

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

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

What Adam lost in the garden, through Christ, can be found on our knees! Clearly Alexander Moody Stuart was no stranger to this blessed truth. Day and night he enjoyed the paradise of fellowship with the Father through prayer. Agonizing, fervent prayer was his constant habit. "He often seemed to wrestle in prayer like Jacob at Peniel saying, 'I will not let Thee go except Thou bless me.'" As a result, his congregation was often more deeply affected by his public praying than by his preaching. Mr. Moody Stuart always considered the weekly prayer meeting as the most vital and effectual service held in the church. "He prayed much both in public and in the family for seasons of revival, and constantly stirred up others to pray and labour for this, being fully aware of the general apathy in regard to it." He ministered with anointed men of God like W. C. Burns and Andrew Bonar during the Scottish Revival of 1839. He also prayerfully supported Brownlow North in the Ulster Revival of 1859.

It is said of Alexander Moody Stuart that when he preached he brought men face to face with God Almighty. Like McCheyne, he directed men to look at Christ ten times for every time they looked at themselves. He tenderly pleaded with men to embrace Jesus Christ as one who could be known, loved and trusted. All of this flowed out of his own intimate relationship with the Saviour. Mr. Moody Stuart's Christianity was nothing less than a fervent and longing passion for Jesus.

He spent hours in prayer and instruction with his family and church. He laboured for the lost and perishing with unceasing zeal. But it is obvious from his devotional diary that, "God was far more to him than all else, and all others." His diary reads, "During the night I usually awake every hour and a half or two hours, when I strike a light and read a few verses of the Bible, which seldom fail to bring delight and quickening, with food for meditation and prayer"
"Last night I read the words of Christ, 'Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself: handle Me and see.'



ALEXANDER MOODY STUART

What will it be to handle for ourselves and to kiss those blessed feet, with the print of the nails that fastened Him to the cross for our redemption and resurrection." On another occasion he writes, "On awaking this morning Jesus Christ drew very, very near to me, in a way as never quite the same before. He manifested Himself to me with inconceivable lovingkindness and tenderness and holy intimacy. He moved and constrained me to answer, 'My Lord Jesus,' with the softening and the love of my whole heart."

As Mr. Moody Stuart gave himself to more prayer, he entered into an ever increasing hunger for the tangible presence of God. He writes, "The hope of eternal life is surprisingly wonderful and glorious; to be with God and in God forever - The Father and the Son and the Holy Ghost. When a brief time of communion here is so satisfying to the whole heart and mind, and so fills the soul in its inmost recesses to overflowing, what must it be to be filled with the fullness of God throughout all eternity."

Mr. Moody Stuart considered a life spent in sacrifice and prayer as the most natural response to Christ's unfailing love. He mourned the fact that "many are willing that Christ should be something, but few will consent that Christ should be everything."

His whole life and ministry was shaped by long hours spent in prayer. He was a faithful and loving husband because he had been touched by the Lover of his soul in prayer. He was a tender and patient father because he had an intimate knowledge of God the Father through prayer. He was a faithful pastor to his church because he had beheld the Good Shepherd in times of prayer. Is it not true that our weakness and failure often come from our desperate lack of knowing Christ in

prayer? Oh that we would be a people driven by a consuming love and devotion for Jesus, ever longing for His Holy presence. God help us to be a people given to constant prayer.

Reference Used -

The Life of Alexander Moody Stuart
by Kenneth Moody Stuart

PRINCIPLES OF PRAYER

"There is absolutely no substitute for secret communion with God. The public Church services, or even the family altar, cannot take the place of the 'closet' prayer. We must deliberately seek to meet with God absolutely alone, and to secure such aloneness with God, we are bidden to 'enter into thy closet.' God absolutely insists on this 'closet' - communion with Himself. One reason, no doubt, that He demands it, is to test our sincerity. There is no test for the soul like solitude. Do you shrink from solitude? Perhaps the cause for your neglect of the 'closet' is a guilty conscience? You are afraid to enter into the solitude. You know that however cheerful you appear to be you are not really happy. You surround yourself with company lest, being alone, truth should invade your delusion or you should be haunted with the ghosts of your own thoughts.

God requires reality in prayer, and so He chooses the secret place to listen to your pleadings. Hypocrites never pray in secret. Their prayers require an audience. The prayer of the Pharisee was a display before men, rather than a prostration before God. The prayer of the heathen was long, tedious, and full of vain repetitions. So Christ recommends secret prayer. The only way to amend public prayer is by much dealing with God in secret prayer."

by - Gordon Cove
Revival Now Through Prayer & Fasting

BOOKS WORTH READING

How to Live the Victorious Life an unknown Christian
'this book clearly shows that true holiness is obtained by faith alone.'
Zondervan Publishing House

Protestant Saints
Ernest B. Gordon
'life sketches of sixty valiant souls who loved Christ with all their hearts.'
Harvey & Tait