### GATEWAY INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES REPORT



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#### FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK...

Dear Beloved GIMI Team Members,

Blessed fall greetings to you in the precious name of Jesus! I trust that you are well, and that our wonderful Lord continues to bless you richly as you faithfully serve Him! I hope and pray that you are very busy helping us tell the world about Jesus and that He is the only hope for salvation. Jo Anne and I are working hard every day trying to carry on this great work for Christ in these days just before He comes again. We are truly convinced that with the world situation as it now is, that Jesus will indeed come before very long. And truthfully, as I continue to deal with so many health issues, I long for the rapture of the church and those brand new glorified bodies. As someone told me a long time ago, "Getting older is not for sissies!" I remember many years ago that my former pastor at the then great First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Florida, Dr. Homer Lindsay, used to say,

"The main reason I believe in the rapture is because I don't want to die." Of course, he was just kidding, but the truth is that God doesn't give us dying grace until it is time to die. So, it is quite alright for us to long for the rapture of the church, hopefully before we have to make that journey of death. Yet, Paul the apostle said, "For our citizenship is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body, according to the working whereby He is able to even subdue all things unto Himself." (Philippians 3:20-21) Folks, this gets me excited every time I meditate upon this thought! Truly, it will be a precious day when we get those new sinless, ageless bodies and Jesus subdues the entire sinful world under His feet. I will surely miss preaching and teaching the Gospel, but who knows, maybe God will let me preach some glory messages up in heaven where we can have a continuous time of worship and celebration.

# GOD HAS ANSWERED OUR PRAYERS AND THE WELL HAS BEEN DRILLED!

Folks, I am thrilled to tell you that in only three months, God has answered our prayers through you, our faithful GIMI team members! We have reached the goal of \$35,000 to drill the deep well in Northern Kenya right in the midst of the Southern part of the Sahara Desert. At the time of this writing, the funds have already been transferred to a bank in Kenya and the well has been drilled for the Turkana People. They hit water at a depth of 650 feet! Our Turkana pastor, Shadrack Ekai, along with his people, is very thrilled about the possibility of having water for their daily living at long last! Hallelujah

to God! And, this very morning I learned that some rain has come to the Turkana people after two years of drought! God has truly answered our prayers, and we just want to give Him praise!

I do want to thank every one of you GIMI team members throughout the United States who worked so hard to help us raise these funds, and especially those of you who God led to help us financially. Jo Anne and I thank you from the depths of our hearts, and we pray that God will reward you abundantly because of your kind generosity. We just don't have the adequate words to express how thankful we are. But, we are asking Jesus to repay you manifold for your sacrificial gifts.

I especially want to thank two of our dear members here at Gateway International Baptist Church, Johnny and Jeffrey Hefner, for the hard work they did to help us raise these funds for the well and for the beautiful new set of living room furniture their Masterfield Furniture Company gave to the winner of the drawing after a lot of funds were donated for this project. Johnny and Jeffrey, we sincerely love and appreciate you for this special project. Not only have you helped to get water for these suffering people in Northern Kenya, but you are also helping us to share the Gospel message with the people who come to the well for water. There will be water to drink for the body and Living Water for the soul. Praise the Lord!







#### WE ARE GOING TO ZAMBIA, SOUTH AFRICA FOR A LARGE CRUSADE IN APRIL 2018

At the time of this writing, we are in the last week of August 2017. I must tell you that Jo Anne and I are extremely excited about a special, personal invitation that we have been extended by Pastor Stephen Kaindu, the President of the Bethel Mission Pastors' Group in Chingola, Zambia. We have been asked to come there next April and conduct a large area-wide outdoor evangelistic crusade on a large soccer field so that we can share the Gospel message with literally thousands of people. After an enormous amount of prayer and consideration, we have decided to accept this invitation. In preparation for this large crusade, Jo Anne and I will fly out to Zambia on November 27th of this year in order to conduct some training seminars on leadership for the pastors in the Bethel Group, and we will be preparing for the crusade which will be held next spring.

