

Reviving Prayers Answered Blend

by Bertha Smith

Revival begins with a cleansing of the heart and a deeper understanding of sin, leading to a desire to get right with God and with others.

Duration: 51:29

Scripture: Romans 6:11, Romans 8:10, 1 Corinthians 15:22, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Galatians 2:20, Ephesians 2:1-3, Colossians 3:3

Topics: "Prayer For Revival"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher emphasizes the importance of self-reflection and facing one's true self. He encourages the audience to set aside time for introspection and to write down their deepest thoughts and struggles. The preacher assures the audience that this exercise is meant to be kept private between them and God. He also mentions the need for honesty and cooperation in order to find victory and glory over these inner struggles. The sermon includes anecdotes about a woman's experience in church and the preacher's determination to continue preaching.

Transcript

Years ago this summer, when I was getting ready to sail for China, in fact I was ready to sail, at a farewell service for me, a sweet singer sang to me what we've heard this morning. And the dear Lord only knows what that meant to me afterwards. I learned to sing because I was happy, and I also learned to sing if I wasn't happy.

And I knew that the Lord was always with me, and I learned to sing it in my devotions every morning, and I can sing all day without the book, which has been a great blessing all the years. And I thank that sweet singer this morning for reminding me to praise the Lord for all that him has meant in my life. Dear Lord, we lift our hearts to thee in praise and gratitude for the good hand of our God upon us.

And now we come to thank you for this Church and for this congregation, and to thank you for your blessed presence here. You're here because we're here, because your word tells us that when even two or three meet, you're already there. And we're not asking you to do something you're already doing, we just praise you for your presence.

And we not only praise you for your presence here, but we enthrone you here to take over and speak through thine handmaid, and get glory to yourself in this hour, for we pray in Jesus' name and for his sake.

Amen. At the first service this morning, I spoke of praying for dividing, and I laid a foundation for the service which I am to give to you.

I hope some of you are here at the first service. God answered our prayers for reviving in North China, where there were 50 missionaries, and I think they had 80 churches at that time, and that many preaching chapels, and numbers of schools with many, many students where they were hearing the gospel. But we were not pleased with our work, and we prayed and we prayed and we prayed for reviving.

We prayed the prayer of Habakkuk in 3.2, O Lord, revive thy work in the midst of the years. Then the Lord led us to that method for bringing revival, and that was his purpose. After years of praying for reviving, he let the missionaries be called away from their work and packed up in a fort out in Shifu, where there was nothing we could do but pray.

So much communism in the Chinese city, we couldn't do any work. We just met together and started out to pray an hour, and in a little while we were praying 3 hours from 8 to 12. The Lord sent a revival in our souls first, and that's why he hadn't been able to answer our prayer and send reviving to the Chinese churches.

He had to send revival, he had to begin with us, and he had to get us away from our work. We were so busy working with the Chinese and praying for the Chinese to be revived, we didn't have time to think about ourselves. The Lord just let us get packed up out in a fort in Shifu.

Friends, we prayed until the Lord showed us what it meant to be revived in our own souls. Because we were forced to pray for the physical healing of the eye of one of our own numbers, see or go blind, when the death specialist that we knew in the world had diagnosed it and told her she would lose her sight in three months and no doubt the eye would soon follow, we had to get holy enough to call upon the Holy God to send a reviving into our own souls and prepare us to pray for that eye to be healed. And the day we prayed, we all knew that it was healed.

And the Lord filled us with such a sense of having anything at all in our hearts that would be unholy, that would hinder our praying, that I'll tell you, we went back to our work with a new sense of the awful tragedy in the heart and life of a saved person. Now, the Holy Spirit comes inside of us when we are saved, and he'll never leave us, but we can just crowd him back into our hearts and grieve him so that he just has to do the best he can through us and not what he would like to do through us. Now, he wanted to answer that prayer for reviving in those churches before we ever asked him, in those 80 churches and another 80 congregations, perhaps meeting in chapels where there were not churches.

He wanted to send a reviving, but he had to do something in us first. And he couldn't answer our prayers until he got us cleansed. And when we got holy enough to call upon him to heal the physical eye of one of our number, and we saw the Lord do it and knew right there that it was done because we had united our hearts in asking him.

And we knew it was done, and he gave us the assurance in our souls that she would never lose that eye, that she would never have another attack, and of course she never has. They're retired. Her husband is working in the Mid-American Seminary at Memphis, teaching missions, and she's there.

