

MARCH 2024



CARRIERS OF HIS PRESENCE



**FROM
JOHN'S
HEART
TO
YOURS**

It's 30 years since what became called "The Toronto Revival" broke out in Toronto, Canada, in January of 1994. It created huge consternation in many quarters and phenomenal blessing in others.

We, in Church of the Nations, embraced everything we could as we pressed into what the folk in Toronto called: "The Father's Blessing." As we look back, indeed that's what it was. It was a season of revival which impacted the world in pockets all over the globe.

But it's 30 years ago now and we, in COTN, along with thousands of other believers all over the world experienced the most incredible outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Most of what we experienced could not be understood. There was not a lot of chapter and verse to help us navigate the incredible manifestations that occurred.

People's lives were radically changed in a few supernatural moments, often spent on the floor of an auditorium. It was life changing and faith building, and many miracles took place during that time - from healings to gold teeth, gold dust and miraculous answers to prayer and needs.

A time spent under the power of His Presence healed in minutes what years of counselling failed to do.

People were delivered from addictions and set free from the hurts of the past. Distorted images of fatherhood, passed down from natural fathers, were replaced with the unfathomable love of our Heavenly Father as He poured out His love through the overwhelming power of His Holy Spirit.

His loving embrace changed many lives forever.

John Arnott who had the privilege of leading the church at the centre of this revival in Toronto wrote: "Hundreds of thousands have been changed forever by the touch of God, to be sure, but the new focus of the Spirit, which took revival deep into the heart's secret places, has brought new levels of healing and freedom and has restored the hearts of the children to the fathers and to the Father again. (Malachi 4:6)

The purpose of revival is that “revival transforms”.

There were many things, particularly in the realm of certain strange manifestations that occurred during the mid to late 1990’s that offended and caused many people to resist any association with this revival. Man has never been happy to have his dignity assailed.

It was King David who, after dancing before the Lord in his undergarments with great abandonment, was criticised by his wife Michal for being undignified. They had just returned the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem with great celebration. God’s presence had returned and David celebrated that. Michal was clearly embarrassed and scorned him.

2 Samuel 6:21–23 (NLT)

²¹ David retorted to Michal, “I was dancing before the LORD... and I am willing to look even more foolish than this, even to be humiliated in my own eyes!”

Sadly, it seems for Michal there was a consequence.

2 Samuel 6:21–23 (NLT)

²³ So Michal, the daughter of Saul, remained childless throughout her entire life.

As I read the history of revivals and particularly the denominational academic versions of what took place, many of the undignified, unexplainable manifestations and experiences of people caught up in that revival are played down and avoided because of that same indignity of the moment.

The crying is accepted but the laughing, the falling, the gold dust and the gold teeth, the supernatural oil, the feathers, and the jewels get written out of the story somehow. I think we, the church, risk becoming sterile as Michal did, when we stand back and criticize what we clearly do not understand, despite the overwhelming testimony of broken lives changed forever and unbelievers being swept into the Kingdom.

When we try to bring understanding and structure and order into the meetings my experience is that we ultimately structure the Holy Spirit out of the equation and slowly and almost imperceptibly we find ourselves once more in a dry place.

After some twenty years now of being in that dry place I find myself strangely stirred once more to call forth the body of Christ to a place of desperation for His presence. I’m crying out for a

return of His presence, as Charles Spurgeon said:

“God, send us a season of glorious disorder. Oh, for a sweep of the wind that will set the seas in motion, and make our ironclad brethren, now lying so quietly at anchor, to roll from stem to stern! Oh, for the fire to fall again – fire which shall affect the most solid! Oh, that such fire might first sit upon the disciples, and then fall on all around! O God, Thou art ready to work with us today even as Thou didst then. Stay not, we beseech Thee, but work at once. Break down every barrier that hinders the incoming of Thy might! Give us now both hearts of flame and tongues of fire to preach Thy reconciling word, for Jesus’ sake! Amen.”

CH Spurgeon (1834-1892)

We have heard many prophecies of a revival to eclipse all previous revivals.

The pockets of outpouring we have heard of recently, such as what happened at Asbury University last year and our own intermittent experiences of the Holy Spirit’s presence in meetings where people with repentant hearts and a deep desperation for God have been touched, must surely stir our faith. These whisperings of coming revival must surely encourage those of us who have spoken of the next revival, indeed prophesied its coming, yet still wait patiently for the outpouring.

My sense is that it will be the greatest revival ever experienced, but it will be nameless and will flood the earth.

I was so encouraged when I came across Smith Wigglesworth’s 1947 prophecy again and it’s attached below. I think we are still to see the outpouring he prophesied of in the last part of that quotation.

This is a call to pray and believe for revival.

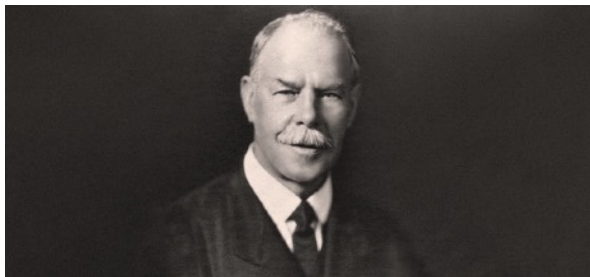
God bless,

John



**JOHN & JAYNE
SCHOLTZ**

SMITH WIGGLESWORTH PROPHECY THE LAST MOVE 1947



During the next few decades there will be two distinct moves of the Holy Spirit across the church in Great Britain. The first move will affect every church that is open to receive it, and will be characterised by the restoration of the baptism and gifts of the Holy Spirit.

The second move of the Holy Spirit will result in people leaving historic churches and planting new churches. In the duration of each of these moves, the people who are involved will say, 'This is a great revival.' But the Lord says, 'No, neither is this the great revival but both are steps towards it.'

When the new church phase is on the wane, there will be evidence in the churches of something that has not been seen before: a coming together of those with an emphasis on the word and those with an emphasis on the Spirit.

When the word and the Spirit come together, there will be the biggest move of the Holy Spirit that the nations, and indeed, the world have ever seen. It will mark the beginning of a revival that will eclipse anything that has been witnessed within these shores, even the Wesleyan and Welsh revivals of former years.

The outpouring of God's Spirit will flow over from the United Kingdom to mainland Europe, and from there, will begin a missionary move to the ends of the earth.

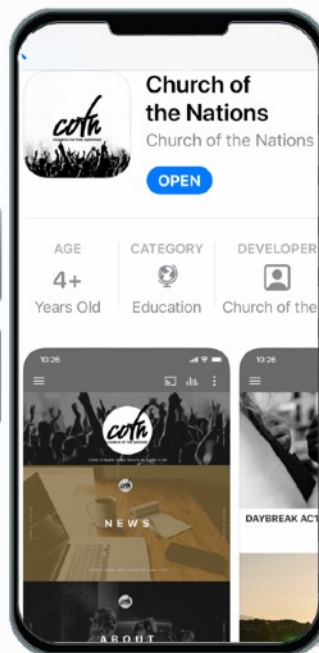
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