held a Hymn Sing! At midnight an earthquake ripped the prison doors open and loosened their shackles. Of course the "warden" woke-up. Verses 27-29, ***When he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted, "Don't harm yourself! We are all here!" The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas.*** It was a "Devil-meant-bad, God-made-it-good" moment. But then God stuck it to the Devil! ***[The jailer] then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be***

saved?” Paul told him to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved (v. 31 NKJV). He did, and was saved. He shared it with his family, and they were saved. And did we mention, ***He was filled with joy*** (v. 34)? Before, he had been filled with fear about his position and the administration. Now, the “warden” was free from “prison.”

Revival is the “earthquake” that frees people from their spiritual prisons—whatever they may be.

* * *

REVIVE AMERICA PRAYER

Spirit of God, show me my prisons. Show me the actions and attitudes that keep me from experiencing Your joy. I confess each one in Jesus’ name. Amen.

*Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
singing bird and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in Thee.*

– Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee



C H A P T E R 61

YOUR TOURIST BUCKET LIST

If your bucket list includes visiting every scenic tourist site in America, you'll need to invest in a bucket factory. Nearly five million tourists visited the Grand Canyon last year. From an autumn drive through New England, to a summer gaze at a Pacific Ocean sunset, to a spring picnic in the Great Smoky Mountains, to a winter cruise along the Florida Keys, checking off the sites would take a lifetime.

Not to mention breathtaking walks through the cherry blossom-lined streets of Washington, D.C., a photo session at Mount Rushmore, a boat ride near Niagara Falls, or a campout in one of 400+ national parks. Experiencing all of them is nearly unfathomable!

Interestingly, man-made sites may be at the top of some lists. For example, New York City's Times Square has 42 million visitors each year, Central Park follows closely at 40 million, Las Vegas attracts 30 million, Disney World in Orlando sees 17 million, and the Golden Gate Bridge has 15 million. It reminds us of the proverbial discussion between a land developer and the Almighty. The developer supposedly boasts he could build a mountain as tall as any God had made. In the proverb, God interrupts by saying, "Perhaps, but you'll have to use your own dirt."

Two observations: First, earth-inspired humans have always tried to one-up God, and second, they never will. Every ounce of every effort hinges on the imagination and skill that He gifted to them. The heart of humanism bows to itself; the heart of loyalty to God cries, “Joyful, joyful we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love.”

There is a spiritual battle for the minds and hearts of America’s citizens going on. And it’s a battle that can only be won by a rising tide of revival, starting with our own loyalties.

* * *

REVIVE AMERICA PRAYER

Creator God, I know You are Lord of all the earth. Help me to reject humanistic thought at any level. Amen.

*I'm just a poor wayfaring stranger, I'm traveling through this
world below; yet there's no sickness, toil nor danger in that fair
land to which I go.*

– The Wayfaring Stranger



CHAPTER 62

SMALL TOWNS

If you've watched TV's classic "Hee-Haw" show, you'll remember the segment that included cast members popping up from a fake cornfield to "salute" their home town and its tiny population.

What's the smallest town in America? If you said "Buford, Wyoming," you get the prize. Its town limits sign says "Population - 1." According to RoadsideAmerica.com, Buford's business district includes a house, a gas station-coffee shop, and a row of Post Office boxes. Its major attraction is in its suburb: a tree growing out of a large rock.

A small town, wilderness setting was probably in the mind of the unknown author of "The Wayfaring Stranger." Said to be of Appalachian, Catskill, Old Irish Folk, or Negro Spiritual origin, it describes a needy traveler on the way to a land of promise.

But big things come from small towns. For example, "O Little Town of Bethlehem" contains the promise, "The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight." God's master plan of salvation included "wayfaring strangers" stopping off at a small town to fulfill the promise of a Savior.

When angels of the Lord told biblical Lot to flee Sodom and Gomorrah and go to the mountains, Lot said, ***Look, here is a town near enough to run to, and it is small. Let me flee to it . . . Then my life will be spared*** (Genesis 19:20). The town, Zoar, was spared God’s judgment because it had a saving purpose. Great leaders and great souls come from small towns. Some of them personify stories of redemption and revival. When you begin to compile your “revival map,” don’t leave out the small towns—maybe including yours. God may want to start a revival in a small town that would spread to an entire metropolitan area!

* * *

REVIVE AMERICA PRAYER

Lord, give us the desire to pray fervently for all those that cross our paths today and help us to know that You will heed the prayers of Your children and heal our land. Amen.

