

Life Out of Death
Ministries

Preparation Manual

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OBJECTIVES OF A REVIVAL MINISTRY

The Scriptural objectives of revival are listed in points I through IV. This is the sequential order of priorities in revival.

I. PRIORITY OF CLEANSING: "INWARD" Aspect of Revival

This is the time of heart-searching and brokenness before God as people deal with sin and self-centeredness to be filled with the fullness of God. II Chronicles 7:14, Psalm 51, Proverbs 28: 13, I John 1:9

The time of heart-searching and brokenness before God over sin is implemented by the preaching and individual response for "personal revival" The prayer room and invitation provide opportunities to respond.

II. PRIORITY OF RESTITUTION AND FELLOWSHIP: "SIDEWARD" Aspect of Revival.

True cleansing (Point 1) is the NECESSARY preparation for believers to make things right with each other and have a new sense of maintaining **UNITY** in the church. This harmony alone can produce SPIRITUAL fellowship around the living Christ. Carnal believers incapable of spiritual fellowship are still prone to gossip, ego-gratification, parading materialistic excellencies, and seeking man's approval. Hebrews 10:24-25, I John 1:3-7.

The importance of being right with each other is implemented by the emphasis on restoration and restitution. Fellowship ministries are experienced through SHARING times in revival services, prayer meetings, etc.

III. PRIORITY OF PRAYER AND INTERCESSION: "UPWARD" Aspect of Revival

"If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord WILL NOT hear me" (Psalm 66:18). This is the problem of unanswered prayer of pastors and people seeking God for revival as well as the reason so many DO NOT attend prayer meetings in the average church. They know they are not on "praying ground" because of sin, bitterness, resentments, etc.

Do we believe we can ask God to do more in ONE MOMENT of HIS WORKING from heaven than we can do in years of faithful efforts? If so, why do we not give PRIORITY to continuous intercession for revival? Isaiah 59: 1-2.

Prayer ministry is emphasized continually during the meeting. "Revival" prayer meetings are normally held nightly after the services as well as other decided times. One of the marked results of such a revival ministry in many churches has been the renewed interest in personal prayer as well as the establishment of many weekly church prayer meetings.

IV. PRIORITY OF DISCIPLESHIP: "ONWARD" Aspect of Revival

Genuine concern for others as "weak" brothers and a desire for spiritual growth can ONLY proceed from life filled with divine love. Such a ministry will NOT succeed without the divine motivation of the Holy Spirit in a believer's life. Otherwise, man is too self-centered and will drop out at the first occasion of something to his disliking. Romans 12:13-15, Galatians 6:1-12, Hebrews 10:25, Matthews 28:19-20

The prayer ministry and testimony times will help prepare many to be actively involved in follow-through ministries. Further discipleship ministries will be suggested according to the various circumstances in each church situation.

V. PRIORITY OF OUTREACH: "OUTGROWTH" Aspect of Revival

Reaching out to the lost will be the natural result of genuine revival. However, attempts at church outreach programs will FAIL when humanly motivating carnal believers who are NOT right with God or each other. Only daily cleansing and fresh infilling of the Holy Spirit in a believer's life can cause him to have the "Mind of Christ" regarding the unconverted. Mark 5:19, Luke 19:10, 1 Peter 3:15

Outreach is the natural response of a heart right with God. Spontaneous witnessing will begin as people meet God. Evangelism training by precept and practice is instituted in longer meetings. Outreach training in witnessing must be emphasized after the meeting in order to mobilize the church as a force for God.

THE REAL PROBLEM - "WE GO AT IT ALL BACKWARDS"

The average church is primarily interest in Point V (outreach). Both pastors and people are obsessed about outreach FIRST. When attempts to motivate people fail, then POINT IV (follow through) is considered to strengthen some of the "weak" or "fringe" people in the church. If there is no spiritual motivation for outreach, what will produce a desire to minister to others in the church? When it becomes evident that there is no motivating carnal, self-centered Christian to this, then POINT III (intercession) is emphasized as the need. "How do we expect God to bless this church if so few come to prayer meeting?" is often heard. When it remains this way because so many are NOT on "praying ground", then POINT II (fellowship is suggested as the real need. "We need to know each other better and have closer fellowship." After some futile attempts, it becomes apparent that true SPIRITUAL fellowship is NOT POSSIBLE among people who do not genuinely love and walk with God.

THE LAST THING most Christians are willing to admit is that they and the church need POINT I (cleansing). ISN'T IT STRANGE that we are unwilling to admit and will seek LAST what God places First? We strive for First what God clearly says in HIS

ORDER is LAST as a result of the rest being right. How then can we become "profitable servants" in our witness and outreach to the world?

