

The Role of Corporate Prayer in the History of Revivals

New Zealand Pacific Union Ministerial Meeting

Dr. Ron E. M. Clouzet
Northern Asia-Pacific Division Ministerial Secretary

2 Chronicles 7:14

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



When Churches Get Together

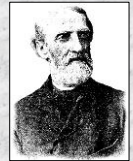


"Could there be a convocation of all the churches of earth, the object of their united cry should be for the Holy Spirit. When we have that, Christ our sufficiency is ever present. We shall have every want supplied."

Manuscript Releases, vol.2, 24

"There has never been any spiritual awakening in any country or locality that did not begin in *united* prayer."

A. T. Pierson



Before the Second Great Awakening

- In Princeton: two believers; only five did not belong to the Filthy Speech Movement
- In Harvard: no believing students left
- In Williams College: mock communions
- In Dartmouth: antichristian plays; Bible burning parties
- The U.S. Chief Justice: "The churches are too far gone ever to be redeemed"

Before the Second Great Awakening

Christian historian Kenneth Scott Latourette:

"It seemed as if Christianity were about to be ushered out of the affairs of man."

Cited in John H. Armstrong,
True Revival, p.125



How Did God Change This?

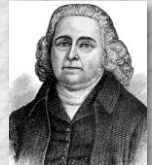
Jonathan Edwards, moved by a book he read from John Erskind regarding the need to pray for revival, wrote his own volume:

A Humble Attempt to Promote Explicit Agreement and Visible Union of All God's People in Extraordinary Prayer for the Revival of Religion and the Advancement of Christ's Kingdom.



How Did God Change This?

- Isaac Backus read the book, and sent a plea in 1794 to all the churches: Let us pray every Monday!
- Born was *The Concert of Prayer*!



Revival Broke Out:

- First in Connecticut, then in Massachusetts in the late 1790s
- Kentucky, the Carolinas followed in 1800
- Results?
 - **Missionary movement**
 - **Abolitionist movement**
 - **Over 600 Christian colleges were founded**
- Revival lasted decades—Finney, Millerites

New York City—1850s



Jeremiah Lanphier



Prayer/Layman's Revival, 1857-59



Prayer/Layman's Revival, 1857-59

- Noon prayer in a Manhattan church
- July 1857—6, 20, 30
- From six pray-ers to over 50,000 daily
- By February 1858—10,000 conversions per week



Prayer/Layman's Revival, 1857-59

- In New England: 8 a.m., 12 noon, 6 p.m. prayer meetings daily!
- Baptists had so many to baptize they started cutting holes in the ice to do it!



Prayer/Layman's Revival, 1857-59

- Over 1 million people gave their lives to Christ!
- It had a national and international impact!



From a religious journal,
March 1858:

“Such a time as the present was never known since the days of the Apostles, for revivals...[Conviction has] come home to the hearts and consciences of the millions in our land with a power that seems irresistible...exciting the earnest and simultaneous cry from thousands, ‘What shall we do to be saved?’...The large cities and towns generally from Maine to California are sharing in this great and glorious work.”

Cited in Henry C. Fish, *Handbook of Revivals*, pp.77-78.

Worldwide Impact:



The Adventist Factor

- In Nov 1856, James White began to write that Adventists, not others, were Laodicea
- This caused great revival and reformation among the saints
- However, by March 1857, the Adventist revival began to die
- The Prayer Revival was born in September



The Adventist Factor

“... as they failed to see the powerful work accomplished in a short time, many lost the effect of the message. I saw that this message would not accomplish its work in a few short months . . .
God had sent angels . . . in every direction to prepare unbelieving hearts for the truth.”

Testimonies, vol.1, 186 (emphasis supplied)



Acts 1:4, 12-14

“And being assembled together with *them*, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father...”

Then they returned to Jerusalem...[and] they went up into the upper room where they were staying...



Acts 1:4, 12-14

“These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.”



Disciples, women, brothers/family?



