

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

XI

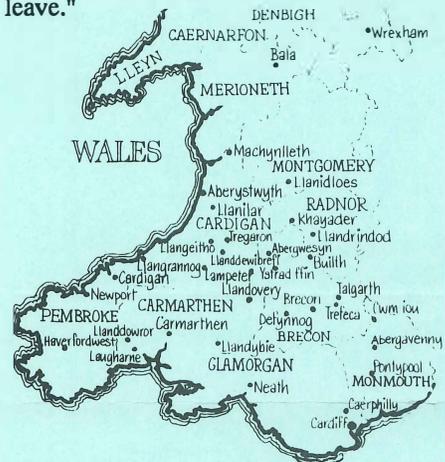
The purpose of this newsletter is to encourage prayer and passion for a true revival of apostolic Christianity.

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

The seeds of revival are always nurtured in the hearts of the humble. And so it was with the great Welsh Revival of 1904. It was in a young coal miner named Evan Roberts that God imparted a burning vision for spiritual revival. Evan Roberts did not possess the gifts of a great intellect or eloquent speech, but simply a burning passion for Jesus. While other young men were sailing boats in the bay, young Roberts was faithfully attending prayer meetings.

Though only 26 years old Evan Roberts had no time for youthful entertainment and pleasure. "Day and night without ceasing, he prayed, wept and sighed for a great spiritual awakening..." Roberts writes, "for ten or eleven years I have prayed for revival. I could sit up all night to read or talk about revivals." Eventually Evan Roberts was turned out of his lodging by his landlady who thought that in his enthusiasm he was possessed or somewhat mad. "He spent hours praying and preaching in his room until the lady became afraid of him, and asked him to leave."



The role of Evan Roberts in the Welsh revival was anything but conventional. Often he would simply lead the people in prayer, or read the Scriptures. Then at other times he sat silent while one after another people confessed their sins or gave testimony of Christ's victory and power. There were also glorious times of worship which lasted literally hours. Roberts merely gave humble instruction from time to time and let the Holy Spirit do the rest. He was a constant example of, not how to preach, but how to be led by the Spirit.



EVAN ROBERTS

The Welsh revival was a mighty invasion of the Spirit; God's Kingdom radically manifested on earth. "The earnings of workmen, instead of being squandered on drink and vice, were now bringing great joy to their families. Outstanding debts were being paid by thousands of young converts. Restitution was the order of the day. The gambling and alcohol business lost their trade and the theaters closed down from lack of patronage.

Football during this time was forgotten by both players and fans, though nothing was mentioned from the pulpits about it. The people had new lives and new interests. Political meetings were cancelled or abandoned. They seemed completely out of the question since nobody was interested. The political leaders from parliament in London abandoned themselves to the revival meetings. The man-made denominational barriers completely collapsed as believers and pastors worshipped their majestic Lord together. One of the outstanding features of the revival was the confession of sin, not among unsaved alone, but among the saved. All were broken down and melted before the cross of Christ."

Throughout the revival Evan Roberts constantly stressed the necessity of dealing honestly with sin, complete obedience to the Holy Spirit, and the preeminence of the Lord Jesus Christ. Evan Roberts was instrumental in bringing healing to an entire country because he cared and wept and prayed. He embraced the broken heart of God and offered it back up through prayer and intercession. As a result "wherever he went hearts were set aflame with the Love of God!"

*References Used - Invasion of Wales by the Spirit - James Stewart:
The Great Revival in Wales- S.B. Shaw*

"We are in far greater need of heat than light. We have sufficient light, but men with hot hearts are the need of the times."
W.G. Bennett

PRINCIPLES OF REVIVAL

"When men in the streets are afraid to open their mouths and utter godless words lest the judgements of God should fall; when sinners, overawed by the Presence of God tremble in the streets and cry for mercy; when, without special meetings and sensational advertising, the Holy Ghost sweeps across cities and towns in supernatural power and holds men in the terrifying grip of conviction; when 'every shop becomes a pulpit; every heart an altar; every home a sanctuary' and people walk softly before God - This Is Revival. Heaven - sent revival is not religious entertainment where crowds gather to hear outstanding preachers and musical programmes; neither is it the result of sensational advertising - in a God-sent revival you don't spend money on advertising; people come because REVIVAL is there! Revival is an 'awareness of God' that grips the whole community, and the roadside, the tavern, as well as the church, becomes the place where men find Christ."

Owen Murphy

When God Stepped Down from Heaven

BOOKS WORTH READING

**Azuza Street
Frank Bartleman**

'an inspiring look at the Azuza Street revival of 1906' - Logos International

**Victorious Christians
You Should Know
Warren Wiersbe**

'20 sparkling biographies of great Christians' - Baker Book House

A TIME TO PRAY

Sun 8 am auditorium
Mon-Fri 6 am auditorium
Sat 8 am lower level