

**Translation Dutch letter nr. 23**

Kampen, 19th November 2001

Dear brothers, sisters, pastors and elders,

What happened in New York on the 11th of September was an unbelievable shock to us all. It didn't seem possible. In one moment of time the lives of three to five thousand people were extinguished and the war against the Taliban in Afghanistan and against terrorism began. The result was more fear, anxiety and death. Will people learn a lesson from this and repent? What should we do in this situation? The answer is simple: keep reading God's word, in which we are warned about these things; have faith in God; keep witnessing to unbelievers that the Lord is the only Saviour. Let us therefore run the race set before us looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith. In the meantime we are continuing with our task of bringing to light false teachings which threaten us here in the Netherlands and Belgium. In this letter we are going to study revival. We'll look at the true meaning of revival and counterfeit revivals.

**DISASTER**

**Revival in general.**

During the last ten years the call for revival has become stronger and stronger. Many prayer groups have this desire as their main topic. Many long to experience a revival during their lifetime. Others have studied history to find out how revivals in the past came about. The principles, discovered, are then applied to their lives while they hope that this will bring about the desired result. There are also other people who believe they know why a revival cannot come. They blame the powers of darkness, which hinder it. They believe they can make the way free through prayer. No, say other Christians, it has to start with oneself. God has to break you first and nothing will happen until you see the sin in your own life. They believe that revival is dependent on Christians humbling themselves before the Lord. Still others believe that the answer lies in fasting for an extended period of time, even up to forty days.

**DESIRE**

**Predictions.**

There are also prophecies about revival.

Theunis Herder author of the book "De Grote Finale" (The Great Finale) writes the following:

*"In the Netherlands alone around a million people will give their life to Me between 1995 and 1997" \*01.*

**NOT  
FULFILLED**

Morris Cerullo calls himself in his letter of October 1995, the prophet of God. He prophesied that he would, in the next four years (from that date) reach one-billion people with the gospel. One-billion people amount to a sixth of the world population. You could hardly imagine a greater revival than that. \*02.

Paul Cain, one of the well-known Kansas City prophets predicted that a huge revival would begin in October 1990 in Great Britain. \*03.

Harold Eberle, a travelling Bible teacher who has visited the Netherlands several times wrote a book in 1995 entitled: "De Vijfvoudige Bediening in de Gemeente" (The Fivefold Ministry of the Church). The back cover says: "*Harold Eberle believes that a mighty movement of God's Spirit is coming*". We read, among other things, in the book:

**FALSE**

*"Christians have been praying for years for the final outpouring of God's Spirit. It is time for our Lord to come again..... The Spirit of God is on the verge of being poured out in a greater way than has ever been seen in the world, up until now". \*04.* Unfortunately none

of these prophecies have been fulfilled so according to the Bible they fall under the category of false prophecies. (see Jer.5:13; Ez.13:1-23). We won't go into this further now seeing the topic of this letter has to do with revival.

### **Unity and revival.**

There are other Christians who believe that God can't send a revival because of the divisions amongst Christians. Rick Joyner, one of the Kansas City prophets predicts a huge revival in the last days. He writes this: *"It is a fundamental biblical and historical truth that God does not bless where there are divisions: No great revival or movement of God has ever emerged from a church, which was divided. The Lord only pours out His Spirit on those who are united. God's fundamental goal is to recreate harmony and unity in His broken creation. For the Lord to bless anything less than unity would be a denial of His fundamental mission."* \*05. Rick Joyner is not the only one who holds this view. The authors of the books about the revival in Argentina emphasise the need of unity for success. (see under). If Rick Joyner is right then God has been hindered in giving revival from the very beginning of the Church, where almost immediately there were divisions, as there still are today. Fortunately no one or nothing can keep God back from blessing when it is His will. The many revivals, which have taken place since the birth of the Church, belie Rick Joyner's opinion.

