



THE LORD REVIVES

TRANSFORMING THE
NATION THROUGH
THE LOCAL CHURCH

40-DAY FAST & PRAY

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INTRODUCTION

A standard dictionary refers to revival as “restoration to life, consciousness, vigor, strength, etc. after a period of obscurity or quiescence”. In our Christian context, it is an awakening of interests concerning the things of God and a rekindling of passion in Christ. The word has become a technical term referring to a specific period of spiritual renewal in the life of the Church after a time of decline or deadness.

Revival is God’s sovereign work, with humans as His instruments. It is contagious. It starts with the kindling of the branches and soon, the whole forest catches fire and spreads rapidly everywhere.

Historically, all revivals were grounded in prayer, although inspired preaching might be the overture. The importance of human responsibility should not be overlooked.

Transforming Malaysia begins with the Body of Christ—the Church. It first requires believers to be enlightened and transformed in every aspect of our lives, and then to carry it outward to every sphere of society. As people belonging to God, believers are called to be holy in order to declare the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into His wonderful light.

May God, the Lord of revival and the Lord of history, enlighten our hearts and minds and show us the way. He revives!

NOTE:

The prayer booklet is to be used together with your Bible.

All prayer points serve as guidance only.

May the Holy Spirit lead you throughout the 40-day Fast & Pray.



*"And My people who are called by My name
humble themselves and pray and seek My
face and turn from their wicked ways, then
I will hear from heaven, will forgive their
sin and will heal their land."*

(2Chr 7:14, NASB)



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HIS STORY OF REVIVALS: THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION, 1517

Martin Luther (1486-1546), an unsung Catholic monk and a professor of biblical studies from an unknown university, encountered a personal spiritual awakening as he came to understand the nature of the righteousness of God after having wrestled with Romans 1:17.

Concerned with the errors and abuses of indulgence as well as the systemic corruption within the church hierarchy, Luther wrote the *95 Theses* stating his views and protests. His views became widely known when he nailed the *95 Theses* to the door of Wittenberg Castle Church on the eve of All Soul's Day, 31 October 1517. Thus, began a movement called Protestant Reformation which swept across Europe like wildfire and eventually the world, rocking the foundation of the old medieval concept of Christianity.

Luther was outlawed by the Pope in 1520, and then by Emperor Charles V in 1521. He spent the next 20 years expounding basic principles of the Protestant Reformation which, among others, were the Authority of the Scripture, Justification by Faith and Priesthood of All Believers.

The Luther's movement gave rise to the churches known as Protestants with the emergence of three main traditions: Lutheran (in Germany and Scandinavia), Zwinglian and Calvinist (in Switzerland, France, Holland and Scotland); and the Church of England.

JULY 22 (TUE)

DAY 1

"The antecedents, accompaniments, and results of revival are always substantially the same as in the case of Pentecost."

~ Charles G. Finney, 1792-1875, the
"America's foremost revivalist," leader
of the Second Great Awakening
in the American colonies



"Every revival that the world has ever known, in a sense, is a kind of repetition of what happened on the day of Pentecost."

~ Dr Martyn Lloyd-Jones, 1899-1981, a Protestant
minister who was influential in the reformed
wing of the British Evangelical movement
in the 20th century

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THE DAY OF PENTECOST (ACTS 2:1-4)

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

To be continued...

JULY 22 (TUE)

DAY 1

Believers do not pray with the view of informing God about things unknown to Him, or of exciting Him to do His duty, or of urging Him as though He were reluctant. On the contrary, they pray in order that they may arouse themselves to seek Him, that they may exercise their faith in meditating on His promise, that they may relieve themselves from their anxieties by pouring them into His bosom; in a word that they may declare that from Him alone they hope and expect, both for themselves and for others, all good things.

~ John Calvin (1509-1564, French reformed theologian)

Dedicate “40-day Fast & Pray” to God. Acknowledge His Lordship over all areas of our lives—personal, family, church, community, the marketplace, our nation/government, and the world.

“...What does the LORD your God ask of you but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways, to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to observe the LORD’s commands and decrees that I am giving you today for your own good?”

(Deut 10:12–13, NIV)

PRAY

Psalm 36:5-10 (NIV)

Your love, O LORD, reaches to the heavens; your faithfulness to the skies.

Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your justice like the great deep.

O LORD, you preserve both man and beast; how priceless is your unfailing love!

Both high and low among men find refuge in the shadow of your wings; they feast on the abundance of your house, you give them drink from your river of delights.

For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.

Continue your love to those who know you; your righteousness to the upright in heart.

HIS STORY OF REVIVALS: THE FIRST GREAT AWAKENING, 18TH CENTURY

In the 18th century, spiritual paralysis overtook the American churches as a result of the development of commerce, increase of wealth and materialism.

In 1679, a Presbyterian Synod held at Boston discussed the ‘necessity of reformation’. For the next 30 years, zealous ministers lamented the worsening situation and called for repentance.

