

# SOVEREIGNHOPE

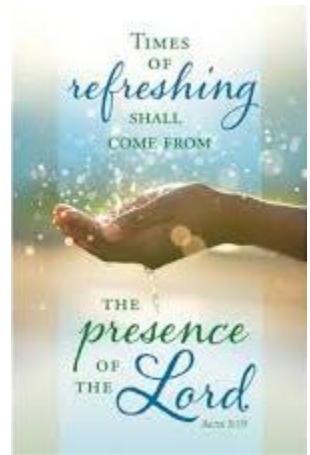
bible presbyterian church

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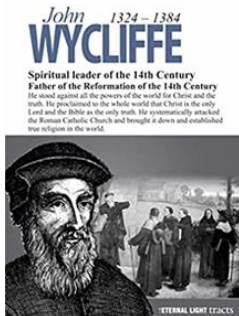
## WHAT WE OWE TO REVIVALS TODAY

Acts 3:19 says, *“Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.”*

Those who have studied the history of revivals cannot but be overwhelmed by the mighty influence of God upon the destiny of human civilisation. Nations and people have been supernaturally transformed and affected during seasons of refreshing that comes from the presence of the Lord. When the Holy Ghost came upon God’s people and others, and savingly redeemed and revived them, there were special benefits that accrue to them and others too. Let us discuss.



**Firstly, society at large have been elevated by spiritual revivals.** When divine grace is abundantly poured down, the morals of a fallen society is uplifted and people are generally awakened. The fountains of life are purified and a spiritual, social and civil renovation is the cause of revival. Remember the outpourings at Pentecost brought forth God-fearing and visionary men that help to transform the Roman world and turned it the right side up and started new churches and gospel witness.



True revival had driven away vice, encouraged industry, promoted thrift and intelligence in its people, and caused social and moral virtues to prevail in a decadent world. We may speak of progress in this age of the recent advancement in computer technology, financial and economic growth (or downturn for now, to be exact due to the pandemic), but this has not been accompanied by a spiritual and moral enlightenment. Whereas in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, when John Wycliffe (and John Huss and later Tyndale and the Puritans) reopened and started teaching from the Bible in the

English language, true revival broke out in many universities in England and later Europe in less than 100 years. Then, the discovery of the art of printing in the mid-15<sup>th</sup> century gave a new impetus to literature dissemination and provided the vital connection for the Reformation to take off and awakened the medieval church with the truth of the sufficient and authoritative word of God. In due time, Owen, Bunyan, Baxter, Milton, Flavel and other illuminaries of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, burning with the love for God, gave the world evangelical literature that accelerated human progress. True doctrinal and experiential religion brought further blessings and awakenings to the people and state.



Then the 18<sup>th</sup> century revivals of Wesley and Whitefield gave England uplifting songs and sermons and brought the ignorant to the truth of salvation, strengthened the moral fibre of society for honest hard work and nationalistic fervour for reform. Isaac Watts, James Montgomery and others composed glorious elevating hymns and the former also wrote a book on logic used in Oxford and Cambridge as a standard textbook. These are striking attestations to the beneficent influence of genuine revivals. The American colonies were founded and developed by deeply religious men in the Pilgrim Fathers of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, revived in the old world and seeking a new world in America to practise their new-found

faith. The nation of America owes its rich and spiritual heritage to revivals too and we pray that it will not lose the soul of their forefathers who trusted in the Lord and His word to guide and lead the nation in the last perilous day of great national declension and moral downslide.

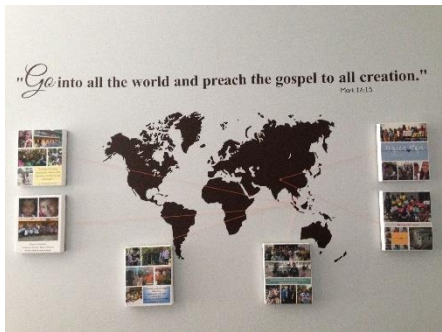
The formative stages of societies and nations are blended with the sanctified forces of godly influence through Holy Ghost revivals. The benign forces of heaven have transformed and reformed lives on earth as a result of the mysterious outpouring of the Spirit in an unprecedented manner. Slavery was abolished in the USA because of a revived man in William Wilberforce (1759–1833), who also founded the Church Missionary Society of 1799 and 1804.