**CAUSE?**

### **Unity in the Bible.**

All the references in the Bible on divisions in the church have to do with problems in the local fellowship such as those in Corinth. Paul encourages the elders to solve these problems up, at least before they take communion together. (1 Cor.11:17-19). He also sees it as division when fellow believers do not care for each other. (1 Cor.12:25). Part of Jesus' prayer to the Father is often quoted to emphasise the importance of unity. Jesus prays here: *"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one.....so that the world may believe that You have sent Me"*. (John 17:20-21). This concerns the eleven disciples and those who would become disciples through their witness. Although this has to do with the believers from the past it is acceptable to include the believers from today. The unity, which the Lord desires from His Father and prays for is the unity of believers throughout all ages. It concerns all believers, all disciples of Christ. This has nothing to do with denominations, churches or movements but those "who will believe in Me through their message". Is it possible that God the Father wouldn't answer this prayer but leave it up to us to work it out? Jesus didn't command His disciples to be one but He asked the Father to make the disciples and all future disciples, one. God's answer to this prayer is a great miracle. When a person is born again he usually feels almost immediately a oneness with his fellow Christians. The same goes for the fellowship of believers with the new convert. The colour of his skin or what language he speaks or if he is rich or poor is of no consequence. At the moment of his conversion he becomes a member of the Church of Jesus Christ and the other believers are aware of this too. This is truly an amazing miracle and is the answer to Jesus, our High Priest's prayer. We begin to understand how amazing this unity is when we hear how Jesus continued to pray: *"that all of them may be one, Father, just as You are in Me and I am in You...that they may be one as we are one"*. This means that the unity that Christians have is not just any kind of unity. It is a special relationship amongst Christians, which Jesus compares to His relationship with His Father. The way in which God the Father and God the Son are one is a great mystery. We will never be able to comprehend it. Nevertheless Jesus draws a parallel with our oneness as Christians. It's clear from this that Jesus is not talking about an organisational unity, which would be very shallow indeed. He is talking about a deep spiritual unity, which the Father gives to every born again Christian. We are given this unity when we are born again and we cannot make it happen ourselves. It is a holy unity, "the fellowship of the saints". It becomes even more amazing when we continue to read Jesus' prayer: *"I in them and You in Me. May they be brought to complete*

**JESUS  
PRAYER**

**FATHER  
AND SON  
ONE**

unity to let the world know that You sent Me and have loved them even as You have loved Me". John 17:20-24. Jesus now takes it a step further and speaks about the unity of God the Father and God the Son with the saints. These saints are born again disciples from all different churches, movements, lands and peoples. God has answered this prayer completely. Once again this unity exists and does not need to be brought about by man's efforts. Please don't jump to the conclusion that this workgroup is against working together, or churches joining together, for that is not true. We do approve of the merging of (in the Netherlands) the Fellowship of Pentecostal churches with the Full Gospel churches and the Fellowship of the Free Baptist churches with the Parousia Fellowships. Alongside this we do feel that there is also room, in the Netherlands and Belgium for independent churches and fellowships. Working together or joining together with other local churches is not possible however when they propagate and practise false teaching. This would cause confusion among the church members and new converts. The argument that the amalgamation of churches encourages revival is unfounded in the light of the Bible. Mr. Bram Krol from the magazine "Gemeentegroei" (Church Growth), ascertained a number of years ago that the merging of churches does not lead to an increase in members. In some cases it even caused a decline in numbers because not everybody agreed with the new developments.

**JOINING  
TOGETHER**

### **When is a spiritual change a revival?**

When we begin to study the meaning of the word "revival" it is quickly evident, that there are several different opinions about its meaning. Some Christians would describe it as a special spiritual experience, where unusual things take place. Into this category would fall the meetings of those who believe in the Toronto-Blessing and the Pensacola-Outpouring. Many would regard what happened in Canada and America as a revival because it spread so quickly throughout the whole world. It has been given several different names, such as the New Wine from God, The Refreshment from God and The River of God. We as workgroup don't believe in this new wine and this river full of unbiblical phenomenon. Christians are touched in their emotions by the "refreshment from God" but they are not built up in the faith. The American, Hank Hanegraaff, director of the Christian Research Institute, is the author of a book entitled: "Counterfeit Revival" in which he explains why we should shun this phenomenon. The title "Counterfeit Revival" says it all. We fully agree with him. There are also Christians who believe that if the crowds are large enough it can be called a revival. This is especially true in Africa and South America. Those of us who belong to small fellowships can then feel very weak. The German evangelist, Reinhart Bonnke, who works in Africa, reports numbers over the million. Some Christians would say a revival has taken place when collective, spiritual and social changes take place in a community. In America, this is called "community transformation". George Otis, jr. has made a video, entitled "Transformation" in which four changed communities are shown. Otis also reports large numbers of people who are responding to the call. Although we are glad that so many are being converted we do wonder how genuine these conversions are. Here too we can trace the characteristics of "preachers with unbiblical doctrine". We'll first of all explain what we mean by this term.

