Praying Through For Revival

Praying Through for Revival By George T. B. Davis

D, L. Moody once heard a man say that the world has yet to see what one man, fully surrendered, can accomplish for God. Moody said he would be that man, and he wrought great things for the Kingdom, and moved two nations God-ward.

A New York business man has paraphrased that statement that stirred Moody's soul, and has applied it to the realm of prayer. He says: "It yet remains to be seen what great things GOD WILL DO, in answer to the prayer of faith of any of His children!"

This same principle of the unthinkably great results that can be achieved by the believing intercession of a single individual was recently expressed by Rev. Samuel Chadwick, Principal of Cliff College England. He said: "The fervent supplication of one soul moved of God is an immeasurable force."

One of the most striking examples in the Christian era of the immeasurably great and far-reaching effects of persistent, long-continued prayer is found in the history of the Moravian Church. Soon after the memorable outpouring of God's Spirit at Herrnhut, Germany, in 1727, they began a prayer meeting which continued day and night for one hundred years. In speaking of the prayer - meeting and its results, Bishop Hasse says: "Was there ever in the whole of Church history such an astonishing prayer-meeting as that which beginning in 1727, went on one hundred years. It is something absolutely unique. It was known as the 'Hourly Intercession,' and it meant that by relays of brethren and sisters prayer without ceasing was made to God for all the work and wants of His Church. Prayer of that kind always leads to action. In this case it kindled a burning desire to make Christ's salvation known to the heathen. It led to the beginning of modern foreign missions. From that one small village community more than one hundred missionaries

went out in twenty-five years. You will look in vain elsewhere for anything to match it in anything like the same extent."

Bishop Hasse has only touched the fringe of the results that flowed forth from this hundred-years-long prayer meeting. The Moravian missionaries

went forth as flaming, Spirit-filled messengers, seeing multitudes born again in the American colonies and in other lands. And it was the Moravian missionaries in England that led John and Charles Wesley into the full gospel of grace, and so had a very real share in the revival that swept over England, and saved her from the horrors of the revolution that deluged France with blood.

Recently there has come to my attention a somewhat similar prayer movement in Latin America that is already producing glorious results. It was originated at San Jose, the capital of Costa Rica, in connection with the work of the Latin American Evangelization Campaign founded by Mr. and Mrs. Harry Strachan. The movement was started by an untutored native evangelist, who was wholly consecrated to God, and filled with the Holy Spirit. It has now spread to other republics of Central and South America.

One of the missionaries of the Latin American Evangelization Campaign who has returned home on furlough, gives this description of the Prayer League:

“The plan of the prayer league is that each of its members shall spend at least one-half hour daily in the reading of the Bible and prayer for the speedy evangelization of the lost in Latin America, as well as for the spiritual growth of those who have taken Christ as their Savior and Lord —this half hour to be given early in the morning if possible, or at any convenient time during the day. Weekly cottage prayer meetings are held in the various sections of the city, where three or four families gather for an hour or two. Then once a week they all meet together in the house of God and spend the entire evening in united prayer. Also on Sunday evening before the service a group meets at the church to plead for the salvation of souls in the evening meeting, God has marvelously answered, and their hearts have been encouraged to continue asking,” The most striking feature of the League of Prayer, and the part that most closely resembles the one-hundred-years’ prayer meeting of the Moravians, is called ‘‘The Ever-burning Lamp” (La Lampara Encen-dida). The twenty-four hours are divided into periods of fifteen minutes each. All the members of the League who wish to have a part in this continuous intercession pledge themselves to take a specified fifteen-minute period some time during the day or night! And they do this in addition to the half-

hour devotional period in the morning. The number of those that keep these quarter-hour prayer seasons at Costa Rica is so large that in many of the periods there are several praying simultaneously. There is no special room in the church set apart for these fifteen-minute prayer periods, but the people observe in their own homes the specified time of intercession that they have chosen.

The missionary from Costa Rica declares the League of Prayer has already revolutionized the lives of those who have been faithful to their pledge. She says: “Needless to say, the League with its ever-burning lamp of prayer has revolutionized the spiritual life of those who have been true to their pledge and have faithfully prayed day by day. They have found His promises to be true, their faith has been strengthened, they have been able to lay hold of the power of Christ for spiritual victory in their own lives, and they have had the joy of seeing the work of the Holy Spirit in the salvation of relatives and friends. One cannot come in contact with these children of God without knowing that they have been with Jesus, because their faces shine with His peace and their testimony rings with His joy.”

It is all the more significant that this “Ever-burning Lamp” of continuous, persistent prayer should flourish in Latin America. The people of these Spanish speaking countries are proverbial for taking up a thing with enthusiasm for the moment, and then dropping it just as suddenly. But God’s Spirit has laid hold of these believers and their persistent and importunate intercession puts to shame the luke-warmness and fitfulness in prayer of many of us living in colder climes where we are supposed to be more persistent in our pledged purposes.