He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat; He is sifting out the hearts of men before His judgment seat; Oh, be swift, my soul, to answer Him! Be jubilant, my feet! Our God is marching on.

– Battle Hymn of the Republic



CHAPTER 63

THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM

The next time you see a photo of your favorite cereal in a bowl, floating in a sea of white milk, take a closer look. That “milk” on the cereal may actually be Elmer’s Glue. Photographers use it as a prop.

Most of what advertisers and producers offer is anything but reality. Glue-milk; fake forests; filmed models of intergalactic aircraft; actors pretending to love; “cities” that are merely facades.

What the world offers as truth is usually a prop. It uses lights and filters to hide its fakery—credit cards instead of real money; promiscuity instead of family; relativism instead of absolutes; and lottery winnings instead of work. But its lies fly and crash, while truth keeps marching on.

Truth’s greatest proof is in its longevity and influence. Isaiah 40:8, ***The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever.*** The elephant in the room of our nation is its abandonment of God’s truth. While one community struggles with allowing a Bible on its library shelves, another fights to keep its kids from killing the babies that result from their hook-ups or shacking up.

Without God's Word, there is no last word on faith or family or laws or morality. When "anything goes," everything of value goes! Remove the Bible and society is without a reference point or compass.

Some ask, "Is the Bible even relevant anymore?" Ask cancer survivors whose faith was tested to its limit and kept believing God's Word. They might be singing the old prayer meeting song, "'Tis true, oh yes, 'tis true; God's wonderful promise is true; for I've trusted and tested and tried it, and I know God's promise is true."

* * *

REVIVE AMERICA PRAYER

God of truth, revive my love for Your Word. And give me courage to defend it wherever people try to abandon it. Amen.

A force lies within our hands of power not known to man; it opens the door to all that's in store for those who obey. It's where miracles wait for you and mercy comes shining through; just see what the Lord can do when somebody prays.

– Somebody Prays



CHAPTER 64

THE PRAYFUL STATES OF AMERICA

John Darin Rowsey's song, "Somebody Prays," touches the raw nerve of revisionism that seeks to edit America's story. Its so-called scholars make a guess that we are a nation of people who pulled ourselves up by our own boot straps. So they act as if they are living in the "Prayer-less States of America." As a result, the nation bows to pop beliefs and laughs at old time religion. It closes its classrooms to the mention of Jehovah God and teaches pluralism. It winks at building altars to gods of Baal, while EL SHADDAI patiently holds back fires that destroyed the first one in Bible times. But it can't erase facts that those who founded America believed God listened and acted when they asked for His guidance and supply.

Those of us living in the "Prayerful States of America" won't be ignored, however. We refuse to worship the plastic gods of humanism. We are American historians in our own right, who won't Photoshop the image of our first president kneeling in prayer for our country. We refuse to block out the in- vocations that echoed through the halls of our first congresses. We will not delete

the sounds of those crying out to God as they lay wounded on our battlefields.

Why? Because we have discovered that a “force lies within our hands of power not known to man.” We are living witnesses of God’s miracles. We know He is alive and well because we have daily conversations with Him. And, believing that the God of miracles is also the God of revival, we refuse to abandon our altars of prayer.

REVIVE AMERICA PRAYER

Father in Heaven, I ask you in Jesus’ name to use whatever means You choose to bring a life-changing, soul-reviving, outpouring of Your Holy Spirit on us, and on our land. Amen.

*And I'm proud to be an American, where at least I know
I'm free, and I won't forget the men who died, who gave that right
to me.*

– God Bless the USA



CHAPTER 65

THE GOOD PRIDE

Thomas Jefferson said, “God who gave us life gave us liberty. . . . And can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis?” Too many have sacrificed too much during the construction of our nation, for us to neglect checking its foundation for cracks or crumbling.

The first signs of damage may be from the attitude that citizenship is a right rather than a privilege. In fact, it is both. But individual rights must not infringe on the privileges of others. Our military served and continues to serve the United States as a brave commitment to all, not the few.

God blessed the USA for both its philosophy and its testimony. Its shores welcomed the suffering and the enslaved. Its defenders were wounded or killed fighting for justice and equality, not privilege and subservience.

No one voice should speak louder than all the voices around it. We are not a nation of ribbons or bracelets; we are a nation of one flag. All noble causes must align themselves with the common, constitutional good.