HOW STRANGE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Genuine revival must be the experience of the church BEFORE evangelism will become the expression of the church.

THE KEY TRUTH

GENUINE REVIVAL must be the EXPERIENCE of the church before spiritual fellowship, heart-stirring intercession, meaningful burden-bearing and ministering to another, AS WELL AS soul-winning and evangelism become continuing EXPRESSION of the church corporately. II Chronicles 7:12-22 (vs. 14), Psalm 51 and 126, Ezekiel 36:23, John 13:34, 35

SUGGESTED "PRAYER COUNTDOWN"

The following schedule is given to assist you in praying for spiritual renewal in your life and church. Use it as an aid beginning four weeks before the scheduled meetings. Each week emphasizes a different aspect of praying for revival.

WEEK #1 - PERSONAL REVIVAL

During your first week, the greatest emphasis should be on searching your own heart and asking God to do a new work in your life. Someone has rightly said "revival is God's finger pointed at me."

During this time be faithful in allowing God to speak to you. Do not neglect this personal time because the whole meeting hinges on your faithfulness to this matter.

WEEK #2 - PRAYING WITH PARTNERS

"Again I say unto you, that if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Matthew 18: 19-20

Entering into your second "countdown week," you should begin praying with another believer. Many Bible verses and historical records bear witness to the power and blessing of agreeing with others in prayer. During set times you should meet for prayer. These times should include the following:

1. Confession of fault and praying for one another (James 5: 16).
2. Bearing one another's burdens, thus fulfilling the law of Christ (Gal. 6:2)
3. Encouraging and building one another in the faith (Hebrews 10:25, 3: 13)
4. Sharing testimony of what God is doing in your lives (Psalm 111: 1-2)
5. Reading and memorizing scripture relating to revival and prayer (Psalm 85:6-7, Habakkuk 3:1-2, Psalm 51 & 79, Hosea 10:12, etc.)

The ministry of praying with one or two others is very important and should begin immediately upon the second week of preparation.

WEEK #3 - GROUP PRAYER MEETINGS

At this time, you should begin praying with larger groups in the local church. If possible, continue your "partner" meetings for personal accountability and encouragement.

For your convenience, "cottage" or household prayer meetings should be held at this time. Check your church schedule to find out when and where these meetings can be conducted.

During group prayer, there may be some sharing, but the main emphasis must be on prayer and meeting God. A suggested format would be:

1. Greeting Time
2. Calling meeting to order. (promptly at the designated time)
3. One or two choruses
4. Scripture reading (concise comment if necessary)
5. Brief sharing and personal requests
6. Prayer time (can be done in groups, fours, etc. Do not be afraid to diversify to keep interest level high.)
7. Dismissal

Tips for Prayer:

1. Keep prayer short and to the point (this helps others continue in agreement).
2. Do not sermonize! Prayer is talking to God, not preaching to those around us!
3. Continue to ask God to work in our lives.

WEEK #4 - CHURCH PRAYER TIMES

Going into the fourth week, you should be on true "praying ground." Your church, as a whole body, should be ready to gather and seek God for an outpouring of His Spirit.

These should be times of brokenness, repentance, and seeking God to do for us what we cannot do for ourselves. Your pastor and staff will lead in this time of worship and prayer as we seek the Lord for revival. Your pastor may post a calendar on the office door where you can sign up for a specific time of prayer with him for specific needs.

During this month of prayer preparation, we suggest that you begin fasting on a regular basis. Begin by fasting one meal at a set time, and replacing that time with Scripture reading or prayer. True revival is often preceded by fasting as well as prayer (Joel 2:12-14). If you begin with one meal, you will soon discover the ability to spend whole days fasting along with special prayer times as well.

I want to encourage you to set your heart to this matter of prayer preparation for revival. The revival is the climax of a month spent seeking God's face-not an isolated event. Your three-fold enemies; the world, the flesh, and the devil will give you great conflict. BUT remember, *"The battle is the Lord's."*

May God richly bless you as we seek His face together.

POSITIONAL STATEMENT

LOCAL CHURCH

This ministry is a mission to the inner life of the local church and is dedicated to revival and evangelism. Every attempt is made to support the local church and ministry.

BIBLICALLY BASED

Realizing the great needs of people today and varied avenues that they take to find the answers, I will help redirect them back to God's Word. Powerful principles for everyday living will be exposed and illustrated. The scriptures come alive under the anointing of Holy God. Life changing experiences are made available through the Word of God.

