

Prayer for Transformational Revival in Health Care

Introduction to workshop

Our God is a great God. He is the Lord God Almighty who created the earth and the universe and all that is in it. He spoke a Word and created the Universe, the Earth and every living thing on the Earth. Yet in the midst of the great expanse of His creation – he made man in His image and woman to stand beside man so that he was not alone.

God desires our fellowship with Him. He created us for this purpose to love Him, adore Him, worship Him and to be with Him. He loves us with an unfailing love. He created each of us and knew us even in our mother's womb. How awesome!

The God of the whole Universe loves me and cares for me. He has a plan for my life – He has guided my footsteps – He is guiding my footsteps even now as I write this. He is here now with each one of us living IN us, in our hearts – loving, caring and longing for us to appreciate the love that He has for us – each of us.

We love You, Lord!

David wrote when he was in a dry place, the desert of Judah,

*"You, God, are my God,
earnestly I seek you;
I thirst for you,
my whole being longs for you,
in a dry and parched land
where there is no water." Ps 63:1-2*

David sensed the longing of God's heart for him even in that dry place and responded, *"my whole being longs for you"*. He longed for Him even more than for water, one of the essentials of life. My challenge ... our challenge is do we long for Him in the very depths of our heart in the midst of our problems, in the midst of pain, in the deserts and valleys of our lives and also but not just when we reach the mountain tops?

Do we long for His presence all the time? He longs for us.

David continued,

*"I have seen you in the sanctuary
and beheld your power and your glory.
Because your love is better than life,
my lips will glorify you.
I will praise you as long as I live,
and in your name I will lift up my hands.
I will be fully satisfied as with the richest of foods;
with singing lips my mouth will praise you.*

*On my bed I remember you;
I think of you through the watches of the night.
Because you are my help,
I sing in the shadow of your wings.
I cling to you;
your right hand upholds me." Ps 63:2-8*

David saw Him, he saw His power and glory and it changed him, transformed him.

We invite you to meet with the living Lord so that you can say with the psalmist,

*"Come and hear, all you who fear God;
let me tell you what he has done for me.*

*I cried out to him with my mouth;
his praise was on my tongue.
If I had cherished sin in my heart,
the Lord would not have listened;
but God has surely listened
and has heard my prayer.
Praise be to God,
who has not rejected my prayer
or withheld his love from me!" Ps 66:16-20*

Transformational Revival in Health Care

God is at work today transforming communities around the world in places such as Cali in Columbia, the Outer Hebrides in Scotland, Guatemala, Uganda, the Arctic Circle, Fiji and Vanuatu to name just a few. Duncan Campbell who was involved with the Revival in the Hebrides defined revival as, "a community saturated with God". That revival was one of the most powerful that has occurred anywhere in the world up until the current time.

In these communities, people are being saved, healed and delivered and societies are being transformed – even the environment is being healed in some places. However, we haven't yet seen Jesus presence impacting health care in the way we believe that He desires to do so.

"Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." Matt 19:26

In the last 10-12 years, there has been a lot of research done in communities who have experienced transformational revival such as those mentioned above. George Otis Jnr from the Sentinel Group www.glowtorch.org and Rev Dr Alistair Petrie from Partnership Ministries <http://www.partnershipministries.org> have extensively looked at societies, communities and even nations that have been so transformed by the Lord that there has been significant societal change. This has impacted the people and their environments and even led to the closing of hotels, brothels, prisons and significant reduction in addiction, crime and suicide rates.

Most revivals such as the Welsh revival only lasted for a few years but some, such as the Moravian Revival with Count Zinzendorf, which was properly stewarded, have continued for much longer periods and have had a lasting impact on society. Some are even continuing today.

Research has shown that there are some non-negotiable factors in each of the over 1,000 communities that have been studied around the world. These things have to be in place for God to visit a community. We will be sharing them with you in this workshop.

Rev Dr Alistair Petrie said, "This is a matter of faith – not triumphalism. There is, and will likely continue to be, gross spiritual darkness in the world. Our goal is not to make a new heaven and a new earth, but rather to create salty spots on the earth that stimulate a thirst for God. Like many salty appetizers, these temporal transformations point the way to a larger, more satisfying meal to come!"

Transformational revival prepares the way for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ in glory as Alistair has indicated above. We are not looking for 'perfection' but to invite the Lord to visit and bring Godly change to our workplaces and to health care to the maximum extent possible in this age.

Our Partnership with the Lord in Prayer

We are very aware that there have been many years of concerted prayer for revival in health care. God has heard our prayer and is looking for the non-negotiables to be in place so that he can respond in the way that He desires to do so.