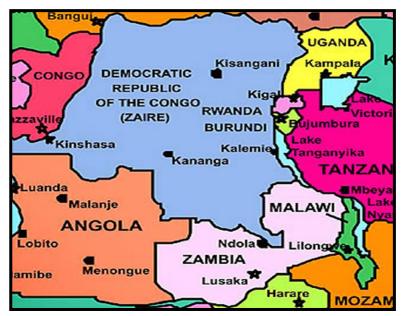
Also, while we are traveling to Africa in late November, we have prayerfully decided to fly on up to Uganda where our GIMI Headquarters are. We will participate in some of the wonderful Christmas parties that Rev. William Ssentumbwe, our Uganda Director, and his dear wife, Florence, conduct each Christmas season in the prisons and schools. It has been many years since we have been able to share in this special time of the year in Uganda. We are really looking forward to doing so this year. We hope to see hundreds and hundreds of Ugandan prisoners and school students come to Christ during these special evangelistic meetings as we celebrate the earthly birthday of our King. I want to plead with all of you who have been so faithful to support this dynamic ministry to please consider helping us with the cost of the huge crusade in Zambia and also with the expenses for the Christmas parties in Uganda. With just a preliminary estimate, I believe the crusade will cost between \$35,000 and \$40,000. This is a lot of funds, but with the potential of seeing thousands of people come to Christ, it is not a huge amount. Just remember that for every \$2.71 we spend, we see someone come to Christ. There is just no way that we can put a value on the soul of a man, woman, boy, or girl.

Also, we will need many of you helping us purchase Christmas gifts for the prisoners and school students. We will also need to purchase a huge amount of humanitarian aid for these people who are in such need. As you will see in the next few paragraphs, last year we were able to purchase a lot of Christmas cows and a

tremendous amount of other necessities for these suffering and neglected people. Maybe God might even lead you not to receive Christmas gifts for yourself this year, and instead, have your friends and family members give toward these special projects. If you want to help with the large costs of the crusade, just send your gifts to GIMI and designate them for the Zambia Crusade. If you want to help with the special Christmas projects in Uganda, just send your gifts to GIMI and designate them for the Christmas Project. And, let me tell you that we are never more like Jesus than when we give to help those who are unable to help themselves. Jo Anne and I sincerely believe that if you will help us with these projects in an attempt to win thousands to Christ, God will reward you abundantly. If you have any guestions about these special projects, please call our office or just send us an e-mail. Let me thank you in advance for whatever God leads you to do.



The Crusade will be in Chingola, Zambia.



Following preparation for the Crusade, we will fly from Ndola to Kampala,

#### CHRISTMAS COWS ARE NEEDED!

Every year for almost 32 years, I have been trying to raise funds to purchase Christmas cows for many of the prisoners in Uganda. They rarely get any meat, and these Christmas cows, killed on Christmas morning and served on Christmas afternoon, are a very special treat to our beloved brothers and sisters behind bars in Uganda. Last year because some extra funds came in, we were able to provide between 35 and 40 cows (I don't remember the exact number!), but we really were able to provide so many meals last year. We are mentioning this a little early this year so that we won't be pushed during the last few months trying to raise the funds. So, in addition to what I have already begged for, could you also consider helping to purchase these cows for Christ. Just as a reminder, I have enclosed a photo of one of the cows we bought last Christmas. Each cow will cost about \$250. If you can help us again this year, we will be so grateful! Please make this a good Christmas for you through the spirit of giving, and help make it a great Christmas for the scores of inmates that will blessed with meat this year. We as Americans are so blessed with so much, but this is not true in our African countries, especially in the horrible prisons where there are so many inmates. And, just in case you might think that all of these people deserve doing without because they are in prison, just remember that 60% of all African prisoners are innocent!

We are never more like Jesus than when we minister to those in prison. Remember the following words of Jesus found in Luke 4:18-19, when He said, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He hath anointed me to preach the Gospel to the poor; he that sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of our Lord." Also, pay attention to the following words of Jesus. Matthew 25:35-36, "For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came to me."

So dear friends, we are never more like Jesus than when we minister to the poor, to the suffering, and to those who are in prison. I pray that you can help these dear brothers and sisters who need food! Please be reminded that everything we do for these prisoners is in the name of Jesus, the One whose birthday we celebrate at Christmas!



### PLEASE PRAY FOR PASTOR MIKE MCKINNEY!

A lot of you on our GIMI support team know our son-in-law, Pastor Mike McKinney. Pastor Mike not only serves on the staff of our Gateway International Baptist Church here in North Carolina, but he has also served on the GIMI Board Of Directors since our very beginning. He has made some trips to Africa, and he works diligently for GIMI and our church ministry. Just less than two years ago, Pastor Mike spent 22 days in the hospital enduring a terrible stomach and esophagus surgery due to a hiatal hernia. He was extremely sick and down for quite sometime. Now, he is facing surgery once more because the first surgery, which was done as an emergency procedure, was not successful.