An earthquake in 1727, interpreted as a sign of God’s judgment, caused a temporary rush to churches. It was, however, not long before the churches returned to their slumber.

Recognizing that something more than reform was required, the people prayed and called for revival. Spiritual rebirth subsequently took place in different localities, particularly in the 1730s and 40s.

One local revival which introduced the first well-known Great Awakening occurred in Northampton, Massachusetts under Jonathan Edwards in 1734. It began with his passionate and powerful preaching, which deeply affected the church members and drew souls. Edwards reportedly said that, “the town was never so full of love, nor so full of joy, nor yet so full of distress, as it was then.”

While the excitement subsided within a few years, the effect was widespread. It came into fruition in New England between 1740 and 1743, during the time of George Whitefield’s brief visit. In Boston, ministers were roused, churches were packed, services were regularly held at home, concern for evangelism was heightened, and missionary movement was intensified. The effect spread to New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia, leaving a permanent impact on American religion.

The Awakening also saw a new spirit of cooperation among the denominations, and brought Christianity to the slaves. Believers became passionately and emotionally involved as Christianity became intensely personal to the average person. They began to study the Bible at home. Such spiritual renewal led people to “experience God in their own way” and changed their rituals, piety and self-awareness. It taught them responsibility for one’s own actions.

Historians see it as part of a “great international Protestant upheaval” that also created Pietism in Germany, the Evangelical or Methodist Revival in England.

PRAY FOR YOURSELF (PERSONAL)

DAYS 2-7

"Revival occurs when men and women are on fire for God."

~ John Wesley, 1703-1791, preacher and founder of the Methodist Church



"Large-scale revivals among believers are characterized by images of Christians confessing their sins, and re-committing their lives to God."

~ Bill Bright, 1921-2003, founder of Campus Crusade for Christ

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THE DAY OF PENTECOST (ACTS 2:5-13)

Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. Utterly amazed, they asked: “Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism Cretans) and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!” Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?”

Some, however, made fun of them and said, “They have had too much wine.”

To be continued...

PERSONAL – LOOKING INWARD

DAYS 2–7

To be a Christian and to pray are one and the same thing.

~ Karl Barth (1886–1968, Swiss reformed theologian)

Believers' individual transformation is essential as it establishes the only realistic hope of transformation of the families, the

community, the marketplace, the nation, and the world. May God's righteousness be revealed in our transformed living! May He revive us for His glory!

PRAY

Day 2
(Jul 23, Wed)

Ps 51

- Confession (vv 1-4)
- Petition (vv 10-13)

Day 3
(Jul 24, Thu)

Rom 12:1-8

- To present my body as a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God
- Fix my attention on God that I may be totally change from the inside out, allowing God to bring the best out of me
- Wisdom, guidance and strength to exercise my spiritual gifts with humility

Day 4
(Jul 25, Fri)

Rom 12:9-13

- Let my act of love be real and sincere, holding on to what is good and turning away from evil
- Treat my brothers and sisters in Christ with affection and honour
- My attitudes in serving others be pleasing to God
- Be generous and hospitable to our brothers and sisters in need

PRAY

Day 5 (Jul 26, Sat)	Rom 12:14-16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My reactions to the actions and emotions of others will always be “to bless” • Ability to empathize with others in times of happiness or sadness • Not to be proud but willing to make friends with people of low position.
Day 6 (Jul 27, Sun)	Rom 12:17-18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In all aspects of my relationship with the unbelievers, I will do what is good, noble and honorable • Wisdom, strength and courage to live at peace with everyone • Knowing that harmony with others may sometimes be difficult, let me not be the one who is responsible for the lack of peace
Day 7 (Jul 28, Mon)	Rom 12:19-21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not quick to get even when I face injustice, but allow God to perform what He has promised: “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay.” • Ability to overcome evil with good; that my response to those who act unjustly towards me will be heaping burning coals on their heads

HIS STORY OF REVIVALS: THE BARIO REVIVAL, 1973

Inspired by what God had done in Indonesia, the young Kelabit students prayed for revival among the people in Bario.

The Kelabit people of Bario Highlands in Sarawak converted *en masse* in the 1940s. Nominalism, however, set in 20 years later. For many, it was merely a conversion from one religion to another. The young people were simply following the new faith of their parents, accepting Christianity as a way of culture. The lack of conviction and personal encounter with God caused many to stay away from church activities. Other reasons included political changes, the Malaysia-Indonesia Confrontation of 1963, and the missionaries' shift of focus from the interior to the urban. The Church's spiritual health gravely declined.

As the prayer initiative intensified in 1972, sporadic renewals were noticed. The passion for evangelism was rekindled. Preaching teams were scattered throughout the region stirring up prayer. The result was conviction of sins and conversions.

