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The Quarterly Journal of Non-Religious Christianity

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heroes of revival

editorial

We're ploughing on with Compass - the only real antidote to 'revival fatigue'. And in this edition you will read of activities in the heavenlies and in rural Britain; of the historic roots of our faith; news of well-known revivalists as well as the unsung heroes who are tirelessly getting on with the job in various projects and activities where they live.

God has raised people up in each generation to press forward in challenging the Church in the realm of revival. For 50 years Selwyn Hughes has faithfully been sowing such seeds. We need to honour those who have cried 'revival' when everyone else was shouting other messages.

I remember over 20 years ago reading 'Every Day With Jesus' before going to work one day. In his thought for the day, Selwyn brought a challenge with these words: 'Someone needs to start a fire in your city! Will it be you?'

That day I prayed that if it were possible, I would like to light a flame for God. Imagine how many people must have been challenged through the years by this ministry to commit themselves to God's purposes. Today, many more voices all over the world are asking God to send the fire.'

Stuart Bell
Associate Editor



COVER PHOTO: Roger Walker/CWR

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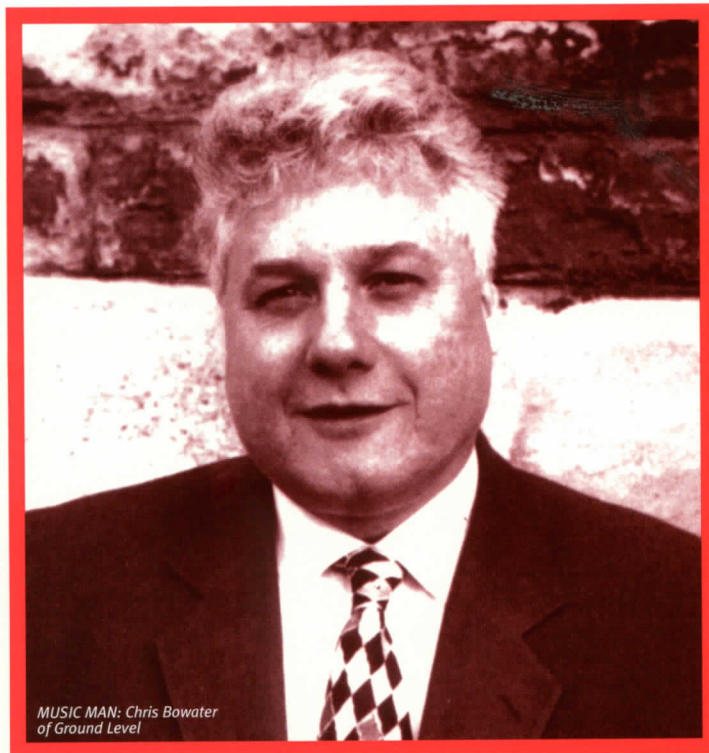
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HOME

NEWS



MUSIC MAN: Chris Bowater
of Ground Level

Worship with the world

NEW Life Christian Fellowship's School of Creative Ministry takes another step into the international arena by co-hosting with the Ground Level Ministry Team a three-week conference this autumn.

Conference Director Chris Bowater travels extensively to different parts of the world, taking into various cultures a practical and inspirational teaching programme of creative ministry and worship.

This forthcoming conference will present the opportunity for pastors

and worship leaders from churches around the world to benefit from a dedicated period of intensive teaching and ministry.

The programme will run from 5th-25th October at New Life Christian Fellowship, Lincoln. Sessions will be led by Chris Bowater, Stuart Bell, Jack Groblewski, Dave Hadden and Alan Hoare.

Delegates can elect to come for one, two or three weeks. Overseas guests will spend weekends with their sponsor churches from the Ground Level network, where they will take part in social activities and various church meetings.

Ground Level churches are being encouraged to participate by sponsoring overseas delegates

from churches where they have links. The hope is to bring a truly international flavour to the event. For further information contact New Life Christian Fellowship, Newland, Lincoln, LN1 1XG (tel 01522 542166).

Awakenings in prison

REVIVAL fervour experienced at this year's Pioneer leaders conference has spread to a Kent prison, according to a senior officer there.

'It was a privilege to be at the conference,' said the officer. 'God met with me in a new and powerful way - which continued when I returned to work.' He claims that he led nine prisoners to a Christian commitment during nine days of duties. That has now risen to 40.

'I have never experienced anything like this before,' he said. 'It started when a prisoner asked about a counsellor for his problems. I told him that God was the best counsellor.'

'Another prisoner, suffering from schizophrenia, was a backslidden Christian and an ex-terrorist from Northern Ireland. He had asked God to send someone to help him, and I told him "I am the answers to your prayers". As I prayed with them, they both cried as they met with God.'

The officer had spoken with another prisoner on a couple of occasions. 'One morning I felt that now was the time for him. So I woke him and told him it's time to be born again. He agreed and struggled to put his socks on. "Don't worry," I said, "Jesus will take you as you are - this is holy ground".'

Adopt a cop

THE Christian Police Association have launched a national scheme to create a prayer network to cover the UK's force. 'Adopt a Cop' aims to draw on the support of local churches, to commit to pray regularly for their local station and its officers.

The initiative has grown out of a Christian response to the historic troubles in and around Brixton. Churches Together in Brixton has gathered 30 churches committed to praying for their area.

'Adopt a Cop' is open to groups and individual Christians who are willing to commit themselves to liaising with a local co-ordinator who will supply them with regular information for prayerful attention.

Founding member PC Andy Cole said, 'Police officers are cynical by nature, but "Adopt a Cop" has cut through that, as they have seen the honest offer of support by the churches'.

To sign up, write to the Christian Police Association, 67 Upper Selsdon Road, South Croydon, Surrey, CR2 8DJ.

Alpha reaches high

ALPHA - the highly popular introduction course to the Christian faith - will feature on a major campaign to invite every person in England to free Bible classes. Courses will be advertised on billboards, posters and by direct mail.

The aim is to reach every unchurched person in England this year with a letter inviting them to join an Alpha course at a local church. Latest figures suggest that 500,000 people worldwide attended Alpha courses last year using videos and books published by Holy Trinity and co-ordinated from its offices in Knightsbridge.

The £250,000 campaign will start in September with posters and billboards showing a cartoon of a young person in jeans, struggling under the burden of a huge red question mark.

Churches running the course will be asked to spend about £100 each on getting invitations to Alpha courses to every home in their area.

Archbishop of Canterbury Dr George Carey has praised HTB for its 'marvellous' achievements. 'The great success of Alpha groups in England is a statement that people are not so much questioning the intellectual basis of their faith as realising they do not know it,' he said.

Alpha courses have reached a wide denominational spectrum including Roman Catholic, Methodist and Baptist churches.

Evangelicals reclaim the Millennium

LESS than 20 per cent of the British

population associate the year 2000 with the birth of Christ, according to a Gallup survey in the Daily Telegraph.

In a bid to make 'The Millennium a Christian milestone, not a millstone', the Evangelical Alliance have launched an initiative called Anno Domini.

The Alliance want to ensure that everyone is aware that the year 2000 is more than just a change of date, but a celebration of the 2000th anniversary of the most significant historical event to have taken place - the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Anno Domini's brief is to co-ordinate church activities and to bring an evangelical dimension to the secular celebrations.

Resources available from Anno Domini already include Millennium Prayer Countdown, videos, international projects and quarterly meetings for leaders of Millennium projects.

The Prayer Countdown intends to provide prayer cover for each of the 1,000 days leading up to the year 2000. International projects include support for Jubilee 2000 - which is lobbying for the year 2000 to be a real year of Jubilee with third world debts being written off by the banks and governments of the 'west'.

More information about those, and other projects, can be found in Anno Domini's newsletter sent out to all EA group members or by contacting Anno Domini, PO Box 80, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 9ST.

National call to prayer

CHURCH leaders across the evangelical spectrum are calling the nation to prayer on Sunday 7th June, which has been earmarked as 'Amen - A Day To Pray'.

The last time Britain was called to prayer was prior to Dunkirk - when the escape of 300,000 British soldiers from the Nazi war machine was described by Winston Churchill as miraculous.

Said Jane Holloway, who spearheads prayer for the Evangelical Alliance, 'During the war we were united in facing a common enemy. Today we in the Church should be similarly united in praying together for both the

Church and for our society, because we are charged to be salt and light'.

Prayer themes highlighted by the EA are - community life, evangelisation, government and leadership, and revival. More details and a resource pack are available from the Alliance.

Contact Jane Holloway, Amen - A Day To Pray, FREEPOST, 186 Kennington Park Road, London SE11 4BP. Resource packs cost £9 - though a free copy will be sent to churches that are members of the EA.

Woking fire

MORE than 100 people are currently being drawn to 'Blaze' - a regular monthly event run by Coign Church, Woking, which is part of the New Frontiers network of churches.

Through worship celebration and teaching, Blaze shares an emphasis with the rest of the Coign church to see Christians released to their full potential though concentrating on the twenty somethings.

Over the last two years they have seen a development in their ministry, as they become more of a resource base touching young Christians from the South east of England. They estimate that about half of the people attending Blaze are visitors.

They have also seen an increase in young people 'dreaming dreams' and taking the initiative for projects. Their worship band, for example, are currently recording their first CD which is due out this summer. Contact Blaze on 01483 714150.

Record numbers at Ground Level summit

NEARLY 300 church leaders attended Ground Level's largest ever leadership conference at the Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, in April.

Dovetailed messages from Stuart Bell and keynote speaker Tony Morton of Cornerstone sounded one overriding theme - only a combination of renewed apostolic vision with clear apostolic strategy will successfully spread and sustain the momentum of coming revival.

'Team captains don't need to score all the goals,' said Tony Morton. 'This is about apostolic people and teams releasing others - not just big names - but rather making room for all ministries to develop.'

Referring to Jesus' healing of the blind man in John 9, Stuart Bell said, 'Apostolic people are not people with special gifts, but people with special commission. Look at what can be done with just spit and clay!'

Other guest speakers included Jack Groblewski, a Ground Level associate who pastors in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, USA; Mal Fletcher, Australian-born director of Next Wave International youth ministries, residing in Glostrup, Denmark; and pastor and prophetic minister Dennis Cramer of Williamsport, Pennsylvania, USA.

In addition to hosting its greatest number of British leaders, the conference also drew missionaries and visitors from Ground Level-supported churches and projects in Ghana, Romania, Czech Republic, France and America. Other special guests included three couples from churches in Hatfield near Johannesburg and Mossel Bay South Africa. Their testimonies brought great encouragement to continue believing for revival and to expect God to break in at any time.

Spurs v saints

A HIGH-profile community event recently saw a church football team take on the might of a Tottenham Hotspur All-star side. Despite finishing near to the bottom of the Southern Area Christian Football League, Molsey Community church challenged the Spurs Legends side in a local charity match.

Martin Chivers, Jimmy Neighbour, Gary Brooke, Mark Falco - all stars of yesteryear, still had too much class, if a little less pace, for the church side. Chivers scored four and Falco two in the 9-4 win, as the Legends rolled back the years.

What Molsey CC lost in pride, was easily balanced by the huge interest shown in the game, with over 500 spectators turning up to watch their heroes. As a result, new players were drawn to the church club, along with significant media attention.

The event was organised by Mark Blythe, who specialises in arranging similar events around the country. Said Blythe, 'With World Cup fever creating a special atmosphere this summer, events such as these offer a great opportunity for community outreach, evangelism or fund-raising'.

If you or your church would be interested in hosting a similar event, start the ball rolling by calling Mark Blythe on 0181 873 1314.

SPURS STAR: Veteran footballer Martin Chivers signs his autograph for a fan



WORLD

NEWS



Power evangelism in Pakistan

PAKISTAN - where the national population is 97 per cent Muslim - proved to be fertile ground for an impressive crop of 'signs and wonders', as a Ground Level team from England recently experienced.

Led by Dave Kitchen, the group spearheaded a healing crusade on the Afghanistan/Pakistan border in April. About 900 attended the first evening - with more than 200 prayed for at the end of the meeting.

A boy with a goitre on his throat was prayed for and the person praying felt it physically disappear. After experiencing a demon being cast out of him, a man was filled with the Spirit and spoke in tongues. He spoke two words of English: 'wholly liberated'.

A girl of about five who was blind in both eyes was prayed for by several of the team. The parents persisted and after a third person prayed, the girl's eyes cleared.

More than 1,300 converged on the second evening meeting - with around 350 receiving prayer. It is claimed that a disabled woman could move her arms and legs after being prayed for.