Just this week, at the time of this writing, Pastor Mike had to visit the Baptist Hospital in Winston Salem, N.C. in order to have his case examined by a special surgeon. While at the hospital, it was determined that because the first surgery is not working properly, he must have another operation. We are all very disappointed by this unexpected problem, but as he is now, he cannot swallow solid food. He can only drink liquids and Ensure. Pastor Mike is very sick, but they could not work his surgery in until late September or early October.

So folks, we ask you to really pray for Pastor Mike, Rebecca, and their entire family as he has to go through this horrible ordeal once more. We are asking Jesus to give him a successful surgery this time and also, a very quick recovery. I want to encourage a prayer vigil on his behalf. We will do our best to keep you informed about the success of this surgery and his recovery.



















## A True Prayer For Revival Scripture: Psalm 85:1-13

#### Introduction

This Psalm is one of the greatest in the entire Book of Psalms. It was probably written after the Israelites were permitted by Cyrus the Persian King to return to Jerusalem after their 70 years in Babylonian Captivity. When the Israelites went away into this captivity, it is estimated that there may have been as many as 20,000 people taken captive. We are not sure of the population of Jerusalem in 586 B.C. when the final attack occurred on Jerusalem, but it is feasible that there may have been over 200,000 people living in Jerusalem proper and in the hills around the city. The Bible tells us in Jeremiah 52:28-29, that there were 4,600 men that were taken away captive, but usually the women and children were not counted. So, I believe that there were approximately 20,000 exiles take from Jerusalem. Please bear in mind that it is believed the population of the Northern Kingdom before it fell in 722 B.C. may have been as many as one million people because it included Samaria, Syria, Phoenicia, and several other areas. And, when the Northern Kingdom was destroyed, many refugees fled to the Southern Kingdom and dwelt in or near Jerusalem. Thus, the population of Jerusalem was rather large. But, because the Babylonians only took the strong men, leaders, and professional people to Babylon, many others were left behind in the rubble and refuse of the destroyed city. So, I believe the exiled people were about 20,000.

Now, we need to remember that the captives were in Babylon for 70 years. Thus, many children were born while other people died during those years. By the time the exiles were allowed to return to Jerusalem, it is believed that there were over 500,000 people living in Persia which had overthrown Babylon. When the time came for the people to return to Jerusalem, only 52,000 people would go back under the leadership of Zerubbabel, Ezra, and Nehemiah. I personally believe that many of the people were too old to return. Some were too young to really know much about Jerusalem, and therefore, just didn't want to go. Then, I am sure that many didn't want to go because they envisioned the hard work that was ahead in rebuilding the city. And finally, there were many others who just didn't want to return to Jerusalem because they preferred to live in the sinful world of Persia where there was so much idolatry, witchcraft, worldliness, and immorality that the people had just become acclimated to living in sin. So, they desired not to return to their own land.

The returning Jews went back to Jerusalem and started rebuilding the temple, cleaning out the rubbish, and trying to live normal lives in a terrible environment. But, they did not work long before they started complaining, getting lazy, and slithering back into sin. Therefore, whoever the Psalmist was that wrote this Psalm, he had a heart for God and possessed a tremendous burden to see revival bring God's people and the nation back to Him. Thus, this Psalmist cries out to God for revival and begs him to do for Israel what He had done in bringing the remnant back home from Persia. He just told God, "You have done it before, and please Lord, do it again."

May I tell you that this is what we need so desperately here in America at this time. Let's take a close look at the following verses and see if we can learn to pray properly for genuine revival once more.

#### I. NOTICE THE PSALMIST'S GRATEFUL ACKNOWLEDGE-MENT. vs. 1-3

### A. The first thing the Psalmist does is to acknowledge his gratitude for the restoration of prosperity. v. 1

I am thrilled that the Psalmist starts out with gratitude before he offers his requests to God. I consider this a much needed thing in these unthankful and ungrateful days in which we live. It just seems that we take so much of God's goodness and provisions for granted. Although it was going to take a lot of hard work now that the exiles had come home, the Psalmist was truly one Israelite that was grateful for how God had delivered him and his people.

Maybe we as God's born-again children should stop and just express our gratitude for our personal salvation and for the many ways God continues to bless us with his kindness, our daily needs, His living grace, and even for the privilege He has given for us to serve Him. I believe it is truly the epitome of pride and selfishness if we have the audacity to go to God with our request for revival without the prerequisite of praise and thanksgiving.