The outpouring of the Holy Spirit occurred on 4 October 1973, touching a teacher and a group of young students who humbled themselves in prayer. They approached their parents, relatives and friends, sharing their new-found joy and liberty. Through their boldness to witness and preach, the fire soon spread in the villages, even among the young school children. The people began to experience deep conviction of sins, assurance of forgiveness and cleansing, and a renewed sense of unity and love. Touched by the gospel, many unbelievers in the community were converted. Hundreds were delivered of their habitual sins, i.e. drunkenness and immorality.

In the following years, the Spirit of God manifested Himself among other ethnic communities, especially among the Lun Bawang in Ba Kelalan, where an outbreak occurred in 1984-85. Such events of spiritual renewal resulted in the remarkable growth of the Sidang Injil Borneo (SIB), bringing about phenomenal change of lives in Sarawak.

PRAY FOR THE FAMILY

DAYS 8–13



"Revival is characterized by fearless, Christ-centered preaching with people literally falling on their knees before God."

~ Bill Bright



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THE DAY OF PENTECOST (ACTS 2:14-21)

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It’s only nine in the morning! No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

*“ In the last days, God says,
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your young men will see visions,
your old men will dream dreams.
Even on my servants, both men and women,
I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.
I will show wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth below,
blood and fire and billows of smoke.
The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood
before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.
And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’ ”*

To be continued...

FAMILY – THE AMBASSADOR OF CHRIST

DAYS 8 – 13

Heaven is full of answers to prayers to which no one ever bothered to ask.

~ Billy Graham

A family is a fundamental social group in a society. Ideally, it encourages intimacy, love and trust, of which a human relationship is rooted. A person's initial education, moral values and understanding of provision and justice begin at home. Therefore the well-being of the family is essential to the stability and welfare of the nation.

Nevertheless, many would admit that the family structure in general is breaking down as the marriage institution comes under threat.

While marriage is recognized and regulated by virtually all societies, infidelity is no longer seen as problematic. Divorce is a norm, single-parent families are common, and one's responsibility to the family is often taken lightly. Reports show that the number of men abdicating their responsibilities after divorce has increased tremendously. We also read that the lack of discipline is widespread among schoolchildren; and the young "Mat Rempits" causing public disorder is rampant.

May God revive our families for His glory!

PRAY

Day 8
(Jul 29, Tue)

Gen 1:27, 28; 2:21-23

- Recognize that marriage and family are God's ideas
- God's love continues to bind Christian families and marriages
- Christian families be role models in society
- All Christian households to be a "House of Prayer", devoted to the Word of God and committed to shine God's glory as salt and light

PRAY

Day 9
(Jul 30, Wed)

Wives & Husbands (Gen 2:24; Eph 5:21-33; Heb 13:4)

- Mutual submission with unselfish love and respect for each other
- Loving and lifelong commitment to one another; holy and blameless
- Honor marriage, guard the sacredness of sexual intimacy and not deprive one another
- Devoted to prayer

Day 10
(Jul 31, Thu)

Children & Parents (Deut 5:16; 6:4-9; Ps 78:1-7; Eph 6:1-4)

- Children to obey and honour their parents, which is pleasing to God
- Parents to act reasonably and lovingly towards their children in the area of discipline
- Parents to love God and demonstrate godliness at all times
- Parents to have wisdom and diligence to teach their children the Word of God
- Children's hearts to be enlightened and love God's Word

Day 11
(Aug 1, Fri)

Those who have non-Christian spouses (1Cor 7:12-16)

- Christian spouse to be the channel of God's grace
- Commit to preserve marriage and live in peace
- The hearts and minds of the non-Christian spouses to be enlightened that they may receive the gift of salvation

Day 12
(Aug 2, Sat)

Singles & Young people (1Cor 7:25-40; Tit 2:6-8)

- Undivided devotion to the Lord with a joyful heart
- Set free from pressures or social stigma; freedom to wait on God, yet not to put life on hold
- Continue to live sensibly, righteously and in godliness, unstained by the world
- Show themselves to be an example of good deeds, and to be dignified and sound in speech
- Speak God's Word with great boldness
- Not driven by monetary rewards and career achievement, but by compassion and passion to serve

PRAY

Day 13
(Aug 3, Sun)

Golden Crown Christians (Ps 71:17-21; Prov 16:31; Tit 2:1-3)

- God's grace and His strength to be upon all older Christians
- Temperate, dignified and respectable in behaviour; sound in faith, love and perseverance
- Wisdom and willingness to encourage the younger men and women, to teach them what is good
- A new spiritual vitality so as to bear fruit and value life's experience

HIS STORY OF REVIVALS: THE CAMBUSLANG WARK, SCOTLAND, 1742

The account of revival in England would be incomplete without reference to the transformation in Scotland.

William McCulloch was the minister in Cambuslang during the 1742 outpouring, known as the Cambuslang 'Wark'. Though learned and hardworking, he was a poor preacher and reported not having experienced deep conviction of sin or conversion. Yet God used him!

When his attempts to get the landowners to repair the partially ruined church failed, McCulloch began preaching in a tent, using letters and sermons from New England detailing the amazing events of the First Great Awakening. Reading from the pulpits along with his personal talk with the concerned church members, a foundation was laid for the 'Wark', i.e. the work of the Lord.