Acts 2:1-4

“When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind,... And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”



**THERE ARE SIX FACTORS INFLUENCING
CHURCH GROWTH IN THE BOOK OF ACTS**

Factor # 1

CORPORATE PRAYER



#	Reference	Incident	Impact/Result
1	Acts 1:14	Praying with one accord in the UR	The outpouring of the HS
2	Acts 1:24	Praying to select 12 th apostle	Selection of Matthias
3	Acts 2:42	New believers continued in prayer	Wonders and signs followed
4	Acts 3:1	Peter and John went for temple prayer	They met a lame man
5	Acts 4:31	Prayer with others after jail release	All filled with HS/ Spoke with boldness
6	Acts 6:4	Apostles appeal to have time for prayer	The selection of The Seven
7	Acts 6:6	They pray for The Seven	The Word spreads and many convert
8	Acts 7: 59, 60	Stephen intercedes for executioners	His death

#	Reference	Incident	Impact/Result
9	Acts 8:15	Peter/John prayed for new believers	They received the HS
10	Acts 8:24	Simon appeals for intercession	Unknown
11	Acts 9:10, 17	Ananias had a vision; likely praying	God sent him to heal Saul
12	Acts 9:11	Saul is praying after his encounter	God sends Ananias to heal his blindness
13	Acts 9:40	Peter prays for Dorcas alone	Dorcas is resurrected
14	Acts 10:2, 4	Cornelius prays habitually	He receives a vision, an angel
15	Acts 10:9	Peter goes to roof at noon to pray	He receives a vision, the Lord

#	Reference	Incident	Impact/Result
16	Acts 10:30	Cornelius tells story when he prayed	He recounts the incident
17	Acts 11:5	Peter tells story when he prayed	He recounts the incident
18	Acts 12:5, 12	Earnest prayer by the church for Peter	Peter was miraculously released
19	Acts 13:2	Antioch leaders fast and pray	HS selects Barnabas/ Saul for mission
20	Acts 13:3	Antioch leaders pray again	Barnabas and Saul are sent for mission
21	Acts 14:23	Apostles prayed for new elders	New Gentile leaders were strengthened
22	Acts 16:13	Jewish women praying by the river	Paul and Silas make first contact

#	Reference	Incident	Impact/Result
23	Acts 16:16	Apostles return to place of prayer	Fortune-teller harasses Paul and team
24	Acts 16:25	Paul/Silas pray and sing in prison	Prisoners hear them; earthquake next
25	Acts 20:36	Paul prays with Ephesian elders	They were sad and bid him farewell
26	Acts 21:5	Believers pray with Paul about to ship	They said farewell
27	Acts 22:17	Paul tells how he prayed in temple	His conversion story to Jerusalem mob
28	Acts 27: 24, 25	Paul intercedes for ship passengers	The Lord grants his request
29	Acts 28:8	Paul prays for sick father of Publius	The man is healed

Factor # 2

AN EMPOWERING SPIRIT



#	Reference	Appearance or Mention
1	Acts 1:2	Jesus gave orders to disciples by the HS
2	Acts 1:5	Jesus' promise to the disciples that they'd be baptized with the HS
3	Acts 1:8	Power for witnessing would be granted by the HS
4	Acts 1:16	David wrote Scripture inspired by the HS
5	Acts 2:3	The disciples, filled with the HS on the Day of Pentecost, spoke in tongues
6	Acts 2:17	Peter quoting Joel 2: "I will pour forth my Spirit on all mankind..."
7	Acts 2:18	Peter quoting Joel 2: Even bondslaves will receive the HS and prophesy

#	Reference	Appearance or Mention
8	Acts 2:33	Peter confirms believers received the promise of the HS
9	Acts 2:38	Repentance and forgiveness will produce the baptism or gift of the HS
10	Acts 4:8	Peter is filled with the HS as he addresses Sanhedrin for the first time
11	Acts 4:25	Charter-member leaders quote David, who was inspired by the HS
12	Acts 4:31	Leaders again filled with the HS after season of prayer
13	Acts 5:3	Peter confronts Ananias about lying to the HS
14	Acts 5:9	Peter confronts Sapphira about putting the HS to the test

#	Reference	Appearance or Mention
15	Acts 5:32	Peter states to the Sanhedrin that the HS is given to those who obey Him
16	Acts 6:3	The nascent church was to choose leaders "full of the Spirit"
17	Acts 6:5	Stephen was a man full of faith and of the HS
18	Acts 6:10	Enemies of Stephen could not cope with the Spirit in him as he spoke
19	Acts 7:51	Enemies of Stephen could not cope with the Spirit in him as he spoke
20	Acts 7:55	Stephen, full of the HS, is given a vision of Jesus standing in judgment in heaven
21	Acts 8:15	Peter and John came down to pray so Samaritans may receive the HS