### B. The second thing the Psalmist does is to acknowledge his gratitude for the remission of sins. v. 2

This verse is truly an expression of the Psalmist's thanksgiving to God for the way He had forgiven Israel's sins of the past, and how He had covered their sins under the sacrificial blood of a lamb. The word "covered" here in the Hebrew language means to conceal or hide. This means that the writer of this Psalm was very thankful for the fact that God had covered Israel's sins until they could be atoned for on the Day of Atonement each year in the month of October. Of course, in this dispensation of time, we no longer have our sins covered by a sacrificial lamb killed each year, but thank God, our sins have been washed away in the sacrificial blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. Because Jesus died for us once and forever, there is no need to have our sins covered because the one-time atoning death of Christ cleanses us from all sin. Therefore, before we start asking God for more blessings of any kind, we should be careful to express over and over our gratitude for being saved or delivered as the Israelites were for their deliverance from Persian captivity. And, may I say that it is truly wonderful to be saved for eternity!

### C. The third thing the Psalmist does is to acknowledge his gratitude for the removal of God's wrath. v. 3

Folks, this is truly one of the greatest verses in the Bible. Why do I say this? Because there is not a greater day on earth, or a more important one, than the day we have the righteous anger of God removed from an individual or even a nation of people. Back in verse two, the word iniquity literally means "perversion". Therefore, we must see the serious implication of having God's forgiveness or absolution of the perverse sins of a nation. If we will just stop and ponder the perversions or iniquity in America right now, truthfully, we are no better off than were Sodom and Gomorrah when God destroyed these cities as described in **Genesis 19**. God extended a lot of patience to these vile and corrupt people, but the day surely came when He said, "Enough is enough.", and their doom was sealed. God told Abraham that if there would have been just ten righteous people in these cities, He would not have destroyed them. But, there were not ten righteous people. So, God sent fire and brimstone down to wipe out these perverted cities. I fear, my friends, if we don't experience revival wherein the people of our nation repent, then judgment looms ahead for every wicked pervert that walks on our American soil. But, in Israel's case, the people had to suffer for 70 years under the domain of two wicked nations, Babylon and Persia, before God's grace took His wrath away from Israel and let the people return to Jerusalem. I sincerely pray that it won't take a similar punishment for America to bring us to our knees in humble contrition and brokenness.

#### II. NOTICE THE PSALMIST'S GREAT APPEAL. vs. 4-7

#### A. Please notice the Psalmist's ardent petition. v. 4

As we look at **verse four**, the first thing the Psalmist appeals to God for is that He will turn Israel to a point of repentance. We might say that the writer is praying that God will strongly convict the people so that they will turn away from their wickedness and return to God, the only One that can bring personal salvation, and yes, salvation or deliverance to the returned exiles who have come back to Jerusalem. And, in the second part of this verse, he petitions God to please cease His anger from the people.

As I write this, I must say that I am utterly amazed that these people who have been living in bondage in Babylonian and Persian captivity had little more than returned home to Jerusalem when they began to slip back into rebellion toward God. If this doesn't show us the sinful nature of fallen man, I don't know what does. But yet, this is what the Israelites were doing, and the Psalmist was interceding on their behalf. So my dear friends, if we are going to pray for revival, we must also pray that God might stay His hand of judgment upon our nation, because

for sure, we are on the brink of God's divine judgment, if we don't repent in brokenness and humility.

#### B. Notice the Psalmist's anxious pleading. vs. 5-6

#### 1. The first part of this plea is for restraint. v. 5

In this **verse five**, we find an unusual plea from the Psalmist. He is pleading with God to restrain His anger toward the Israelites almost to the point of implicating or indicting God for His continual anger toward the Jews. But truthfully, I see more of a worried Psalmist who has almost given up hope for stopping God's coming judgment than I do his sincerely blaming God. But, isn't this what happens when we don't see the answer to our prayers for quite sometime? Like the Psalmist, we too have the tendency to blame God if we don't see our prayers answered immediately.

There is one more very important fear or anxiousness in this verse revealed in the Psalmist's appeal to God. This seems to be that the writer is very concerned about the future generations to come if there is not a revival and a return to God. Truly, this is one of my main concerns here in America. If we don't see a genuine revival whereby the people of this country return to God, I sincerely fear for our children, our grandchildren, and even our greatgrandchildren in the years to come. Therefore, the very thought of the impending consequences of our rebellion against God is beyond my imagination. For the sake of our children and future children, we must pray for a genuine Holy Ghost revival, and we must do it now!

