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“Revival in a Plain Brown Wrapper” First of All . . . Prayer

Some gifts are wrapped with gaudy paper, the paper more attractive than the gift. I’ve lived some revivals that were gaudier than substantive. As a child, observing G.A. Mangun as he led the Pentecostals of Alexandria, one thing stood out: the impact and growth was a product of consistency.

Nothing gaudy . . . everything steady!

Days ago, Foreign Missions Director Bruce Howell told me revival in El Salvador was not sudden or flamboyant, but constantly having people receive the Holy Ghost—week after week. Bright paper is nice, but it shouldn’t outshine the gift. Over the next few Communiqués, we will talk about revival. A different kind of revival . . .

Revival in a Plain Brown Wrapper!

Revival is vital to the New Testament Church, and we can all have it. But, an inaccurate perception of what revival looks and feels like can mean we are having a revival and not even know it. Revival in a plain brown wrapper does not have the “sizzle” we tend to enjoy. Let’s talk about revival—revival in a plain brown wrapper!

Revival with no self-promotion.

Revival without fanfare.

Revival in places we may not have heard about: Thibodaux, Louisiana; Lumberton, NC; Ottawa, Ontario; Bethel, Alaska; Madison, Wisconsin; Temecula, California; downtown Tampa; San Antonio; urban Chicago; Murfreesboro, Tennessee; Gillette, Wyoming; Amarillo, Texas; Los Angeles; and hundreds of other places.

Today—all over this land—God is doing a grand work, and it seems He is wrapping it in a “plain brown wrapper.” Would you like to participate? This is an invitation to participate in the unelaborated experience of revival in a plain brown wrapper.

I’m not sure about everything preceding our time in Springfield, Missouri. On arrival, morale was low, conversions few, and some elementary things were not being addressed. A church that became a productive vine seemed a bit “dry.”

Change began in a small way. We never had what some define as earth-shaking results. To my chagrin, no 1,000-soul revivals took place. Our model was less about the “big deal” and more about the “steady deal.” At times we’d have new people born again for weeks on end. The most ever baptized in a single service was eight. In spite of no “big” numbers, we constantly added disciples. We had what everybody can have—revival in a plain brown wrapper:

Cost-effective revival

Continuous revival

Sustainable revival

Our model is not the only model, nor is it the most appealing, but it is likely the model that fits more of us than does any other.

In my experience you can’t go to the second thing until you address the first thing. There is no need to teach algebra if the kid can’t add. For church impact, there is no need to spend \$10,000 on direct mail if the church isn’t praying.

You've heard the classic quotes:

"The Church never will be wholly for God until the pews are filled with praying men." (E.M. Bounds)

"The man who can get believers to praying would, under God, usher in the greatest revival that the world has ever known." (Leonard Ravenhill)

"The man who mobilizes the Christian Church to pray, will make the greatest contribution in history to world evangelism." (Andrew Murray)

My first message as pastor in Springfield took 1 Timothy 2:1 as a text, "I exhort therefore that first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions . . . be made for all men." *First of . . . all prayer* became a benchmark to always rally back to. In times of duress, the message "First of all prayer" recurred. It became part of the culture and climate of the "plain brown wrapper church."

"First of all . . . prayer"—make it work?

- 1) Expect prayer—For us participation in pre-service prayer was non-negotiable for all service participants. It was simple—they just had to be at pre-service prayer. If a soloist ran late, his/her song could be used another time. It wasn't punitive; it was just the way it was and everyone understood the priority. On occasion we sang *a cappella* while musicians who could not make it to pre-service prayer sat in the audience. How important is prayer? Athletic coaches expect every player to be at the pre-game meeting. If the athlete isn't where he is supposed to be, even because of a flat tire, someone else starts the game. So thirty minutes before church on Sunday morning, Sunday evening, and mid-week, the platform personnel joined me in prayer. It was just expected!
- 2) Participate in public prayer—Pastor, you can't just preach prayer; you have to be seen participating in it. On Sunday evening at 5:30, Anthony Mangun is not in his office. He is in the men's prayer room. Each time I preached for General Superintendent David Bernard, he was at pre-service prayer.