And then seeing with those eyes, she was wearing special glasses. She said she didn't suppose they were doing any good, but anyway she was wearing them. She took them off when we got through praying.

She says, I'll never put these on again unless the Lord tells me to. Well, she never did put those on again. After she became an old lady, she put on glasses for old age.

But that's all. Friends, we were brought low before the Lord, as he showed us, our dedicated self, so busy, some of us doing 15 hours at work a day doing jobs for God. And when we went back, cleansed, cleansed, cleansed, and no more living dedicated self doing jobs for God.

But him and personalities filled up with the Lord, with the Lord himself expressing himself through our personalities. I want you to know revival began. It began with the Chinese just like it did with the missionaries.

He couldn't suddenly send down a great outpouring of joy upon them. They had to go the way he led the missionaries. They had to face up to sin in their hearts and lives.

And when we went back preaching the tragedy of sin in the life of a saved person where the Holy Spirit dwells, first our pastors began to see all kinds of things in their hearts and lives that was not holy. We have a scale for pastors out there and preachers, and not according to the size of the church. But every pastor got the same, whether it was a big church or a little one.

I put the pastors in city churches. The pastor in the little church was supposed to be just as busy as the one in the big church. He wouldn't have that many members to look after, but he would have that many lost souls to bring in to become members.

So there was no difference in the amount of time they were to put in. They were to put it all in, all they had, so they all got the same salaries. But in the city churches, the church members shared with the pastors and gave them many presents, and they had a great deal more.

Sometimes they gave a bit of jealousy in their hearts, and maybe they themselves wouldn't realize it, but the Lord made them realize it, and the Lord showed it to them. And those pastors began to get right with each other and get all the jealousy that they didn't even know they had in their hearts toward people that had more than they had. And they came down before the Lord and humbled themselves and made confessions to each other.

And then they had a great many preachers who were not pastors, preached out over the country to the villages. They were not capable of guiding a church, but they could proclaim the gospel. They were not educationally qualified, and they could provide the gospel.

And then they had some who were just capable of being what we called car porters. They just went from village to village and to markets selling gospels and selling Bibles and giving out free checks. And they'd always be a testimony and a witness for the Lord.

Well, all those what we called, they had no opportunity to go to school. They had families to support maybe and couldn't go to school to get educated to be full-time preachers. But they got the profit for what they made on the and gospels that they sold, Christian books and Bibles.

So they were a great asset to the work, laying the foundation for preachers to come along later in organized churches. They could get people saved. Well, all those preachers got right, got their sins forgiven up to date.

The next it was deacons. When pastors had to make confession to deacons, that brought conviction to deacons' hearts. And deacons humbled themselves and got their sins forgiven up to date, and then it spread to church members.

And for two years all over Shantone Province, church members were just getting right with God, getting their sins forgiven up to date. And, oh, we made the discovery that a great many of our church members had never been born of the Spirit. They had been convinced of the truth in their minds and had come and joined the church in all sincerity.

And no wonder that they were trying outwardly to live up to standards of Christians, but they just had no passion for people that were lost. They were interested in making their own living, and they came to church, but all they lacked was eternal life, and that was lacking everything. And, oh, when the church members began to get saved and they began to come to the Lord and declare that they had never come to the cross of Christ before as lost sinners, that was something else.

And we saw we had been trying to feed Christians. And one day a woman said to me, a missionary, said, Miss Smith, I spent 14 years teaching the Bible to dead church members, and dead church members can't eat. And after she had a new experience with the Lord herself, and she got her sins forgiven up to date and put herself so completely in the hands of the Lord, and when he filled her up, he enabled her to discern that those church members that she had been teaching all the time were not saved.

And then she began to preach sin in the Savior, and they saw themselves lost sinners and came to the cross of Christ and received the living Lord into their hearts. And she said, I just wish you could see how the people in that community just ate up the word of God. They just wanted Bible classes day and night.

Couldn't get enough of the word of God. Well, after about two years, oh, I will have to tell you, that some of the church members didn't want to be saved. Why? They said, well, people began to confess their sins all the way back, and we didn't know when we went out there to tell people they'd have to get right with people as well as with the Lord.

We just gave what we'd been taught, that you see yourself a sinner and you come and bring your sins to the cross, but I'm going to join without even bringing them. The cross was just a fear in their minds. And some said, well, now if you're going to have to confess all your sins to people and get right with people you've sinned against all the way back down there to be a Christian, I don't want to be a Christian any longer, just take my name off.

