

A CALL TO PRAYER

"We shall never see much change for the better in our churches... till the prayer meeting occupies a higher place in the esteem of the church."

C.H. Spurgeon

"Satan trembles when he sees the weakest saint upon his knees."

William Cowper

"God shapes the world by prayer."

E.M. Bounds

"Turn the Bible into prayer."

Robert Murray M'Cheyne



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Booklet: A Call to Prayer

2020

A CALL



PRAYER

REVIVAL

OUR GREATEST AND PRESSING NEED

*“Rivers of water run down from my eyes,
because men do not keep Your law.” -Psalm 119:136*

The Psalmist cared deeply about the spiritual condition of God’s professing people and the surrounding nations. He was greatly troubled by his own sin and also by the sin of his fellow man. His primary concern was for the glory of God but the Psalmist was also burdened for the state of his fellow countrymen. As we look in our day at the spiritual condition of our own lives and of those all around us we cannot but be troubled. We cannot and must not stand idly by.

Along with the ongoing faithful, Spirit-led ministry of God’s Word, the most pressing need in our churches is ongoing fervent prayer for revival. Heaven sent revival is the only answer to the profound need of our country. We need a revival that brings glory to God by effecting real and lasting change in our own lives individually, in our churches, and in society.

Spiritual apathy and carelessness abound, and regretfully this awful indifference can even be found in our churches. We urgently need a revival, where the church is strengthened to fulfil its God-given purpose and where the unconverted come under deep conviction of sin and are genuinely converted.

We cannot muster up revival by our strength. But thankfully we can come to God and ask Him to change us so that we experience the same deeply held disquiets that the Psalmist had, a concern that runs far deeper than mere human emotionalism.

A clear understanding of what we mean by revival is helpful, so here are two good definitions:

“Revival is a season in the life of the church when God causes the normal ministry of the Gospel to surge forward with extraordinary spiritual power ... we become preoccupied with the being, works and ways of God Himself, revealed fully in Jesus Christ”
Raymond C. Ortlund Jr

“A special season of mercy during which God pours out his Spirit, producing greater sanctification among Christians and in the conversion of the lost.”
Jonathan Edwards



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SOME WORDS OF GUIDANCE AS WE TAKE UP THE CHALLENGE

1. **W**e must beware of elitism – some in the church will embrace this call to prayer and others may not. Those who do rise to the challenge need to beware of the sin of pride. The enemy is subtle, and he will seek to inflate our egos by promoting a spirit of pride in us. At all times, we must guard against an “us and them” attitude making its way into the church.
2. Prayer must never be used as a substitute for our duty to engage in intentional evangelism. The command to make disciples remains a constant.
3. We have the many promises of God from which we can draw great encouragement, so we do well to carry them with us into the place of prayer.
4. While engaged in concentrated earnest prayer we can fall into the temptation of giving too much weight to impressions and “leadings” that we might experience. The Scriptures properly handled must continue, at all times, to be our only and sufficient guide.
5. A warning from Iain Murray is helpful in this regard, *“In any biblical revival the norm is heightened; it is not suspended while another type of Christianity is introduced.”*
6. Intensive prayer is a battlefield. We cannot command or produce revival by our efforts, it is a sovereign work of God. This can sometimes be quite difficult as we so earnestly desire to see our prayers answered. But

in this regard, we must ever “*wait on the Lord*”, keeping in mind that He is the sovereign Lord.

7. We must approach this call to prayer resolute in the attitude that we will continue in prayer “... *till He comes and rains righteousness... on the land.*” (*Hosea 10:12*)
8. None of us can mandate fasting, but we do need to take the teachings of the Lord Jesus concerning fasting to heart. So, if your health allows, do consider setting apart regular times for fasting and prayer.

This booklet provides some suggestions for prayer. There are also some blank pages where you can write prayer points of your own. We hope that many churches across the country take up this challenge of praying for a revival, an awesome move of God’s Holy Spirit, to sweep across our country to the glory of God.

Let us take the words of the Lord Jesus in Matt 6v10, “*Thy Kingdom Come*” and pray for those things that would lead to His Kingdom coming in greater reality under the following headings:

- Praying for **the Church**
- Praying for **Ourselves**
- Praying for **the Nations**



PRAYING FOR THE CHURCH

1. **P**ray for those responsible for preaching and teaching God's Word in our churches. Pray that they would be true and faithful to what is written preaching in the power of the Holy Spirit.

2. Pray for those leading Sunday School classes and Youth ministries that they will be faithful to the truth and will be enabled to present the unchanging truths of God's Word to the children and young people.

3. Pray for doctrinal purity in our churches because what we believe directly impacts how we live. Pray that our churches would be pillars and grounds of truth, rejecting false doctrines. *"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables."*

2 Timothy 4:3, 4

4. Pray that God would raise up Christian leaders for the next generation. Pray that God would convert and call young men to the Christian ministry.