**Secondly, missionary movements came from revivals.** All the glorious enterprises from the propagation of the gospel had its roots in some preceding elevating work of the Holy Spirit. As a result of a revival in 1784, at a Baptist Association in England, a man was consecrated and it was William Carey's call and challenge in 1791 to enlarge the place of the tent and attempt greater things for God that started modern missions. Men like Andrew Fuller and John Ryland were revived and a plan was adapted in a society formed, designated "The Baptist Society for the Propagation of the Gospel Among the Heathens." The rest is history with Carey making inroads into India and transforming the



lives of many with the gospel, saving lives out of darkness of superstitions and unbelief, and *sati*, the practice of burning widows with their dead husbands, was abolished (much later after his death), and a leprosy hospital built in due time with 41 years of faithful service of William Carey.

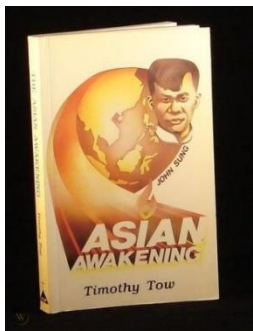
In the American scene, the American Board of Foreign Missionaries was formed in 1810, and all the first foreign missionaries, Judson, Rice, Mills, Hall and others who entered the field later were converted and received their missionary charge in revivals. From the same revival source, spring home missions, new churches and hence The American Bible Society was born and other institutions followed suit.



There are many blessings for the sake of the gospel that came about because men were revived from their spiritual stupor and lethargy by the amazing work of God-centred revivals. From the Korean Presbyterian churches, revival resulted in more than 10,000 missionaries sent all over the world in recent years. (I was told that it is common practice for Korean ministers to pray at 5 a.m. in the summer and 6 a.m. in the winter and I witnessed these practices in some of our Korean Bible College students).

**Thirdly, an efficient pastoral and lay ministry has come from revivals.**

The character of the English clergy before the Reformation was notorious for their lack of spiritual knowledge, zeal and pastoral care for the flock. According to J C Ryle, very few hardly knew the Ten Commandments and the Lord's Prayer. The revival changed that totally. Ministers were savingly transformed and revived in their hearts. In the US, according to Dr Henry Fish, in his Handbook on Revivals, as many as 20 'ministers' from USA, were converted under Whitefield preaching upon the third trip to America. Later, these became godly ministers who established and built-up churches and many others with the propagation of sound biblical doctrines. Revival also improved the quality of preaching and teaching as a result of the revived hearts of ministers and leaders

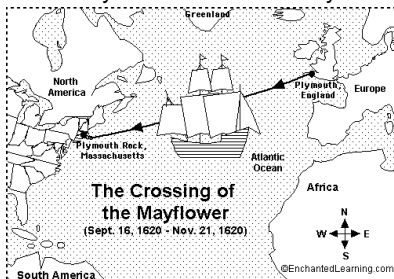


of the church as they seek the word with greater fervency. It mightily increased the effectiveness and the number of godly ministers (and lay leaders) called into the full-time ministry which in turn enhanced the pastoral work and this has helped in the starting of new outreaches and missions.

Even in this century, in the Asian Awakening of the 1930s, John Sung's revival saw good men like the late Revs Drs Timothy Tow & SH Tow, KC Quek and Leona Woo, Elder Yap and many others took up responsible church leadership and started a new denomination and many churches, colleges and

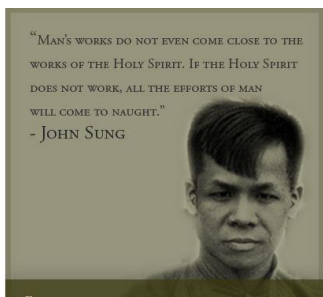
mission outreaches, and the vigilant defence of the faith. Other lay people, including elders and deacons, were saved and many have served faithfully in the ministry of some of the 42 BP churches in Singapore today.

**Fourthly, Institutions of learning owe much to revivals.** We have already seen that 24 universities sprang up within a century of the labours of Wycliffe. Princeton Seminary came about partly because of Jonathan Edward's revival, her first President. From the Pilgrim Fathers, who went to New England in 1620s, which is America today, the Puritans started Harvard, Yale and, as a result of the revival of 1741-1837, many were affected and enrolled to study God's Word and be trained for the ministry and other secular work, making an impact in society and church.

