

# THE Watchword

"On your walls, O Jerusalem, I have appointed watchmen;  
All day and night they will never keep silent  
You who remind the Lord, take no rest for yourselves,  
And give Him no rest until He establishes and makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth."

Isaiah 62:6-7

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The purpose of this newsletter is to encourage prayer and passion for a true revival of apostolic Christianity.

The following material is offered in the hopes of provoking zeal and providing a vision of what the church could be if we would fervently pray.

## PRAYER MAKES HISTORY

"You must go forward on your knees," was the advice Hudson Taylor gave to a young Canadian missionary named Jonathan Goforth. Mr. Goforth faithfully and fervently followed this advice throughout all his missionary endeavors in inland China. But after thirteen years of faithful praying and preaching, and what most would consider successful ministry, Goforth became restless and dissatisfied. It was at this time an unknown party from England began sending pamphlets on the recent news of the Welsh revival of 1904. Goforth was deeply stirred as he read these accounts. "A new thought, a new conception seemed to come to him of God the Holy Spirit..." He then gave himself to much more prayer and Bible study. Goforth now found himself being driven by a fresh vision, a vision for a mighty outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Soon he began to meet daily with other missionaries to pray for revival. These men vowed to God and to one another that they would pray until revival came to China. In 1908 Jonathan Goforth's prayers and dreams began to be realized. Goforth began going to different missionary stations and simply led his fellow missionaries in prayer. Then suddenly earnest prayer gave way to the open confession of sin.

***It was when the Christians came clean, confessed and forsook their secret sin, that the Holy Spirit rushed in like a mighty wind.***

Truly it was this open and honest confession of sin that was the most striking feature of the revival. Everywhere Mr. Goforth went revival would spread, and almost always in the same way. First prayer was encouraged among the Christians, which then spontaneously led to heart-breaking confessions of sin. And then like a flood the lost were brought into the kingdom by the thousands.



**JONATHAN GOFORTH**

"Men were searched as with fire." One after another broken-hearted believers emptied themselves through the uncovering of all secret sin. Mr. Goforth clearly identified unconfessed sin among Christians as a major hindrance to God-sent revival.

Walter Phillips describes a typical revival meeting: "At once, on entering the church one was conscious of something unusual. The place was crowded to the door and tense, reverent attention sat on every face. The people knelt for prayer, silent at first, but soon one here and another there began to pray aloud. The voices grew and gathered volume and blended into a great wave of united supplication that swelled til it was almost a roar. Now I understood why the floor was so wet - it was wet with pools of tears! - the very air was electric and strange thrills coarsed up and down ones body."

When Mr. Goforth preached, "The cross burned like a living fire in the heart of every address." It was the person of Jesus Christ who was exalted throughout the entire revival as a King and Saviour who must be reckoned with. In the midst of this great revival Jonathan Goforth clearly saw that all of his previous sweating and striving had reaped only frustration. He came to the firm conviction that revival is only born through humility, prayer and the power of the Holy Ghost. Goforth writes, "If revival is being withheld from us it is because some idol remains still enthroned; because we still insist in placing our reliance in human schemes; because we still refuse to face the unchangeable truth that 'It is not by might, but by My Spirit.'"

### **References Used -**

"Goforth of China" - Rosaland Goforth  
"By My Spirit" - Jonathan Goforth

**"The reason we don't have revival is because we're content to live without it."**

Leonard Ravenhill

## PRINCIPLES OF REVIVAL

It is my conviction that we are never going to have revival until God has brought the church of Jesus Christ to the point of desperation. As long as Christian people can trust religious organization, material wealth, popular preaching, shallow evangelistic crusades and promotion drives, there will never be revival. But when confidence in the flesh is smashed, and the church comes to the *realization* of her desperate wretchedness, blindness and nakedness before God, then and only then will God break in.

Yes, there must be the point of desperation but there must also be the point of intercession. O that God would bring us to this place of intercession! We cannot think or talk, let alone taste of revival, without intercessory prayer. Indeed, the reason for an unrevived church in the last analysis is the *sin of prayerlessness*. Certainly there are individuals who are praying for revival, and God is graciously meeting them at the point of their need, but where are the prayer groups, where are the companies of intercessors, where are the churches united in an agonizing that God would rend the heavens and come down and cause the mountains of hindrance and sin and unbelief to flow before His presence? Yes, there is only one thing that will save us in this hour of desperation and that is prayer.

Stephen Olford

"Heart-Cry for Revival"

## BOOKS WORTH READING

**Praying Clear Through**  
**W. J. Harney**

*'a strong exhortation to stay on our knees til we truly touch God's heart'*  
Allegheny Publishers

**Seven Guides to Effective Prayer**  
**Colin Whittaker**

*'secrets of intercession from seven great prayer warriors'*  
Bethany House Publishers