Alistair Petrie and George Otis have observed that when communities began to invite the Lord fervently to visit them that it would take 2-3 years for that to happen. However, now ten years later, communities are seeing visitations of the Lord after only a few months of concerted prayer.

God has placed each one of us strategically in health care where He wants us to be salt and light, impacting our sphere of influence and creating 'salty spots' that will attract His presence. We all understand that God knows the bigger picture of His divine plan and has positioned each of us in that picture like a piece in a jigsaw puzzle. Just as in a jigsaw puzzle, we have to be in proper relational unity with those around us for the picture to be complete.

We each have a significant part to play in God's divine plan. We have to be properly aligned with Him and one another to measure up to His Divine plumbline. Alistair Petrie states it this way; we have to be, "vertically connected and horizontally accountable."

God's Divine plan places us strategically because He knows and understands the warfare that we face in this world.

Jesus said, *"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."* Jn 16:33

God sees us as overcomers in Him, as spiritual warriors,

"You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world." 1Jn 4:4

"In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God." 1Jn 5:3-5

One of the fathers of the modern prayer movement, E.M. Bounds wrote about fervency of prayer,

"God wants warm-hearted servants. The Holy Spirit comes as a fire, to dwell in us; we are to be baptized with the Holy Spirit and fire. Fervency is warmth of soul. A phlegmatic temperament is abhorrent to vital experience. If our faith doesn't set us on fire, it is because we have frozen hearts. God dwells in a flame; the Holy Spirit descends in fire. **To be absorbed in God's will, to be so greatly in earnest about doing it that our whole being takes fire, is the qualifying condition of the man who would engage in effectual prayer.**" E. M. Bounds, **"The Necessity of Prayer"**

http://christianbookshelf.org/bounds/the_necessity_of_prayer/v_prayer_and_fervency.htm

The questions that we have to ask ourselves are:

Are we so consumed by Him, so absorbed in His will?

Are we desperate enough?

Are we trying to bring revival about by our own effort?

"You wearied yourself by such going about, but you would not say, 'It is hopeless.'"

*You found renewal of your strength,
and so you did not faint." Is 57:10*

Have we come to the end of our own resources?

Are we prepared to trust Him implicitly?

Do we believe Him and His Word?

Are we transformed ourselves?

Are we ready for transformation of health care, can we cope with the changes?

These are questions that we need to ask ourselves sincerely but to help us do so I have included Duncan Campbell's description of what happened when the Holy Spirit fell in the Isle of Lewis, Outer Hebrides on men and women who consecrated themselves to Him and were obedient to what He revealed to them.

"To the praying men and women of Barvas, four things were made clear, and to them became governing principles. First, **they themselves must be rightly related to God**, and in this connection the reading of Psalm 24 at one of their prayer meetings brought them down in the presence of the Lord, where hearts were searched and vows renewed, and, in the words of one who was present, they gave to their lives the propulsion of a sacred vow, and with Hezekiah of old, found it in their hearts to "make a covenant with the Lord God of Israel." Happy the church and favoured the congregation that can produce such men and women. So prayer meetings were held in church and in cottage, and frequently the small hours of the morning found the parish minister and his faithful few pleading the promises; with a consciousness of God, and with a confidence in Him that caused them to hope in His Word.

In the second place, they were possessed of the conviction that **God, being a covenant-keeping God, must keep His covenant engagements**. Had He not promised to "pour water upon him that is thirsty and floods upon the dry ground"? Here was something that for them existed in the field of possibility; why were they not actually experiencing it? But they came at length to the place where, with one of old, they could cry,

"Our God ... is able ... and He will."

"Faith mighty faith the promise sees
And looks to God alone.
Laughs at impossibilities
And cries it shall be done."

Thirdly, **they must be prepared for God to work in His own way and not according to their programme** — God was sovereign and must act according to His sovereign purpose — but ever keeping in mind that, while God is sovereign in the affairs of men, His sovereignty does not relieve men of responsibility.

"God is the God of revival but man is the human agent through whom revival is possible."

Fourthly, there must be **a manifestation of God, demonstrating the reality of the Divine in operation, when men would be forced to say,**

"This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes."

It is therefore not surprising that in the month of December, 1949, God did visit the Parish church of Barvas with revival blessing that, in a very short time, leapt the bounds of the parish, bringing refreshing and spiritual life to many all over the island."

Duncan Campbell, "The Lewis Awakening", 1949-1953, p15-16

http://www.revival-library.org/leadership/rq_revival.php

We invite you to join us in the workshop – drop us a line on the contact page and we will let you know as soon as the workshop is online.

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