CHRIST-CENTERED

The message centers around the Lordship of Christ in the believer's life. It is concerned about health and vigor in the church. The fruits of the Spirit-filled life are the manifested results of God's fullness. Sermons deal with "self-abandonment" to Christ as Lord through the working of the Holy Spirit, right relationships with each other, restitution, and a concern for the lost in outreach.

SPIRIT-LED

Meetings are highlighted by a concern that the Holy Spirit be the guide and the human personalities be secondary. Services are "flexible" in nature. It is therefore necessary for me to have liberty to obey the Spirit of God. It is my desire to work closely with the pastor in prayer and details during the meeting.

Important Policies For Life Out of Death Meetings

Books

Trustworthy books and literature should be an integral part of every Christian's life. *Life Out Of Death Ministries* is committed to sharing literature that will enhance the believer's walk with the Lord Jesus. When the Lord called me into this ministry there were books that had influenced my life. I also have written several books and have expository outlines in book form. *Life Out of Death Ministries* makes these available at a substantially low cost. The money received from the sales of these books goes to buy other books and to provide for mission trips. An appropriate, accessible, and attractive location for making these materials available is essential. IF THERE IS A PROBLEM WITH THIS PLEASE LET ME KNOW.

Policy of Extension

Since this is a revival ministry it is essential for churches to acquaint themselves with our scheduling procedure. I plan to be at your church during the designated time. However, if revival breaks out in a church prior to your meeting, please understand that the dates for your meetings may have to be delayed. Our schedule belongs to the Lord and is subject to His direction. Keep your church calendar free to continue your meeting if necessary. I find that when revival comes there is often a need to extend the meeting. The final determination regarding extension of a meeting is made by the pastor.

Financial Policy

Life Out of Death Ministries is mainly dependent upon love offerings received during revivals to meet ministry and personal expenditures. Since we do not have a regular constituency, such as a local congregation, each meeting needs to do its best. Therefore, we ask that all offerings received during the meeting be designated to and check from the church be made out to *Life Out of Death Ministries* (**Tax ID #56-1928769**). If the sponsoring church elects to invite others for special music or other functions, their honorarium is to be met out of the church finances, not out of the love offering. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. We hope you understand our desire to communicate clearly to avoid any misunderstanding. PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF THE POLICY IS NOT SUITABLE.

Contact Information

Dr. Ron Lynch - Cell # 864-704-4664 or Email ron.lynch@fbcit.org.

About the Finances

The offering should be taken for *Life Out of Death Ministries* using the envelopes the church provides. The envelopes are for receipt purposes. All checks should be written to the local church. The local church should give separate checks the last service of the meeting for the expense and love offering made out to the ***Life Out of Death Ministries***. (Tax ID # 56-1928769)

About Financial Needs

Office and ministry expense must be met. This includes printing, postage, phone, social security, and numerous operating expenses. Equipment, vehicle purchases, and maintenance are not provided by any church or other organization. Housing, taxes, insurance, utilities, maintenance, and all other living costs must be paid. Benefits most pastors enjoy such as hospitalization, weekly salary, vacations, etc., are met through crusade offerings.

Revival Giving Philosophy

This is a faith ministry. Needs are not small but no demands are made nor guarantees asked. We minister to all sizes of churches throughout the year. Thus, there is never an offering too large considering the year round needs. Every church needs to obey God! We serve on the God-honored love offering basis. We do ask that the pastor remember that we are in revival work full time, that we have no financial sponsoring, and that we rely on revival work for our total income.

Financial Procedure

In situations where I must travel a distance or fly, please provide a motel room for my wife and myself as she will be traveling with me, **preferably, non-smoking, inside entrance, with one king size bed and a recliner. If accommodations are not in a hotel but in a home, please provide a separate bathroom with my room if possible. If accommodations are in a hotel, The Hampton is preferred.**

Travel expense to and from the location will be covered by the host church.

In situations where it is possible for me to drive to and from my home each day expense would cover **mileage according to IRS regulation**, and meals.

About Cancellations

Life out of Death Ministries is totally dependent upon love offerings from each meeting. Because of this, if a meeting is cancelled without appropriate time to reschedule another; please consider receiving a love offering for the ministry.

These expectations are shared from a heart of love toward you and your ministry to clarify any questions and to ensure no misunderstandings in the future. If you have any other issues that I may help you with, please do not hesitate to call me.