#### 2. The second part of this plea is for revival. v. 6a

Now we come to the primary reason the Psalmist has written down the prayer that he had been praying. It is almost like the Psalmist is in a state of desperation when he asks God, "Wilt thou not revive us again?" And beloved readers, unless we begin to pray to God with a determined fervency because of our desperation, we are not going to see real revival. And truthfully, we will not see our prayers answered for revival until we are willing to pay the price of obedience for revival. A.W. Tozer said many years ago, "It is not that we haven't prayed for revival, but that we have not obeyed for revival." In other words, there is no sense in begging God for this revival unless we are willing to clean up our lives, live righteously before Him, and obey every command He gives to us. Without lifestyles of righteousness, God will not move on our behalf. Why? Because He will not dwell where there is no Godliness.

#### 3. The third part of this plea is for rejoicing. v. 6b

In the second part of **verse six**, the Psalmist tells God why the people must have revival. The reason was that all of their joy was gone. They were living without joy because there was not an awareness of God's presence in their lives. And, there will never be joy because of God's presence if there is no righteousness welcoming His

presence. Only righteous people with their hearts right with God can welcome and enjoy His sweet presence in their lives. So, if we really want genuine joy, there must be a lifestyle of righteousness.

#### C. Notice the Psalmist's appropriate prayer. v. 7

#### 1. It is a prayer for revelation. v. 7a

The first part of **verse seven** is a prayer for God to be gracious and show the people of Israel His mercy. Once more, it is almost like the Psalmist is begging God to show mercy instead of judgment and to extend grace instead punishment. I don't know about you folks, but this is simply a plea for God not to give the Jewish people what they deserve, but to be merciful with them and pardon their sins and give them grace instead of judicial judgment. "Please God, show us this kind of mercy and extend to us your grace in this generation here in America!"

#### 2. It is a prayer for rescue. v. 7b.

In the second part of **verse seven**, the author of this Psalm prays for God to come and rescue his people from their sinful condition. The implication is that there is no hope that can be found in any other except the Lord. I would say "Amen" to this thought today! In this wicked day of so many false, counterfeit religions trying to tell us that there are many ways to get saved, we need urgently to remember that Jesus Christ is the only One that can save, and He is the only One that can bring genuine revival and deliver our country from its ultimate demise. Therefore, we have no hope except through our precious Lord, and neither did the Psalmist and his people.

#### III. NOTICE THE PSALMIST'S GODLY ATTITUDE. v. 8

After the Psalmist poured his heart out to God, it just seems that his entire attitude changed. Moving him from a somewhat skeptical, frightened attitude, it now seems that God suddenly gave the Psalmist a tremendous amount of faith and confidence that his prayers were going to be answered. Surely God was going to give the revival in Jerusalem that he was praying for. Surely, God was about to change the depressed and desperate city of Jerusalem into a city of spiritual awakening and restoration just as the Psalmist had prayed for and desired. Obviously, he sensed what Dr. John Phillips knew about revivals which he had known about in the British Isles, his home area, early in the 20th Century. Please read carefully the following insert from Dr. Phillip's Commentary on this 85th Psalm.

"Revival and salvation always go hand in hand. Revival is the mighty work of the Spirit, wrought in the soul of a nation on a massive scale, which brings thousands of people into the experience of salvation. This in turn affects every phase of national life. Reformation only changes the outward; revival changes the inward."

"When revival comes to a nation, as it did to

England in the days of the Wesleys and to Wales in the days of Evan Roberts, it changes national morality. There is a new surge in church attendance. Drunkenness, immorality, crime, dishonesty are curbed. Integrity is restored to national character. Employers become more considerate; employees become more industrious and dependable."<sup>2</sup>

### 1. The Psalmist's Godly attitude included an expectant waiting. v. 8a

As I wrote the inserted material from Dr. Phillips, I just paused and prayed a prayer that God would bring this same kind of revival to America as He did to the British Isles. As the Psalmist was waiting expectantly for God to send revival, so should we be looking with anticipation for this revival as we pray for it sincerely. What a joy it would be to see America repent and get back to God.

### 2. The Psalmist's Godly attitude included an essential warning. v. 8b

The author of this Psalm tells the people that if God sends revival, there will be peace in the land once again. But, they must forever remember that even if God does send revival, they must be careful to never return to the foolishness of rebellion against God ever again. We must remember what David said in Psalm 14:1. "The fool has said in his heart that there is no God..." Turning our backs on the God that loved us, saved us, and provides our every need is one of the most catastrophic things any human being could ever do. As we anticipate the coming revival, we must also adhere to the warning about backsliding again.

