

REVIVAL AND REFORMATION (GC INITIATIVE)

BUC Response

The British Union joins the world church in seeking a revival experience, which arises from the development of the inner life through subjection to the spiritual disciplines of prayer, bible study, fasting and reflection. We understand revival to mean the impartation of fresh life and, in this context, 'fresh spiritual life'. In seeking revival we are also expressing our belief that the task of reaching the millions in the British Isles with the gospel can be accomplished only through the power of the Holy Spirit and not by human might and wisdom.

We seek first to experience a personal revival, which manifests itself in joyful obedience to God and invariably leads to corporate revival, in which God intervenes in the life of His church and empowers His people to witness with authority to the saving merits of Jesus Christ and experience joyful Christian living. "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 I will forgive their sin and will heal their land" (2 Chronicles 7:14).

We recognise that revival comes as a result of God's actions in the lives of His people. It is His work and not ours. "...Revival has to do with *God*, His sovereignty, omnipotence and grace exercised toward His own."

A significant output of revival is reformation. While revival is a renewal of spiritual life, reformation is a change of lifestyle. "A revival and a reformation must take place under the ministration of the Holy Spirit. Revival and reformation are two different things. Revival signifies a renewal of spiritual life, a quickening of the powers of mind and heart, a resurrection from spiritual death. Reformation signifies a reorganisation, a change in ideas and theories, habits and practices..." (Review and Herald, Feb. 25, 1902).

Some characteristics of a revived and reformed Christian or community of Christians are:

- a) A yearning for spiritual understanding;
- b) Heightened appreciation of scripture;
- c) Being able to distinguished more clearly between truth and error;
- d) Greater appreciation of the value of each human being;
- e) Growth in disinterested service to fellow human beings
- f) Increased effort to share the gospel
- g) Elevated esteem of Jesus

In view of the pivotal role of revival and reformation in the life of the church we commit ourselves to the following:

1. Joining the worldwide prayer fellowship of the church (777): Members praying seven days a week at 7:00a.m. or 7:00 p.m. for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and for a genuine spiritual experience. Alternatively, we encourage members to pray when they wish to but ensuring that prayer becomes a priority experience in their daily activities.
2. Uniting in prayer with fellow believers around the world on New Year's Eve in seeking God for a revival experience in 2011.
3. Observing the first Sabbath of each quarter, with the rest of the world church, as a special day of prayer.
4. Development of a spiritual formation pathway for leaders and local churches.
5. Continually emphasising the importance of the disciplines of prayer, bible study, fasting and reflection.
6. Encouraging each family to endeavour to bring at least one person to Christ annually.