**MANY  
IDEAS**

**LARGE  
NUMBERS**

### **"Preachers with unbiblical doctrine".**

What do we mean by the term: "preachers with unbiblical doctrine"? This is a summary of a number of factors, which needs some explanation. We have spoken about this in detail in several of our letters. For those of you who would like to review the situation we do refer to the list of subjects covered in previous letters. The main issues are here below. It was difficult to find an unambiguous name for so many issues. We finally decided on the term: "preachers with unbiblical doctrine".

- John Arnott Toronto. His movement, which began in 1994 in a Pentecostal church in the city of Toronto spread rapidly throughout the whole Christian world. It didn't stay

confined to Pentecostal churches but found it's way into Anglican, Methodist and Baptist churches. The main characteristics of the movement are the extraordinary things which happen during the services. These are: falling backwards whilst being prayed for; lying for a long time rigid on the ground; making all sorts of noises, including animal noises; behaving as intoxicated in the Spirit; laughing out loud for a long time during the service; intense shaking of the whole body or constantly bending and bowing from the waist; transforming of the fillings in the teeth to gold and silver; receiving gold dust on the hands or clothes. John Arnott began his ministry in the Vineyard Christian Fellowship – Toronto Airport.

**NOT IN  
THE  
BIBLE**

- John Kilpatrick Pensacola in America. The movement is actually a replica of that in Toronto. In addition to the above list we can add the following: during prayer, women sometimes lie on the ground and make noises which suggests that of being in labour. This is called “prayerbirthing”, they are giving birth to the answer of God to their prayers; children take part in the ministry, they cause other children to be slain in the Spirit through prayer; in the children’s service some children are appointed as elders.
- Benny Hinn in America (originally from Lebanon). His ministry is characterised by healing. He also causes people to be slain in the Spirit. Sometimes he makes them fall several consecutive times which looks just as if they are bouncing. Sometimes he hits with his jacket in the direction of the audience whereby rows of people fall back like dominoes. He expresses some very unusual theological ideas as being directly whispered into his ear by the Spirit whilst on the podium. Sometimes in the next meeting he takes back what he has said. He preaches prosperity for the Christian and earns annually fifty million guilders. He has his own body guard of two and flies with his private plane. Benny Hinn claims he received his powers from Katherine Kullmann.

**EVEN  
OCCULT**

He visits her grave every year to meditate. Now he has passed the “blessing” on to Claudio Freidzon, from Argentine.

- Claudio Freidzon in Argentine. After Benny Hinn had prayed for him the very same things started to happen in his services. He then passed on the blessing to John Arnott. This is why the same things are experienced with the Toronto Blessing. He also follows Peter Wagner’s teaching and practises spiritual mapping, confession of ancestors’ sins and spiritual warfare.
- Peter Wagner in America. He teaches spiritual mapping, territorial spirits, spiritual warfare and confession of sins for ancestors. Before the gospel can be preached and be successful a study needs to be done to discover which demons control the area and which sins have been committed by earlier generations in that area. These sins need to be confessed, then the demons can be cast out and then the area will be open to hear the gospel.
- Sandy Millar in England, pastor of the Holy Trinity Church Brompton, Londen. He received the Toronto Blessing through his contact with John Arnott. The same things happen therefore in this church as in the church in Toronto. From this Anglican church the Toronto blessing has spread throughout the whole of Great Britain. This church is also the author and publisher of the Alpha course. That’s why during the compulsory weekend on the Holy Spirit sometimes the Toronto signs are present.
- Rodney Howard-Brown, is a South African preacher who works in America. He organises healing meetings and here too the people are slain in the Spirit. He calls himself a pub owner as he pours the Holy Spirit out on the audience. He makes the people bend from the waist and he calls: “more Lord, give them more”. Last August he