5. Pray for unity in the local church, that we would have genuine heartfelt love and care one-for-another. Jesus could not have put the necessity for loving harmonious unity more strongly than when He said: *"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples when you have love one for another."* *John 13:36*

6. Pray that we would know come to know more and more the depths of the riches of this great salvation. *"...that the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints"* *Ephesians 1:18*

7. Pray that you and your family would know the love of Christ and respond in love and obedience to Him. *"...to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."* *Ephesians 3:19*

8. Pray that we *"may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding, so that we may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; giving thanks to the Father."* *Colossians 1:9-12*

9. Pray that our churches would be steadfast and faithful. The early church was marked by such; *"And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers."* A lack of commitment is a mark of the spirit of our age. Pray that members of local churches would live very differently, as faithful, available and teachable servants of Christ. *Acts 2:42.*

10. Pray for open doors and wisdom in evangelism and that we would not lose confidence in the power of the Gospel in the face of the profound darkness around us. *1 Corinthians 16:9*



1. **P**ray that the Lord would enlarge our hearts so that we would be more obedient to His Word and that our hearts would be fit for His purposes. *“I will run the course of Your commandments, for You shall enlarge my heart.” Ps 119:32*

2. Pray that we would have a profoundly deep concern for the glory of God and the welfare of the church and our fellow man. *“Rivers of water run down from my eyes, because men do not keep Your law.” Ps 119:136*

3. Pray that God would impress upon us the weightiness of His Word and that we would be constantly open to its teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness.

4. Pray that the Lord would make us as holy as redeemed sinners can be. *(Murray McCheyne)*

5. Pray “Lord Jesus make Thyself to me a living bright reality; more present to faith’s vision keen than any outward object seen; more dear, more intimately near than even the sweetest earthly tie.”
(Hudson Taylor)

6. Pray that we would be transformed by the renewal of our minds through the Word of God. *“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” Rom 12:2*

7. Pray that the Lord would impress on us the vital importance of prayer and that He would enable us to be fervent in prayer.

8. Pray that we would, as a result of our delight in the Lord, be diligent in making the Gospel known and in inviting people to our meetings.

9. Pray that the Lord would empower us to be good and faithful in our vocational responsibilities. *“...be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; not with eye-service, as men-pleasers, but as bond-servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart” Ephesians 6:5*

10. Pray that we would be diligent in putting sin to death. *“And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.” Matthew 5:30*

11. Pray that the *“God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” Rom 15:13*

12. Pray that we would be committed to studying, doing, and teaching the Word of God, which is the means of awakening. *“For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel.” Ezra 7:10*

13. Pray that we would be willing to speak God’s Word to the people in our lives and that God would supply opportunities to do so.

“You shall ... talk of [God’s commandments] when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.” Deuteronomy 6:7

14. Pray that we would live holy lives before friends and neighbours so that your witness to the gospel will have a credible testimony. *“You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvellous light.” 1 Peter 2:9*



PRAYING FOR THE NATION

1. **P**ray that our nation would be ‘turned upside down’ through the preaching of the Gospel. *“They dragged Jason and some of the brothers before the city authorities, shouting, ‘These men who have turned the world upside down have come here also.’ Acts 17:6*

2. Pray for those in Government, that they will maintain the freedoms that are necessary for the open proclamation of the Gospel and they would not create obstacles to the spread of the Gospel. *“...I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.” 1 Timothy 2:1-2*

3. Pray that our nation would abandon its idols and worship the one true God. *“Give to the Lord, O families of the peoples, Give to the Lord glory and strength.” 1 Chronicles 16:28*

4. Pray that the Lord would have mercy on the many God-fearing Catholic people who have become disillusioned with their church. Pray that, in their discouragement, that they would seek after the truth.

5. Pray, by name, for individuals who are presently being witnessed to.

6. Pray for new and valuable openings in the media for the Gospel. Pray for those who presently have access to the media (print, broad-

cast and digital), that they would know God’s wisdom to make effective use of these opportunities.

7. Pray that God would raise up Christians who are willing to go to the ends of the earth, to the most out-of-the-way places, in order to proclaim the Gospel to those who haven’t heard it. *“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” Acts 1:8*

8. Pray for the pro-life movement and their efforts to advance the cause of protecting the unborn in our country.

9. Pray that the Gardaí will have significant success in the battle against the drug barons and organised crime.

10. Pray for those who labour in the Gospel that they would see much fruit for their labour and that they would give all the glory to the Lord.

11. Pray that the many immigrants who have come to our shores will find a warm welcome in our churches and will hear the Gospel.

12. Pray for the various children’s ministries working in Ireland.

13. Pray for Christian ministries working in colleges and universities in Ireland.

14. Pray for the many towns yet without an evangelical church. Use the “Pray for a Town Cards” available from Aontas. Pray for Gospel churches to develop an effective response to this great need.