Well, of course you can't be a Christian and not be a Christian. You can't be born into a human family and not be a son or daughter of those parents. Well, they never had been saved, they never had been Christians.

And those Christian leaders didn't try to persuade them. They said, now, are we going to have to take your name off if you're not ready to repent and let the Lord save you? And you can't be right with God and be right with wrong people. A proof and evidence that you're saved is that you want to get right with everybody you've sinned against.

And if you have no desire to get right with people, that means you've never tasted of the Lord coming into your heart and you being right with God because you stood before God and his Son. So that's just an evidence you've never been saved. But now we'll have to take your name off, but we're going to pray that

you'll let the Lord save you and come back.

Well, we got rid of that group that was unsaved. Well, another group in the churches knew they were not saved and acknowledged that they were not saved, yet they wouldn't leave. Now, what would you do with people like that? Well, we might elect a rich one among them as treasurer of the church.

And then that would make everybody feel good and you'd all feel good and go on together. And you'd just hope they'd be saved sometime. Well, not those people.

Do you know what those Chinese brethren said? It's the church of the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the head of it, it's not our church. The Lord Jesus Christ is head of the church, and they call everybody brother in the church.

And if we should call you brother, then you know you are not a brother, you know you haven't been born into the family of God. We'd be sinning against the head of the church, and then where would we be as a church if we sinned against the head of the church? We'll just have to declare that you're not one of us. But we're going to pray that you'll become one of us, that you'll come to the cross of Christ as our lost sinner and let the Lord save you.

And then come and we'll be so happy to receive you. Well, friends, in about two years' time, we had churches of saved people, whole churches of saved people. Now, if that wasn't something else, well, you didn't have to wear out your letter to go invite church members to come to church.

They were there bringing other people. They were bringing other people. And they started a Bible class and prayer meeting at 6 o'clock in the morning.

And in the winter in north China, that's a good while before day. Well, even before that, people would get up early because they had no places to pray at home, no quiet place. They began to come early to the church and go down into the Sunday school rooms and choose a place to pray.

And they'd come and do their own private praying. And at 6 o'clock when the church bell would ring, they'd come together. And for 30 minutes, they'd make their requests for prayer and pray for each other's dear ones and the ones that the dearest ones were trying to lead to the Lord.

And then they'd have their Bible study. And when we left there, some of those churches had gone through the Bible four times, taking a chapter every morning. Well, I had carried a very heavy schedule, and I had to be rung out of bed at the alarm clock at 5:30 every morning to have my own quiet time and then be ready to be at school at 8 o'clock.

And I always had worship by the lamp for about nine months in the year with a school servant and I served at home. There wasn't any other time to have that except in the early morning. And I had a good deal to do before I was at school, about 15 minutes before 8 every morning.

Well, I thought they could have let people sleep Sunday morning when we were going to Sunday school at 9:30, and we were going to have morning services and afternoon service, and everybody going out in the afternoon. We had 24 preaching bands that went out every Sunday afternoon, each band at 2:30. Each one had a banner with a name on it that had a name and a captain.

And we all made it to church at 2 o'clock and got the tracks we wanted to take, different from what we'd carried last Sunday, and decided where we would all go. We had 24 places in the city where we went to witness every Sunday afternoon. And people would come and crowd around and stand just to hear about the Savior.

And so it was a pretty full day. But do you know, there was no more sleep until breakfast time after that. When everybody else was getting up to go pray, I couldn't stay over there in bed.

I had to get up and go pray with them Sunday morning, same as any other morning in the week. But people began to get right, and to get right, and to get right, and to get right, until it was just astounding. And it sure brings you down and makes you realize what kind of a person you've been when so many people come to tell you that they've had evil thoughts about you, beg you to forgive them.

And someone tells you they've told things about you that are not true. Well, it just wonders, well, what kind of an impression was I making on them back there? I thought they'd want to tell things against me, think so little of me. They wanted to not only tell what they knew that wasn't good, but make up something extra.

Now, that was the kind of commentary on the impression we'd made on them. And when we got right first and then they got right, and I'll tell you, we quit being dedicated self, doing jobs for God, and the Lord began to express himself through us. I'll tell you a little, the rivers of living water began to flow, rivers.

And we saw the Lord do all kinds of things that we never would have seen before. In many sections, they had no doctors. Now, we had three hospitals in North China, mission hospitals, and mission doctors.

I happened to live in one in a city that had a doctor. I'm glad I never did need him, but he was there if I did. But many people lived three days travel, and two days travel from a mission hospital.