#	Reference	Appearance or Mention
22	Acts 8:17	Samaritans received the HS as Peter and John laid hands on them
23	Acts 8:18	Simon, former magician, noted that the HS was given to believers
24	Acts 8:19	Simon requests to have same authority to grant the HS to people
25	Acts 8:29	The HS directed Philip to approach chariot of Ethiopian leader
26	Acts 8:39	The HS snatched Philip away after the baptism of the Ethiopian leader
27	Acts 9:17	Ananias, the Damascus disciple, laid hands on Paul to receive sight and the HS
28	Acts 9:31	The church throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria enjoyed comfort of the HS

#	Reference	Appearance or Mention
29	Acts 10:19	The Spirit directed Peter to go with Cornelius' servants to Caesarea
30	Acts 10:38	God anointed Jesus with the HS and power [at His baptism by the Jordan]
31	Acts 10:44	The HS falls upon Cornelius and his household while listening to Peter
32	Acts 10:45	Jewish Christians amazed the HS would fall on Gentiles also
33	Acts 10:47	Baptism could not be refused anyone who had received the HS
34	Acts 11:12	Peter retells the story of when the Spirit told him to go with Gentiles
35	Acts 11:15	Peter recounts how the HS fell on Gentiles also

#	Reference	Appearance or Mention
36	Acts 11:16	Peter remembers Jesus saying He'd baptize with the HS
37	Acts 11:24	Barnabas was a man full of the HS and of faith
38	Acts 11:28	Agabus prophesied by the Spirit about a worldwide famine
39	Acts 13:2	HS chose Barnabas and Saul as missionaries after fasting & prayer session
40	Acts 13:4	HS sent Barnabas and Saul off to 1 st missionary journey
41	Acts 13:9	Paul [leadership shift here] was full of the HS to rebuke Elymas before Sergius
42	Acts 13:52	New Pisidian Antioch disciples continually filled with joy and the HS

#	Reference	Appearance or Mention
43	Acts 15:8	Peter recounts how the HS came to the Gentiles at Cornelius' household
44	Acts 15:28	Jerusalem convocation decisions made by leadership of the HS
45	Acts 16:6	Paul and co. forbidden by the HS to go into Asia in favor of Macedonia
46	Acts 16:7	Team forbidden by HS to go into Bithynia
47	Acts 19:2	Twelve former John the Baptist's disciples asked by Paul if they received the HS
48	Acts 19:2	Their answer was they did not even hear of the HS
49	Acts 19:6	Paul laid hands of the Ephesian disciples and they received the HS

#	Reference	Appearance or Mention
50	Acts 19:21	Contested = Paul purposed in the spirit to go to Jerusalem
51	Acts 20:23	Paul told by the HS that bonds and afflictions await him as he goes to Jerusalem
52	Acts 20:28	The HS made the elders of Ephesus overseers to shepherd the church of God
53	Acts 21:4	Disciples at Tyre kept telling Paul through the Spirit not to go to Jerusalem
54	Acts 21:11	The prophet Agabus prophesied by the Spirit regarding Paul's oncoming arrest
55	Acts 28:25	Paul recalled the HS speaking through Isaiah re the heart hardening of the Jews



Factor # 3

**BIBLICAL
PREACHING**



Factor # 4

**MIRACLE
WORKING**



Factor # 5

**MUTUAL LOVE
AND CHURCH UNITY**



Factor # 6

**COURAGEOUS
LEADERSHIP**

Asbury College, 1970

- Chapel: Dean's testimony; others followed
- "Just As I Am" – testimonies
- Classes closed; faculty involved
- Two days later: across to the Seminary, all night prayer—pastors, wives confessed



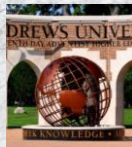
Asbury College, 1970

- The chapel service lasted 184 hours!
- Results? Over 2,000 witnessing teams throughout the US sparking revival to 130 colleges and scores of churches
- Impacted SDA colleges also; the SM movement



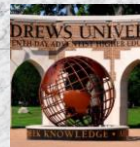
Andrews' Revival—1970

- Student rebellion, drugs, division among faculty, open criticism of administration
- Student leaders expelled for drug use



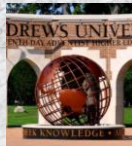
Andrews' Revival—1970

- Revival Sparks: Emilio Knechtle's "From Eden to Eden" stirred campus—copies everywhere [The Word sparked it...]
- Gymnastics team challenged academics to study/prepare to serve. Many went to AU
- Expelled students were converted. Visited AU in the summer, gave their testimonies. Spread the gospel on the streets of Detroit



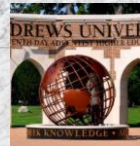
Andrews' Revival—1970

- E. L. Minchin spoke at fall retreat. Testimonies followed for hours over several days. Revival began!
- Halloween became "hallowed" as some 200 students **prayed through the night**
- Morris Venden went to conduct a week of prayer. "I went to Michigan to convert the students, but the students converted me."