It began with two church members, a shoemaker and a weaver, who gathered 90 heads of the families to sign a petition asking McCulloch to give them weekly lectures. Although the first two Thursday lectures passed off with poor attendance, the church was full on a Sunday service on 14 February. The next day, many members came to the minister's house spending several days praying and discussing the great events reported from England and America. The weekly lecture that followed saw some 50 people expressing strong conviction of sin and a compelling sense of future punishment. Later, the influx of people to Cambuslang became so great that McCulloch started giving daily sermons and teaching.

The visit of George Whitefield in July gave added impetus to the excitement. One communion service had drawn some 30,000 men and women. Many of them came from the surrounding area of Cambuslang. Revival spread quickly. Soon another outbreak occurred at Kilsyth.

While Cambuslang was said to be the highlight of the Scottish Revival, there were various opinions on whether it was the genuine work of the Holy Spirit. Nonetheless, the 'Wark' had aroused deeper interest in missions and brought "a warm and living fellowship" among "many ministers and laymen of varying points of view".

PRAY FOR THE CHURCH

DAYS 14–20



*"The greatest hindrance to a universal revival
of the work of God is the divided state of the
Church of Christ."*

~ Charles G. Finney



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THE DAY OF PENTECOST (ACTS 2:22-28)

Men of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. This man was handed over to you by God's set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. David said about him:

*'I saw the Lord always before me.
Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.
Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;
my body also will live in hope, because you will not
abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay.
You have made known to me the paths of life;
you will fill me with joy in your presence.'*

To be continued...

CHURCH – THE AUTHENTIC CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

DAYS 14–20

We are too busy to pray, and so we are too busy to have power. We have a great deal of activity, but we accomplish little; many services but few conversions; much machinery but few results.

~ R. A. Torrey (1856-1928, American evangelist)

Malaysian Christians today, as in many places in the world, practise a highly individualistic form of religion. One of the chief manifestations of this is that from songs to sermons, the focus is as much on man's purposes for God as God's purposes for man. This inversion is probably due to the atomisation of modern society where so much emphasis is now put on the individual. Rather than seek to challenge the notion, the Church has been quick to capitalise on it by promising identity in place of anonymity. Of course, the Church

tries to temper all of this to some degree with the usual Christian teachings such as discipleship, stewardship, social concerns and missions but the centrality of the individual remains. This emphasis on individual 'felt needs' means that the Church has increasingly become a counseling and therapy centre; dispensing marital, psychological (or inner healing), health, financial, and parental and teenage advice and services.

(Forum 5, pp6-7)

May God revive the Church for His glory!

PRAY

Day 14
(Aug 4, Mon)

A living Church (John 17:6-26; Acts 2:42; 1Tim 2: 1-8)

- Return to her First Love and acknowledge Christ as the head of the Church (Eph 5:23)

PRAY

Day 14 (Aug 4, Mon)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Realize God's vision and be a living Church <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Deeply and radically stirred by the Holy Spirit – Devoted in the teaching of God's word, constantly nourished on the words of faith and sound doctrine – Strong caring fellowship • Fervant in prayer • Compassion for the lost • Submission to God and to one another
Day 15 (Aug 5, Tue)	Good Minister of Christ (1Cor 1:18-2:5; cf. 1Tim 4: 6-16) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be enriched in Christ in all speech and knowledge; to have wisdom and insight from the Word • To be a faithful conduit of the truth; message and preaching are in the demonstration of the Spirit and of power • In conduct, love, faith and purity: to be an example to those who believe • Total reliance on the Spirit and boast only in the Lord; not coming with superiority of speech or of wisdom
Day 16 (Aug 6, Wed)	Church Leadership (1Cor 1:10-17; 3:5-9; 1Tim 3: 1-13; 5:17-25) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Men and women of dignity and quality, beyond reproach, humble and respectable, hospitable, free from love of money • Men and women of spiritual depth, holding fast to the truths of faith, having the ability to handle the Scriptures • Be of the same mind; against any spirit of strife and jealousy • Ability to handle his/her own family well • Maintain a good reputation before unbelievers
Day 17 (Aug 7, Thu)	Different Ministries (1Cor 3:10-15; Acts 6:7; 9:31; 12:24; 16:5; 19:20) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All ministries to complement (NOT to compete with) one another • Understand and fully exercise one's own gifting, be the right person in the ministry to serve more effectively—full of spirit and wisdom • The Word of God to spread, the number of disciples to increase

PRAY

Day 18
(Aug 8, Fri)

Congregation (Acts 4:32-35; 1Tim 6: 3-19; Tit 3:1-11)

- One heart and soul in fellowship
- Generous in sharing; love and respect for one another
- Love the Word of God and sound teaching, not easily swayed by false doctrine or teaching
- Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, contentment, steadfastness under adversity and gentleness

Day 19
(Aug 9, Sat)

In Difficult Times (John 12:24-26; 2Tim 3)