And then sometimes people get sick when the doctors can't do anything about it. And we found when there was no doctor present, or just something the doctors couldn't do anything about, that the Lord could. Now, that didn't mean that he did always, but he could if it pleased him to do it.

And we'd learned from Ms. Copecker's eye being healed, which you can read about in my first book, Go Home and Tell. Now, that's not a commercial, I just want you to read it. You'll find out that we missionaries prayed and Ms. Copecker's eye was healed.

And that let us know that if people were holy enough, and if it pleased the Lord more to heal that person than it does to leave them sick, that we could expect him to heal people that were sick or when it was something the doctor couldn't do, or if there was no doctor present. And we just saw the Chinese heal all kinds of diseases. And many of it was missionaries had nothing to do with it.

It was Chinese. Ms. Loudermoon started the mission work, as you WMU women know, in Pindu, three days travel from her base over on the coast of Tung Chau. And she traveled by mule litter.

That three days she was starting for the big city where I later worked, called the Fu City. You see so many cities in China where the name ends in Fu. Now, there's a reason for that.

That means that that city, that official, is the official over five counties. That was the way their work was divided, the officials. You see, the officials were all appointed by the Emperor, and it was one government.

And, of course, that's the way he appointed. And then he appointed even, he passed on the men that were appointed officials on down, even to the villagers. Well, Ms. Moon started two days journey to that Fu City in her mule litter.

And when she got there, the city officials had, before that, all gotten together. I call what they call the gentry, the leading citizens together. And they'd all made a vow that under no condition should they or any of their descendants ever believe that foreign religion.

That's what they call Christianity. That's the way they spoke about the Lord. And the watchman on the city wall saw that mule litter coming, and it was so hot.

They have a bow frame of them like a covered wagon on two poles between two mules. And the shaft of the pole, the front shaft is the shaft of the front mule, and then they're long poles long enough for two mules and then for the vehicle in between them up on the poles. And it had a bow frame on it like a covered wagon with a straw mat.

Well, it was so hot out there that missionaries couldn't use, couldn't go in the winter with just a straw mat. It's so hot in the summer and so cold in winter. So we all made quilted covers, made like a bed quilt to fit them, and we could get in and button them up at the front and keep much warmer.

And everybody raised indigo, and you've got the people with plain white cloth, and we got plain white cloth. We shipped in from the cotton mills in South Carolina when I first got there, and then we got so smart we took raisin cotton, and the Japanese took it over. And I left there just before I left.

I paid a dollar a yard for one yard of white domestic made over in Japan to make my kooka kooka made. That's what we paid for it, a dollar a year's money. No wonder Japan could be progressive.

Well, anyway, they saw that blue cover, and everybody had the same, and they knew a foreigner, a missionary was in that litter. And the official sent his soldiers out to forbid those people coming in. And you couldn't turn those things around very easily.

It took about an acre of land to turn them around, and you just had to keep going. And Miss Moon said to her driver, just keep going. She went on a day's journey to Pingu and got out at an inn, and of course when people saw that a mule, that blue cover, know the foreigner, they just followed to see where it was going.

When they went into the inn, they were all there to see her. They'd never seen a white face, and she got out of that inn, that mule litter. They were all there, and she just started smiling and talking Chinese to them, and they were just charmed with her.

And she stayed there at that inn several weeks at that time, and she was just so well received by the people that she went back, of course, again and again, and started the first church there. And was always entertained in a well-to-do home, and with just one son, I think, in the family. It was only one son, and of course he and his wife lived in the home with the grown folks, old folks, and later his wife became the folks and the head of the house, so far as the women went.

And that woman had just one son, and she'd heard right after the revival came, she hadn't walked since that child was born. And when they were having a meeting up in Pingu County, she lived about six miles up from the county seat, she heard about that great revival, and a man of God, a Chinese man up there

preaching in such power, that people began to go to him to be healed. And a woman that hadn't walked in 12 years was carried on a stretcher to the church, and they prayed for her, and she went home walking.

Well, this woman out there, Miss Moon, whose people, Miss Moon had run to the Lord, Lord King Tong, husband, had been to school enough as a result of his people becoming Christians, that he'd become a Christian and was teaching English over in our institution, a college over in Huangshan, two days' journey from there. And that woman had that 18-year-old son, remember she hadn't walked since his birth, 18 years, and she had him and the hired man hitch up the mules to a field cart that didn't have a spring in it, the body rested right down on the axles, and they went bumping in over the stones. They always fill up the mud holes with stones in the roads.