**PASSED  
ON**

**WARFARE**

**IN LONDEN**

**PUB  
OWNER**

held a number of meetings in Amsterdam. He caused those who came to the front for prayer to all be slain in the Spirit and fall to the ground in a very neat line. \*06

- Reinhardt Bonnke, is a German evangelist who works mainly in Africa. He holds mass meetings and here too the people fall backwards to the ground. This became too dangerous when the numbers began to exceed 150,000. In answer to his prayer the Lord didn't let the people fall anymore. \*07 Sometimes he joins forces with Benny Hinn and here the same phenomena take place. During the meetings people are shaking and trembling and demons are being cast out according to Peter Wagner's teaching on spiritual warfare.

Now we are going to look at some of the recent "revivals". We cannot cover them all in detail but we will focus on a few that have caught the attention. In this letter we will concentrate on Africa and in our next letter, America.

### **False revivals in Africa.**

Nigeria and the German evangelist Reinhardt Bonnke. This well-known German evangelist held a large campaign in Onitsha from the 21st to 25th of March 2001. Reinhardt Bonnke is the head of the Christ for all Nations. He began a number of years ago to evangelise in a big way using a huge tent. This tent soon became too small so now he holds his mass meetings in the open-air. Describing the campaign he says the following: *"Because of what God did in Onitsha this campaign is the second most successful gospel crusade that the Church for all Nations has ever had. More than 1,9 million people responded to the call to repentance and 1,8 million people filled in the counselling card!... We are returning to Nigeria in November of this year for another five crusades. We plan to begin in the city of Ibadan. We've got good reason to believe that during these campaigns eight to ten million people will be saved! \*07*

**DOUBTS  
ABOUT  
CONVERTS**

An article in the Christ of all Nations brochure has this also to say about the campaign in Onitsha: *"The inhabitants brought sacks full of fetishes and other things which are used for witchcraft and deposited them in the drums provided. Already on the second day when Pastor Bonnke began to preach about the blood of Jesus and took authority over the enemy we had to start with the burning. The strongholds in the city were destroyed and the people were set free....When I looked over the crowd it was as if I saw fire descending from heaven upon their heads and as if hot coals from the altar were placed on their tongues. It seemed as if the fire was almost unbearable for some people, for many had a painful look on their face. Many were shaking and trembling and began to speak in new tongues. The noise was overwhelming. It was as if at that moment the heavenly hosts stopped to gaze at the Glory: a whole land soaked in the blood of Jesus and embraced by heaven. It was as if the Lord shouted: O my dearest! (Onitsha). How I have longed for this moment! Today you are my people and I will be your God".* The characteristics of the "preachers with unbiblical doctrine" are very obvious. They are: large crowds, taking authority over the power of the enemy and destroying their strongholds, fire upon their heads, hot coals on their tongues, shaking and trembling of the people, the land soaked in the blood of Jesus, God calling the place Onitsha "my dearest Onitsha".

In Congo, Reinhardt Bonnke is also active. In his report of the meetings in Kinshasa in August of this year he claims that 384,000 Africans gave their life to the Lord. There was also a special meeting, a Fire Conference, for Christian workers, where 10,000 people came to be built up in their faith. The heading above this article is: Revival in Kinshasa in a time of war. There are fears of war in that area. \*08

**JOSHUA IN  
AFRICA**

Revival in Nigeria with prophet Joshua. In the Charisma magazine we read a report from pastor Van de Berg from Brunsum who attended several meetings of prophet Joshua. We have also visited the prophet's web site and studied four of his videos. We have noticed the following:

- The majority of the audience in the videos are foreigners, who are curious, ask questions and show amazement at the healings. There is not much attention given to the coloured church members. The services look more like shows performed for the