We are proud to be Americans because of what our nation was founded upon, not what we have stumbled upon. But American

pride, the “Good Pride,” is suffering from malnourishment. It needs an IV drip of patriotism. Those who claim it some- times forget that it was inherited and should be nourished. Its survival depends on training the next generation of patriots that it is not a perfunctory “hats off ” during the National Anthem at a sporting event. National patriotism is “home-schooled,” taught by practicing patriots like us. Like the psalm we can say, ***The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance*** (Psalm 16:6).

* * *

REVIVE AMERICA PRAYER

Dear God, thank you for Your blessings on us, individually and as a nation. Allow us to teach the next generation Your statutes that they may understand how richly You have blessed this nation. Amen.

*Abide with me; fast falls the eventide; the darkness deepens; Lord,
with me abide.
– Abide With Me*



CHAPTER 66

A SONG IN THE TRENCHES

Henry Lyte wrote a poem in the trenches of life. According to Wikipedia.org, the poem, “Abide with Me,” was set to music as its writer lay dying from tuberculosis. Interestingly the song became a favorite of World War I soldiers, and they sang it in their own trenches on the war’s battlefields.

Its message is highly relevant as 21st century soldiers of Christ occupy trenches of faith in the war against biblical and moral values. Enemy attacks come from all directions, including entertainment, technology, education, sports, social activism, and sadly our own government. At times those attacks come from stealth weaponry. For example, bureaucratic regulations hide religious persecution.

And according to Jesus’ commissioning of His disciples, some casualties will come from “friendly fire.” Matthew 10:21, ***Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death.*** But His alarming conclusion holds a Five-Star promise, ***You will be hated by everyone because of Me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved*** (Verse 22).

Christ-followers have known from the beginning that they would be traveling in the world’s “no fly” zones. But they have also

known from the beginning that they wouldn't be flying solo. Matthew 28:20, ***And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.*** Now that's a good place for a song! "Earthly friends may prove untrue, doubts and fears assail; One still loves and cares for you; One who will not fail. Jesus never fails, Jesus never fails. Heaven and earth may pass away, but Jesus never fails."

The reason Henry Lyte included the lyric, "O Thou who changest not, abide with me," in his 19th century hymn is this: he knew God would answer his request IN PERSON to believers in every century!

* * *

REVIVE AMERICA PRAYER

Unchanging God, thank you for Your promised presence in the trenches of my life. Revive my heart to sing Your praise even louder in these days. Amen.

*Land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrims' pride,
from every mountain side let freedom ring!
– My Country, 'Tis of Thee*



CHAPTER 67

“THANK YOU, VETERAN!”

The first casualty of the Revolutionary War is said to be Crispus Attucks. Born of African and Native American slave parentage in Framingham, Massachusetts, Attucks' life became a key illustration in the abolitionist movement. He sacrificed his life because of his “pilgrim's pride” and determination to “let freedom ring.”

Every casualty of that selfless pledge, from the first to the latest, evokes our deep-hearted gratitude. Why do tears well in our eyes at the sight of a veteran wearing his or her uniform from the past? They do so because we know that we are HERE because of THEM. They fought for our property rights in the land of the free. Thank you, veteran!

Humanity's demon-driven hatred of itself and others is the driving force behind world conflict. And even the peaceful and peace loving are called to pick up weapons for a national solution.

Perhaps the young have paid the most to buy our freedoms. Look carefully at photos of military companies past or present and you will see adolescent or young adult bravery. Look also at battlefield casualties and you will see the dreams of a hopeful generation broken or annihilated for a price that is often taken for granted.

We may despise a war, but we can't help but wrap our arms around the soldiers, sailors, marines, or airmen who fought it in our place. Our faith knows what it's like to be spiritually free because someone died in our place: ***For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ*** (2 Corinthians 5:21 NLT).

So as we pray for revival in America, we also pray for revival in military training grounds or battlefields that will result in military members finding eternal life, even though they may face death.

* * *

REVIVE AMERICA PRAYER

Jesus, thank you for Your sacrifice, and for giving me the opportunity to pray in Your name for every member of the military. Amen.

*America! America! May God thy gold refine till all success be
nobleness, and ev'ry gain divine!
– America the Beautiful*



CHAPTER 68

THE AMERICAN QUILT

America is a not a fuzzy warm blanket, it is a dynamic quilt of many colors. It is not beautiful because of its mountains, lands, streams, or seas alone; America is beautiful because of its blend of nationalities, ethnicities, and abilities. It is an American quilt, with individual pieces sewn together by a common thread. And each piece represents a community of people who show the world what democracy looks like in differing hues, customs, and perspectives.