- Expect persecution, for “all who desire to live godly lives in Christ Jesus will be persecuted”
- Stand firm with the full armor of God against the schemes of the devil
- Be equipped for every good work in the spirit and in truth; continue to bear fruit
- Fervent in prayer
- Quick to help and support one another in all things

Day 20
(Aug 10, Sun)

Unity of the Spirit (Eph 4:1-16)

- Local churches to be diligent in preserving unity; acknowledge and accept the diverse callings of each member, building up the Body of Christ
- Greater bond of fellowship among churches and leaders across denominations
- Experience the greatness of the power of ONE body in Christ

HIS STORY OF REVIVALS: THE KOREAN PENTECOST 1907

In a prayer meeting of the Methodist missionaries in Wonsan in 1903, R.A. Hardie, a medical missionary, admitted that he “had not seen any examples of plain, unmistakable, and lasting conversion” in his 13 years of ministry in Korea. His confession in front of the missionaries and the Korean Church as well as his yearning for the gift of the Holy Spirit moved the audience. As a result, Bible study classes and prayer meetings were regularly held, marked by open confession of sins. Thus, began the first wave of revival, and the movement intensified the following year.

In 1905-06 when an emotional wave generated by poverty and Japanese occupation swept across Korea, the church leaders continued to preach forgiveness and forbearance. Hundreds were converted.

The wave reached its climax in Pyongyang, the then capital of Korea. Hearing of the revivals in Wales (1904-05) and India, the Presbyterian missionaries prayed earnestly for the same spiritual awakening. In January 1907, 15,000 church leaders gathered for a 10-day annual Bible conference in the capital. The results included deep repentance of sins, confession and restitution, the putting right of past injustices, a spirit of unity amongst the Korean Christians, and huge numbers of conversions. For the first time, the Korean Protestants experienced the powerful gifts of the Holy Spirit.

The deep reviving of the Korean Church leadership had an immediate impact on both the churches and communities. Churches were gripped by a burning passion to reach the lost despite persecution at the hands of the Japanese, and then the Russian and Chinese communists. Many lives were transformed. The society in general observed in awe the tremendous change among the Christians, and began to “expect something from them for the country, as the nation found no hope for independence or help for change.”

Prayer and fasting were normal. Daily early morning and night prayer meetings became common. Between 1905 and 1910, the Korean Church recorded 79,221 new members.

PRAY FOR THE COMMUNITY

DAYS 21–27



“Revival serves to carry conviction to the great mass of people outside the Church that the Living God has come among His people.”

*~ Jonathan Goforth, 1859-1936,
the first Canadian Presbyterian
missionary to China*



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THE DAY OF PENTECOST (ACTS 2:29-36)

“**B**rothers, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. Seeing what was ahead, he spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to the grave, nor did his body see decay. God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact. Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said,

“*The Lord said to my Lord:*

“*Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.*”

“Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”

To be continued...

COMMUNITY – LIVING OUT ACTS 29

DAYS 21–27

Has prayer transported him for a few short moments into spiritual ecstasy that vanished when everyday life returns, or has it lodged the Word of God so soberly and so deeply in his heart that it holds and strengthens him all day, impelling him to active love, to obedience, to good works? Only the day will tell.

~ Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945, German Lutheran pastor & theologian)

Admittedly, local churches' involvement in community development and in addressing structural injustice has been weak. The participation, at best, is a band-aid approach and mainly at the individual level. Perhaps, the tension between evangelism and nation-building causes many to shy away from engaging in transforming the social structure.

In a pluralistic society where race and religion are delicate subjects, any form of social missions can be seen as a threat to the existing structure. However, by neglecting the poor and the multicultural community,

the local churches risk becoming irrelevant, and may fail to address national concerns such as poverty, ethnic relations, corruption and socioeconomic injustice. The Body of Christ thus becomes isolated as a result of dichotomized spirituality.

Indeed, the mission of the Church is more than just church planting but also “to do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly” with God so as to influence our culture, community and society for His glory.

May the community be transformed through His revived people for His glory!

PRAY

Day 21
(Aug 11, Mon)

Christians in the world (Matt 5:13-16)

- Let Christian love which is rooted in the home, established and encouraged through the local church, be manifested by the power of God to break the spiritual deadness and coldness in the community

PRAY

Day 22

(Aug 12, Tue)

Community services & development (Jas 1:27; 2:14-26)

- Christians to put faith into practice in daily life
- Churches to grasp every opportunity to serve their respective communities in practical ways
- Promote values of fairness, honesty, responsibility, discipline, kindness and compassion
- Empower community to work toward social justice and good governance through individual and collective action
- Empower sustainability by helping community in need to develop its own problem-solving mechanism and networks

Day 23

(Aug 13, Wed)

Education (Dan 1:3-17)