'Many eyes were opened,' said the team. One old lady brought her grandchild who after prayer opened her eyes and was able to see. A Muslim man brought his mother

about five miles for prayer. She was prayed for during the worship time - she had to get home before dark for fear of being shot. There are many other similar accounts.

On the Sunday, 2,000 came to the meeting. 'At least' 800 made Christian commitments, according to Ground Level. 'Those coming to Christ were asked to sit in chairs arranged in rows of 40 and there were 20 rows filled with those wanting to receive salvation.'

Czech-mate for Jehovah's Witnesses

A CZECH couple have been instrumental in leading numerous people out of the Jehovah's Witnesses movement - and into a seeker-friendly church that's been tailor-made for their spiritual needs.

Ondrej and Jana Novotny had been active members of a local JW congregation since their teens. He was a presiding elder, and had become used to speaking at their conferences to thousands.

However, Ondrej had become 'too interested' in the Bible, according to Dennis Bavister, who leads Barnsley Christian Fellowship and Czechout, supporting the Church in the republic. 'He began to get absorbed with parts he really shouldn't have been reading - much less teaching!'

WITNESS REVIVAL: Ondrej and Jana Novotny



A personal crisis in 1991 led to the man's conversion. He began to teach a new gospel. He had no plans to leave the JW's - but wanted to share his new revelation and happiness with them.

'Why God chose to tie us together, he alone knows,' said Dennis Bavister, 'but from then on Ondrej and Jana began to look to us for advice. I began to see it as another example of God's sovereign preparation for worldwide revival.'

There were frequent interruptions at the Novotnys' home, as the fire spread through the movement. Rarely would an evening pass without a succession of phone calls, mostly clandestine, a few anonymous - but all from Witnesses asking for help.

'Today, they are in contact with hundreds,' said Bavister. 'Many have simply left and want nothing more to do with religion. But many more are searching for the truth.'

A congregation has been formed for the latter - and it currently numbers up to 50. It is truly a 'seekers' service', where they can come, listen, question and discuss.

Ondrej is now frequently invited to speak on religious movements and is travelling throughout the nation. Churches, schools and universities have called on him. He has often been given radio interviews and has appeared on

Target five billion for Jesus film

DISTRIBUTORS of the 'Jesus' film are hoping to reach a global audience of more than five billion by the end of the century. And at present, nearly 700 mission agencies and denominations are already using the movie.

More than 200 of those same agencies participate in the India Project to reach the nation's one

million people. Said project director Paul Eshleman, 'In all my years of serving God, I have never before seen such openness on the part of Christian organisations to work co-operatively to get the job done - without caring who gets the credit'.

The film comes in 420 language versions to date, with a further 220 in the pipeline. That means more than 85 per cent of the world's population can see the film in a language familiar to them. It's been screened on TV in 93 countries - though the film also continues to be shown by more than 2,000 'Jesus teams'.

Prayer for Norwegian polls

THOUSANDS of Norwegian believers reportedly fasted and prayed to ask God to intervene on behalf of their country - during the nation's last election campaign. And now Christian politicians allegedly make up more than half of the new government - including Prime Minister Kjell Magne Bondevik.

'There's been no such thing as a government with a born-again majority in Norway ever - at least not in modern times,' said evangelical leader Trygve Brekke, senior pastor of the charismatic Christian Service Church in Stavanger.

The previous Socialist government was said to have favoured abortion rights and homosexual marriage. New premier Bondevik says the politics of his cabinet will be grounded in the 'Christian inheritance' of Norway.

In his inaugural speech, Bondevik - a Lutheran pastor who has declared that 'God is my strength' - said the 'erosion of morals and foundational values' must be halted.

Big in Baghdad

THE Christian church in Baghdad, the capital of Iraq, has reportedly grown in the last seven years - from 250 members to more than 1,200 believers.

It is claimed that Saddam Hussein employs Christians in his palace because he can trust them and because they 'don't have a violent political agenda', one Christian leader reported.

Arafat says yes

PALESTINIAN leader Yassa Arafat has allowed the Bible Society to open a bookshop in Nablus (Samaria).

Approval came after Mr Arafat was presented with a children's Bible for his daughter Zahwa. He is said to have been delighted with the gift and gave his permission for the Bible Society to be registered. The Bible Society in the West Bank also has a bookshop in East Jerusalem.

Tibetan breakthrough

DESPITE many barriers to correspondence, Words of Hope World Wide Radio have attracted some 1,400 listener letters over the last two years - with more this year.

Correspondents want to know more about Jesus. Yet Tibet is one of the world's most difficult mission fields - some have described it as a 'graveyard for missions'.

Colorado ablaze

A NEW name may well be added to the growing list of revival centres in the USA. At the Rehoboth Christian Assembly in North Colorado, events similar to those experienced in Toronto and Brownsville are reportedly happening on a regular basis.

Reports indicate a huge increase in repentance, the number of conversions and healings. The congregation has also been experiencing corporate visions, deliverances and miracles.

Marching for the underground church

WHEN the first March For Jesus hit the streets of London, who would have thought that ten years on, 12 million Christians from across the world would gather in 130 nations for mass demonstrations of worship and solidarity?

Such impressive growth has been most significant in those countries undergoing revival. And this year the global march initiative will present a show of support for the persecuted underground churches in the world.

Open Doors and the World Evangelical Fellowship have joined



forces with MFJ to participate in what Brother Andrew reckons will be the 'the biggest prayer meeting ever for the suffering church'.

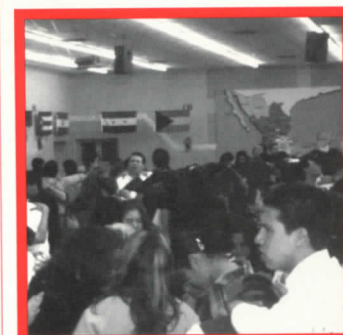
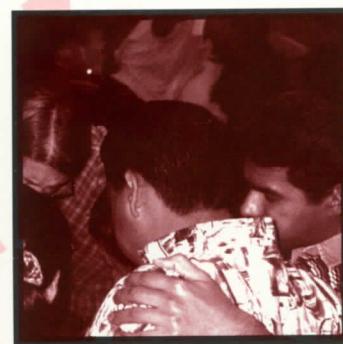
Although focusing on the suffering church, MFJ hopes that the process of bringing churches together for prayer and worship will help continue to build a foundation for revival in the UK. MFJ takes place on 30th May - with 85 marches in the UK alone. For details, contact 01932 232345.

Mexican wave

NO FEWER than 4,000 men gathered for several days in Juarez, Mexico, to listen to Gerald Coates and evangelist Alberto Mottes. They were addressing a conference designed to strengthen men in the home, the workplace and the church.

Singer-songwriter Noel Richards led a 1,000-strong youth event, showing clips of last year's Champion of the World event to tumultuous shouts and applause. 'There's a tremendous move of the Spirit in Mexico, where the gospel is being preached and thousands are being baptised at a time,' said Richards.

Coates and Richards were also able to donate \$10,000 to the street children of Mexico to help feed the hungry and shelter the homeless. The cash was part of the offering that had been taken at Champion of the World.



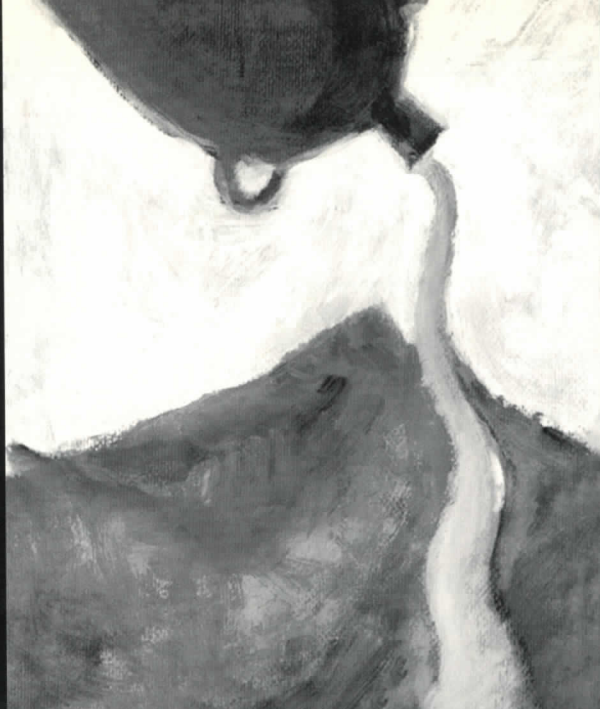
LATIN FIRE: (from top to bottom) Evangelist Alberto Mottes preaches to vast crowds and presents TV and radio shows; praying for revival in Mexico; Mexican youth pray for Britain; leading worship at the men's conference in Juarez



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every day with Selwyn

He used to send postcards from the edge. Now this Welshman's talk of revival has shifted to centrestage of the world arena. Gary Pritchard meets Selwyn Hughes, in the build-up to his 70th birthday...

SELWYN Hughes must have the largest congregation on earth. For 365 days a year, he preaches to it. Every Day With Jesus - the planet's most successful devotional package - has been feeding the body of Christ for over 30 years. What began in 1963 as a few scribbled scriptures on a postcard, has grown to over half a million devoted readers worldwide.

And as his 70th birthday approaches, Selwyn Hughes has established himself as one of the father figures of the UK evangelical church. Seen by some as the British Billy Graham, Selwyn shares a similar reputation of dignity and integrity.

It's hardly surprising then, that the man who put the word 'revival' at the heart of his company name (CWR stands for Crusade for World Revival), grew up on stories of the Welsh revival in his home town of Fochriw, South Wales. His voice still betrays a gentle Welsh lilt, as he talks passionately of those key formative years. 'My grandfather was converted in the Welsh revival,' said Selwyn, 'and I would sit with my cousins and his 12 children transfixed by my grandmother's recollections of that great visitation.'

He speaks of whole mining communities being transformed by Christ, and of pit-bonies confused by the cleaned-up commands

of their formerly foul-mouthed masters.

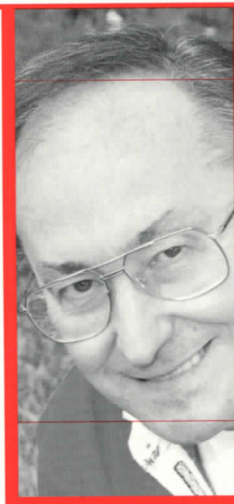
With the fire of revival running through his veins, Selwyn pastored churches in Wales and Yorkshire before settling his family in London.

It was in response to a request from a member of his congregation, that he began to hand-write scriptural devotional aids for a few friends on the back of postcards. Within a few years, a printed version was being eagerly snapped up. That gave Selwyn an idea.

'I struck a deal with my readership,' he said, 'I would supply them with an Every Day With Jesus free of charge - if they, in return, would agree to pray for revival.'

Distribution quickly blossomed to over 100,000, triggering massive prayer for a dynamic visitation of the Holy Spirit. The birth of CWR and its headquarters at Waverley Abbey House, saw Selwyn and his team establish what many consider to be the premier Christian conference facility in the UK. The pursuit of excellence however, hasn't come without criticism.

'We've had our critics,' said Selwyn, 'who have argued that CWR resources should be used for "worthier" initiatives. But we felt that the excellence of the facilities, were only the outward expression of the all-round call to



IT'S HARDLY SURPRISING THAT THE MAN WHO PUT THE WORD 'REVIVAL' AT THE HEART OF HIS COMPANY NAME GREW UP ON STORIES OF THE WELSH REVIVAL

excellence that God originally commissioned us to.'

The various conferences and seminars hosted at Waverley, have seen many equipped and commissioned to a similar level of excellence. Most visitors remark on the serene tranquility of Waverley, but also on the marked absence of ostentatious extravagance.

Selwyn's personal ministry has also been inspirational, by somehow marrying professionalism with a deep humility. He tells the moving story of when his wife lay dying of cancer in a London hospital, while he ministered across the road in Westminster Central Hall.

'There I was, ministering to this huge crowd - while I was falling apart inside.



I confessed my pain to my audience, asking, "what is it I need now in my hour of need?". A hundred scripture references were shouted back at me - and then a man ran from the back of the hall, leapt on to the stage and hugged me. The Holy Spirit fell on that meeting as God's love was demonstrated for us all to see.'

On visiting his wife later that day, he entered a hospital room filled wall-to-wall with flowers sent by people from the meeting.

The death of his beloved Enid proved to be the most testing time of Selwyn's life. But it was the strength of her faith - even in her last moments - that gave him the strength to move-on.