#### IV. NOTICE THE PSALMIST'S GLAD ANTICIPATION. vs. 9-13

When I read the remaining verses of this wonderful chapter of Psalms, I must tell you that I almost get cold chills or "God bumps", as I often say, when I think about how God, through His son, saw fit to bring mercy and truth together at Calvary, and then, that this Truth (Jesus) arose from the dead to bring us eternal righteousness and peace. Because He did this with His death, burial, and resurrection, we can know for sure that He will bring revival and restoration to our land, or any country, if the believers in these countries will plead for revival and pay the price of obedience to bring this to pass. Now, let's take a strong look at these verses and see what God has promised and is promising to us if His people will repent and pray for revival.

### A. The Psalmist anticipated the reassurance of deliverance. v. 9

By this time, in the Psalmist's prayer for revival, he is joyfully looking forward to answered prayer and true revival with much anticipation and excitement. He truly believes that God will answer his prayers and once again deliver his great land of Israel.

### 1. Please notice the guarantee of this deliverance. v. 9a

With an emphatic statement of confirmation, the Psalmist proclaims that God's salvation and deliverance is surely near those that will reverence and fear the name of God. He is truly sure that not only is personal salvation near for those who need to be saved, but he seems to be even more assured that salvation and revival are coming for his country. He is rejoicing by faith that it is about to happen. What a demonstration of confident faith by this great servant of God!

#### 2. Please notice the glory in this deliverance. v. 9b

The second thing we find in the Psalmist's reassurance of deliverance for his nation is the glory of God which is going to return to the land once again. When there is blatant sin in a life, a country, and yes, even in a church, the glory and presence of God is not there. The only thing that can bring back the glory is an old fashioned, heaven sent, sin killing, and hell disturbing revival. The glory will in fact show up mightily in our lives, in our churches, and in our country, if we repent of our sins, pray fervently for revival, and welcome back His glory.

Do you remember what happened in the Book of Samuel when the Philistines defeated Israel in a battle and stole the Ark of the Covenant? When Eli, this lazy, fat, and permissive priest, heard that his sons had been killed by the Philistines and the Ark had been stolen, he fell off of his seat, broke his neck, and died at the age of 98. At the same time, Eli's daughter-in-law, Phinehas' wife, was carrying a baby in her womb. When she heard that her husband had been killed in battle and that the Ark was gone from Israel, she prematurely delivered the child and died. Just before she died, she named the baby, Ichabod, meaning the glory had departed from Israel. You can find this entire story in I Samuel, Chapters 3-6. The Philistines stole the Ark of the Covenant, only to their own detriment, because as long as they had God's Ark where His glory dwelt, these wicked sinful people could not have peace. So, they made sure that Israel got the Ark back in short order. It was only then that the Philistines were given back their temporary peace in their sins. You see folks, if the Glory of God is in the midst of sin, then it is a reproach to God, and it brings misery and conviction to everyone there that is not right with God. So, the Psalmist was praying that Israel would experience the glory of God once more, and he was confident that this was going to happen.

I am going to be very forthright and say that the glory of God is gone from most believers' lives and most churches today. We have allowed sin and wickedness to come into our lives and into our churches under the disguise of contextualizing the Gospel, and we have lost the dynamic glory of God. You see folks, God will not dwell where He is not wanted, or where there is

unconfessed sin and wickedness. But, the Psalmist was sure that the glory would soon reappear to Israel, God's chosen people.

### B. The Psalmist anticipated reconciliation in the land. vs. 10-11

When the Psalmist started out with this prayer for revival, he began talking about the importance of God's withholding His impending judgment on the Israelites once again, and he pleaded for God's mercy instead of God's righteous judgment. In the succession of these verses, the writer begs for mercy instead of judgment while at the same time knowing fully well that sin has to be judged or forgiven. We either will receive the mercy and forgiveness of God for our sin if we repent, or we will be punished for our sin if we fail to repent. So, what the Psalmist is talking about is reconciling the mercy of God with the righteousness of God. God is truly righteous and holy in character and unless there is mercy and forgiveness, then there can be no fellowship between a fallen sinner and our holy God. Therefore, as the author discussed the importance of this reconciliation, God prophetically envisioned for us what would happen on the cross of Calvary where Jesus would eventually die for the sins of the entire world.