And she got there, and it was noontime, just after lunch. But the people were in the church, but the preacher wasn't there. Well, she wanted the preacher.

Well, the preacher was a visitor that lived in the community and invited to lead the special meeting, Dr. John Song. And she found he was over at the missionary's home, and she had those two men take her over there, and they made a pack saddle, as they used to call it when they were children, and rode on each other's arms, put one arm around the neck of one, one around the other, and they carried her on their arms. And they carried her into the missionary's home, Brother Parker from Alabama, and set her down on the rug in the living room.

Dr. Song knelt down beside her and prayed and asked the Lord if it would be his will to heal her. He talked with her a while first and saw that she was a saved woman in tune with the Lord, and she wanted to be healed so she could tell her neighbors about the Lord and serve her family. And he prayed for her, and she jumped up and went down those steps, went down two flights of steps and walked up two flights of stone steps, about eight steps each, about 50 yards up to the church.

Bonnie Rae, our missionary from Georgia, was there, and she was a country evangelistic worker and went out to that church at least once a year to teach, to have Bible classes for the women. And she stayed in that home. And she told them, and they have their own, the churches have a wing over here for the women, at their door, and then the men sit in the main auditorium.

The preacher stands here and preaches to the men, and the women get what they can get from the side of the stage. I bet that was a real custard and chow. And when Bonnie Rae told me the thing, she saw Miss Laura King-Tong come in at that door and pass by her, sitting here in this wing, and just walk right on up to the pulpit and give a testimony to the congregation, even though the pastor hadn't come.

They don't waste any time talking. They just go out and stay out long enough to eat and all come back. They sing and testify and sing and testify until the day fell day.

Well, that woman just walked up to the pulpit, and Bonnie Rae said, when that woman walked up on the pulpit and gave that testimony, she said, Bertha, I broke out in goose bumps all over. And I tell you, it was enough to make them break out in something. Well, that news just spread everywhere.

And so that woman, Miss Laura King-Tong heard it, and she said, well, if the Lord will heal that Miss Wong, she'll heal me. He'll heal me. He'll heal me.

And then she got in that cart and started. No, no, this is the second one, isn't it? She'd already heard of the first one. She'd heard before that of a woman that hadn't walked in 12 years that had been carried to the

church and healed.

Well, she went back home, and she just started going everywhere to see her neighbors. And she had a neighbor, 28 years old, hadn't walked in. I can heal you.

And there the church that Miss Laudamone had started was still there. But that old lady had never been. Well, Mr. Parker and Miss Pearl Carwell, if that was the one missionary, the two missionaries that went to 35 churches, of course they helped develop them, and those 35 churches, and helped organize them.

I mean, get the people ready to be church members. So they went down about the next week to lead their, on their annual trip there for weeks meetings. Brother Parker was an old-time preacher with a big voice, and preaches like the preachers used to when I was a child.

And he was revived and preaching in the power of the Lord, and he started preaching, and preaching, and preaching, and preaching. Well, that old lady sent out and got a pair of shoes. She hadn't had any shoes in 28 years.

Hadn't needed any. Sat on that brick platform, which they used for beds, and she just, and their stockings are made out of cloth, just the shape of a shoe, so she didn't need anything but her stockings. Well, she sent out and bought a new pair of shoes.

She expected to walk home. And lo, when she got to the church, the church was just packed. Her son carried her on his back.

Church just packed, and they brought her into that women's ring at the women's door. Well, they brought an old, awkward, high Chinese chair that the Chinese teachers write. The chair has to, they have a high desk to write those characters up, and they have to have a, they have to sit up, and they're as high as the desk is, and they put her in that.

But she didn't know the priest at church. Well, they sang a while, and then Brother Parker started preaching, and he preached, and he preached, and he preached, and he preached, and she didn't know the priest, and she didn't know you couldn't talk at church. She'd never been before.

And she just kept saying, well, why doesn't he hush? Why doesn't he quit talking? He must have been into the fifth chapter of Romans with his soul revived. Well, anyway, he couldn't stop, of course. And the people didn't want him to stop.

When you preach an hour in China, they'll say, is that all you can say on this subject? Give us another hour. They called that the preacher's paradise. China, the preacher's paradise.

Well, the women kept trying to get her to keep quiet and keep quiet, but he just went on preaching. And she just, well, I want to be healed. I came here for the Christian's God to heal me.