Jesus' disciples comprehended the priority of prayer because they saw Him pray. They then asked, "Lord, teach us to pray?" Sir, your participation in the prayer program of the local church is also a non-negotiable.

As prayer became part of the Springfield church culture, the "first of all prayer" mentality became the basis of our prayer ministry and of revival. I intentionally use the term "prayer ministry." It is inadequate when prayer is not part of a church's annual plan. For our "revival in a plain brown wrapper," the prayer ministry came to have these additional ingredients:

- 1) Family prayer—Each Monday we had prayer from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. There were three levels of prayer: kids, youth and adult. Young people were trained to pray; then they prayed. Children's prayer trainers taught kids. One of my treasured keepsakes is a binder full of prayer notes from the "Kids of Truth" prayer team. On one occasion, the children and their trainer invited me to their prayer area for the children to lay hands on my head and pray for me. "First of all . . . prayer!" Youth and children prayer trainers freed parents to focus on prayer. Unless life significantly infringed, staff and leaders were to be at Monday prayer. At times the prayer meeting was focused using resources like *Warfare Praying* by Judy Doughty; praying through the Lord's prayer; or Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication (ACTS). World Network of Prayer items were always available for use. Family prayer was not measured by volume, but by the pursuit of God. Sometimes the prayer was loud and verbose; more often the family prayer time was a quiet conversation with the Almighty.
- 2) Monthly prayer chain—eventually on one Saturday of each month we had a 12-hour chain of prayer. It began with one person praying for each of the twelve hours. Some years back it expanded to three people being committed to pray each of the hours.

- 3) Quarterly Prayer Chain—One week of each quarter we did seven days of 24-hour prayer. This was accomplished in three-hour shifts. For a week before the prayer chain, a “signup sheet” was available at the front. With repeated promotion, about half the prayer shifts would be filled. On Sunday I’d read the commitments and complete what we lacked. This is another area where the pastor and pastor’s wife have to be actively involved. Let me offer a caveat here: before you ask people to pray a three-hour shift, you need to prepare them about what to expect. (Three hours is a long time to spend in effectual fervent prayer or “groaning which cannot be uttered.” Much of the time will be in slow steady conversation with God.) Provide them with resources.
- 4) Regularly (at least two times each year) preach/teach about prayer. Ask any revival pastor—in every church; key themes must be repeated often enough that they become part of the church’s culture.

Revival in a plain brown wrapper requires us to develop high-commitment people serving God in a low-commitment world. Set a level of expectation. Participate at and beyond that level of expectation yourself. Your practice becomes the foundation of what others do.

Revival in a Plain Brown Wrapper—First of all . . . prayer

Now for reality:

The prayer program of a church of a few hundred does not fit a church plant.

None of what we did worked all the time.

None of it worked well every time.

What worked in Springfield may not work for you.

But . . . to do nothing to establish a prayer ministry is to not prepare to participate in the end-time revival.

What I’m calling *Revival in a plain brown wrapper* is beyond personality and charisma. Revival in a plain brown wrapper is not having the right gifts and talents. It is a God-intervention. The revival birthed in “first of all prayer” is available to any church, any size, any place and any age.

Observations:

Don’t try to do what you cannot do. For most church planters, to schedule a week of 24-hour prayer is unrealistic. *Revival in a plain brown wrapper* may well begin with averaging one baptism each month. Crawl before you walk. Walk before you run.

Action Steps:

- 1) Analyze your church. Where is your level of revival? Are your people ready for a plain brown wrapper revival—not a short stint of special services but a church culture where disciples are consistently added to the church?
- 2) Adjust your program to reflect prayer being the foundation of all else. Schedule regular prayer and be in attendance yourself.
- 3) Declare a renewed focus on prayer. Plan preaching and teaching on prayer. (Your people will understand the importance you put on prayer based on how much they see you practice it and how clearly you voice it from the pulpit.)
- 4) Honor those who are leaders in prayer. Often the spiritual warriors get overlooked because “first of all prayer” is not particularly loud or flashy. (What gets honored gets repeated!)
- 5) Make available resources like those cited above, or the abundance of material available from the World Network of Prayer. (www.WNOP.org)