In verses 10-11, we have a pointing to Calvary where mercy and truth would meet together, and when they did, there could only be peace. In fact, the word "kissed" means that mercy and truth reached out and embraced each other. And ordinarily when truth and mercy are mentioned, they are in contrast to one another, but because of what Jesus did on the cross, they now embrace each other and we as born again believers are the better off for this marriage of mercy and truth.

Then, in **verse 11**, we see the prophetic indication that Jesus, Who is Truth, would one day be resurrected from the earth, ascend back to heaven, and then send the Holy Spirit back to the earth to indwell every believer. These actions made it possible for righteousness to dwell in the hearts and lives of all believers, but also to prevail on earth collectively if we would respond to God's mercy and practice righteous daily living. Now, notice three things about this reconciliation which God has provided for those who would sincerely pray for and experience revival.

#### 1. Notice the process of reconciliation. v. 10

The process of reconciliation could have only been possible if Jesus would have come down to this earth, die on the cross, and provide personal peace between God and fallen man. Of course, we know that this happened, and therefore, it is not necessary for any human being to be separated or alienated from God the Father.

#### 2. Notice the product of reconciliation. v. 11a

We must remember the basis of why the Psalmist prayed this strong prayer for revival. The returned former

exiles in Jerusalem had become lazy and were living in a backslidden condition of rebellion toward God. Thus, they have once more separated themselves from God because of their sinfulness and rebellion. And, all of this happened after the graciousness of God had let them return from Babylon where they had been captive for 70 years. As someone has so rightly said, "The only thing we learn from history is that we don't learn from history." This statement is so true of the nation of Israel, and sad to say, we are experiencing the same recurring sinfulness here in America today.

Therefore, this is why we desperately need revival. As long as two parties are at extreme odds with each other, then there must be reconciliation before peace can come.

#### 3. Notice the pleasure in this reconciliation. v. 11b

Have you ever had a falling out with your wife, husband, or other family member? I have, and truthfully, these are not pleasant experiences. But, when there is reconciliation between family members after being divided or alienated, there is a sweet peace in the family. The same was, and is, true for those who become reconciled with God. The latter part of verse eleven tells us that when people down here on earth get right with God by repentance and then the forgiveness of God, then our righteous God looks down from heaven with much pleasure. In other words, when God's fallen sinful creatures decide to repent and accept His mercy, then this new relationship is not only a blessing to the saved sinner and those around him or her, but pleasure is brought to the righteous heart of God up in heaven. This should make all of us rejoice so much that on the cross of Calvary mercy and truth came together, and because it did, we now have the wonderful privilege of being completely reconciled to God.

Folks, this is what God wants to do for us by bringing revival to us individually, and even more so to our country. We have the choice to make! We can stay alienated from God through our sinful and willful rebellion as we watch the demise of our beautiful land, or we can be reconciled back to God by our repentance and our earnest prayers for revival. I pray that we submit to the latter!

### C. The Psalmist anticipated a restoration of prosperity. vs. 12-13

As the Psalmist prayed earnestly for revival, he did so while at the same time looking all around him at the ruins of Jerusalem. The city was still filled with much rubbish everywhere. There was much work to do but few funds to pay for it. The economy of the country was in a state of collapse because the blessings of God had been withheld from those who came back from captivity. These people had been supernaturally allowed to return to their homeland only to go back to the same ways of rebellion toward God that took them into captivity to begin with.

Why, they had returned home and started rebuilding the temple to worship God only to become tired and stop the work after just two years. While only the foundation stones were in place, the people stopped putting God's work first, and they went to the hillsides around Jerusalem and started selfishly building their own homes. You can find this story in Haggai who was sent by God to these post-exiles to get them back working on God's house. The work on the temple lay dormant for 14 years, but with the preaching of Haggai, the work was finally restarted and the temple was then completed. When God is not first and preeminent in our lives and country, then He withholds His divine blessings and yes, prosperity, from the individual and also from the land. If you don't believe this, please read the following verse from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all of these things (our necessities) shall be added unto you." Matthew 6:33 In other words, Jesus must come first in our lives and in our country. I wish our Washington leaders could come to understand this!

### 1. The Psalmist knew that there would be material restoration if revival came. v. 12

Do we want to get our nation back to full productivity? If we do, then we must pray for our nation to repent and for God to send revival. Without a spirit of revival, the blessings of God, materially and economically, will be withheld from our individual lives and our nation.