I want to walk. I want to walk. But China, the women saw that they just couldn't keep her quiet.

And that was, and so those simple-hearted village women just got up, and a group of them went and knelt around their chair and called upon their Lord to stretch forth his hand and touch that woman. And he did just what they asked him. She jumped down from that high chair and went running out at the door.

And the whole congregation, all the women out there, went rushing out. And they started just praising the Lord at the top of their voices. Well, the men in the congregation didn't want Brother Parker's good sermon had to be at this.

So the people on the back seats, the men went out to quiet them, and they just joined in the hallelujahs. Well, more men went out to quiet them, and they joined in the hallelujahs. And Brother Parker and Miss Caldwell both described this situation of what happened to me.

And Brother Parker said, finally, I had to quit before he preached his sermon. Of course, he wasn't counting it a good sermon. I know it was, because he's a wonderful preacher.

And finally, everybody went out, and Brother Parker said, when he got up there, there went Grandmother, Grandmother, Grandmother, I've suddenly forgotten her name. But anyway, the old lady, Grandmother Cat, Grandmother Cat was going way up the hill in her new shoes as fast as she could go. And the congregation out there just wowed with excitement.

Well, those three paralytic stories just went all over North Carolina. And the people began to say to their non-Christian neighbors who knew about it and heard about it, now we've told you all the time that our God is alive. We've told you all the time he's alive and your God's dead, and you wouldn't believe us now.

Here's proof of it. Here's evidence of it. Well, we had up in our, in the city where I work, one day is there in the South, a man who had, his father had been the head official in our city, or head official over those five counties back in his day.

This young, this man was highly educated and became the teacher for the missionaries as we went. He had about 10 or 12 children, and one little boy had developed a tubercular lower limb. And of course, they'd come out, come on in the days after, after people didn't have much money.

He didn't get much for his teaching, that was all the income for that, a family that size. And Dr. Bell was, Jeanette Bell was the woman doctor for the Kathleen Mallory Hospital. In those early days, they had to have a men's hospital and a woman's hospital separate.

And she'd take the little fella in, she treated women and children, she'd take the little fella in and treat him, and keep him awhile. And all she could, all they knew to do then was just feed him nourishing food and put him to sunshine. And they'd send the little fella and gave him good food.

Sometimes he'd stay several months and he'd get homesick to go home. And they'd take him home and after a while he'd be losing ground for the lack of proper food. Dr. Bell would take him back again, and that went on for years.

Everybody loved Joseph. Everybody knew about him. Well, his father heard about that meeting over in Pindu, where those three women were healed, and he wrote him a letter and asked him to just one day's journey from our place, that was 33 miles, and the speed limit was three miles an hour, and I assure you, he never did break it.

And asked him to pray for Joseph. And Dr. Soane just read the letter to the congregation. Remember that congregation was that they were in tune with the Lord.

They wouldn't have been there if they hadn't have been. They'd have been too uncomfortable in a crowd like that. And he put the letter on the Bible and put his hand on it and said, now we'll all unite our hearts, and usually say our cleansed hearts, and we'll ask the Lord to heal Joseph.

Well, I was on furlough the year that those three paralytics were healed, and missed the immediate excitement. I got plenty of it later on. I got back, and so when I went back, the depression had come, and the school that I had charge of had been cut to an eighth grade school.

We didn't keep a leave a missionary with an eighth grade school, and while I was at home, the mission had transferred me out to the western part of the province, and I just went from Shanghai by train up. I usually went up by boat to the coast, and took a new place. Well, the next summer, we went over that way for annual mission meeting, and I went early to stop to get some of the things I wanted to move over there.

And Dr. Bell and I were out walking one day, and there was a little boy came along leading a mule, and I said to Dr. Bell, well, that boy looks like Joseph. She said, it isn't. It is Joseph.

I said, Joseph, walking? She said, didn't you hear about Joseph? And then she told me about him praying for him. And Dr. Bell said after that, now he wasn't suddenly healed. He just suddenly began to get better, and she told me that pieces of bone worked out through the skin, and that boy was walking perfectly all right, except with a slight limb.

That limb was just a little short than the other. Well, Dr. Bell herself got TB, but she'd gone on with it for years. Being a doctor, she knew exactly how to take care of herself, and she always took care of all of her own dishes, and so she could live with other people.

Well, we prayed a lot before that for Dr. Bell to be healed. She did hold her own, but she was never healed. And so after Dr. Song had left and gone on his way to other places for meetings, he was a full-time evangelist, the pastor of that church had to pray for people to be healed because they just went to him.