News and Views

May/June 2010

Québec District Report—In the recent District Conference, five men were licensed or advanced to the next level. The five represent include a Filipino, a Sri Lankan, a French Speaking African Immigrant, a Quebecois and a transfer from Jordan. These five preachers are teaching a total of 18 Home Bible Studies each week! My appreciation to Fidel Valenciano and the church in Côtes des Neiges for hosting this year's District Conference. Several students from Northeast Christian College are coming to Quebec as summer interns. Trois Rivières continues to need a French-speaking Pastor. We have a building and congregation. The Home Mission Administrative Committee recently approved Quebec City for Metro-Missions status. If you have an interest in planting a church in Quebec City, contact Paul Graham at prlgraham@gmail.com.

Christian Prisoner's Fellowship Update--The recent annual conference hosted by First Church of Nashville, TN had a record of almost 300 registrants and over 450 in attendance for the Friday night service. Tennessee Department of Corrections leadership was so impacted by the training that one said, "Next year we will require our people to attend this conference." General Chaplin Mike Rickenbaker and his team have developed some extraordinary new items available as free downloads for supporters of the Christian Prisoner Fellowship. There is an incredible expansion of this ministry. Please visit: www.christianprisonerfellowship.net for information about enrolling as a supporter.

Home Missions Training Seminar-Online (www.homemissionsdivision.com/hmts) went live on April 1st. This resource allows current and prospective church planters an opportunity to be empowered and equipped. Special thanks to presenters David Bernard, Rick and Donna Marcelli, Rex Deckard, Travis Miller, Aubrey Jayroe, Albert Foster, Donald Hanscom, Cindy Miller and Lorin Bradbury for their teaching. The lessons give practical insight on an array of subjects from spiritual warfare issues to the long-term strategy of multiplying themselves and the churches being started. Please take advantage of this opportunity. Contact Robert Fazzalore at rfazzalore@upci.org for more information.

Christmas for Christ Report – After much hard work and effort we have officially closed out the 2009 CFC campaign! On behalf of each Home Missionary who benefits from your investment, thank you . . . thank you . . . thank you! Let me give honor to whom honor is due:

Top Five Districts

District	HM Director	CFC Offering
Louisiana	Derald Weber	\$246,767.16
Texas	E. W. Whitmire	\$124,264.89
Wisconsin	Richard Kielley	\$110,522.80
Illinois	George Szabolcsi	\$87,682.91
Missouri	James Sample	\$85,911.45

Top Ten Churches

Church	Pastor	CFC Offering
Alexandria, LA	Anthony Mangun /Terry Shock	\$57,100.00
Bossier City, LA	Jerry L. Dean	\$32,711.00
Fayetteville, NC	Robert L. Mitchell II/Jesse F. Williams	\$25,000.00

Whitehorse, YK	Ted Wagner	\$23,600.00
Wichita, KS	Marrell Cornwell	\$20,000.00
St. Louis, MO	Steve Willeford	\$18,830.32
Montreal, QC	Paul M. Graham	\$18,641.68
Bethel, AK	Lorin L. Bradbury	\$16,071.36
Klamath Falls, OR	Randy E. Langley	\$15,557.00
Portland, OR	Ted Graves	\$14,790.00

Districts with 100% Cooperation in CFC

District	Superintendent	HM Director
Hawaii	Richard McGriffin	Jonathan Sanders
Nebraska	Elvin Anthony	Jimmy Smith
Pennsylvania	Laverne Smith	Phillip Zook
South Dakota	Irvin Fields	Warren Welch

Districts with largest Average Offering Per Church

District	HM Director	Average/Church
Quebec	Paul Graham	\$3,667.24
Alaska-Yukon	Roger Yadon	\$2,292.38
Oregon	Ted Graves	\$1,869.24
Newfoundland	Duane Phillips	\$1,750.09
Wisconsin	Richard Kielley	\$1,535.04

Setting New CFC records:

District	New Record	Old Record	HM Director
Kansas	\$24,252.00	\$22,672.00 (2006)	Charles Jay
Michigan	\$63,126.17	\$47,000.00 (2004)	William Chapman
Newfoundland	\$14,000.70	\$13,828.50 (2006)	Duane Phillips

End of the Fiscal Year giving opportunities - The current fiscal year for the United Pentecostal Church ends soon. Some churches take this time to examine their Home Missions giving and invest additional funds. Brothers and sisters, for this particular year I am asking you to prayerfully consider making such an investment – no matter how large or small. I need your help. If you would like to invest funds specifically in *Friends of American Missions* (FAM), which provides you this *Communiqué*, monthly leadership training in English and Spanish, *HM Live* and other items we will see it is properly designated. We also need monthly partners for *Friends of American Missions*. This will increase the CFC funds we have available to return to Home Missionaries.

Upcoming MCM Events – Multicultural Ministries has several upcoming events: *Reaching African Immigrants in North America (RAIN) Conference*, May 14-15, 2010 in Minneapolis, MN; *Portuguese Evangelism Conference* May 20-22, 2010 in Arroyo Grande, CA; *Native American Evangelism National Conference* May 27-29, 2010 in Pembroke, NC; *Chinese Evangelism Conference* June 3-5, 2010 in Belleville, ON, Canada; *South Asian Evangelism Conference* June 24-26, 2010 in Montreal, QC, Canada; *South East Asian Evangelism Conference (Combined Conference with the Burmese)* July 30-31, 2010 in Nashville, TN.

National Spanish Conference – The 2010 National Spanish Conference is June 30 – July 2 in Raleigh, North Carolina. Speakers include David Bernard, Josias Limones, Daniel Johnston, Sergio Vitanza and others. More information is available at <http://spanishevangelism.net>.

Unsung Hero's – In 2009, the **Ladies Ministry of the Alaska-Yukon** (Director Orvada Churchill) invested in sending 45 teenagers to Home Missionary Church settings across Alaska and the Yukon Territory. Seven received the Holy Ghost in Carmacks, Yukon. One group went to Ross River, a 100-mile trip one way on gravel roads. Ross River has had 7 suicides of young people in the last several years; after the service 2 young people from that city have requested for this group of young people to return in 2010. Last year 27 received the Holy Ghost during this Ladies Ministry Sponsored Youth Tour as the 45 kids traveled. This is a worthy investment for another district ladies group. I commend Sis. Churchill and Ladies Ministry of the Alaska-Yukon Territory.

People of the Mission

May/June 2010

Home Missionary Reports

Home Missionary **Diomedes Quintero** (Revere, ME) had 9 baptized and 2 filled with the Holy Ghost in January and February. Church planter **Joel Bean** (Seattle, WA) had a great community outreach including serving soup to the homeless and passing out blankets, clothes, shoes, Bibles, and church cards to many people. Help came from Pastor **Kevin Crissman** (Port Orchard, WA) and Pastor **Darcy Ross** (Mt. Vernon, WA). Missionary **Lonnie Vestal** (Mason, OH) had several first-time visitors from door-knocking. **Peter Fraser** (De Pere, WI) gained 2 new families in Bible studies. Home Missionary **Greg Downs** (Fayetteville, AR) had 60 on Easter. Home Missionary **Chris Hancock** (Russellville, AR) had 27 on their first Easter service. Church Planter **Tim Gaddy** (Cabot, AR) had 295 for Easter with 112 guests. Pastor **Jathan Maricelli** (Ruston, LA) had 12 first-time guests in a recent service. Home Missionaries **R. Stacey and Melody Meeks** (Hermitage, TN) had 1 filled with the Holy Ghost in February. Pastor **Robert Eaby** (King George, VA) has started jail and nursing home ministries in their rural area, eleven were baptized and 8 filled with the Holy Ghost in 2009. Home Missionary **Robert E. Hohman, Sr.** (Dixon, MO) had 12 returning guests in February. **Dean Lunsford** (Hamilton, OH) is employing a great strategy for evangelism by creating contact lists from church members of their family, friends, and people they know who can be targeted in outreach. **Shane and April Brown** (Flowood, MS) had 119 first-time visitors in January and February with a new attendance record of 104 in a service. Pastor **Gary Mackowiak** (Taylorsville, KY) has trained a couple to teach Bible studies, and they had 1 receive the Holy Ghost through a weekly Bible study with teenagers at a local pizza restaurant. Home Missionary **Roger Brewer (Cherokee Village, AR) had a man he won to the Lord give him the \$48,000 balance needed on the church building they're buying.** God is a miracle worker! The contributor is someone to whom Bro. Brewer taught a Bible Study over 20 years ago. Home Missionary **Joe Huffman** (Lincoln, NE) is thankful to have had 4 electricians from nearby Scottsbluff (Pastor **Duane Wallace**) donate over 400 man-hours to wire their new building—a need met from the last issue of *People of the Mission*. Pastor **Gary Mackowiak** (Taylorsville, KY) is finishing the renovation of a new rental building, thanks to the help of Home Missions Sectional Director **Ed Enmen III**.