Some debate “What would Jesus do?” while others ask “What does Jesus look like?” Neither can be answered by human reasoning. We have clues because of God’s written Word. We know what Jesus would do by what He has already done. And we may imagine how He looked from where He was born and raised. But the most important thing about His looks is how He looks in us, and the most important thing about what He would do is what He is doing through us.

In His life on earth, He mirrored His heavenly Father and did His Father’s work. He didn’t wear sunglasses of glory, so to speak; He wore contacts of compassion. He was and is the Lord of all nations and people. His acceptance was and is as wide as the world. No one is left out because of who they are, what they do, or where they’re from.

And if Jesus is to look good in us, we will make Him known by our love for everyone. Philippians 2:5, ***In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus.***

There isn't room for revival in the heart that is filled with pride and prejudice. Revival isn't owned by anyone on earth. God holds the patent; but He grants its rights to anyone in the American quilt, or any other quilt, who desires it.

REVIVE AMERICA PRAYER

God of all nations, burn the barriers that divide us with revival fire. And help us to see others as You see us. Amen.

Work on earth has been suspended as the King comes through the gate.

– The King is Coming



C H A P T E R 69

LAST WORDS ABOUT THE LAST WORD

On July 4, 2016, America will celebrate its 240th birth- day. Thanks to modern medicine plus technology, some citizens seem to be catching up. People celebrating birth- days of 100 or more are becoming more common. Yet America isn't even a micro dot on the birthday calendar compared to God's Kingdom. His Kingdom has been around FOREVER!

Also in comparison, America has term limits for its presidents, but there are no term limits on the Head of God's Kingdom. King of kings and Lord of lords is a position that only three hold and they are THREE-IN-ONE – the triune God. And of His kingdom there will be no end.

For decades, Americans have been living like there was no last word on right and wrong—or anything else. Doors have been closed to God that had been open for centuries. The trends don't seem to be in God's favor, but that will change. One day the governments of the world—including America—will change hands forever. The Apostle Paul gave some last words on the last word, in a letter to Pastor Timothy:

I charge you to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which God will bring about in His own time—God, the blessed and only Ruler, the

King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To Him be honor and might forever. Amen (1 Timothy 6:13-16). Why is revival so important? Because Jesus the King is coming back to take authority on earth as He has in heaven. “Work on earth will be suspended as the King comes through the gate.” Every ruler, dictator, or citizen who has stood against Him will bow before Him. He will have the last word.

REVIVE AMERICA PRAYER

King Jesus, help me to live and work for You as if You were coming back before the ending of this prayer. Amen.

There are so many who still doubt that God can speak today; they laugh and mock when we say we've heard from God. Yet the still small voice of God is heard above the doubters of this world. His timeless words ring out with hope today.

– He Still Speaks



CHAPTER 70

GOD'S WORD TO AMERICA

The incontrovertible difference between the gods of this age or ages past is that Jehovah God has a voice, and they don't. He talks with us person-to-person. That leaves the gods-idols of the world totally speechless! Paul said, ***We all know that an idol is not really a god and that there is only one God*** (1 Corinthians 8:4b, NLT). Hymn-writer, Fanny Crosby, gave us a musical reminder: "Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear His voice!"

God has been talking with us from the beginning. Genesis 1:3, ***God said "Let there be light," and there was light.*** Nature sprang to life at His first spoken words. And each of those beginning conversations started with "And God said"

Boldly we might say that earth and its inhabitants have been "in talks" with God throughout history. But let's tag Him in some locations where He talked with America specifically:

- At the desks and tables of our founding fathers.
- Through plagues and calamities.
- Through the minds of America's inventors and scientists.
- Throughout multiple wars.
- Throughout cultural changes.

- After assassinations.
- During terrorist attacks.
- Through revivals.

And His word to America has a loving and common thread:

- “Trust Me in spite of your situation.”
- “Believe in Me in spite of your doubts.”
- “Obey Me in spite of your weakness.”

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son (Hebrews 1:1-2a). Let's RUN to the SOLUTION!

