



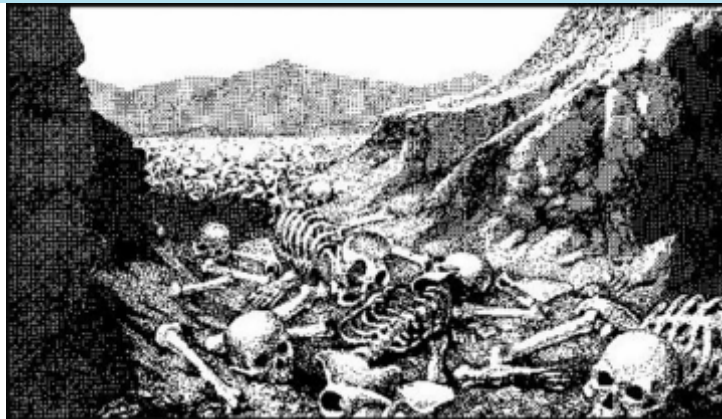
# THE PROCLAIMER

Issue 3 August/Sept., 2003

## REVIVE US ONCE MORE

*You once favored your land, restored the good fortune of Jacob. You forgave the guilt of your people, pardoned all their sins. Revive us once more God our savior---Please give us life again. (Ps. 85:1,3, 5-6).*

<sup>1</sup>The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. <sup>2</sup>He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. <sup>3</sup>He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." <sup>4</sup>Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. <sup>5</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live (Ezek. 37:1-5)



*Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live.*

“to make alive, to nourish, preserve, repair, restore, quicken, save, to be whole again”. It is the faith filled voice of an anguished heart begging God to once again manifest himself in the midst of us. It is the appeal to a loving God to again make known a mercy and grace formerly experienced.

The great tragedy is that many people never seek to be revived. It is possible to be a believer and remain in the spiritual doldrums, a sea of stagnation. How easy it is to lay in the valley of dead, dry, parched, bleached, bones---to say, “I’m too old, too decrepit, too young, too sinful, hopeless, it’s all over for me”.

It is true that to view the “human condition” is often like being in the midst of a “valley of bones”. If asked, “Can these bones live again?”, our answer would be the same as the prophet’s--- “Only you know Lord” ! According to human

The cry of the psalmist above is a plea for the nation of Israel after they had fallen into a terrible state of alienation which separated them from the living God. It is a cry that is equally important for individuals as it is for nations.

The Hebrew word for “revive us” is the word “chayah”. It carries the meaning



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judgment it may indeed be inconceivable that a meaningful change can take place. We are too dead, too faint, too feeble, too far gone. Only an all-powerful God could change our lot!

**DO WE WANT TO BE REVIVED?** First it may be necessary to recognize what “revival is not”. Revival is not just being very busy doing many good things. Martha was busy but had lost her joy. Revival is not just an emotional experience although emotions may play an important part. Revival is being what we were created to be---a human being created in the image of God. It means God’s very breath, His Spirit, is animating our life, our thoughts, our deeds.

**WHEN IS REVIVAL NEEDED?** The diagnosis of spiritual illness is not that difficult under the scope of an honest examination. Questions! Have I grown complacent---satisfied with my status quo? Am I concerned about others--about their salvation? Am I covering up or hiding sin in my life? Do I spew venomous words--am I filled with animosity---do I have an unforgiving spirit? Am I filled with pride or do I live in an attitude of humility? Is my spiritual condition less than what it was?

**HAVE WE LOST SPIRITUAL POWER?** Samson was a man who received great power from God. He played around with sin and woke up one day a slave. Jesus gave his disciples the power to heal and cast out demons. There came a day when they were spiritually impotent and they were not even aware of the reason. Jesus told them it was because of their unbelief! (Mt. 17:19-20).

**HOW DO WE BECOME REVIVED? HOW CAN DEAD BONES LIVE AGAIN?** It won’t happen automatically. A casual approach won’t get it. The cry of the psalmist was a passionate desire. Ezekiel was required to face dead bones and begin to speak to them.

He had to persist through the various stages of ongoing restoration and he had to obediently call upon the omnipresent Holy Spirit to intervene with His life imparting breath. There is no formula for revival but there are numerous revealed actions one can take. Revival cannot be demanded, but it can be expected.

**IT TAKES DESIRE!** Seeking God’s face is a prerequisite for revival. One must earnestly desire to grow closer to the living God. One must be quite dissatisfied with one’s present spiritual condition. The heart must cry out “Revive me , O Lord”! Most certainly God wants to send us new life, but the human tendency is to not want it bad enough to go after it with genuine zeal. Isaiah the prophet gives us a key “Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near, let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts (Isa. 55:6-7).

**IT TAKES REPENTANCE!** A casual “I’m sorry” will not suffice. Revival follows the forsaking of sin. A life must be evaluated according to the holy principles of God and then elevated to measure up to the standards. We don’t pull the wool over God’s eyes when we settle for half-measures of excellence, purity, and love.

**IT TAKES PRAYER!** Someone once said: “There have been revivals without much preaching, but there has never been a revival without much praying.” Will we take seriously and accept the invitation from God, ***“So let us confidently approach the throne of grace to receive mercy and to find grace for timely help (Heb. 4:16).*** Are we really willing to begin to speak to our own dead bones as Ezekiel did? Like the psalmist, will we lift up the cry of the heart, ***“Revive us once more God our savior---Please give us life again.***



*Leading a Renewal Ministries team, Tom was accompanied by Fr. Timothy Graff, Fr. Paul O'Donnell Dugan, Fr. Scott McCaig, Bob Roleke, John Mathe and Nick Simone*

*Tanga, Tanzania. Thousands of people gathered on the rally field each day. The response was always intense.*







Hundreds come forth to receive healing prayer.



Little children commit their way to Christ and rejoice

## **TANZANIA OUTREACH JULY, 2003**



Team is welcomed to Diocese of Dar es Salaam by Bishop Methodus Kilani

It is difficult to convey all that the Lord did as we shared the gospel in discipleship schools and rallies in the Dioceses of Tanga and Dar es Salaam, the coastal region of Tanzania which is 60 % Muslim.

Over 50 individuals, prayer groups and convents committed in writing to support us in prayer. Your intercession paved the way. We were protected from many dangers and the gospel went forth in great power with signs following.



John Mathe and friend under a Cashew tree

13 Muslims come forth to give their lives to Jesus in one afternoon



Fr. Paul O'Donnell Dugan prays for young lady.