If ever there was a time in the history of our nation when continuous, persistent, prevailing prayer was needed, it is right now. I fully believe there are thousands of God’s children who are sorely grieved over present day conditions; and who will gladly join in taking time for daily persistent intercession for the United States and Canada; for our schools and colleges; for our pastors and churches; for multitudes who have forgotten God; for unsaved relatives and friends ; and for full surrender and revival in our hearts and lives.

A plan of persistent daily prayer for revival in the United States and Canada has just been started in Philadelphia. The method is somewhat

similar to that of the “Ever-burning Lamp” in Costa Rica. Each person who enlists endeavors to spend at least fifteen minutes daily in prayer for revival. It may be found helpful to set apart a particular period for daily intercession such as 6 A. M. or 9 A. M. or 3 P. M., but often the duties of the day will make the time of prayer vary according to circumstances.

While there is no pledge of thirty minutes daily of Bible reading and prayer in connection with this plan of intercession for the United States and Canada, yet we know that unless our souls are fed daily upon the Word of God and we take time to commune with Him, we will have little power in our specified period of intercession for revival and for an outpouring of God’s Spirit.

May I suggest that each one who reads these lines should get alone with the Lord, and ask Him very definitely to show you His will for you in this matter. If you decide that you would like to enlist in this plan of daily prayer, send your name and address to The Million Testaments Campaign, 1505 Race Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

It is further suggested that those who are praying through for revival in a certain church or community should meet together weekly for intercession whenever it is found practical or possible.

There are a number of prayers in the Bible that will guide us and quicken our faith in praying for our lands that have so largely forgotten God. Read Exodus 32: 7-14, and see how Moses prayed when the Children of Israel had disobeyed God, and how the Lord hearkened to the voice of one individual and saved the nation from destruction. Read Nehemiah 1:4-11, and see how Nehemiah cried to God for the remnant of the captivity in Jerusalem that were in affliction and reproach, and as a result of his prayers and labors the walls of Jerusalem were rebuilt, and the reproach was lifted from his people. Read Ezra 9:5-15 and see how this man, that loved the Word of God, and was so grieved over the apostasy of the people, confessed to God the sins of the leaders and of himself, and how conviction of sin came upon the people, and the evil that would have ruined the nation was put away, and the people were brought back to God.

Let us each one humble ourselves before God, and confess and forsake our own sins and the sins of the nation, and cry mightily to God and claim

by faith the promise in II Chronicles 7:14: “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.”

It was when hundreds of missionaries in India banded themselves together to spend thirty minutes daily in intercession that a great revival came to India a number of years ago; and so as hundreds and thousands in the United States and Canada cry unitedly and continuously to God, may we not expect to see the windows of heaven opened, and gracious outpourings of God’s Spirit in the near future?

It is suggested that one begin the daily-prayer period with the following prayer, or one somewhat similar, for cleansing and power in one’s own heart and life:

Heavenly Father, I confess my sins, and by Thy grace I will forsake them. Forgive them all through the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

By Thy grace and power I fully surrender my life to Thee to be used in Thy service as Thou dost guide and lead.

Fill me anew with Thy Holy Spirit, and teach me to pray with believing faith.

The following topics may be found helpful in guiding our petitions during our prayer period:

Pray for government officials and employees in the United States and Canada, that there may be conviction of sin, and confessing and forsaking of sin, and multitudes turning to God.

Pray that teachers in public and high schools, and professors in colleges and universities, may be convicted of sin by the Holy Spirit, and that large numbers may repent and accept Christ as their Savior, and be born again into the Kingdom of God.

Pray earnestly for the students in our schools and colleges. Ask that those who are standing firm in the faith may be filled with the Holy Spirit, and may witness valiantly for the Lord; and that great multitudes of the unsaved may be brought out of darkness into the glorious light of the Gospel.

Pray that the funds for the full million Testaments for the students may

speedily be secured; and that the Testaments may be carefully and prayerfully given to the students, and that thousands and tens of thousands may be born again as they receive and read them.

Pray for the ministers and church members that have been led astray by modernism and other evils. Pray that multitudes of them may be brought back to the Lord, and be filled with the Holy Spirit, and with a great love for the lost.

Pray for unsaved relatives and friends, that they may be saved, and grow strong in the Lord.

Pray for the other members of the fellowship of intercession that they may be kept faithful in the daily intercession, and that they may pray in the power of the Holy Spirit, and that their faith may be strengthened.

Here is part of a letter from one intercessor after reading this leaflet:

“Have read the article on intercession several times, and it really gripped my heart. Am choosing for my prayer period three o’clock in the morning, though I am spending much more than the fifteen minutes.

“The dear Lord gave real intercession, and I felt included in the number of those besieging the throne of grace, for a great revival and outpouring of God’s Spirit, in the United States and Canada. Am also taking time for special Bible reading and prayer. God is able to change things, as His people humble themselves and pray. The conviction is becoming strong that He will undertake.”

Extra copies of this leaflet will be sent postpaid for 3 cents a copy; 20 cents a dozen; $1.50 for 100. Address, THE MILLION TESTAMENTS CAMPAIGN, 1505 Race Street, Philadelphia, Pa.