- Christian teachers to see education from God's perspective; understand His principles and be courageous to apply them wisely without imposing on others
- Christians as administrators or school board members to influence policy-making and bring back excellent education grounded in godly values
- Christian parents to be actively involved in Parent-Teacher Association
- Christians aspire to take up the teaching profession as a vocation
- School Christian fellowships: vibrant growth, favour from God and man, godly advisors, diligent in the studying of God's word
- Christians to be salt and light influencing every aspect of education including policy-making and curriculum-setting

Day 24

(Aug 14, Thu)

Crime (Ps 127 :1-2; Jer 29:7)

- Reduction of crime and immoral activities
- Protection (especially for the women and children) against all kinds of violent crimes
- Active involvement in residents' associations or Rukun Tetangga contributing to the welfare of our neighbourhood

PRAY

Day 24 (Aug 14, Thu)

- Spirit of concern, selflessness and warmth to replace the spirit of apathy, selfishness and coldness
- Unceasing intercession for the communities, towns and cities for peace, security and prosperity

Day 25 (Aug 15, Fri)

The Weak (Deut 10:17-19; 24: 14,15,17; Mal 3:5; Jas 1:27)

- The poor, widows and orphans, the homeless and the destitute:
 - God to heal their broken spirit and turn their sorrow into joy
 - Experience God's providence and provision through the Christian community
- Migrant workers
 - Set free from all kinds of oppression and be treated justly and fairly
 - Protected from exploitation, discrimination and any degrading treatment
 - Their rights to life will be protected by law
 - Experience kindness and hospitality, the reality of God's presence through Christian community
- Christians to demonstrate God's love unconditionally, offering ourselves in practical ways and giving generously

Day 26 (Aug 16, Sat)

Socio-economic justice (Is 1:16, 17; 56:1, 2; 59:15b-20)

- Children to be brought up in the spirit of love, peace, dignity, equality and respect; in security and care
- All citizens to enjoy economic rights with equality regardless of race, age, religion and gender
- Protection from economic and social exploitation (especially the minority poor among the Orang Asli community in the Peninsula, and the natives in Sabah and Sarawak)
- Respect for human rights and strengthening of fundamental freedom
 - Equal opportunity for all to pursue higher education
 - Freedom to choose a religion and to worship

PRAY

Day 26 (Aug 16, Sat)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Christians to<ul style="list-style-type: none">– boldly and wisely speak out against all forms of injustice– shine the light of Christ in advocating justice• Those who are oppressed will see that God is the source of salvation and light
Day 27 (Aug 17, Sun)	<p>The Elderly (Prov 23:22; 1Tim 5: 1,2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Respected and dignified, to feel the joy of being loved• To live their days fully in the light of faith and Christian hope• Those (children or caregivers) who must care for the elderly to do so with love and selflessness• God’s love and hope to fill the homes for the aged; no abuse or manipulation, dedicated caregivers and good healthcare• Renewed vision for the Christian community to communicate hope and peace to those who live in the fear of death

HIS STORY OF REVIVALS: THE SHANTUNG REVIVAL 1933

The seed was sown at the prayer meetings of the Southern Baptist's North China Mission (NCM). In her visit to some of the meetings, Marie Monsen, a Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran missionary, posed two simple questions: "Have you been born again?" and "Are you filled with the Spirit?"

From the beginning, missionaries busied themselves in setting up schools. In the 1920s, anti-imperial laws were passed to limit mission schools in giving religious education. The laws also compelled the missionaries to register. Seeing their schools primarily as mediums for the gospel, the Baptists refused to register, not knowing about the pressing danger of the political tides in China. As a result, no new missionaries were appointed (from 1925 till 1934) and NCM suffered financial setback. The lack of spiritual depth among the Chinese Christians was also a great concern.

As the missionaries began to pray for revival, they were convicted of their own incompetence: the lack of "real spiritual power." It was reported by Dr C.L. Culpepper, missionary leader of the Southern Baptist board, that many missionaries had not been "filled with the Holy Spirit" before their appointment, including himself. Some of them confessed that they had led the Chinese to Christianity instead of leading them to Christ. At the same time the anti-Christian movement was in full swing.

The situation was so bleak that many wanted to give up. But the missionaries decided to pray and they did for four years. The revival spread to every Baptist church and chapel in the county.

The greatest impact was on the native church. Chinese laity and clergy were revived to take active roles in the governance and support of the local churches as well as propagation of the gospel. Seminary students formed preaching bands, visiting villages during weekends. Several thriving indigenous churches that were fully self-supporting emerged. There was a new interest in Bible study among the Chinese believers. Church attendance multiplied enormously. People loved to pray and sing praises. Repentance and confession of sin were the main emphasis of the church teaching. Old habits and pagan practices were change.

The spiritual awakening spread across the Shantung province and then to Honan, Manchuria, and Anhoei provinces. Eventually it spread to other denominations.

The Shantung Revival lasted about 5 years. Hundreds of churches were revived and thousands of people were saved. It is a classic example of how God sends a harvest among the non-Christians after the Christians are revived.