'My wife's last words to me were, "Thank you for being a window through which I could see God's love". I consider that to be the greatest achievement of my whole life and ministry,' he said.

Despite his worldwide reputation, not everyone associates Selwyn Hughes with dramatic Holy Spirit tales of healing or supernatural encounters. Yet his life is peppered with amazing stories of God's power working through him.

One of the more remarkable involved a late-night call from a Korean minister, requesting that he be picked up from the airport. This unknown visitor sat in the Hughes' living room, and immediately began to pour with blood from his mouth - a tell-tale sign of his advanced tuberculosis. Selwyn took up the story.

'This man began to explain how God had told him to come to my home to seek healing from my hands. I was terrified, and prayed the most faithless prayer ever uttered over this poor man.

'Immediately he leapt up, and ran around my garden praising God at the top of his voice. The bleeding had stopped, and he had been completely healed.'

A subsequent invitation by the grateful minister to visit Korea, resulted in crowds in excess of 300,000 rallying to hear the Welshman preach.

Selwyn is also no stranger to physical healing in his own life. In 1958 he was given three days to live, as his body struggled against the ravages of double

pneumonia. God miraculously healed him then, as he did a couple of years ago from prostate cancer.

'It was a sobering time for me laying in my hospital bed,' he recalled. 'I asked God for ten more fruitful years - and with the aid of the excellent physicians he answered my prayer. People say I am a changed man, and that I have a new fire.'

But it is when discussing the subject of revival, that a glint flashes in Selwyn's eyes. He tells of the accusations of arrogance that were levelled at him, when he first launched his Crusade for World Revival. He also spoke of the frustration of 'being out of fashion', with his passion for the revival theme throughout the 1970's and 80's.

'I was told to change with the times, and that God's agenda was now renewal and restoration,' he said. 'I thank God for those emphases. But it's only a wholesale culture-shaking revival of the Holy Spirit that will transform our societies.'

Alongside his lifetime inspiration Billy Graham, Selwyn names his uncle David Thomas, as one of his heroes. Saved in the Welsh revival, the fiery Thomas had prayed over the six-week-old Selwyn, 'Father, make this child grow to be a preacher of your word'. He later went on to lead the passionate young man to Christ.

As he continues to pray for another great revival in the land of his fathers, Selwyn senses a shift in the spiritual atmosphere of the whole nation.

'Above and beyond much of the sabre rattling, there is no doubt in my mind that God is calling us to prepare for revival,' he said. 'When I talk to people and the subject of revival crops up, a light goes on in their eyes. God is preparing the hearts of his church.'

It would be fitting for Selwyn to see the fruit of his life's ministry - a full-scale revival, calling the nations to spend every day with Jesus.

'I ASKED GOD FOR TEN MORE FRUITFUL YEARS - AND WITH THE AID OF THE EXCELLENT PHYSICIANS HE ANSWERED MY PRAYER. PEOPLE SAY I AM A CHANGED MAN, AND THAT I HAVE A NEW FIRE'

Editorial manager of Compass, Gary Pritchard is a freelance journalist and editorial consultant based in South Wales.

'I WAS TOLD TO CHANGE WITH THE TIMES, AND THAT GOD'S AGENDA WAS NOW RENEWAL AND RESTORATION. I THANK GOD FOR THOSE EMPHASES. BUT IT'S ONLY A WHOLESALE CULTURE-SHAKING REVIVAL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT THAT WILL TRANSFORM OUR SOCIETIES.'



PHOTOS: Roger Walker/CWR

how to host the holy spirit



WHEN THE YOUNG MAN WAS ASKED ABOUT JESUS, HE THOUGHT HE WAS BEING ASKED ABOUT ANOTHER AMERICAN SOFT DRINK!

WHY does God visit certain churches and not others? Can any pattern of divine blessing be discerned? Do unusually blessed churches have common characteristics? Those were the kind of questions that came under the microscope during my time at Fuller Theological Seminary.

The key to growth can be seen as recognising those characteristics - and implementing them in your own church. We can summarise that in another way. Churches that have those characteristics are churches that have learned to host the Holy Spirit well. As I've considered that, I have identified ten ways that we can do it.

1 WE CAN HOST AND WELCOME THE HOLY SPIRIT THROUGH OUR WORSHIP

In the story of Martha and Mary we usually think it was Martha who had the gift of hospitality. It appears that she was the one who was hosting and serving Jesus. But in reality, Mary was the one who was hosting him.

She gave Jesus what he wanted - which was worship and attention. So often we think we can host God with our activity. But what he is seeking is worshippers - those who will worship in Spirit and in truth.

Throughout history God has used worship in revival. Not only has revival birthed new songs, but also the songs themselves have hosted the Holy Spirit. God inhabits the praises of his people. And your meeting place will be too small to contain the people that will come - once they know that the glory of God is there!

2 WE HOST THE HOLY SPIRIT BY LOVING AND EMBRACING ANY VISITATION FROM HIM

Let's ask a simple question. Is what we call the 'Toronto Blessing' of God or not? Either it's the greatest deception ever to hit the Church, as it travels around the globe and impacts most denominations - or we are on the verge of the greatest revival. I believe it is the latter!

However, there is a problem. Pastors and leaders have gone to Toronto, experienced something and then returned to their local situations, giving assent to the Blessing they have received. But in many cases they have failed to really embrace it - and nothing has changed locally.

God turns up in Toronto, Pensacola, Buenos Aires and Knightsbridge - in fact, seemingly every corner of the globe except your church. Don't despair, says Che Ahn. You too can create an environment for revival...



Ezekiel Chapter 47 talks of a person in the river and he stays in the river as it gets knee deep, waist deep - until it is so deep that he can't even swim. But he stays in the river.

I see leaders coming back from Toronto who are satisfied just to have got their feet wet! They go back to church business as usual.

We must steward this Blessing. We need to provide opportunities for the Holy Spirit to move - even if it's only one meeting a week, or at the end of a meeting. We must be faithful.

3 WE HOST THE HOLY SPIRIT BY LOVING AND HONOURING ONE ANOTHER

We need to provide structures that give an awareness of community, love, care and honour as the church grows. God is raising up an army. But before we are an army, we are family.

An important part of that is honouring leaders. 'He who receives you receives me,' says Matthew 10:40. God is on the move in places that have learned to receive visiting ministries and leaders.

4 WE HOST THE HOLY SPIRIT BY HAVING FLEXIBLE WINESKINS

We can't pour new wine into old wineskins. That's what Matthew chapter 9 teaches us. Church tradition can make the word of God null and void. As I look around the world, I note that where the church is exploding in growth, that's where it has flexible wineskins.

Groups such as the 'grassroots' movement in Argentina, where pastors haven't been heavily shaped by traditional outside influences, are growing at a tremendous rate.

In the UK the house church - now 'new church' - movement has been on the cutting edge of church growth. But it's good to be aware that history teaches us a movement can become 'old wineskin' after ten to 15 years!

It's so hard for us to 'pull the plug' once we are established. But we must ask God that vital question: has our wineskin become inflexible? We must stay prophetic, doing only what we see the Father doing.

SO OFTEN WE THINK WE CAN HOST GOD WITH OUR ACTIVITY. BUT WHAT HE IS SEEKING IS WORSHIPPERS

5 WE HOST THE HOLY SPIRIT BY OUR RADICAL OBEDIENCE TO GOD

We have seen that in Toronto and in Brownsville - a call to repentance, holiness and obedience. What idols are there in your life? What areas of hypocrisy? What is God asking you to give up? What are the compromises that no-one else knows about?

Those are the things that God is zoning in on at this time. The Holy Spirit is given to those who obey.

6 WE WELCOME AND HOST THE HOLY SPIRIT WHEN WE WALK IN UNITY

'God has never visited a church that is divided,' according to D L Moody. Charles Finney pointed to two conditions for revival: prayer and unity. God blesses unity, as we are taught in Psalm 133. In fact, he commands blessing.

My passion is not just for unity within the local church, but also for unity across the whole body of Christ. In the final analysis there is only one holy, catholic, apostolic Church. God wants us to bring down the walls of division, putting Jesus at the centre and following him together.

I once had a very exclusive attitude to those in other groups. Then I went to Argentina to see the revival there firsthand. And as I heard the call to unity through Ed Silvano, I was convicted.

I probably wept more during my visit there than at any other time in my life. I heard leaders there praying for other pastors and asking God that he would bless their church more than their own. And I saw the fruit of those prayers and attitudes in amazing church growth.

The church must really come together - at an apostolic level - and there will be a release of power such as we have not experienced. Similarly, we have to see racial reconciliation in the body of Christ before revival can come.

Of course, no-one is overtly racist in the church. But there are subtle ways that it creeps in. When revival comes, we will reproduce what we are. We don't want to reproduce racial division.

7 WE HOST THE HOLY SPIRIT THROUGH PRAYER

Jonathan Edwards said that before revival must come 'extraordinary prayer'. Many others have pointed to this necessary precursor to God moving. That's extraordinary prayer - not just ordinary prayer. Not simply praying because we are in trouble, but extended periods of prayer and fasting and crying out in intercession.

I have never known so many groups fasting for extended periods. In 1996 my church launched a round-the-clock 'house of prayer'. To be honest, I didn't know how long it would last. Two years later it's still going. Of course, there are times when people fall asleep - but at least we are praying like never before.

I believe the Holy Spirit loves it! We must pray for the lost - for friends, neighbours and family members.

8 WE HOST THE HOLY SPIRIT THROUGH OUR COMPASSIONATE MINISTRY TO THE POOR

As we reach out to the poor, we are touching the heart

of God. I see that much is going on in the UK, particularly in local settings, and that is great.

However, can I raise the question of going to the nations? The real poor of the world are to be found in the developing nations. Compared with them, all of us in the West are affluent.

9 WE HOST THE HOLY SPIRIT THROUGH MISSIONS

I should define that word, because as someone has said, when everything is missions then nothing is missions! We must see missions as reaching the unreached peoples of the world.

A famous evangelist was holding a crusade on the island of Haiti. He was travelling to a remote village. While being driven down a dirt track he saw a Coca-Cola sign, so he asked to stop for a drink.

The evangelist felt that he should preach to the young man who was serving. However, when that young man was asked about Jesus, he thought that he was being asked about another American soft drink!

There are 1,700 unreached people groups in the world. Let's go and plant churches there!

10 WE HOST THE HOLY SPIRIT THROUGH OUR LOCAL EVANGELISM

The biblical pattern is Judea, then Samaria, then the uttermost parts of the earth. We must start in our own towns and cities:

- *evangelising by our works, showing the gospel by our acts of love so that the world can see what Jesus looks like in the flesh, and;*

- *evangelising by the 'foolishness of preaching'. God could have written the message in the sky, but he has chosen us to preach the gospel to every creature.*

The spirit of the fear of man needs to be broken from us. We need to be so full of God that it spills out to those we meet. That's why we need to be continually filled with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18).

We need power to get the job done - to see the Great Commission fulfilled. The key is in Acts 1:8 - we are to receive the Holy Spirit and see the supernatural power of God released. Signs and wonders are to accompany us so that people will believe. And we must declare war on our own unbelief.

As we endeavour to host the Holy Spirit in these ten ways, I believe we will see our churches transformed and the environment created for true revival.

Dr Che Ahn is Senior Pastor of Harvest Rock Church and founder President of Harvest International Ministries, a worldwide network of churches and ministries - both based in Pasadena, California. He has played a key role in many strategic local, national and international outreaches - including March for Jesus and Love Los Angeles. With a ministry for renewal, he travels extensively throughout the United States, Asia, Europe and Mexico. Che's article was adapted by Andy Read, from a talk he gave at this year's Pioneer leaders' conference. It is used here with permission.

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Britain's rural communities made headline news in recent months, as they began to establish themselves as a political force. But will God visit the 'green and pleasant land'? John Lechler explains why he's getting ready

THE are

THE future is not what it used to be, according to Woody Allen. We evangelicals would say the same - but with a different motive. Many are believing that the future holds a revival of enormous proportions.

Yet some time ago it was seldom suggested. Despite being England's second biggest county, agricultural Lincolnshire was by-passed by the A1. Evangelicalism was marginalised. And 'it' was all happening in the south. But now the outlook on the future has changed even in rural areas.

God has been at work. There are portents of a future revival even around here. Or are there?

Horncastle is a small market town of 5,000 people and over 20 miles from the nearest M&S. Apparently it's one of about 25 market towns between the Humber and the Wash - an area boasting no fewer than 2,500 villages and no town over 100,000 population.