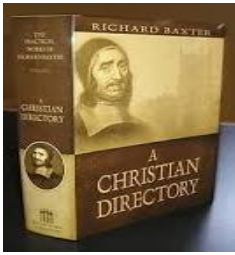


Spurgeon started the Metropolitan Tabernacle and the Pastor's College in London in the 19<sup>th</sup> century revival and many came to be trained for the full-time ministry. London Theological Seminary was started also by Martyn Lloyd Jones during the revival in England in the mid of the past century. Revival did for the cause of intellectual pursuits, and academic and spiritual learning. The Far Eastern Bible College was started in 1962 as a result of a man, Rev Dr Timothy Tow who was energised and affected by the revival of the 1930s led by John Sung, had trained many BP ministers and missionaries since then. These surely are fruits of the revival that has a multiple effect to many other churches and missions that are existing even today.

**Finally, strong churches and families came from revivals.** The numerical aspect of church growth is not to be over-emphasised but given the right balanced attention. During revivals, there is the spirit of sanctification and godly zeal for holiness, evangelism, keeping the Sabbath and discipleship. During Spurgeon's time, as many as 8,000 flocked to hear him preach each Sabbath, and 3,000 came for weekly prayer meeting. John Sung, a Chinese revivalist, had a strong following: many repented and formed preaching bands and went around everywhere, witnessing in Singapore and Malaysia. John Wesley, the revivalist with his brother Charles, started small group ministry, with many lay people challenged and trained and involved in the evangelistic work, with many



families transformed as a result of the heads of household being revived. Family worship was restored and children catechised in the fear and nurture of the Lord. We see prayer, worship and the reading of the Word practised in Christian homes as never before and how we wish we can witness the same today despite the pandemic. The BP movement In Asia is to a large extent a result of a great awakening of its founders by the John Sung revival.



That was Richard Baxter's (1615–1691) experience in Kidderminster, that saw the transformation of a depraved drunken English town into a God-fearing community of saints. This was also the experience of the English Reformation when the Puritans revived England in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. The pastoral leadership and preaching were at their zenith, with men like Thomas Watson, Richard Sibbes and others. Self-centredness and spiritual lethargy and indifference gave way to spiritual zeal and ardour. Taverns and pubs had to close due to poor business. The Bible was given greater attention and emphasis in the homes, and people came to seek the Lord fervently. Family and religious life were revived and revitalised and covenant homes were set up with prayer and home worship. There was great spiritual interest in eternal things over worldly affairs as people turned to Christ in great numbers.

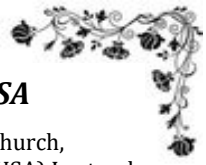
## CONCLUSION

Psalm 85:6 says, "*Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?*" Revivals had brought great blessings to nations, families, and communities. It has given vision and spiritual impetus to the church and believers. It has been the life of all beneficent movements, evangelistic achievements and conquests of the church. They have made advancements in the domain of darkness and myriad of souls have been saved by the preaching of the gospel. They have made our forebears and us stronger Christians, better citizens, good neighbours, and useful labourers, wiser parents, and dutiful and God-fearing children. We owe it to the God of revivals and we humbly pray for another pouring of the Spirit of God today In our country of Singapore and beyond even in the midst of a serious global health crisis, if it is His will that souls will be saved an awakened again. This is our prayer, Hosea 14:7, "*They that dwell under his shadow shall return; they shall revive as the corn, and grow as the vine: the scent thereof shall be as the wine of Lebanon.*"



Jack Sin

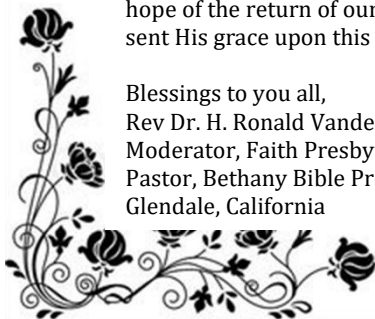
(Works consulted include *Iain Murray*, Revival and Revivalism, Banner of Truth Trust, 1994, *Joseph Tracy*, The Great Awakening , Banner of Truth ,1976, *Malcolm McDow and Alvin Reid*, FireFall, How God has shared History through Revivals ,Broadman and Holman Publishers, 1997, and *Henry Fish*, Handbook on Revivals, Gano Books,1988)



