

Volume 49, Issue 6 June 2020

Revival and Spiritual Awakening

COVID-19 has brought with it many restrictions and many results, almost all of which have been most unpleasant for everyone. And for the local church member, it has brought the loss of fellowship which is so necessary for growth in the Christian walk. However, one vital part of a believer's life shouldn't have been restricted at all by the virus. That is the practice of prayer. If anything, the results of COVID-19 should have increased ones prayer life and reliance on God for sustainment.

Churches are reopening and things are slowly returning to the way we like them, but there is still great chaos in our community and throughout the world. This kind of chaos is nothing new. It happens from time to time, and in the middle of it – God is at work. He can use even these "worst" of times to help usher in revival and spiritual awakening. That's exactly what He did in 1857.

1857 was filled with chaos. There was great fear of civil war. The country was split over slavery, sometimes even within the same house. There was great disillusionment with the church. Many churches were on the verge of closing. The gold rush was on, and with it the selfish desire for many to strike it rich so they could have the things of the world.

New York City during that time was about 800,000 people strong. Many were out of work, hungry, homeless, roaming the streets, and broken in every way. Many stayed drunk to ease the anxiety of all the tension around them. It was a horrible time for many. Yet, it was just the setting through which God was working to bring people to their knees in prayer and usher in revival and spiritual awakening.

Jeremiah Lanphier was a New Yorker and had been a businessman doing well for himself. However, at the age of 49 and only having been a Christian for a short time, he gave up business to work as an outreach missionary in the city. Lanphier, frustrated with seeing no results, decided to open a weekly prayer meeting. He distributed 20,000 flyers over several weeks to draw people to meet at noon once weekly for prayer. The first meeting was September 23, 1857. Alone in the church, he started to pray and finally 6 others showed up. The next week there were 20, and the week after there were 40. Then, on October 10th the country crashed, and by the 14th the nation was staggered by the worst financial crisis in its history.

Certainly, God used the timing to break the hearts of many and turn their eyes toward Himself. Within weeks the prayer meeting went to a daily schedule, and sometimes twice daily because of the numbers who came to pray. Within six months more than 10,000 were gathering daily in prayer at different places around New York. Revival and spiritual awakening broke out. God was moving. The Holy Spirit was powerfully at work in leading people to repentance and faith.

Revival swept the nation, and then the world. Thousands of conversions were being reported daily throughout the U.S. Men, women, and children from all walks of life were being saved. It was estimated that over 1 million came to faith in Christ within a year. That was 3% of the U.S. population in 1858. One man, then many, trusted God to move with such might that only He could be glorified for the results. And He did.

Today, there are many similarities to 1857. Will you trust God to move so that only He can be glorified? The world is more spiritually sensitive today than at any other point in the past 100 years. Now is the time for revival and spiritual awakening. 3% of the U.S. population today would be 11,250,000 souls. God is able. Pray for His will to be done in bringing revival and spiritual awakening to our nation and beyond. Philippians 4:6 "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

9 Roy& Casey Davis

17 Brandon & Amanda Spain

23 TIM FREEMAN

25 TONY BALES

26 GREG & PAM KIRK

27 TONY & CHRISTY BALES

27 GARY & STEPHANIE GILBERT

CCSBA Financial Status

Oct. 01, 2019 - Sept. 30, 2020

Budget to date Contributions received

\$ 81,962.88 \$ 73,668.41

PRAY FOR THESE PASTOR-LESS CHURCHES

New Hope Harviell FBC

Calendar for June & July June 9 CCSBA Executive Council Meeting by ZOOM at 7:00 PM

June 21 Baptist Men Emphasis

July 2 CCSBA Offices Closed at noon

July 3 CCSBA Offices Closed

CCSBA Office Hours

8:00 am - 4:00 pm, Monday – Thursday

8:00 am – 12:00 pm, Friday Web: www.ccsba.com

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Phone: 573-686-1115 Fax: 573-686-1116

Children's and Youth Camps have been cancelled for this summer.

The Association has the Block Party trailer ready to go. Bounce house, popcorn machine, cotton candy machine, snow cone machine, and more. Reserve it asap with Sandy.

FOCUS ON BSU

The semester has ended, and now is a time for reflections. Even with everything that happened, God was still at work. My wife and I were able to make several deeper relationships with students, were seeing growing numbers in our Monday meals, and more interest in the Bible study.

Through the summer I plan to work with one of the students to raise up student leaders for the coming

semesters. The outlook for the BSU is good for next semester and I am excited for the opportunities that will present themselves.

One final thing, it is time to start filling up next semester's Mondays for lunch. I ask the different churches in the association to pray about when they will be able to serve and to get your dates saved as early as possible. With the exception of Sept. 7, all the others Mondays during the semester need volunteers to help with lunch beginning Aug. 17, 2020.

CCSBA CHURCH PRAYER FOCUS









The Executive Board meeting scheduled for June 9th has been cancelled. An Executive Council meeting will take its place, via Zoom, on June 9th at 7 pm.