Factors contributing to the revival included reconciliation between the missionaries and the Chinese (public confession of sin, courage to “lose face” and to forgive one another), increased role of women, indigenous leadership and miraculous healings.

PRAY FOR THE MARKETPLACE

DAYS 28–33



“Prayer for revival will prevail when it is accompanied by radical amendment of life; not before. All-night prayer meetings that are not preceded by practical repentance may actually be displeasing to God.”

*~ A.W. Tozer, 1897-1963,
American preacher & writer*



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THE DAY OF PENTECOST (ACTS 2:37-41)

When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”

Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

To be continued...

MARKETPLACE – THE LAMBS AMONG THE WOLVES

DAYS 28–33

There is no Christian who does not have time to pray without ceasing. But I mean the spiritual prayer, that is: no one is so heavily burdened with labour, but that if they will they can, while working, speak with God in their heart, lay before God their need and that of others, ask for help, make petition, and in all this exercise and strengthen one's faith.

~ Martin Luther, *"Treatise on Good Works"*

Christian businessmen, professionals and those who provide leadership in the marketplace

have a unique and influential role. Not only are they instrumental in the generation and distribution of wealth, but to a certain extent, they exert significant pressure on public policy; for example on an economic policy that emphasizes honest gain, integrity, empowerment of the poor, good stewardship of resources and social justice.

Other than economic justice and fair business dealing, God is particularly concerned about poverty eradication that there should be no

poor among His people (Deut 15:4). Any existence of the poor within the Christian community is most heart-rending.

The questions are: Does the Church understand business as God's calling to effect economic revolution and social transformation? What are the responsibilities of the business community in relation to the poor? Do we who are in the marketplace comprehend the Bible's overarching principle of money-making, and have the ability to handle wealth?

May the marketplace be transformed through His revived people for His glory!

PRAY

Day 28 (Aug 18, Mon)	1Sam 15:22; Prov 15:16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fear the Lord • Obey the voice of God for “obedience is better than sacrifice, and submission is better than offering the fat of rams” • Renewed mindset; to see work or business as a calling from God’s perspective • Wisdom, guidance and strength as “ministers/missionaries” in the marketplace
Day 29 (Aug 19, Tue)	Deut 8:11-20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize that the power to make wealth comes from the Lord • Praise God and be humble in time of abundance • Trust God; not to lose heart and courage to ask for help in time of need or scarcity
Day 30 (Aug 20, Wed)	Deut 15:1-11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have wisdom to understand the purpose of lending, and the responsibility of making wealth • Be generous in helping others to get on their feet and become a productive part of the community • Commit to poverty eradication in the community
Day 31 (Aug 21, Thu)	Pro 10:9, 11:1; Jas 4:7-10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Model of honest gain, fair business dealing and diligence at work • Draw near to God and swift to flee from all kinds of temptation
Day 32 (Aug 22, Fri)	Phil 4:10-20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God’s provision to those facing hardship: He will supply all their needs according to His riches in glory • Quick to respond and act when opportunities come in order to serve those who need to be lifted financially • Generosity in financial giving to ministers, especially those who serve in the rural areas

PRAY

Day 33
(Aug 23, Sat)

1Pet 2:9-12

- Christian lifestyle to be the powerful means of convicting the world of its sin
- Be creative and able to effect economic revolution and social transformation through marketplace ministry
- Favor with God and with men in influencing economic policy for public interests

HIS STORY OF REVIVALS: THE AWAKENING IN NORWAY AT THE TURN OF 19TH CENTURY

In Norway, the awakening was largely a lay movement. Hans Nielsen Hauge was a poor farmer's son, theologically untrained. His conversion in 1796 and his sense of mission eventually produced a national revival in Norway. Two months after the intense personal religious awakening at the age of 25, a revival movement was founded in his own community.

In those days, the people did not have the freedom to meet in public or to travel about without government's permission. Seeing that people were greatly tied down by blind confidence in their pastors and legalism, Hauge ignored those restrictions and traveled from village to village establishing home groups that met for Bible study and prayer, seeking to revive religious convictions and trigger a reform of clergy. He claimed that everyone had the right to preach and teach the Gospel. As a result he was imprisoned ten times as it was against the law for a lay person to preach and teach in public.

The movement led to a passionate zeal for the salvation of souls. The Norwegian Mission Society established in 1842 was one of the results. It was almost exclusively operated by lay Christians.

The spiritual awakening went along with a demand for business as mission and to view work in the marketplace as God's calling.

Upon his release from prison in 1811, Hauge worked as a farmer and started businesses. He also helped believers to establish trades and small business in places where they could make a difference, and encouraged them to help the rural peasants who were poor and severely exploited by the urban middle-class.

Hauge and his movement contributed to the sociopolitical revival in Norway, and proved to be an influential factor in the formation of Norway as a nation in 1814, and in its continued development to the present day. "The Hauge movement was a contributing factor for developing an acting democracy in Norway," said Professor Francis Sejersted, a former president of the Nobel Peace Prize Committee (1996).