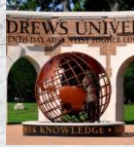
Andrews' Revival—1970

- Scores of rooms were seen open, **crowded with students praying** inside. Enemies became friends. Racism disappeared
- Guys began throwing their rock albums away. Some decided to enter the ministry
- News of the AU revival reached other schools: CUC, Kettering, Mt. Vernon Acad
- 19 students drove to CUC to testify



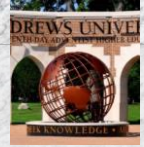
Andrews' Revival—1970

- “LSD can’t compare with the thrill of having Christ live within you and just letting Him take charge of your life.”
- The service at Sligo went until 2:30. A taxi driver listening to the service drove to the church and accepted Christ
- Student **prayer groups met for hours**



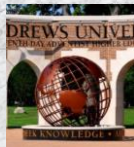
Andrews' Revival—1970

- They collected money, and started distributing Bibles and *Steps to Christ*
- AU students also went to AUC. Revival started there as well
- Over Christmas, students from all three schools went to NYC to witness on the streets, subways, and parks, giving out *Insight* magazines. New Yorkers joined them



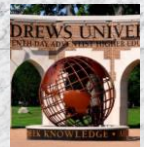
Andrews' Revival—1970

- Editors of *Christianity Today* heard about this and interviewed Adventist students, writing an article about it
- The revival reached Union College, and Southwestern Adventist University, and Pacific Union College, eventually even reaching Singapore Academy



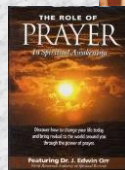
Andrews' Revival—1970

- It is always a combination:
 - ✓ **The Word**
 - ✓ **Corporate Prayer**
 - ✓ **Witnessing to Others**

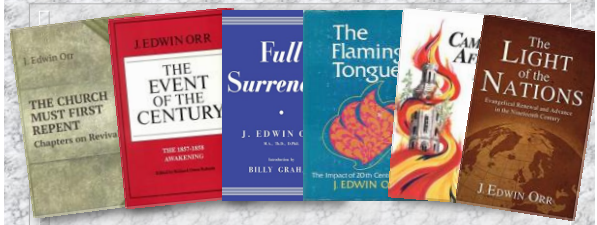


J. Edwin Orr, Revival Expert

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FW9Bb5tkOO4>
- October 1976
- He wrote about 40 books on spiritual revivals



J. Edwin Orr, Revival Expert



Roseville, California

- Typical Laodicean Adventist church
- 200 members, 100 attended
- Mostly older, not very friendly
- Focused on:
 - Bible Study
 - Prayer
 - Witness
- A hunger for God's Word



Roseville, California

- Prayer became paramount
- Young adults made radical changes
- Giving exploded; evangelism went up 5,000%
- 78% of members involved
- 200 baptized (no school)
- 630 members
- Planted church (750 today)



Evolution of Corporate Prayer at Roseville Church # 1

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| ■ Prayer Chain | Existing |
| ■ Prayer at Committees | Year 1, month 1 |
| ■ Worship: Hebrews 4:16 | Year 1, month 3 |
| ■ Prayer Vigil: Evangelism | Year 1, month 10 |
| ■ Sermon Series: Prayer | Year 2, months 2-3 |
| ■ Hour of Power | Year 2, months 3-4 |
| ■ Small Groups Praying | Year 2, month 6 |

Evolution of Corporate Prayer at Roseville Church # 2

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| ■ 1 st Fast/Prayer weekend | Year 3, month 1 |
| ■ Prayer: Rocklin staff | Year 3, months 3-4 |
| ■ Series on the Holy Spirit | Year 3, months 4-5 |
| ■ Monday AM: elders | Year 3, months 4-5 |
| ■ 2 nd Fast/Prayer weekend | Year 3, month 6 |
| ■ Four mornings prayer | Year 3, months 6-7 |
| ■ Every morning prayer | Year 3, months 8-9 |
| ■ Four mornings prayer | Year 3, month 9 |

Evolution of Corporate Prayer at Roseville Church # 3

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| ■ 3 rd Fast/Prayer weekend | Year 4, month 3 |
| ■ Upper Rooms/10 days | Year 4, months 3, 9 |
| ■ 4 th Fast/Prayer weekend | Year 4, month 9 |
| ■ Every AM: "lay" led | Year 4, month 9 |
| ■ Major reaping meetings | Year 4, months 10-11 |
| ■ 5 th Fast/Prayer weekend | Year 5, month 5 |
| ■ 24-Hour Prayer Watch | Year 5, month 5 |
| ■ 6 th Fast/Prayer weekend | Year 5, month 9 |