Lincolnshire has a population density of less than half the national average (actually 43%). There are miles of fields separating communities. That's something city people find hard to comprehend.

Talk of revival is most frequent in the towns - where the larger churches are. It's not that we in the rural regions beyond feel intimidated by them. It's simply that they seem to be in another world - a world of many resources. Musicians are ten a penny. Young people abound. There's an air of excitement.

That hive of activity buzzes with faith - and there's no shortage of crowded areas in which to evangelise. We in the country work at our evangelism, seeing very little

fruit for our labours. To see one soul saved would be exciting - let alone a revival.

Maintaining a high level of faith is hard when we see so little response. A greater conscious effort is required to look at the things that are not seen: a sovereign God working according to a

gateway to our hearts, the citadel of our lives.

We must choose to repel them. God said to Joshua, 'Do not be discouraged'. Therefore he could have been discouraged. For David, losing all at Ziklag, it would have been so easy to sulk. But he chose to encourage himself in the Lord.

CT Studd wrote condemningly about Meroz Choclates - those who in the heat of battle alongside Deborah melted in the onslaught. It is easy to give in.

Aged Simeon in the temple awaiting the consolation of Israel could so easily have retired. But no, for years he was in the right place at the right time, always prepared for his magnificent moment. Probably encouraged by the equally ancient prophetess Anna, Simeon was content to wait. Waiting is wearing.

There seem to be two views on revival's coming. Charles Finney says that a revival may be expected whenever Christians are found willing to make the sacrifices necessary. On the other hand, Dr Martyn Lloyd Jones would say that revival will come when God wants it - regardless of what we do.

Speaking at Grapevine, Ground Level leader Stuart Bell neatly captured both aspects in his talks on the favour of God vis a vis our fervour. We in Horncastle have taken up a position of faith, waiting and working - hedging our bets!

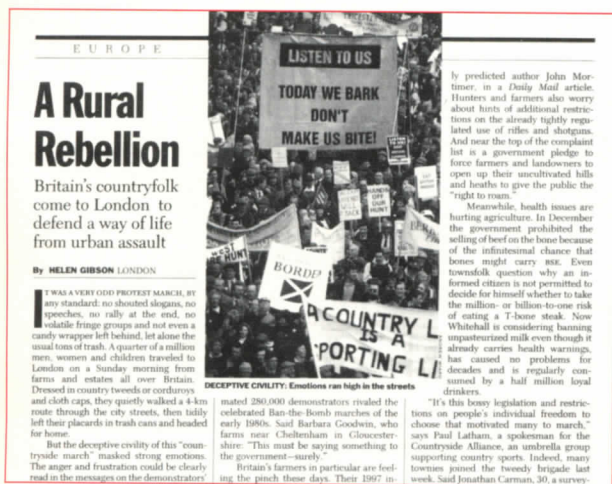
We pray, fast, write local newspaper articles, do school assemblies, door-to-door work and have special services, etc. We try to let patience have her perfect work of producing 'experience', that is, the approval of God.

While we wait for revival, in our areas the approval of God is surely an adequate encouragement. Faithfulness is required of stewards. But that's all that is required, the apostle Paul says.

A Negro spiritual put it this way - 'When He comes, When He comes, He'll find me hoeing cotton when He comes' - just faithfully working at the job in hand waiting for God to move. So we actively wait for one of the 'suddenlies' some of us heard about at a recent Ground Level conference.

However, there's no denying that rural areas have particular difficulties. The agricultural sector is largely untouched by the gospel partly because it is so disparate. Also, the outlook of people who've had several rural generations in their families is often, though by no means always, rather narrow and limited to their work and immediate family. Often the rural mind thinks of God in

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MEDIA MARCH:
Time's coverage of the
rural 'rebels' (see panel
on facing page)

fields ripe

A rallying cry from rural folk

Quietly and courteously, the corduroyed and cloth-capped crowd filled the streets of London bearing such angry slogans as 'Say No The Urban Jackboot' and 'Today We Bark - Don't Make Us Bite!' Britain's farms and estates must have been quite empty that day, as a quarter of a million people left their rural homes earlier this year to take part in the 'countryside march'.

Weighed down with such burdens as the sales ban of beef on the bone, proposals to allow city folk to walk across rural property, and planned measures against fox hunting, protesters had clearly had enough.

Their claim is that a whole way of life cherished for centuries is at stake, as urbanisation threatens to devour their land and livelihood. It was a powerful demonstration, widely covered by TV and print media.

There's a temptation for Christian activists to remain focused on the city - with its huge resource bases, big churches and lively evangelical scene. To townies, the countryside seems behind the times, lacking in numbers and facilities.

Go-ahead ministries may not enjoy a high profile out in 'the sticks' - though some brave pioneers have been working hard in such regions for years. But the city doesn't have the monopoly on challenges and opportunities. So-called 'inner city' problems are rife in rural areas, too.

Maybe we all ought to bear in mind the words of one placard carried through London on the countryside march. The appeal might as well be heard by the Church as much as by the Government. 'Listen To Us,' it said. - *Clive Price*

ALTHOUGH IN A RURAL AREA IT SEEMS UNIMAGINABLE TODAY, SOMEHOW HOPES ARE RAISED AS WE LISTEN TO REPORTS. FAITH AND ENTHUSIASM ARE INFECTIOUS

a sentimental, almost superstitious, way. Symbolic corn dollies might typify that attitude in a previous generation. Those have been associated with the local church and chapel at harvest festivals, and a syncretism of Mother Nature and Father God has emerged.

People live fairly uncomplicated and good lives. There is kindness and goodness - and apparently no need for God. Breaking into that mindset is difficult. We know the spiritual forces behind the apathy, what it is that has blinded their minds - the spirit that works in the children of disobedience (not 'of disbelief' please note).

There is a rebellion going on. And apathy is an expression of it. The human heart is the territory of the conflict.

How much we need the support of the wider church. An advantage of belonging to a network like Ground Level, in our case, is not only the support and inspiration we receive - but also the revival vision that rubs off.

Sometimes revival accounts have a depressing effect, especially on small churches. On the other hand, it's inspiring to think of our God breaking miraculously into our rural communities.

Although in a rural area it seems unimaginable today, somehow hopes are raised as we listen to reports. Faith and enthusiasm are infectious.

Where could be more rural than the Outer Hebrides?

Yet there, as some of us heard at Wembley Stadium last summer, people called on God for mercy out in the fields. They found the nearest church or home where prayer meetings were so vibrant that the buildings shook. Prayers and tears were the precursors of that outpouring, we heard.

However, according to AW Tozer, it is useless for large companies of believers to spend long hours begging God to send revival unless we intend to reform. Otherwise we may as well not pray, he says. Contrition is a feature of revival. Billy Graham has remarked that every revival has laid great emphasis on the holiness of God.

We must ask God help us look at the things which are not seen, to walk by faith and not by sight. One day in the hereafter things will be so wonderful that we won't be able to believe our eyes! Meanwhile we long and wait for God to visit our rural communities. What a day that will be when there's an awareness of God in Woolworth's - even in Horncastle! Applying the parody to our rural towns, then really there will be 'Glory to God in the High Street!'

John Lechler pastors a small rural church at Horncastle in the heart of Lincolnshire and is part of the Ground Level network of churches. He is married with a teenage son. A qualified proof reader, his background is in agricultural education and training. He has written for 'Renewal' magazine on the small church syndrome.

storming the heavens

How do spiritual warfare and revival fit together?

Carlos Annacondia illustrates the link - with a story from the Argentinean awakening...

SUPERNATURAL signs will follow those who respond to God's calling. God promises that. It's important, however, to remember that each sign is exercised through authority, which in turn receives its boost from faith. God bestows upon Christians a spiritual authority that we need to put into action.

Since the Creation, God delegated authority over the earth to men and positioned him as the crown of all Creation. The Book of Genesis tells us that God created male and female in his own image.

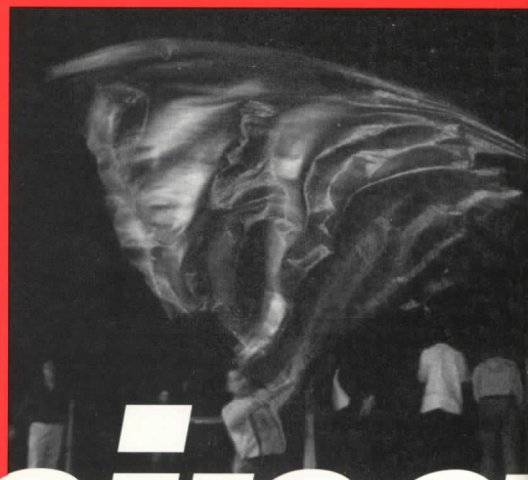
He ordered them to be fruitful and to increase in numbers, telling them to subdue the earth and to rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground (Genesis 1:27-28).

The word subdue means 'to bring into subjection, under control, to conquer by force or by superior power'. Now the word rule means 'to control or direct, to exercise authority or power over, to play dominant role in or exert a controlling influence over, and to hold pre-eminence in (as by ability, strength, or position)'.

From those definitions we can interpret these words to express power. They delineate the real dominance and authority over every living creature that was given by God to man.

But that rule was lost when man sinned. Satan took away man's authority and became the ruler of the earth. Man lost the title deed to his authority when Satan snatched it out of his hands.

And yet, when Jesus died on the cross, he not only redeemed us, but also



removed the barrier that separated us from him, giving us the possibility of becoming children of God. In so doing, he took authority away from the devil and automatically put it back into our hands.

I guarantee you that we have authority proceeding from God, and through faith in him we can take anything away from the devil. Just believe that we are the real heirs and co-heirs with Christ in the kingdom of heaven. Our Father is the owner. He has the title deed to this earth.

When we assume our rights by faith, we are equipped to exercise authority over all the demonic powers of this world. If Satan is controlling a person or situation, we have the power to cast him out, since we have recovered all divine authority through the power of the cross of Jesus Christ.

A clear example of that can be seen in what happened to us in Argentina when we began our crusades. At that time, we were not allowed to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ on the radio or television.

In 1992, when we, together with 80 local churches, held a big crusade in a northern province, we asked several radio and television stations to sell us air time so we could broadcast our services live. They wanted a lot of money for that service - since a few days before in that same city, there had been an important political function and the radio stations had been unable to get as much money as they wanted.

We also had problems with the site we had chosen for setting up our tent. The authorities did not want to give us the plot of land - even though they had lent it to circuses and to anybody who would request it for other purposes than ours. But that didn't stop us either.

God was continuing to work in the situation. A brother gave us a field he owned in the outskirts of the city. The only inconvenience was the lack of transportation to that site. There was only one occasional bus, and that worried us.

How were the people going to come to the crusade every night?

The days prior to the crusade were difficult ones. The team was discouraged. We decided to declare spiritual warfare, and we rebuked the devil, saying, 'Satan, move back. We bind you in the name of Jesus. Let go of the means of communication. Go away, strong man;

you are defeated'.

We prayed for several days. When the meetings began we could feel strong support coming from God. During one of our times of intercession for the crusade, the Holy Spirit gave visions to different brothers of the strong man falling from his throne together with demonic structures.

One morning, God told me, 'You have to transmit this crusade simultaneously by radio and television'. I knew God was giving radio and television time to us. The strong man was defeated. I spoke with our team co-ordinator, Brother Tito Meda, and told him to buy the radio and television air time that was needed.

There the surprise began. The media executives accepted our proposal to pay only 30 per cent of the value they had proposed at the beginning. The FM radio station broadcast the crusade at no cost. On Saturday, more than ten different radio and television stations broadcast the service.

But there was more. One evening, five minutes after the beginning of the broadcast, the television channels we had not contracted had a technical problem and had to discontinue their regular programs. The only thing the entire city could watch that night was our crusade. Our Lord is wonderful!

We saw many people run to the platform to meet with God that night. Four young men arrived at the place by car. They were in such a state of desperation that before they had heard the preaching on the radio, they had decided to commit suicide in the car. Thousands more came.

There were hundreds of incredible miracles happening. One of them was really awesome. A mother put her little Down's syndrome child in front of the television screen. As I was praying, she saw her son being healed and his facial features changing right before her eyes. Hundreds of teeth were filled with gold and platinum fillings. Several cancer patients got healed.

After that first broadcast, the crusade took off. No-one could understand how we got so much air time with so little money. But we knew why.

Through faith, we had taken hold of God's authority. As a result, the entire city was shaken under Jesus' power. We preached for 38 days in that place, and more than 30,000 people accepted Jesus.

Revival people

True-life stories from those who have attended Carlos Annacondia's crusades...