Multicultural Ministry

Home Missionary **Kerry Owen** (Greenwood, MS) had his first Spanish service with 17 guests. **Michael and Vani Marshall**, who reach out to the Asian community in Alexandria, LA, helped a

Burmese man named Michael find a doctor in New Orleans who fitted him with a false eye. The doctor was so impressed by the church's care for Michael that he promised to attend church. A man in Sweden thought he was the lone Oneness person in his entire country. He plugged into Pastor **Gordon Parrish's** website (Fairbanks, AK), listens regularly to the messages from there, and is now using the **ACTS Ministry** to evangelize the chemically dependent in Sweden.

Metro Missions

Metro Missionary **David Sanzo** (Manassas, VA) has recently set a new attendance record. Metro Missionaries **Scott and Liane Grant** (Montreal) plan to launch services in June at the end of language study.

Evangelists

Evangelist **Brian Norman** reports 13 filled with the Holy Ghost and 7 baptized at the Soul Winners Conference hosted by Pastor **Norris Gordon** (Tampa, FL). Harvester **David Smith** was in Cabot, AR, with Pastor **Tim Gaddy** and had 22 get the Holy Ghost and 9 baptized. He also had 24 receive the Holy Ghost and 5 baptized in Little Rock, AR (Bishop **James Lumpkin**) and 67 receive the Holy Ghost and 6 baptized in Mt. Vernon, NY (Bishop **Arthur Thomas**). Many evangelists are blessing home missions, including Evangelist **Tim Greene** who ministered in West Allis, WI (Home Missionary **E.L. Hays**) with 2 getting the Holy Ghost and 3 baptized. Evangelists **Michael and Anne Bower** are having revival with Home Missionary **Tim Price** (Forney, TX), and through a combination of outreach, discipleship, and harvest report that 1 backslider was renewed and 5 received the Holy Ghost for the first time. Texas Home Missions Director **E. W. Whitmire** announces "Breaking The Boundaries" Holy Ghost rallies throughout the year in Texas. In the first 4 rallies, 22 received the Holy Ghost, and 5 more are planned. The goal is to give back directly to the sections and churches that help support *Christmas For Christ* by creating a rally service filled with faith where people will receive the Holy Ghost.

Training

Metro Missionary **Ryan Crossley** (Hollywood, FL) is providing an on-site Bible school training program using an overseas model. Something similar is happening in Quebec with French-speaking Bible school offered by Pastor **Paul Graham** (Montreal). Many opportunities of training where each local church is becoming a seminary are blossoming. One of the oldest is the Christian Service Training Institute in Section One of the South California District. This sort of training is such a vital key to the future growth of the United Pentecostal Church. Another option for training is the Apostolic Training Institute. Contact Rex Deckard at rdecka@juno.com for more information.

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**Would you like information about including
Home Missions in your estate plan?**
Call Brian Hord at 314-837-7300 ext. 367



A 70's song said, "Everybody needs somebody sometimes." It's true. As parent, pastor, and person there were times where I had Robert Trapani on speed-dial. Thank God for those who have helped me.

The UPCI has established **Points of Refuge** to "Give Care...To Care Givers."

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