Evolution of Corporate Prayer at Roseville Church # 4

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ■ Major reaping meetings | Year 5, months 10-11 |
| ■ 7 th Fast/Prayer weekend | Year 6, month 3 |
| ■ Church retreat: | Year 6, month 3 (Holy Spirit baptism) |
| ■ 8 th Fast/Prayer weekend | Year 6, month 8 |
| ■ Major reaping meetings | Year 6, months 10-11 |

Sample F&P Weekend:

- Friday 4 p.m. to Sunday 9 a.m./40 hrs
- 10-15 sessions of 90 minutes each
- Maintain regular Sabbath School for children and worship schedule
- Constant clean up crews/Water or juice always available
- Hosting/registration (up to 800 participants!)
- Use of *My Prayer Card*

Sample F&P Weekend:

- Special prayer rooms:
 - Physical and emotional healing
 - Healing of Broken Relationships
 - Victory over Enslaving Habits
- Childcare and children's programming for *prime times* (twice Friday, two-three times on Sabbath)
- Early morning prayer times Sabbath and Sunday

Sample F&P Weekend:

- Major testimony session Saturday night
- Major impact on Sunday mornings (see Hosea 6:1-3)
- Sample 90-min. Session:

Singing	7:00 - 7:10	10 min.
Invocation/Cards	7:10 - 7:20	10 min.
Presentation	7:20 - 8:00	40 min.
Corporate Prayer	8:00 - 8:20	20 min.
Break	8:20 - 8:30	10 min.

Corporate vs. Private Prayer



"The promise [of the Holy Spirit] is made on *condition* that the *united prayers* of the church are offered, and in answer to these prayers there may be expected *a power greater than that which comes in answer to private prayer.*

Corporate vs. Private Prayer



"The power given will be proportionate to the unity of the members and their love for God and for one another."

Letter 32, 1903, p. 5.

(To Brother and Sister Farnsworth, January 28, 1903.) [9MR 303]. Emphasis added

The Welsh Revival of 1904-05

- A student-led movement:
 - Yale: 25% enrolled in Bible studies
 - Evan Roberts: a catalyst in Newcastle Emlyn College, Wales

Evan Roberts and the Revival

Heard evangelist Seth Joshua pray: "Oh God, bend us." Roberts prayed: "Oh God, bend me."

"Some people's prayers need to be cut short at both ends and set on fire in the middle."
Anonymous

Evan Roberts and the Revival

- Burden to go to hometown of Loughor to testify. Asked the principal, who gave him a week off from school
- Only allowed to say a few words after prayer meeting:
- This is what he said:

Evan Roberts and the Revival

- ✓ *You must confess any known sin to God and put any wrong done to others right.*
- ✓ *You must put away any doubtful habit.*
- ✓ *You must obey the Spirit promptly.*
- ✓ *You must confess your faith in Christ publicly.*
- All present were deeply convicted!
- A week later revival broke out

Can God Work Through One?

"For the eyes of the Lord move to and fro throughout the earth that He may show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is completely His."

2 Chron 16:9

Revival Results

- Prayer meetings went until 4:30 a.m.
- In Wales, 100,000 converted in the first five months
- No more rapes, robberies, murders
- It spread to Scandinavia, Germany, North America, Australia, New Zealand, central and south Africa, Brazil, Chile, Korea, China, etc. It's been the last truly worldwide revival

Revival Results

- Police became unemployed: "We go with the crowds since there is practically no crime. We have 17 men at the station allowing for three quartets. If any church needs a quartet they simply call the station!"
- Coal mines in Wales experienced a slow down: Horses had to get used to new language from the miners since they no longer cussed and cursed!

The Key?

- Intentional, united, corporate prayer
- “When God intends great mercy for His people He sets them a-praying.”
Matthew Henry



Why Corporate Prayer?

1. Because God wants to bless something much bigger than individuals, and He needs legal justification for it.
2. Because there is something truly symbiotic and synergistic when we gather together with a common purpose.
3. Because accountability is much more organic in the context of group work, and we all need accountability.
4. Because it is revolutionized groups that catch the attention of the young (if we have the young, we have the revolution).

Acts 1:14

“These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.



Acts 2:1, 4

“When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place,...And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit.”