### 2. The psalmist knew that there would be moral restoration if revival came. v. 13

Folks, it goes without necessary reiteration that America is a perverted and wicked nation right now. Our morals are worse than animals. We have perverted homosexuals running much of our government, and we have wicked adulterers and fornicators leading our school systems. Any Christian that stands for righteousness and the truth of God's Word is labeled as a homophobe, bigot, racist, and hundreds of other cruel names. Right has now become wrong, and wrong has now become right! But if God sends genuine revival to our land, there will be dramatic changes. Just remember what Dr. John Phillips told us earlier in this article about what happened in the British Isles. It can happen again, and I am praying that I live to see it. I beg you to join me in praying for this glorious move of God before it is too late.

#### Conclusion

So, what is the conclusion of this whole matter? It is that we must get on our knees and begin to pray for God to supernaturally intervene in our land and bring a glorious revival that will bring our entire nation back to brokenness and humble contrition. Then, we will begin to see miracle after miracle as the Lord works and reigns in

our lives. This all might seem like a "pie in the sky by and by" philosophy, but we do know God has done it before, and He wants to do it again if we will meet His requirements for revival.

#### A Postscript Note Of Reflection and Warning

Some of you reading our GIMI newsletter may think that I have lost my mind in writing this long article on revival. But the truth is that I am so burdened about our country that I am losing sleep many nights over the need for a spiritual awakening in our land. It is so heavy on my heart that sometimes I think I am literally going to die under this load. So, this is the reason I have given so much time and space to this article on praying for revival in our country as the Psalmist prayed for revival in His land. I do pray that you will join me in seriously praying for our land.

I would like to share with you a few more thoughts from Dr. John Phillips about what happened in his homeland of Wales many years ago. I want you to ponder two important things he provides. One, we must reflect on what God did for Wales, and secondly, we must accept the warning about what happened after real revival came. I want to see genuine revival come in order to get thousands saved before Jesus comes again. But, I don't want to see the enormous backsliding here in our land after revival as it came to Wales after their revival. So please pay attention to these next few paragraphs from Dr. John Phillips who is now in heaven.

"I was born in Wales where a great spiritual awakening took place at the turn of the 20th Century. Astonishing things happened. Miners were gloriously saved. Instead of oaths and curses proceeding out of their mouths, they came out of their terraced cottages each morning singing the songs of Zion. Public houses (brothels) closed down for lack of business. In Cardiff, the capitol city, policemen found themselves walking the streets with little or nothing to do. Jails and the courts remained largely empty. Church leaders from all over England and across the seas came to see what was happening. They went home praying that the revival fires might spread. And spread they did—into numerous countries. The revival crossed the Atlantic and broke out among the Welsh miners of Pennsylvania and elsewhere."

"It was a time of great national joy. However, it did not last. First there was a counterfeit revival with demonic overtones. Emotion played too large a part in the revival and there was no doctrinal undergirding of the movement. People were content with the emotional, the exotic, the exciting, the charismatic. No foundation was laid for the future."

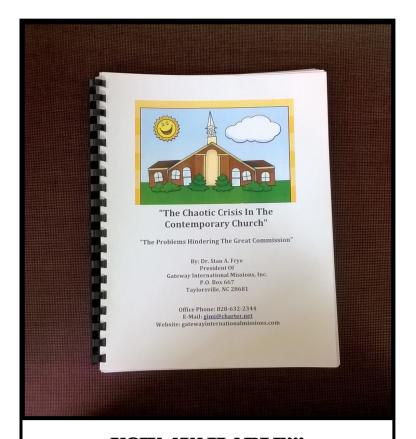
"One can walk through those Welsh valleys today and see no trace of the revival. Churches which opened up in the wake of the revival, are now boarded up, for sale, or used as stores or garages. The Welsh people seem to be more interested in socialism than salvation and the preaching of communism has greater attraction than the preaching of Christ. The churches are empty again and the public houses (brothels) are full."<sup>5</sup>

"The psalmist feared as much for his homeland. Hence this word of warning against the neglect of God's salvation, against neglect of God's Word, against returning to folly."

By Dr. Stan Frye President of GIM Psalm 85:6

#### **ENDNOTES**

- <sup>1</sup>Volume 3, John Phillip's Commentary On Psalms, page 105.
- <sup>2</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>3</sup> Ibid, page 106.
- <sup>4</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>5</sup> Ibid.
- 6Ibid.



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