When the doctors couldn't, they'd just go to him. So she knew that he was going to commit a meeting and going to pass through our section over to the center over to Wangshan. And so she asked him to come back and spend the day with us, and as he came by, but anyway, to pray for her TB to be healed.

Well, he got there in the evening. It was a day's journey, you see, and went over to the hospital where she had an apartment and called for Dr. Bell. Well, of course, according to old Chinese etiquette, the guest stays out at the yard gate until you go out to meet them, and she started out to greet them and got midway in the yard, and he started in, and he just walked up to her and dropped on his knees and said, Lord, we approach you through the death of Jesus Christ.

He's the only way we can come to you, something like this, and our sins are forgiven up to date, and we are completely yours, and you say whatsoever you shall ask, you will grant it. I just ask you now to heal Dr. Bell's TB. Thank you, amen.

He just got up and went rushing home. Well, Dr. Bell was quite taken aback. She thought he'd come and call a meeting of all the missionaries and maybe the Chinese pastor, and we'd have a special service, and we'd all get on our knees and have a time of prayer, because, you know, that woman just started getting better and better and better and better.

In a little while, she didn't have a sign of TB, and she lived to be nine. We never knew how old she was, and that was her privilege if she wanted to keep it to herself, but I happened to know that she was several years older than I was. About four things came out, and I knew in my heart she was about four years older than I was.

She lived up here until I was nearly 90, and so she was been way up about 94, never had a gray hair in her head or a wrinkle in her face, and she went to glory. Now, that's what the Lord did for that woman. Well, now, of course, I could stand here and tell you more and more and more physical healings, but that was not the big thing.

Now, the Lord's purpose in that was to send a glorious spiritual revival all over that province. He just did those healings special for those. Today, he heals people sometimes, and sometimes he doesn't.

When we make ourselves sick by the way we eat and the way we don't take care of ourselves and our own carelessness, he may let us suffer for it, but I do know that he can, that he heals today, just, but if it pleases him, if it's going to glorify him, he'll do anything for his child, it'll glorify him, and anything we can take. Sometimes we'd get so proud of it, we couldn't stand to say afterwards. We'd think we were the elite because we'd been healed, and he knows what he can do, to what extent he can bless us spiritually and to what he can't.

But he always wants to do the very best for us to show him. Well, the big thing was, when the preachers all got right, the missionaries got all together right with the Lord, and everybody kept their sins, even little sins for giving up to date, and they even found out that they are nothing but sin, the sinful natures are nothing but sin, and we are sin, and because we are sin, descended from Adam and Eve after the devil entered into their natures, because we are sin, we think sins, we talk sins, we act sins, because we are sin. Well, he had to show us that.

After two years, he began to show us that out dealing with sins and churches dealing with sins, the Lord began to show them they were nothing but sin. And when they began to realize that, that there wasn't any hope for them ever being in a ghetto. Their only hope was to take death to themselves, identify with Christ in his death, and take that as a position in which to live, dead to themselves, and let Christ live in them.

And when that happened, the Holy Spirit just filled people up, and then all these healings began to happen after that. Well, people began to turn to the Lord, and people just, they just bring church members, just bringing people in, saved, already saved, not bringing people to church to hear the gospel, and all we had to do was just put them in classes and teach them what a New Testament church is, and they were ready for baptism. And our church members, we added, well, I should say we subtracted first, I've already mentioned that.

First we subtracted, and then we added, and we added, and we added a few years, and then we began multiplying, and we multiplied, and multiplied, and multiplied. And in a few short years, the church members in North China multiplied ten times, and you take a number and multiply it ten times and see how fast it grows. Our little seminary, I suppose it wouldn't have held over 25 people.

We usually had about 10 or 15 or 20 in it, for those that didn't have it, 80 churches to feed it. And we'd have been very pleased to have had 15 in the seminary. Well, we came to one year before that reviving started, when a graduating class went out, and we had three and a half students.

We didn't have a half man, we had one man half time. And not one applicant for the new year. Well, we didn't open that seminary with three and a half men.

That reviving began that summer. As I said, I was on furlough that year, and I don't know how many they had. And in a two year's time, we closed our junior college, and it was during depression times in 1933 and along there, when we couldn't get any money from the board for anything except enough to keep missionaries there, that was most of it.