## Anniversary Greetings from the USA

To all the brethren at Sovereign Hope Bible Presbyterian Church, On behalf of Faith Presbytery, Bible Presbyterian Church (USA) I extend the greetings from our Presbytery to all of you in the midst of this thanksgiving season for the Lord's blessings on your third anniversary of ministry there in Singapore. Psalm 118:23 reminds us all: *This is the Lord's doing, it is marvelous in our eyes.*

Dr. Jack and Angelina Sin have been dear friends for three decades and we thank the Lord for their work of faith evidenced in their writings that glorify the faith once delivered to the saints, and the edification that comes to our knowledge of the sacred doctrines from Pastor Jack's sermons and from their recent book. We thank the Lord for their labour of love which has reached churches all over the world, including my family and Bethany Church. Lastly, we thank the Lord for the patience of hope exhibited in them and in all at Sovereign Grace Bible-Presbyterian Church as they serve with an eye to the sure and certain hope of the return of our Lord, the Sovereign of the Universe who has sent His grace upon this glorious ministry in Singapore.



Blessings to you all,  
Rev Dr. H. Ronald Vandermey  
Moderator, Faith Presbytery, Bible Presbyterian Church (USA)  
Pastor, Bethany Bible Presbyterian Church  
Glendale, California

Pray for our Chinese brother Jian Lian for the salvation of his family back home and safety in his work here.



Pray for the salvation of this sweeper who received an ang pow and a gospel tract from us.



Pray for those at the catechism class as we be rooted and grounded in our faith.

Pastor Tan and Bro Caleb receiving Christian books given by SHBPC to their residents at The Hiding Place.



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## AN APPRAISAL AND UNDERSTANDING OF BIBLICAL REVIVALS

JANUARY TO MARCH 2021

### FEBRUARY

#### 7TH 3RD ANNIVERSARY

#### 1 CHRONICLES 16:8-20

Devotion and Gratitude to God in Trying Times

#### 14TH

#### 2 KINGS 22:1-20

A Jewish King and the Covenant of Revival

#### 21ST

#### EZEKIEL 37:1-14

The Valley of Dry Bones Revived

#### 28TH

#### NEHEMIAH 8 :1-20

The Word of God and Revival

### MARCH

#### 7TH

#### HOSEA 14:1-9

Healing of Backsliding and Revival

#### 14TH

#### ACTS 2:1-11, 39-47

The Holy Spirit and Revival

#### 21ST

#### ACTS 6:1-9

The Church Priorities and Revival

#### 28TH

#### ACTS 8:5-24

The Danger of False Revivals/Conversions

## Memory Verse

*Ezek 37:14* And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the LORD have spoken it, and performed it, saith the LORD.

## Announcements

1. Welcome to our Worship Service! For our visitors, do leave us your contact numbers in our guest book before you leave.
2. Pastor Jack speaks today on **“The Valley of Dry Bones Revived” (Ezek 37:1-14)**, continuing the 2021 Jan – Mar sermon series on **“An Appraisal & Understanding of Biblical Revivals”**.
3. Pastor Jack speaks next Sunday on **“The Word of God & Revival” (Neh 8:1-20)**.
4. Sunday School classes continues in church after the worship service:
  - WCF Shorter Catechism Class – Pastor Jack
  - “Rules for Walking in Fellowship by John Owen” – Dn Choo Siang
  - Studies in Leviticus – Dr Kwong Leen
5. Chinese Fellowship meets on Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom with both local and overseas brethren.
6. Do send your prayer items to Pastor and join us for Church Prayer Meeting on Wed at 8pm via Zoom. The Feb prayer list is available from Dn Choo Siang.
7. Monthly Neighbourhood Bible Class meets on the first Friday of the month at 7.30pm in church on the study of 2 Samuel. Do come and join us for a time of learning God’s Word.
8. The Pandemic book can be purchased through Dn Yue Kay (Hp: +65 97450311) or via email at [sovereignhopebpc@gmail.com](mailto:sovereignhopebpc@gmail.com).
9. Do kindly observe the safety measures of the church and assist with the weekly cleaning of the premises.
10. Love gifts, Offering and Tithes to the Lord can be given in the following ways:
  - **Cheque** payable to **Sovereign Hope Bible Presbyterian Church** and mail to church address. (Kindly write the full name of the church as indicated.)
  - **Fund transfer** to Church **UOB** Account **392-308-825-1**
  - **PayNow** to Church UEN: **T19SS0116FSOV**

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