PRAY FOR THE GOVERNMENT

DAYS 34–39



“Revival is like the power of an incoming tide... If you go down to the London docks when the tide is out, you will see the sailing ships and barges stuck fast in the mud. All the king’s horses and all the king’s men would not be able to move them. But when the tide comes rolling in, the vessels will rise and ride the waves as things of grace and beauty. The tide makes all the difference!”

~ Charles H. Spurgeon, 1834-1892,
British Reformed Baptist Preacher,
known as the “Prince of Preachers”



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THE DAY OF PENTECOST (ACTS 2:42-47)

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

To be continued...

GOVERNMENT – THE CALL TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

DAYS 34–39

I have been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go.

~ Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865, the 16th President of America)

It is said that a nation's leadership can either be the greatest agent of or the greatest obstacle to transformation. A government of which the leadership does not share our Christian values may pose tremendous challenges to those who uphold Christian principles. In high places where Christians are the crushing minority and where odds are stacked against

them, how do they (as ministers or members of parliament) use their office to influence the nation for righteousness? How do we, Christian citizens of Malaysia, effect the call to make a difference?

May the government be transformed through His revived people for His glory!

PRAY

Day 34
(Aug 24, Sun)

Christians as good citizens (Rom 13:1-7)

- Honor and respect the authorities so that the unbelievers will praise God because of us
- To have a sense of destiny for the nation, and understand our political responsibility
- To faithfully carry out our duties as law-abiding citizens, including praying unceasingly and paying tax

Day 35
(Aug 25, Mon)

Christians in Federal Government (Gen 41:46-49; Esth 10:3; Dan 2:48; 6:1-3)

- God's favour and divine appointment for Christians to be in high ranking positions to effect transformation within the government sectors; to administer justice and righteousness

PRAY

Day 35 (Aug 25, Mon)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find favour with the authorities and people, seeking the good of the public and speaking out for the welfare of the whole nation • Hold firm to Christian principles, possessing extraordinary spirit and wisdom
Day 36 (Aug 26, Tue)	<p>Christians as representatives in local governments (Deut 1:13; Ex 18:17-27)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fear God, be men and women of truth, hate dishonest gain • Wise, understanding, and respected men and women • Endowed with the ability and courage to speak out for the welfare of the people • Capable of influencing the authorities to administer justice and righteousness with clean hands and transparency, to honor the Federal Constitution, respect religious freedom, and serve public interest
Day 37 (Aug 27, Wed)	<p>Christians in the judiciary and legal professions (Deut 1:16-17; 16:19-20; 25:1; 2Chr 19:5-7)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fear God, be men and women of truth, wise and respected • Judge righteously and show no partiality so that the unbelievers will speak well of God • Be godly examples and are able to influence the legal arena to administer justice and fairness with sound judgment; to honour the Federal Constitution and respect religious freedom

PRAY

Day 38
(Aug 28, Thu)

Christians in law enforcement (Prov 24:23–25; 29:23–27)

- Wisdom in handling adverse situations; strength and courage to do what is right and lawful with impartiality
- God to protect their bodies, heart and mind
- God's favour in their promotion to high-ranking positions to effect transformation within the police force
 - A reformed police force that is corrupt-free, impartial, competent and effective in upholding public order and social peace

Day 39
(Aug 29, Fri)

All Christians as watchmen (Isa 62:6, 7; Eze 33)

- Be alert and watchful to stand in the gap for our nation
- Be advocates of righteousness and justice

AUG 30 (SAT)

DAY 40



"God will do the great work of revival, and will give me a deep yearning. When one is thirsty in the spirit, one usually looks to the sermons of a few revivalists. However, what they can give us is but a short-lived revival. It is like the water sac in a summer insect, which cannot last long. How is it going to satisfy others when we are so short of it ourselves? Now, let us come to the source of the living water, where the supply is inexhaustible. The Lord is that living spring and the Lord will turn away no one who comes forward. He will see to it that everyone is satisfied."

*~ John Sung, 1901-1944, renowned Chinese evangelist,
instrumental in revival movements among the Chinese
in Mainland China, Taiwan, and Southeast Asia
during the 1920s and 30s*



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AUG 30 (SAT)

DAY 40

Our prayers lay the track down for which God's power can come. Like a mighty locomotive, His power is irresistible, but it cannot reach us without rails.

~ Watchman Nee (1903-72, founded the Church Assembly Hall (nicknamed "Local churches") in China



*Lord, I have heard the report about You and I fear.
O Lord, revive Your work in the midst of the years,
In the midst of the years make known;
In wrath remember mercy.*

(Hab 3:2, NASB)



PRAY

Isaiah 61:1-3 (NASB)

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
Because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the afflicted;
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to captives, and freedom to prisoners;
To proclaim the favorable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God;
To comfort all who mourn,
To grant those who mourn in Zion,
Giving them a garland instead of ashes,
The oil of gladness instead of mourning,
The mantle of praise instead of a spirit of fainting,
So they will be called oaks of righteousness,
The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified.

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