REVIVE AMERICA PRAYER

Jesus, I bow before You, humbly acknowledging that You are the Father's answer to the cries of His children. Give me – give us all – a fresh outpouring of Your Holy Spirit. Amen.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

STAN TOLER is a bestselling author and dynamic speaker, whose books have sold more than three million copies world- wide. A former Vice President for John C. Maxwell's INJOY, he served as a successful pastor for many years, and is a General Superintendent Emeritus in The Church of the Nazarene. With a burden for pastors and local churches, he conducts leadership *seminars in many denominations. He also sings in a quartet with The Toler Brothers.*

Stan Toler – *Toler Leadership*

PO Box 720230

Oklahoma City, OK 73172

Web: www.stantoler.com

DEAN HICKMAN is a successful business executive who has served as president of several prosperous, privately-owned corporations, and is currently Chief Operating Officer of Eagle Research Group, Inc. As a former uniformed officer and plain-clothes investigator with the Ohio State Highway Patrol, he became cognizant of the very real threats facing our nation, which led to his career in national security. Under Dean's leadership, his companies have been awarded multiple performance- based contracts with the US Government, assessing the protection of the nation's most critical assets, nuclear weapons. He also co-founded and sings tenor with the popular gospel group, *The Guardians.*

Dean Hickman – *The Guardians*

Office: 614.573.3091

Web: www.theguardiansmusic.com

REVIVE AMERICA SONG LIST / AUTHORS

1. The Love of God – Frederick Martin Lehman
2. I'm Free – William J. Gaither
3. What a Day That Will Be – Jim Hill
4. God Bless America – Irving Berlin
5. Faith of our Fathers – Frederick William Faber
6. What a Wonderful World – Bob Thiele and George Weiss
7. We Will Stand – Russ Taff
8. Rock of Ages – Thomas Hastings
9. Where Could I Go – James B. Coats
10. Jesus Loves Me – William B. Bradbury
11. Got Any Rivers – Oscar C. Eliason
12. Consider the Lilies – Roger Hoffman
13. My Tribute - Andraé Crouch
14. The Solid Rock – Edward Mote
15. He Looked Beyond My Fault and Saw My Need – Dottie Rambo
16. When I Survey the Wondrous Cross – Lowell Mason
17. Blessed Assurance – Frances J. Crosby
18. You'll Never Walk Alone – Richard Rodgers
19. Let My Life be a Light – Doyle Lawson
20. I Know Who Holds Tomorrow – Ira Stanphill
21. Through It All - Andraé Crouch
22. The Blood Will Never Lose its Power - Andraé Crouch
23. In the Garden – C. Austin Miles
24. I Need Thee Every Hour – Robert Lowry
25. Pass Me Not – William H. Doane
26. His Eye is on the Sparrow – Charles H. Gabriel
27. Room at the Cross – Ira Stanphill
28. Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus – Helen H. Lemmel
29. Leave It There - Charles A. Tindley
30. Sheltered in the Arms of God – Dottie Rambo
31. Victory in Jesus – Eugene M Bartlett
32. The Old Rugged Cross – George Bennard
33. I'll Fly Away – Albert E. Brumley

34. Amazing Grace – John Newton
35. Love Lifted Me – James Rowe
36. Keep on the Firing Line – Bessie F. Hatcher
37. Redeemed – Fances J. Crosby
38. Just a Little Talk with Jesus – Cleavant Derricks
39. Too Much to Gain to Lose – Dottie Rambo
40. The Lighthouse – Ronnie Hinson
41. Who Am I – Rusty Goodman
42. He Touched Me - William J. Gaither
43. How Great Thou Art – Stuart K. Hine
44. I Don't Want to Get Adjusted to This World – Iris Dement
45. At Calvary – William R. Newell
46. Because He Lives – William J. Gaither and Gloria Gaither
47. In God We Still Trust – Kim Nash, Bill Nash, and Robert LeClair
48. Just as I am – Charlotte Elliott
49. Come and Dine – Charles B. Widmeyer
50. Just a Closer Walk with Thee – (author unknown)
51. Beulah Land – Squire Parsons
52. Softly and Tenderly – Will L. Thompson
53. The Unseen Hand – William J. Gaither
54. The Star-Spangled Banner – Francis Scott Key
55. Great is Thy Faithfulness – William M. Runyan
56. Sweet Hour of Prayer – William Walford
57. Goodbye World Goodbye – Mosie Lister
58. What a Friend We Have in Jesus – Joseph M. Scriven
59. I Saw The Light – Hank Williams
60. He Set Me Free – Albert E. Brumley
61. Joyful Joyful We Adore Thee – Henry J. Van Dyke
62. The Wayfaring Stranger – (traditional)
63. Battle Hymn of the Republic – Julia Ward Howe
64. Somebody Prays – John Darin Rowsey
65. God Bless the USA – Lee Greenwood
66. Abide with Me – Henry Francis Lyte
67. My Country 'tis of Thee – Samuel Francis Smith
68. America the Beautiful – Samuel A. Ward
69. The King is Coming – William J. Gaither
70. He Still Speaks – Terry Toler

