



TRUE LIGHT

Baptist Church

OCTOBER 2011



A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

WHAT IS REVIVAL?"

*"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."
(2 Chronicles 7:14)*



When we think about revival, we often think about an event that lasts a few days to a week. It is generally a time when another preacher, other than the pastor, comes in and preaches to us. In the minds of many of us, it is just a church service that is nightly during the week instead of on Sunday. Much of that is true to the casual observer, but revival is much more than that. It is both an event and a process.

The text before us is one of the great promises of the Bible. In response to King Solomon's construction of the temple to God, and the people's commitment to serve Him, God gave this promise. God knew that their commitment would not last and would soon give way to backsliding. This text is God's promise of revival. When God's people sin and leave their right relationship with Him, He disciplines them to bring them back to Him. When we cry out to God and repent, He revives His people, exalts His Son Jesus, and brings forgiveness and healing in the land. Today we need healing in our land, on our jobs, in our homes, in our marriages, and in relationships within our church. That being true, we need to understand what revival is and why we need it.

WHAT IS GENUINE REVIVAL? There are two elements to what we normally refer to as revival: revival and spiritual awakening. **"Revival"** is typically described as "the work of God among those already saved." The word **"awakening"** means a sovereign move of God among those who do not know Jesus Christ, both in and outside of the church.

First, let us deal with **revival**. The word "revive" is made up of two parts: re, meaning "again," and vive, meaning, "to live." Thus, revive means to live again, to come, or be brought back to life, health, or vitality. Revival is a time when spiritual life and vitality are restored. Revival is a return to spiritual health after a period of spiritual decline into sin and broken fellowship with God. Revival is for God's people when they need to be forgiven and restored to life, spiritual health, and vitality.

Spiritual awakening is a large percentage of people turning to Jesus as Savior and Lord. Spiritual awakening of the lost to saving faith in Christ is a by-product of the revival of God's people. When Christians get it together, we will infect those around us. Charles Finney, the great

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revival preacher, defined revival as “the renewal of the first love of Christians, resulting in the awakening and conversion of sinners. It reclaims the backslidden Church and awakens all classes.”

In genuine revival, God brings revival and renewal to the saved, and He brings salvation to the lost.

IS THERE A NEED FOR REVIVAL IN THE CHURCH TODAY? *“If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways. . .”* (vs. 14)

Throughout the year, many of us become desensitized. We fail to realize that we have stopped living with passion for our God. We are blinded by the fact that little about our lives reflect a vital love relationship with Jesus Christ. The Bible calls this condition backsliding. Backsliding is the sin of crowding God out by filling one’s life with self. Backsliding is not a term that we Christians like to hear and associate it with those who who lose their spiritual zeal, stop coming to church, and spiritually fall away and. In actuality, however, we have many praising and worshipping backsliders in our midst. Richard Owen Roberts declares, “A backslider is a person who was once emptied of their own ways, and filled with the ways of God, but gradually allowed their own ways to seep back until they are all but empty of God and full of themselves again.”

Individuals, auxiliaries, choirs can backslide and so can churches. Backsliders are those who will allow wrong to go on in the church unopposed. Backsliders are those who will allow and promote division in their auxiliary and say and do nothing. Backsliders are those who will formulate cliques and vote with those who oppose the Lord's work rather than to think on their own. Backsliders are those who plot, plan, scheme, and create division in the body of Christ. Are you a backslider? Are you a worshipping, praising, singing, serving backslider?

We need revival because there are many in the church that love nothing more than to join in opposition to the vision of the pastor, who oppose change, and whose sweet words are contrary with their actions.

The primary reason we need revival is that a growing spirit of divisiveness and wickedness can grow in our lives, in our homes and

yes, even in our church.

GOD'S PLUMB LINE. In Scripture God uses the idea of a plumb line to describe what He is doing with His people (Amos 7:7-8). God built His people like a straight wall—true to plumb. When we depart from Him, one of our problems is that we do not realize how far we have departed. We often do not understand how seriously we have strayed from Him. We may not realize how close we are to complete collapse or destruction. God holds a plumb line beside His people so they can see how far they have departed.

God's Word reveals God Himself, His purposes, and His ways. The Scriptures serve as His plumb line for us, his ideal for us. When we can see we have departed from God's ideals, purposes, ways, and commands, we can know clearly that we have left our love relationship with Him. You cannot love God appropriately and disobey Him. It is spiritually impossible. If you are not obeying Him, it is because you do not love Him, as you should. We need revival to show us just how far we have moved away from God's ideal.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN REVIVAL COMES? Genuine revival does not come simply by reforming your behavior; just changing your ways is not sufficient. Unless your love relationship with God is repaired, you will eventually go back to your old ways of living. The only lasting motivation for obedience to God is a firm love relationship with Him. If your love relationship with God is right, your life will line up with His standards. It is a matter of the heart. Do you see the connection? A right love relationship with God is the requirement for genuine revival. Correct behavior comes because of the love relationship. To change behavior without a change in the relationship with God is only temporary and superficial. Revival requires a change of heart. It requires that you get rid of your wicked ways.

Revival means to restore or renew life. Revival is for God's people who need a fresh encounter, a fresh love relationship with Him. Revival is God's putting the plumb line of His Word right down the middle of His people. God calls us to repent and return to a holy love relationship with Him. When we repent and return to Him, God turns our hearts back to Himself. He forgives.

He cleanses. He restores life--God's life to His people. This is genuine revival.