'Something inside didn't allow me to go up front so that Brother Annacondia could pray for me. But the last night of the crusade, I finally did. When they started to pray for me, I started to shake uncontrollably. The counsellors took me to the tent of deliverance, and there they continued to pray for me. I had to renounce many things that were in my heart, including hatred and bitterness. The devil had me in such bondage that I was in complete torment. When I decided in my heart to be free, however, the Lord brought change right away' - **Maria**

'My family took me to Brother Annacondia's crusade in Buenos Aires. When Brother Annacondia started to pray and rebuke demons, I fell to the ground. They immediately carried me to the tent of deliverance. I was kicking, biting, and hitting the stretcher-bearers. At the second night's meeting, they took me back to the tent to pray for me again...I was finally set free' - **Patricia**

'I went to the patio, knelt down, and cried, "Jesus, if you really exist, help me. I just can't go on like this. If you are real, I'm now giving my life to you." Suddenly, fire from heaven engulfed me, I opened my eyes and could see, my back straightened, and my legs were healed. But that's not all; the miracles continued. God set me free from homosexuality and transvestism. Now I go regularly to church and preach the gospel of Jesus Christ' - **Juan**

'Brother Annacondia came to pray for me. He took my hands, and looking at me he said, "If there is no forgiveness and peace in your heart, nothing will help you." I felt that Jesus was there. Right away I understood that in order to bring my suffering to an end and receive freedom I had to forgive my husband. I did, and I was healed immediately. The paralysis disappeared, the haemorrhages stopped, my spine became straight, and all my organs started to function normally again' - **Beatriz**

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A pastor from the province of Jujuy had a doctor at his church who would buy him an airplane ticket to Buenos Aires every month so that he could attend classes at the Bible seminary.

On the plane, the flight attendant would ask him if he wanted to buy a soft drink. But because he had no money he would always respond, 'No, thanks'.

After many trips, he finally graduated from seminary. As an award for his achievements, he received some money. That day, as he got on the plane for his return home, he was anxiously waiting for the flight attendant to offer him something to eat or drink. This time he accepted her offering.

Right before the landing, the pastor called the flight attendant and asked her how much he owed her for the exquisite food and drinks she had brought him. She, with a big smile, said, 'Nothing, of course. Everything is included in the airfare'.

The pastor was astonished! He'd never been able to enjoy anything because he didn't know it was free. The same happens with the Church. Because of our ignorance, we do not enjoy the benefits that God offers his children.

In a vision, a man dressed in linen told Daniel not to be afraid, that since the first day he had set his mind to gain understanding and to humble himself before his God, his words had been heard.

But something happened to this man as he was carrying God's answer to Daniel. He

encountered resistance, and for 21 days a fierce spiritual battle was fought in the air (Daniel 10:12f13).

What the angel meant when he used the words 'to gain understanding' is that faith can also be interpreted. When I read the Bible, I analyse what it teaches me through faith - even when my ideas and prejudices come in between and try to limit it.

That happens to many people. People with scientific knowledge, for example, possess ideas that are difficult to dismantle when the time comes to accept things by faith. In churches, some preconceived ideas simply stop the growth of the church. Only the Holy Spirit can, in a supernatural way, tear down those ideas and prejudices.

When we don't possess those kinds of preconceived ideas, we have easier access to the spiritual realm. A clear example is the simple faith of children. Jesus said that unless we become like children, we will never enter the kingdom of heaven

(Matthew 18:3).

Children accept and believe with total innocence. They don't have preconceived ideas. On the contrary, they receive and accept by faith whatever their parents or elders tell them.

In the book of Luke we read that Jesus rejoiced over the fact that his Father had hidden the things of the Spirit from the wise and learned - and revealed them to little children (Luke 10:21).

Although many try to understand God through their intellects, we can only know him by faith. We will find people that will say the things of God are pure 'madness' and those who believe the Good News are 'fools'. God saves us by faith and not because of our understanding.

Let's be like children in the way we believe.

According to C Peter Wagner of Fuller Theological Seminary, Carlos Annacondia is the most visible and most widely recognised apostle of the Argentine Revival - which is now completing its 15th year. The consensus is that the revival was sparked when Carlos Annacondia began his public evangelistic ministry in 1982. This article is taken from Annacondia's 'Listen To Me, Satan!' - which Wagner believes may be regarded by future historians as one of the most important, if not the most important, book of the revival literature of the 1990s. 'Listen To Me, Satan!' is published in 1998 by Creation House, Strang Communications, 600 Rinehart Road, Lake Mary, Florida 32746 USA (pages 31-34, used by permission).

standing in the fire



There's a price to pay when you cry 'revival'. Critics have been targeting Gerald Coates for championing the cause. Compass presents his responses to charges of unfulfilled prophecy - among others

JUST as Tony Blair's New Labour have celebrated 12 months in office, Pioneer People, their friends and associates look back on nearly a year of 'Sowing The Seeds Of Revival' at the Emmanuel Centre. It's been another 'new dawn' over Westminster. However, amid the positive press coverage that has focused on the meetings (see spring 98 edition of Compass for a full report), severe criticism has also been levelled at the Marsham Street initiative and its leader Gerald Coates.

Some accusations were actually published by Jacob Prash in a booklet called 'An Open Invitation To Gerald Coates From A Pentecostal Preacher'. Coates responds to some of the most frequently asked questions...

IN THE LIGHT OF YOUR PROPHESYING THAT 'REVIVAL IS HERE, AND IS ON ITS WAY', WHERE ARE THE HUGE NUMBERS BEING SAVED?

Let's be clear. Britain is not in full blown revival. I don't know anyone who's saying that. But around 4,000 prisoners have made public confessions of faith in recent years. Between 16-20,000 gypsies have done the same. Around 500,000 have or are going through Alpha, a course which explains the gospel. An acquaintance of mine leads a church which has grown from 400 to 4,000 in less than ten years. And schools workers up and down the country tell me of a far greater openness amongst teachers and children to the gospel. Those are well documented facts. And we pray it is but a fresh wave of the gospel affecting every area of our culture.

YOU'RE SAID TO BE 'CHIEF AMONG THOSE' WHO EMBRACED A PROPHETIC PREDICTION THAT THE GREATEST REVIVAL WOULD HIT BRITAIN IN OCTOBER 1990.

I don't know what was prophesied, who prophesied it or where it was prophesied. I wasn't present when any such prophecy was given. I haven't seen it in print and I haven't heard it on tape. Neither was I present at the meetings which I believe were in Docklands East London when all of this was supposed to have taken place. Not only was I not 'chief' - I wasn't even there.

IN AN INTERVIEW YOU GAVE TO THE MAGAZINE 'JOY', YOU TALKED OF THE 'INSUFFICIENCY' OF SCRIPTURE.

I am an evangelical. I believe 'scripture is sufficient for teaching, correction, reproof, training in righteousness, that we may be adequately equipped for every good work' - as it says in 2 Timothy 3:16-17. Both our doctrine and behaviour must be tested by scripture.



But scripture doesn't tell me who to marry, how many children to have, where to live, where to go on holiday, what I can dress in, where I send my children to school, what job I should do, what to eat and drink.

It doesn't tell me what church I should belong to, how to design and plant out my garden, which car to drive, which meetings to speak at and who I should have in my inner circle of friends.

That's not what scripture is for. In that sense it's 'insufficient' to do such a job. That's why we need the Holy Spirit, leadership, wise counsellors and friends.

The brilliant conservative evangelical Roy Clements, is deeply concerned that the teaching of scripture in many circles has become merely academic and that much of it is done without the Holy Spirit.

The Trinity is not Father, Son and holy scripture. We have elevated a book, (one that God ensured was written and has preserved for us) - to a god itself - especially our interpretation of scripture.

AND WHAT ABOUT THE MUCH PUBLICISED NEW ZEALAND EARTHQUAKE THAT NEVER TOOK PLACE?

I was in New Zealand in 1990. I stayed overnight by a lake. The singer-songwriter Noel Richards and the rest of the party went off for breakfast, but I felt that I should remain in the motel room. I'm not saying there was anything spiritual about that I don't remember.

I sat on the bed and opened up the scriptures. I turned to Amos, a book I have never preached from or given much attention to. I read the first verse of the first chapter 'The words of Amos, one of the Shepherds of Tekoa - what he saw concerning Israel two years before the earthquake'.

Suddenly convulsions came upon me. I threw myself on the bed and wept and wept. That was completely unexpected. After a while I washed my hands and face, pulled myself back

together again and welcomed the party back from breakfast.

We travelled throughout New Zealand for several more days. Other than sharing my experience with Noel, I didn't speak of it publicly throughout the rest of the trip.

On the final night we were watching television in the home of Dave and Dale Garrett when instructions came on regarding what to do in an earthquake. Nonchalantly I asked if they had this regularly, and was told it wasn't a frequent occurrence. There hadn't been a major earthquake with significant loss of life for over 50 years.

One person explained there were fears of a major earthquake around Lake Taupo. I asked Noel Richards the name of the lake where we were staying. He said, 'Taupo'. The same convulsions overcame me - much to the astonishment and embarrassment of those sitting in the room.

So that night I felt I should share my experience with a small group of leaders. It was an emotional and demanding night for us all. I laid it before them to judge and weigh. To refer back to a former question, scripture is not going to help us here scripture doesn't tell us whether Taupo is going to have an earthquake or not!

Well, two years went by and I had a message from a Christian leader who knew about the prophecy, to tell me that the authorities were monitoring a flurry of volcanic activity. The Red Cross and the police had been alerted and they feared that this would be 'the big one'.

I don't know how that prophecy got out. I thought it was confidential. I certainly kept it confidential. It was a difficult time for me. If I prayed that God would fulfil his word, millions of tons of water would erupt out of Lake Taupo - completely devastating every city, town and village in its path. But if I prayed that God would be merciful, I would be called a false prophet.

Yet along with hundreds up and down Lake Taupo, I prayed for the mercy of God. After a while the volcanic flurry diminished and ceased, and the alert was called off. Those are the facts as known to the authorities - who hadn't heard of my prophecy - and to Christians up and down Lake Taupo. People can draw their own conclusions.

YOU HAVE BEEN A GREAT CHAMPION FOR PENSACOLA. BUT THE BROWNSVILLE ASSEMBLY LEADERS HAVE RECENTLY COME UNDER ATTACK, TOO.

The Brownsville revival which started in the summer of 1995 has seen over 100,000 first-time decisions for Christ and over 300,000 re-dedications of people getting right with God.

I spent a week there. Thousands will tell you what a life-changing experience it is. Repentance is preached to the point of legalism on occasion, as is the cross and the blood of Christ.

They have had major TV documentaries covering them across the USA, and positive feature articles in *The New York Times* and the *Washington Post* - among others.

Then a little local newspaper published a feature on them every day for five days - criticising just about everything you could care to think of.

The Brownsville church published a 47-point rebuttal, pointing out major inaccuracies about Steve Hill, finances and past events. 'The Cross And The Switchblade' author David Wilkerson felt strongly about accusations that Steve Hill had allegedly lied about his past life of drugs and crime. He spoke out for Steve - despite being anti-Toronto. As Lindell Cooley said to me, 'without Toronto there wouldn't have been a Pensacola'.

CLEARLY, CRITICISMS HAVE BEEN TARGETED NOT ONLY AT YOU - BUT ALSO AT OTHERS PROMOTING REVIVAL. DO YOU HAVE ANY FURTHER COMMENTS?

Attacks are often based on rumour. I don't recall being interviewed by Jacob Prasch for my side of the story - nor by some of the other critics who've supposedly investigated the work in which I am involved.

However, we have to admit it is a challenge that there are so many evangelicals - including charismatic evangelicals - and yet the country is still in a bad state.

It's up to each of us as individuals, local churches and networks to make Christ attractive and intelligible to those around us.

Without a massive outpouring of the Holy Spirit, I don't know what's going to happen to our children and our children's children. We should take note of the challenge and ask for God's help to ensure we are looking up and out to the Christless society around us.

Personally I'm asking God to help me live for Christ, expressed in revival, relationships and relevance. 🙏

How the Irish saved our souls

They were part of an incredible phenomenon in European history. They left crosses on high places and a well of spirituality deep in our culture. Clive Price looks at the early pioneers who evangelised these islands

THERE'S been a Christian witness at Tickmacrean on the beautiful and breathtaking Antrim coastline of Northern Ireland for 1,100 years. The name of the place means 'The House of MacCrean'. He was said to have been one of the disciples of Saint Patrick.