And help a little with the schools where we had missionaries, the boarding schools, the senior high schools, and the seminaries, and we had a Bible school for women. Well, anyway, we closed our junior college and took it for a seminary, and as long as we stayed there, nobody ever asked how many students over at the seminary. We all knew it was full, because all of our churches had students waiting to get into the seminary.

And as the graduating class would go out, the seminary would choose from the list that had been waiting the longest, and choose those who were best prepared to take the seminary work, and the others would have to wait. And up till the Japanese came in in 66, and even on up until we had to leave in 42, we were interned with the Japanese in 42, as you know, when they attacked America. Our churches still had lists waiting to go to the seminary.

Revived churches produced Christian workers, friends, and oh, what preachers they were! What churches we had! And the Lord sent that glory of survival. It went on fighting for 10 years until the Japanese came in in 36. And the Lord knew the Communists were going to come and put preachers in jail, and all our preachers had to go to jail or preach what the Communists told them to preach, and our church pastors had gone through that revival and wouldn't do it.

And they knew that those church members teaching, who wouldn't put up a Chinese flag and teach Communism in their village schools, would have to be put in prison. And the Lord was sending that glorious revival after he got a saved foundation. And after they all got saved, and then the Lord just began to fill them up, literally fill them up.

And it was just the greatest privilege you could have ever imagined living in and living through. My friends, I go from church to church over here all the time. I've never dreamed that I'd ever live to see the hunger in people's hearts for reality, as I see in Baptist church members everywhere I go.

People are crying out for reality. And so many of them have been baptized in the churches as children. I suppose they're old enough to know they're even sinners to know what the death of Christ means.

And nobody can be born again without taking Christ's death for themselves. You don't walk down the aisle of that sinful nature and receive a living Lord into your heart until that devil nature is put to death. Well, that devil nature was put to death in Christ.

The Lord says the soul that sinneth shall die, the way that the sin is death, we have to be put to death in Christ before we can receive a living Lord into our hearts. He doesn't come into that devil nature. And people just get deceived and they get a happy feeling, which the devil may give them, or it may be just psychic.

They may just think they're saved because they're baptized. And our churches are filled with lost people. I don't say filled with lost people, but too many of the congregations are just lost people.

And you would be amazed if you went around like I do and started talking to young people in the congregations about when they were saved and why they thought they were saved. And I just find them all the time that say, well, I was baptizing a child. I found one that didn't even remember the baptism of service.

The Lord wants to revive those that are saved and get them so right with God and get them to become personalities for the Lord to live in, that we can discern people that are lost or saved and take the responsibility of those that have been deceived, church members, and bring them to the cross of Christ and get them saved. Everywhere I go, I try to share the very best I know to help save people, to see sin in their hearts that are hindering them, and help unsaved church members to see that they're lost and how to be saved. And I'm here to share with you the very best that I know.

And I suggested to the pastor that if he had not given an invitation this morning, I told him anybody saved could last until next week before they confessed it. And he assured me that they could. And he's happy not to give this time to me for my invitation.

Well, what's my invitation going to be? I won't be asking you to shake hands with me, to come forward and do any handshaking. But I'm asking you to start this afternoon facing up to what you look like in the sight of God. And I ask everybody present, pastor and all, and I'll do it myself, to get a good piece of paper and put numbers.

You better get a good piece of paper, a good big one if you haven't done it in a good while. And put numbers down that sheet of paper on the left-hand side, one, two, three, four to the bottom. And then when you get to the bottom of the sheet, turn it over and continue your numbers.

And then you go back and you make a list of everything in your heart and life that is unholy. Now, this is the very best method that I've ever found for enabling people to face up to what they look like. And I have a reason for those numbers.

When you get ready to settle up those sins, you'll see why I wanted you to put those numbers there. And you let your favorite television program go this afternoon. Put that off until next Sunday if you aren't going to have time for it, or if it doesn't come on in the week.

And give it this time. Give the Lord this time. Now, this is to be your secret between you and the Lord.

You're not to let one person see this. And the Lord knows it already. If somebody is going to see it, you won't write down your worst sins or your worst thoughts.

State of your heart, write it down. If it's something that continually comes into your heart and bothers you, make a list of it. I'm going to teach you how to get those sins settled up and how to live victoriously and gloriously over them if you come and cooperate with me.

Now, I want everybody here to know that nobody is going to know this. I don't want to see you sin this. And you don't want anybody to see it, but you and the Lord already know about it.

So nobody will see it but you and the Lord. Now, you just be perfectly honest and you get the writing this afternoon. You write all you can on it this afternoon.

Will you cooperate with me?

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