OFFERINGS DURING THE REVIVAL

For ministry needs and livelihood of team members

- On Sunday mornings we ask that envelopes be used for those wishing to give to *Life Out of Death Ministries* who are unable to attend night services. In some cases a love offering is received at the conclusion of the morning service.
- Nightly services should include an opportunity for people to participate in giving a love offering to *Life Out of Death Ministries*. NOTE: If the sponsoring church elects to invite others for special music or other functions, their honorarium is to be met out of the church finances, not out of the love offering. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.
- The pastor is responsible to take nightly offerings. Clarify nightly how checks are to be written for income tax purposes. (Make checks payable to the local church.)
- Encourage people to pray and ask God what their part should be.
- Please provide envelopes.
- Share with the congregation about the needs of the ministry. The expenses of operating this ministry cost thousands of dollars yearly. In addition to the needs of the ministry there are the salary needs of the family. Inform the congregation so they can pray intelligently.
- If the church is not willing to receive a love offering each service, please let us know of the decision.
- We encourage some churches to give the regular amount allotted in the budget, plus a love offering each service.
- The pastor should encourage the people to give sacrificially because revival results in sacrificial giving.
- The normal expenses and budget for *Life Out of Death Ministries* is \$2,000 per week. Remember that an evangelist only preaches about forty weeks a year.
- If a meeting is cancelled, please consider receiving an offering since this is our only income.

MONTHLY SUPPORT

Some churches may elect to support this ministry as a mission project. This relieves financial pressure and allows us to minister to smaller congregations.

Dear Pastor,

Receiving an offering for any special event requires total pastoral leadership. Your participation and clear, concise, deliberate participation is not important, it is essential. People really want to know first that this is important to the work of the Lord, important to you and an expectation on them.

If the time of the offering is not given major consideration then only minor results can be expected. So many times pastors must apologize to their guest evangelist for the meager amount that was received for his labor. No pastor enjoys breaking that kind of new to God's man.

Let me share some practical things you can do that will produce offerings that your people will feel good about, you will be thankful for, the evangelist will be blessed by and the Lord will glory in.

First, plan weeks in advance by announcing that offerings will be received each of the services for the guest preacher. Make them encouraging, challenging, and realistic. Help them plan ahead so that they have been given time to pray and seek the Lord about how much they are to give. Often I have given enough notice so that each family has ample time to be challenged to give the same amount as their weekly tithe.

Second, provide envelopes in advance and at the services for your people. It is a proven fact that as much as 35% more will be received when using special envelopes for the event. Oftentimes the evangelist will make available to you his own personal envelopes at no cost to you or your church just for your use.

Third, your appeal during the offering must be thought out and planned. Much scripture is dedicated to insuring that God's men be taken care of by the church. My personal favorite is Ephesians 4, where Paul says that we are Jesus' ascension gifts to the church. A gift that must be unwrapped and cared for with great love. Use this opportunity to teach a brief lesson about the ministers. This will only help them understand your role better as well.

Fourth, let your church see you take out your billfold, write your check or give your offering each time. When they see giving modeled by you it will encourage them to do the same. Determine how much you and your wife intend to give and divide it by the

number of offerings that you receive and give that amount. God will honor your obedience and faithfulness.

Fifth, never let a budgeted amount of money determine the amount to be given to your evangelist unless it surpasses the amount that was given. Not giving the total amount received to your evangelist is unethical and dishonest. If the congregation discovers this practice it will destroy their trust in the integrity of church leadership. I have seen this occur on many occasions. When the evangelist is made aware, and he will find out, he will in all likelihood never come back to that church. This is God's money, given to God's man, by God's people, for a specific purpose that does not include church budget needs. It must all go for what it was designed and promoted.

Pastor, you are the key. Never feel that you must justify or apologize when taking care of your guest. The apostle Paul even went so far as to say, "Have my offering ready when I get there so I will not have to be bothered with it when I come." We are never more like our Lord than when we are giving.

I trust these little things will be a blessing to you as you lead your folks in preparing God to do great things in your midst.

Blessing upon you and your work,



Mike Whitson
Senior Pastor

PUBLICITY

PURPOSE: To promote the activities associated with the meeting.

Use all honorable means of publicity.

Use newspapers, radio, television, portable billboards, posters, flyers, anything and everything at your disposal. Your area should know that you are having a meeting. Tell them over and over again in so many different ways that they will know all about it.

Portable billboards are good, different, and expensive.

Visit your newspaper(s) and layout a growing plan of advertising. Do all you can afford. If you buy ads, they are more open to news stories about the meeting. Let your ads grow. Climax on Saturday before the first day of the meeting, and fade out on Tuesday of the meeting.

Enclosed is a picture of the evangelist. Plan to submit these in plenty of time to ensure entrance.