Unusually in the largely 'Protestant' environment of Irish Anglicanism, St Patrick's Church at Tickmacrean contains a mixture of religious symbols - from a Celtic cross to what looks like a Sacred Heart. It stands at the edge of the island, looking out over the Irish Sea.

Patrick was a Romano-Briton by origin. At age 16 he crossed that sea when he was taken captive to Ireland - in what must have been like his own 'Joseph' experience - around the year 405. Escaping after six years, he pursued his education at monasteries on the Continent.

In about 432, he was compelled by a prophetic dream to return to his place of slavery. But this time he brought with him the raw power of the gospel. And with his companions, Patrick established the Christian Church throughout Ireland. He travelled throughout the country preaching, teaching, building churches, opening schools and monasteries, converting chiefs and bards. He was the first organiser of the Irish church, and fully deserves the title of 'Apostle of Ireland'.

How did he make such an impact on a pagan culture? A key element to Patrick's missionary success was that he abandoned his roots and identified himself completely with the people group he was reaching. He 'became' Irish.

And in his wake came generations of Irish monks - pioneer evangelists - restless with the gospel and burning with a holy fire to serve their Creator and Redeemer God. With high ideals - and what we would call today a 'holistic

spirituality' - they dedicated themselves to prayer and work. Many gave hospitality to

the poor and sick. Some taught the faith and trained others in the ways they had learned. Others left their homes and monasteries to take the kingdom of God beyond the Irish shores.

Saints such as Piran sailed south towards Cornwall and Brittany - he's since been venerated as the patron saint of miners, and Perranporth preserves his name. Brendan voyaged west into uncharted seas - possibly discovering America long before Christopher Columbus. Columba went north-east to Scotland, and established a major mission base on the small island of Iona.

To this day, people from all over the world travel thousands of miles to visit Columba's earthly home. While it may be seen as a beautiful place for meditation and contemplation now, 1,400 years ago it was the most potent factor in the conversion of Picts, Scots and the Northern English.

Columba could be said to be the true patron saint of Scotland, and one of the founding fathers of the modern Scottish nation. As his biographer and successor Adamnan wrote, 'He had the face of an angel; he was of excellent nature, polished in speech, holy in deed, great in counsel...loving unto all'.

He seemed to have moved in an atmosphere of miracles. In his study *'Columba'* (Chambers 1992), the academic Ian Finlay chooses to doubt some of the signs and wonders traditionally associated with the saint - such as raising people from the dead. Yet he admits it would be 'foolish' to dismiss all the accounts of miracles during Columba's ministry - especially as there is 'abundant evidence' of healings happening today.

'Columba must have been a man endowed with immense authority and personal magnetism,' he adds, 'and I would certainly accept he had the ability to heal by faith and prayer, the more so since he was among men and women who would never doubt his power.'

Finlay believes Columba to have been 'a supremely remarkable man, a man so remarkable that no-one for centuries could speak or write of him in any but extravagant terms'.

From Iona, the Irish monk Aidan was sent to evangelise northern England. He set up another strategic base at Lindisfarne, a tidal island off the north-east coast. It was to become the cradle of Christianity, and Aidan was later recognised as the 'Apostle of England'.

Aidan's ministry is significant not so much for what he did, claims Michael Mitton, but more for the kind of person he was - and for the kind of Christian spirituality and witness he modelled - 'which was to deeply impress the British people and would affect the Celtic church in England for several generations' (*'Restoring The Woven Cord'*, Darton Longman & Todd, 1995).

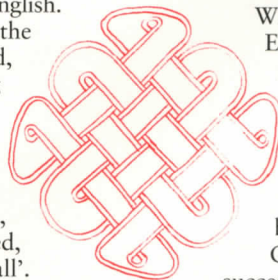
Spurning worldly possessions, Aidan loved to give away to the poor. Mainly travelling on foot, he shared his faith with whoever he met along the way. His training centre at Lindisfarne became one of the most effective mission bases England has ever seen.

When the Dark Ages descended on Europe in the fifth century, it was in Ireland - this 'island of saints and scholars' - that the continent's religious and classical heritage was preserved. American author Thomas Cahill wrote a bestselling book about it.

Cahill's study was a phenomenal success. It's regarded by some as a masterpiece. In his entertaining way, he explained how from the fall of Rome to the rise of Charlemagne, scholarship and culture disappeared from the European continent.

Amid the onslaught of marauding tribes, the intellectual and spiritual treasure trove of western civilisation - from Greek and Roman classics to Jewish and Christian works - could have been lost forever. That is, if it hadn't have been for the holy men and women of Ireland.

Out there on the edge of Europe, tucked away from the barbarian chaos, monks and scribes lovingly preserved the West's written treasury. Much of their handiwork





**THE IRISH NOT ONLY
WERE THE GATEKEEPERS
OF CIVILISATION, BUT ALSO
BECAME SHAPERS OF THE
MEDIEVAL MIND**

PHOTOS: Clive Price

is on display at Trinity College in Dublin - including the illuminated gospels, the Book Of Kells - described as the greatest treasure of the western world. Later, as the European scene returned to some stability, those Irish scholars played a key role in spreading learning.

So the Irish not only were the gatekeepers of civilisation, but also became shapers of the medieval mind. To this day, culture continues to be affected by Irish visionaries. Cahill called his book, *'How The Irish Saved Civilisation'* (Sceptre, 1995).

It's required reading for anyone interested in Irish history and culture. Some would say it's a big claim to make. But does the title go far enough?

With their willingness to follow the Wild

Goose, the Holy Spirit, the Irish saints surely helped to save far more than our libraries. If it wasn't for their openness to the fire of God, our ancestors might not have been rescued from the curse of their pagan past.

'All in all it has to be said that the Celts were the main evangelists of England,' John Finney writes in his book *'Recovering The Past'* (Darton Longman & Todd, 1996). And the Irish monks 'seem to have been everywhere - a Celtic cross there, a church named after a Celtic saint there, an echo of Irish practice somewhere else'.

In these days of great expectation and anticipation of what God can do, much has been made of references to revivals of the past few hundred years. Yet 1,400 years

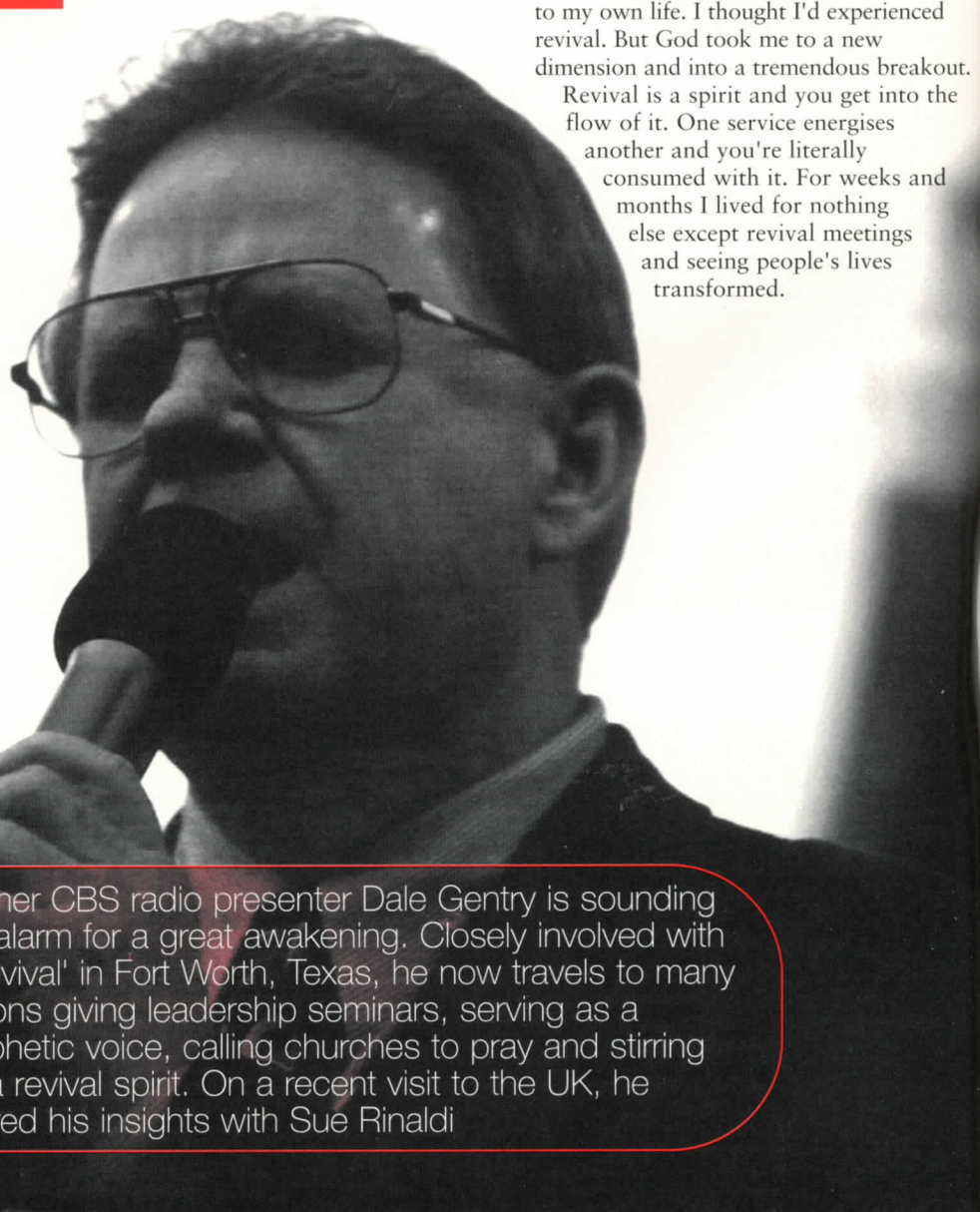
ago, holy fire swept across these islands - impacting the home of cruel pagan gods, druids, head-hunters and human sacrifice. Such was their impact, Ian Finlay notes, 'The Age of Saints is an almost incomprehensible phenomenon in European history'.

Many of those who carried the torch were Irish. They were the keepers of the flame. They were the ones who often left noble birthrights and privileges to brave the elements and bring their life-giving message to an 'obstinate, barbarous people', the English. They were the ones who saved our souls.

Clive Price is Consultant Editor of 'Compass' and UK Correspondent for the US-based 'Charisma' magazine.

Dale's

new wake-up call



WHAT SIGNIFICANT STAGES HAVE YOU BEEN THROUGH IN YOUR LIFE?

I was working for a CBS affiliate. One morning I remember crying out, 'Lord what can you do for me?' And he said, 'Give me the first hour of your day and I will change your life'.

I had to be at the radio station at 3.30 every morning. That meant I had to get up at two! It literally changed my life. In the same year, God called me to preach. So my wife Jean and I sold everything we had, and in March 1967 took the radical step of going into full-time ministry.

For the next 17 years I led three different congregations. In 1985 Jean and I started travelling. God said I would be involved in protracted meetings - and since 1990 we've done that. We've just completed a three-year revival at a church in Fort Worth, Texas.

WHAT'S YOUR EXPERIENCE OF REVIVAL IN THE STATES?

When I began to preach and lead the revival in Fort Worth, Texas, there came a reviving to my own life. I thought I'd experienced revival. But God took me to a new dimension and into a tremendous breakout.

Revival is a spirit and you get into the flow of it. One service energises another and you're literally consumed with it. For weeks and months I lived for nothing else except revival meetings and seeing people's lives transformed.



Former CBS radio presenter Dale Gentry is sounding the alarm for a great awakening. Closely involved with a 'revival' in Fort Worth, Texas, he now travels to many nations giving leadership seminars, serving as a prophetic voice, calling churches to pray and stirring up a revival spirit. On a recent visit to the UK, he shared his insights with Sue Rinaldi

IN ALL THE PLACES WHERE REVIVAL IS BREAKING OUT, ARE THERE ANY SIMILAR HALLMARKS?

Revival comes as a result of prayer. The church leader in Pensacola cried out for revival for a long time and the sound attracted God. Many people attract revival and then in a week or two it's over - they don't have the faith for revival.

The hallmarks are prayer and faith. Revival is more than renewal - it is a spiritual awakening where God literally wakes up a city, a county or a nation.

ARE WE IN DANGER OF INSTITUTIONALISING REVIVAL BY BEING TEMPTED TO FOLLOW A FORMULA?

It's a major danger. Revival comes in different forms and shapes. Although they may contain the same ingredients, how those ingredients are put together can differ.