When your love relationship is right, your obedience and faithfulness will follow. Jesus said, *"If you love me, you will obey what I command"* (John 14:15). Repentance and revival are not just a reform of behavior. Revival has not taken place unless a change of character and a change of heart have taken place. When your love for the Lord compels you to obey Him and you have put away everything that offends God, revival has occurred. Changed lives and people giving their life to Christ authenticate a true revival.

Revival is a gracious act of Sovereign God. He desires to give revival far more than you want to receive it. The way to revival is open and God is extending the invitation for you and your church to return to Him. He is waiting for your response.

If revival is going to blossom in your heart, you need to do something. Without a doubt, you must pray. In addition, if God is going to forgive you, cleanse you, and heal you, you need to forgive somebody that you have offended today. If God is going to bring about renewal and revival in your life, you need to beg that person's pardon. If you will humble yourself, pray, and seek God's face he will *hear from heaven, and will forgive your sin, and will heal* our land, your home, your marriage, and relationships in our church. Will you humble yourself today? Will you recognize that you may be in a backslidden state and desire to fix it?



This Is My Church

It is composed of people
just like me.

It will be friendly if I am.

It will do a great work if I work.

It will make generous gifts to
many causes if I am generous.

It will bring others into its
fellowship if I bring them.

Its seats will be filled
if I fill them.

It will be a church of loyalty and
love, of faith and service.

If I, who make it what it is,
am filled with these,

Therefore, with God's help,

I dedicate myself to the
task of being

All these things I want my
Church to be.

-Anonymous



True Light Baptist Church

REVIVAL

“MOVING FROM MISSION TO MINISTRY”

Wednesday, October 5 thru

Friday, October 7, 2011

7:00 p.m. Nightly



**Guest Minister
Reverend**

C. Ramont Morris

Morning Star
Missionary Baptist Church
Kankakee, Illinois

**Restored to Life
Restored to Spirit
Restored to Service**

REVIVAL WORDSEARCH



B R E U R T F P H
 K P A S T O R U N
 H L Z W R N E C N
 S C T Z E W E E O
 E H H Y L E V E S
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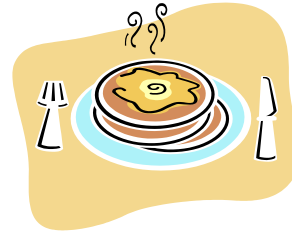
Church
 Free-up
 Golson
 Light
 Pastor

Refresh
 Release
 Renew
 Revive
 True



Men's Day Breakfast

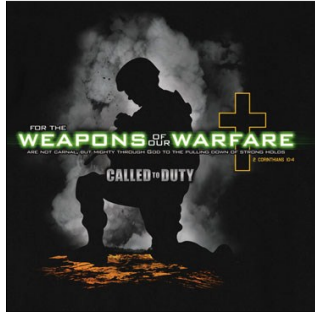
Saturday, October 22, 2011



MEN'S DAY

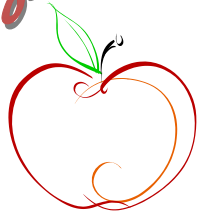
THEME: "Called To Duty"

Sunday, October 23, 2011



First Fruit Sunday

Sunday, October 30, 2011



SAFE STREET CARNIVAL

OCTOBER 31, 2011

6:00 P.M.





BONNE'S KITCHEN CORNER

Bonne's Best Casserole



Ingredients

- 1 (16 ounce) package rigatoni pasta
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 3 boneless skinless chicken breast halves, chopped
- salt and pepper to taste
- 1 (26 ounce) jar spaghetti sauce with mushrooms
- 2 cups broccoli rabe, trimmed and chopped
- 1 (8 ounce) package shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese

Directions

- ⇒ Bring a large pot of lightly salted water to a boil, and cook rigatoni pasta for 8 to 10 minutes, until al dente. Drain, and set aside.
- ⇒ Heat the olive oil in a skillet over medium heat. Season the chicken with salt and pepper, and cook in the skillet 20 minutes, or until no longer pink and juices run clear.
- ⇒ Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Lightly butter a 10 inch casserole dish.
- ⇒ In the prepared casserole dish, mix the cooked pasta, cooked chicken, spaghetti sauce, broccoli rabe, and mozzarella cheese. Top with Cheddar cheese.
- ⇒ Bake 25 minutes in the preheated oven, until bubbly and lightly brown.

Church Calendar Highlights



KEEP CONNECTED!

Active members of True Light who are sick, shut-in, elderly, or others who are physically unable to attend church may request a CD or DVD of the Pastor's sermons. Please contact a member of your Family Ministry Team or the office for further details.

October 2011



Oct 5—7 *Revival / Ministry Week*

Oct 9 (SUN) *Pacesetter Luncheon*

Oct 14—16 *Men's Retreat*

Oct 22 (SAT) *Men's Day Breakfast*

Oct 30 (SUN) *First Fruit Sunday*

Oct 23 (SUN) *Men's Day*

Oct 31 (MON) *Safe Street Carnival*

November 2011

Nov 6 (SUN) *Harvest Sunday*

Nov 13 (SUN) *Miracle Sunday*

Nov 20 (SUN) *Victory Sunday*

Nov 27(SUN) *Mission Sunday*

Thanksgiving 24—25 *Office Closed*

After Hours Prayer Line

"Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."

Matthew 18:19-20 (NIV)

After Hours Prayer Line Phone Number

(303) 375-0754 Ext: 109

- ◆ Call for prayer and leave a recorded message. Our Intercessory Prayer Team regularly monitors this line.
- ◆ If you leave contact information, a member of the Intercessory Prayer Team will call and pray with you.
- ◆ Your Intercessory Prayer Team wants to pray with you and for you.



True Light Baptist Church
14333 Bolling Drive
P.O. Box 39003
Denver, CO 80239

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