The tragedy of so many churches in America is they see a certain dynamic and feel it must happen in their church in exactly the same way. Major disappointment occurs when it doesn't happen like that. If we try and formulate revival, we will eventually kill it.

HOW CAN THIS REVIVAL DYNAMIC IMPACT THE WIDER SOCIETY?

Our example goes back to Acts chapter two. Revival came to the geographical location of the upper room but didn't stay there. It was taken to the streets of Jerusalem, then through the land and eventually throughout the world. The key to revival is that we give revival away - otherwise it will become introverted and die. Revival is not just to be taken to other churches, but to the marketplace.

PEOPLE SEE YOU AS A REVIVALIST AND ASSUME THAT IS 'THE' MODEL. ARE THERE DIFFERENT MODELS?

There are different models of revivalists. I am a congregational revivalist. I stir up and transport revival from one place to another. It's all to do with the sound you make.

The revival sound is developed in your prayer life and amid an active revival. The sound is simply that there is an anointing on you, a confidence and an authority - those are revival ingredients. You can then take that to commerce, the media, business or schools.

WHAT DO YOU SEE WHEN YOU LOOK AT THE UNITED KINGDOM?

I have prophesied for a number of years that the United Kingdom, particularly England, will be the major launching pad for world harvest. I saw the whole world focused on the memorial service for Princess Diana and I heard the Holy Spirit saying that in days to come, the same focus will be upon England concerning revival. I've heard the Holy Spirit say that 1998 is the year of revival in England - the year of the great breakout. I've been

prophesying since 1990/1991 that great revival is coming to England - 1994 to 1997 were years of the break-through but we are now transitioning to the year of the break-out with no limitations.

WHEN YOU SAY ENGLAND DO YOU MEAN ENGLAND OR THE UNITED KINGDOM?

I know this may offend people, but the word I keep getting is for England. Other people may want to interpret what I'm saying to apply to the United Kingdom, but I keep hearing England.

I believe it will spread, and I've been prophesying for a number of years that a tremendous revival is coming to Germany. Germany is a strategic place. God is going to connect England and Germany together to do great exploits.

YOU OFTEN MENTION THE PHRASE 'ELEVENTH HOUR WORKERS'. WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

In 1989, God gave me a vision of people rising up to do great exploits for God. As I read Matthew 20, I realised God was about to raise up an army of eleventh hour workers that have not borne the heat or burden of the day but are coming out of obscurity like David, to slay the giants.

We are going to have such a massive influx of people coming to know Jesus that there will be a lack of workers. The cry of our Lord Jesus was that the harvest is plenty but the labourers are few.

The prophetic word for 1998, 1999, 2000 is to pray for labourers. So we all need to be praying they will stand up, go into the harvest field and gather the harvest.

HOW DO WE TRAIN THOSE WORKERS?

Proper calling, proper preparation and proper sending. God is going to give us new revelation on how to train those eleventh hour workers. What used to take six years will now take six months. What took six months will now take six weeks. What took six weeks will now take six days. If they fall down, we bring them back and train them some more before sending them out again.

ARE THESE ELEVENTH HOUR WORKERS PRIMARILY YOUTH?

Two things must happen in England for the harvest to be gathered. There must be an emphasis on ingathering young people and there must be a release of women. Without those two ingredients, we won't be ready for the harvest.

When I saw young people in my spirit, they were mainly 14 to 24. Youth is energy. They have less responsibility and greater faith. They are more radical and less cautious - and can be released more quickly.

WESTERN SOCIETY HOLDS A FASCINATION WITH YOUTH. COULD AN OVER EMPHASIS ON YOUTH BE INTERPRETED AS AGEISM?

Look at the prophecy that Joel gave

concerning the last days. The promise was first to our sons and daughters. So it's a biblical principle that we cannot deny. I do not believe that excludes anyone - but I believe the emphasis must be upon the young people because we can mobilise them more quickly.

WHY IS THE RELEASE OF WOMEN SO IMPORTANT AND HAVE YOU SEEN ANY PROGRESS?

I see greater faith but I don't really see a greater improvement. There's going to have to be some pioneering women who break the mould.

I've discovered over my 31 years of full-time ministry that most women have a deeper prayer life. I know I'm getting way out on a limb here, but most of the time women have more faith than men for the things of God.

Satan has brought a major attack against women to confine them and God wants a breakout. We've allowed deception to come in and say that women cannot be released to preach or minister. That was never the teaching of Jesus. There will be a hundred-fold return - but it's going to be with much persecution.

WHAT DO YOU SEE HAPPENING AMONG CHILDREN?

In South America there are children leading revivals. I prophesied in Germany that 12, 13, 14 year-olds will be leading revival meetings with their parents accompanying and supporting them. In Canada, the revival has made a real impact upon the children.

I first had an encounter with God when I was five, and at nine I knew God had a call on my life. Children won't be left out of this revival. They will play a major part.

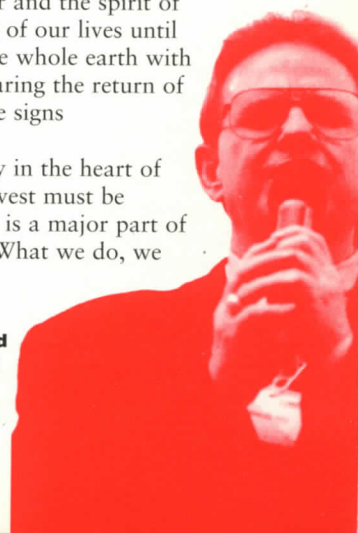
IS THERE ONE MAIN THING YOU WOULD LIKE TO SAY AT THIS TIME?

Understand the times and seasons and be a part of whatever God is doing. Don't be an observer. God is sending revival throughout the whole earth. The Church must pray - corporately and individually - and as we pray, God will begin to show us what to do.

The spirit of prayer and the spirit of faith must take hold of our lives until God begins to fill the whole earth with his glory. We are nearing the return of Jesus. We can see the signs everywhere.

There is an urgency in the heart of God. The world harvest must be gathered and revival is a major part of that world harvest. What we do, we must do quickly.

Sue Rinaldi is a singer/songwriter and communicator based at Pioneer People. She co-ordinates the music reviews for Compass.



with sue rinaldi

soundbites

Our world overflows with colour and variety. Yet so often we feel under pressure to conform - to be the same, sound the same and look the same! There's often a dominant culture which anaesthetises our innovationary senses. So rather than celebrating diversity, we hide it away and become a slave to fashion or prevailing trend. George Bernard Shaw said that 'fashions, after all are induced epidemics'. Let's resist catching the bug. Instead, let's offer up our uniqueness and distinctiveness with delight.



INTIMACY

Matt Redman (Survivor Records)

Matt's latest offering contains songs that concentrate once again on the themes he's known for - songs about intimacy and the cross. As Matt draws near to God, he longs to inspire others to do the same.

It's a cocktail of styles - from the upbeat 'Let Everything That Has Breath' and 'Hear The Music Of My Heart' to the reflective 'Intimacy' and 'What I Have Vowed'.

A Zulu choir, the Psalm Drummers, Martin Smith and Stuart Garrard from Delirious?, Chris Eaton, Zarc Porter from the Worldwide Message Tribe - plus many other known artists - join Matt on this venture.

The finished product has a great sound. At times however, the tracks coupled with Matt's vocal style sound remarkably Delirious?. 'Now To Live The Life' is an example. And when Martin Smith joins him on 'When The Music Fades' - only the faithful will tell them apart. **SR**



FALLING FORWARD

Margaret Becker (Sparrow Records)

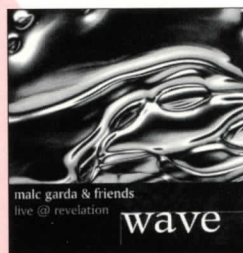
In this age of girls with guitars, Margaret Becker is a dynamic role-model. Her latest album not only features her guitar skills but also the fact that she recorded her vocals while playing guitar 'live' in the studio. That's brave!

The sound is intentionally raw.

But it's her voice that stuns you - powerful, emotive and vulnerable. Her songwriting is honest.

In describing 'Falling Forward' she says, 'This is not an album for people looking for a cheerleader, or for people looking for dogma...it's a picture of passionate pursuit of Christ. It's about a person who is old enough to have faced struggles and overcome them'.

Margaret has enjoyed a long career with many albums to her name. But this one definitely exhibits her strengths. **SR**



WAVE - LIVE@REVELATION

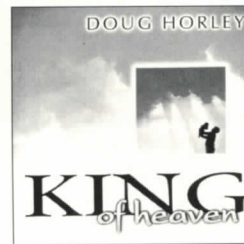
(Sound Impression - Revelation Church, PO Box 58, Chichester)

When Malc Garda, a worship leader at Revelation Church Chichester, visits other places, he's often asked to describe the music at Revelation. This is his response.

'Wave' represents the many styles that make up the collective. It features well known songs like 'They That Wait' and 'History Maker' and cover versions of popular songs like Paul Weller's 'You Do Something To Me' and Joan Osborne's 'One Of Us', alongside home-grown material written by Malc Garda, Fruit and Spontaneity. The Celtic influence on Revelation is obvious.

With live recordings, you often have to be there to fully appreciate them. But if you surf this wave, you'll appreciate the diversity and creativity. Most of all you'll catch

something of the heart of Revelation. **SR**



KING OF HEAVEN

Doug Horley (Kingsway)

Doug Horley is well known for being 'Duggiedugdug' as he travels working with children and families, and for being the author of 'We Wanna See Jesus Lifted High'.

'King Of Heaven' contains a selection of songs ranging from 'Oi Oi, We Are Gonna Praise The Lord' which one imagines captivates the children, to a rap version of 'Hark The Herald Angels Sing' to the rhythmic 'Take It Out'.

The anthemic title track is a highlight, wonderfully sung by Vanessa Freeman who also helps with some of the songwriting. The album benefits from programming by Mark Edwards - a familiar name to all those who meticulously read album credits. **SR**



PERFECT TIME

Maire Brennan (Word Records)

Years before 'Riverdance', Irish band Clannad pioneered a Celtic sound in the popular arena. They took Gaelic songs to the English-

speaking masses. They delivered hereal tunes and haunting vocals a guitar-driven rock culture. And people loved them.

Now the 'voice of Clannad' herself, Maire Brennan, has come out with her most overtly spiritual recording. She's done solo albums before, but 'Perfect Time' is different in that it flows mainly in the Clannad vein - and it's directed at the Christian market.

Though Clannad's music itself has spiritual depth, it's good to hear Maire deal head-on with specifically Christian themes. In particular, 'The Light On The Hill' and 'Heal This Land' express her desire to see God move afresh in her native Ireland - just as he did in the days of Saint Patrick.

This is Maire's personal statement song. While it may lack the strength of some of the previous material she recorded with Clannad, it has a personal vulnerability and devotional content that will undoubtedly extend Maire's fan base. Some evangelicals may even be persuaded that they can listen to Celtic music without becoming liuids! **CP**



THE ELECTRICS

The Electrics (SaraBellum Records)

One of the most underrated and underestimated bands on the Christian scene is The Electrics. Frontman/songwriter Sam Horner is a seasoned pioneer in Celtic rock - combining traditional elements of Irish music with the drums, bass and guitar of rock and roll.

As the music drives along with pipes, whistles and lead guitar, The Electrics prove they have a similar spit-and-sawdust power as the Pogues. The added bonus is that this group are also energised by the Holy Spirit.

This latest recording is a compilation set of some of their popular numbers - reworked for their growing American audience and now available in the UK. But don't worry - Sam hasn't become a smoothie!

From 'The Blessing' to their interpretation of 'Irish Rover', the music is as raw and captivating as ever. And Sam hasn't changed. He's still the same - comical and inspiring. **CP**

music reviewers -
Sue Rinaldi, Clive Price

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CENTRESTAGE

Sue Rinaldi

She dares to push back boundaries. She dares to step into the mostly male Christian music arena. She dares to experiment with dance beats. And her new selection 'Promise Land' (Survivor Records) is another dare.

Sue Rinaldi's chosen themes reflect the signs of the times - the impact of Princess Diana's death (Promise Land); the discovery of self-worth and personal identity (Rich Girl); the universal cry for justice (Change This World); the yearning for spiritual revelation (Once I See); and the growing hunger for faith (Redemption Street).

Another reason why 'Promise Land' is so special is its timing. Just as Sue was putting the finishing touches to the recording, her mother died. Sue had only been writing the album dedication to her mother on the same day she passed away.

That personal loss brought a powerful new poignancy to the entire project. 'I remember listening to the title track at the time,' she says, 'and it took on a whole new meaning.'

Sue's own experience shows the song applies to other crises not just the death of Diana. 'We all experience immense tragedy,' she says. 'Can we in our deepest sorrow imagine that there is hope? All I can say is that we have to believe there is.'

Sue sampled success earlier in her career when she was part of the pop group Heartbeat. They pioneered contemporary worship and talked about God in a way people could understand.

Chart singles led them to 'Top Of The Pops' and other TV programmes - including the infamous DEF II appearance where she stood her ground amid volatile questioning.

A more recent highlight in Sue's career was her solo performance at Wembley Stadium as part of Noel Richards' mega-prayer meeting 'Champion Of The World'. Yet music is only part of her life.

Sue speaks, writes, broadcasts - and serves on advisory boards like Men, Women And God and Women In Mission. But perhaps her most unusual assignment came when she worked alongside a witch!

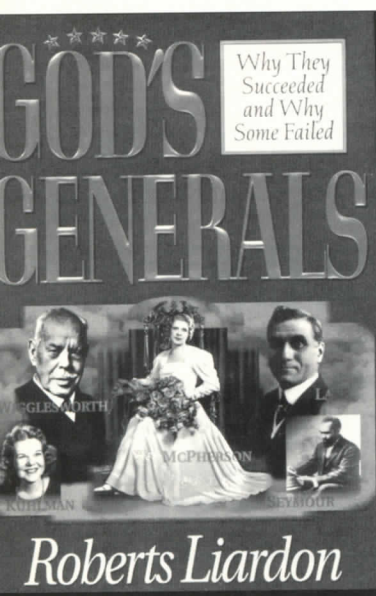
Radio 4 had asked her to review an occult film, 'The Craft'. The idea was for Sue to examine it from her Christian worldview, and a pagan witch to look at the movie from her perspective.

'We watched the film and had the interview afterwards,' Sue recalls. 'I enjoyed the challenge.' Then she and the witch went to a nearby pub where they talked for an hour-and-a-half about their different beliefs. 'She was a very spiritual woman,' says Sue. 'We agreed on quite a lot - but disagreed on the essentials.'

The most revealing thing was the witch's view that many who become involved with paganism have previously rejected Christianity because it appeared to be so male dominated. In paganism, there are priestesses as well as priests.

'So we had a big conversation about that,' says Sue. 'I can see how women feel alienated by the Church because it often portrays God as a male God, the language has a male bias and the hierarchy is predominantly male. Those are big issues.' **CP**

wordplay



GOD'S GENERALS **Roberts Liardon** (Albury Publishing)

For me, this is one of those I-can't-put-it-down kind of books. Roberts Liardon's well researched study outlines the lives of men and women who have moved in God's power in extraordinary ways.

He tells the story of people like Smith Wigglesworth, William Branham, Aimee Semple McPherson and Kathryn Kuhlman. There's no doubt that these people saw God's power released beyond what we are usually seeing in church circles today. The blind saw, the deaf heard, the lame walked - and even the dead were raised.

As I read the book, I was reminded of the account of Jesus healing the blind man near the pool of Siloam. Jesus used clay and spit. It seems that amid the miracles there was also frailty and humanity.

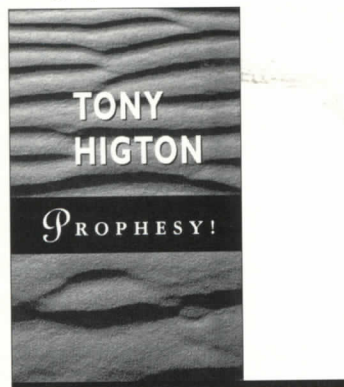
In fact this book shows the interesting blend of the Holy Spirit's power and gifts being released through weak humanity. The author doesn't hold back on frailties and mistakes of these 'generals' of faith. There are sad conclusions to some of their lives.

For instance, Evan Roberts - the great name associated with the Welsh revivals - loses his way in his latter years, often living as a recluse. William Branham moves away from his amazing prophetic ministry and tries his hand at teaching. The results make sad reading.

Others like Smith Wigglesworth

are shown to handle things well through their lives. For me, that showed that he understood the need to be connecting into church.

After reading the book I felt determined to look at the following three things: the need to be a team player; the need to be accountable; and the need to press into God and believe for more of God's power to be released and seen. A challenging read. Remember - it's spit, clay and glory. **SBell**



PROPHECY **Tony Higton** (Triangle)

Having seen Tony speak out on TV and read some of his material, I looked forward to reading this book in order to gain a picture of the man as he really is. In some ways I wasn't disappointed, as he takes the reader through the various campaigns in which he's been involved.

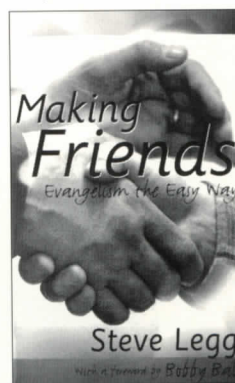
He writes of his background in rejection and fear and of a recent time of personal conviction from God on judgementalism and legalism. Perhaps I would've wished for more personal comments. But this is not a simple autobiography, rather it is a personal reflection on the battles he has fought over the past 25 years or so.

He highlights three key areas he has contended over: the undermining of credal belief, the toleration of sexual immorality and interfaith compromise. There are reflections on the nature of being a prophetic voice and pitfalls to avoid, along with Tony's personal comments as to why he remains in the Church of England.

The book would be an invaluable read particularly for those who are called to debate issues of faith at the public level. It should also be of

great interest to those who wish to understand more of Higton's burden and concerns. For those of us who aren't within the fold of the Church of England it will illuminate most helpfully the current state of play.

All in all I recommend this book - and salute the author as one who's sought to live out his faith in the public eye. **MS**

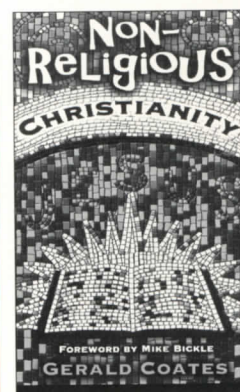


MAKING FRIENDS: EVANGELISM **THE EASY WAY** **Steve Legg** (Silverfish)

Legg describes 'Making Friends' as a 'little book that aims to make evangelism a little bit easier so we can all do a little bit more of it'. It's not the most ambitious publication ever written, but a short (under 100 pages), easy-to-read guide to the basics.

It does go over many things you may have heard before. There's nothing ground-breaking. However, 'Making Friends' doesn't try to turn you into the greatest evangelist ever - nor does it give you '101 Reasons Why You Should Feel Bad About Yourself If You Don't Evangelise That Much'.

It is a down-to-earth guide to being yourself while doing God's work, and a good one at that. **CD**



NON-RELIGIOUS CHRISTIANITY **Gerald Coates** (Revival Press)

If the Church's mission 'is to make Christ attractive and intelligible to those around us', then why do we obscure him with form, ritual, legalism and tradition that is socially and culturally irrelevant?

That's the question Gerald Coates puts to his readers.

Jesus Christ, he points out, was neither religious, irreligious, or anti-religious. He was 'non-religious' and confronted the 'deeply embedded religious tradition' of his day with the offer of life and liberty.

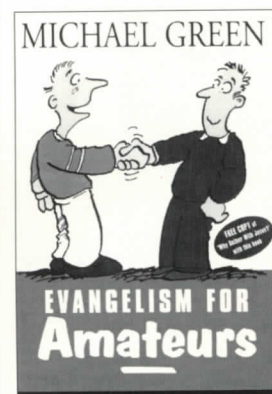
The reasons we have piled on this protective 'shell' of religion are various, it seems, but have much to do with a lack of biblical vision, says Coates. And all churches, not just the established church, are at risk from 'meaningless religion'.

Becoming non-religious is not an easy option. It demands personal sacrifice, patience and some boat-rocking.

Gerald Coates makes some pertinent observations in the early chapters. But sensitive readers be warned: there are some controversial remarks in there, too! In later chapters he was constructive and practical. 'Obstacles to non-religious Christianity' was particularly helpful.

The section covering the qualities of an effective leader should be essential reading for all 'key players' in every church.

SBarnard



EVANGELISM FOR AMATEURS **Michael Green** (Hodder & Stoughton)

Michael Green is one of the leading Anglican writers and thinkers. His book is aimed at people with a background in Anglicanism.

Readers of other traditions might not be switched on by such chapter headings as 'Not dominated by the clergy - owned by the laity'.

But all that should not detract from the fact that 'Evangelism for Amateurs' is fun, well-written and intelligent - with a particularly good emphasis on community involvement. **CD**

**Reviewers - Chris Dicken,
Stuart Bell, Sharon Barnard,
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mouth in gear, brain in neutral



I'VE travelled many miles and met many strange Christians. Some of them are on a mission from God to offend as many people as possible. They target speakers. And I've learned to spot them from a distance.

Waiting around long after the meeting has finished, they shift uncomfortably from one foot to another, biding their time, waiting their moment. They rarely look you in the eye, and frequently preface their verbal missile with a comment like, 'Now I want to speak the truth in love, brother...' Whenever someone tells me they are going to love me with the truth, I look around for the nearest nuclear shelter.

Some of them are just plain rude. Like the lady who came up to me after I'd preached and asked, 'Excuse me, have you ever had a stroke?' I affirmed that I had never to my knowledge suffered from such a debilitating event. I asked why she should venture such a question.

'Well, it's because, when you smile, only one side of your face goes up,' she said. I was desperate to tell her that I was just seriously ugly, and ask what excuse she had for her own facial arrangement. But instead I smiled and said, 'Er... God bless you' and hurried away.

I smiled and similarly blessed the man who asked me what it was like living in England during the Second World War. And the woman who asked me why I was wearing a hairstyle that looked like something out of the Texas Chainsaw Massacre. And the other man who just had to come and confess to me that he had hated, loathed and despised me for years, and just felt much better for getting it off his chest. I was so pleased for him.

But I want to present my own 'Mouth In Gear, Brain In Neutral' award to a chap I recently met in America. I flew out there to speak at a men's retreat. It was, as they say, quite a remarkable time. Thirty men made decisions to become Christians. Three hundred thousand dollars were pledged in giving to local churches and mission.

Malc Garda led worship that was raw and powerful. The anointing of God was tangible. Then, at the end of one of

the most amazing meetings of my life, a man marched purposefully across the room and sat down at my side.

I looked him up and down. He was smartly dressed and looked normal enough. But in the next few seconds, his words literally took my breath away.

'I...I have something to share with you that I don't really want to say...' he stammered, nervously.

I quickly looked around for a nuclear shelter. There was none. So I told him to say his piece. And he did.

'When you were speaking this morning Jeff, I noticed something terrible...you see...I saw a mark on your forehead...it was the mark of the beast.'

What do you say to man who wanders over for a friendly chat and quietly mentions that he believes you to be one of Satan's secret agents? I was dumbfounded. I didn't know whether to laugh, slap him or run my head through the nearest Visa machine.

'And what is that supposed to mean?' I ventured, hopelessly. 'I know what it means,' he replied solemnly. Noticing the bewilderment in my eyes he quickly added, 'But I love you brother...'

Oh goody! He tells me I've got a 666 bar code on my head and then wants to sing 'Bind Us Together' with the Antichrist.

I searched for words. But there were none. Looking back on it, I can laugh now. But right then it felt like a knife had been plunged between my ribs. I decided to put the 'God bless you' routine aside for once. I asked the man to go away. And he did.

I went on my way, wishing that Christians who are tempted to speak what they see as the truth in love might consider stopping, thinking, waiting a while, thinking again, praying, praying again, and then - perhaps - saying their piece. Or as the Bible says, 'Be slow to speak, quick to listen'.

Got something that you're just dying to say? Slow up a little. Life - and not death - will then be the result of your words. And if you own a portable nuclear shelter - would you consider a loan?

Jeff Lucas heads Pioneer's training programmes Equipped To Lead and Context. He is part of the oversight team at Revelation Church and has a broad teaching and preaching ministry nationally and overseas. He is Vice President of the Evangelical Alliance.

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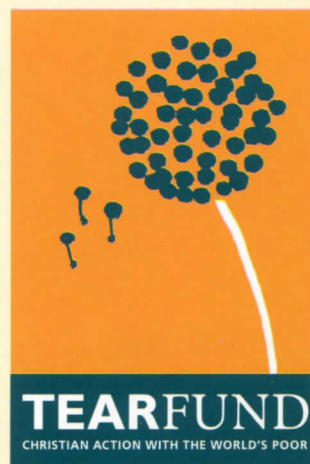
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