**PROUD**

- visitors rather than spiritual services.
- Joshua is not very modest. He appears to be rather arrogant during his ministry, but this is of course not necessarily true. He does everything himself and constantly declares “*the man of God says.*” He calls himself therefore “*the man of God*”. This was a title given to only a few prophets in the Old Testament.
- The healings appear to be authentic and the camera portrays them as such. The doctor, a member of John Arnotts team who was visiting isn’t too convincing. He looks at the person, feels the healed area and declares that the cancer has vanished.
- During the time of prayer for healing, people are slain in the Spirit. Joshua stands about two meters away from the patient for whom he is praying and makes all sorts of mysterious signs which are directed at the patient. He looks like a magnetiser or an African witch-doctor. Now and then he lets out high little screams. In the services the preaching of the word is very scarce. A few suitable verses are read and contemplated on for a few moments.
- The article in the Charisma written by Pastor van de Berg describes how the prophet celebrates communion. For this, he used an oblong container with twelve taps. We’ll let the pastor speak for himself. “*Joshua approaches the twelve taps. He washes his hands and drinks just like we would drink the wine at communion and as Jesus did before His crucifixion. He declares the water is now the blood of Jesus. This means the blood of Christ which was poured out for the forgiveness of sins. The people drink from their hands. Many have brought a bottle with them. The lame are led to the taps. They are helped to drink. Some of them make their legs wet and...they begin to walk. One man throws his crutches away and walks away still crippling. The next day he is standing with all those who have been healed and declares he doesn’t want to use these things (crutches) anymore. One of his legs is still too short. In the mean time the taps keep flowing and the people keep coming hour after hour. Africa is drinking the blood of Christ....I am given a plastic bag to put the water in. I need two. Then there I stand, suddenly I have two full bags of sacred water in my hands and wonder how I will transport them back to the Netherlands. Of course, in a bottle!...*”
- This is not Holy Communion but is clearly a combination of the practices of witch-doctors and Roman Catholic priests, who change the bread into the body of Christ. It also reminds us of Roman Catholic places of pilgrimage, where one can obtain water from special taps or springs. The following characteristics of “preachers with unbiblical doctrine” are: when prayed for are slain in the Spirit, the Bible is hardly referred to, the preacher is not very modest, the meeting looks more like a show. This church is part of the Church for all Nations from Reinhard Bonnke. \*09

**ARNOTT**

**OCCULT**

**BANAL AND  
WITCH-  
CRAFT**

**SIN**

### **True revivals in Africa.**

- God’s fire in Congo (Zaire). This is the heading above an interview from the EO (Evangelical Broadcasting Company) with Mr. Bram Krol from the institute for Church Growth. He had just returned from a trip to Congo. He described how dangerous the trip to Kinshasa was because of the war situation. There were many checkpoints along the way where he had to show his passport but he often met with friendly people after they discovered that he was a Christian. Nearly everywhere he felt a friendly Christian atmosphere and the meetings on church growth were well attended. His report paints a very encouraging picture of the spiritual state in the land. He has visited Congo six times in the last few years so he can speak from experience. Here are a few of his remarks: “*The effects of Christian faith are to be seen everywhere. Thousands of people listen to the Bible studies...There are prayer meetings, services, choir practices, and open-air meetings everywhere...There are reports of ten million people being converted in the last ten years. The people say:*

**TRUE  
REVIVAL**

*“This land is the land of Christ”. They believe that the gospel will spread from Congo*

*over the whole of Africa. “God has chosen our land”. This spiritual movement is nurtured by three sources. The International Bible Society supplies Bible study materials. The Charismatic movement has emphasised the work of the Holy Spirit, which is “new” in Congo. Campus Crusade for Christ (In the Netherlands Agape) trains the new disciples in evangelism and discipleship”.*

This news makes our hearts rejoice and be glad. It is wonderful to know that revival is possible. This is a very different story to that of the false revivals of “the preachers with unbiblical doctrine”. Mr. Bram Kroll also writes: *“Is this a revival? It doesn’t seem very extraordinary when you live here. It is also clear that it’s not all gold that glitters. There are television evangelists who encourage polygamy. There is an evangelist who sells holy hankies for exorbitant prices for protection against sickness and accidents. There are a huge variety of different sects, which mix Christianity with paganism.”* We believe that the prophet Joshua fits into this category. Nevertheless, we are encouraged with the spiritual changes that are taking place in Congo. \*10

- Ben Hanegraaff, a Dutch evangelist and missionary in Africa and India. He has been visiting Africa for many years and leads seminars for Christian leaders and workers. His last journey was in August of this year to Tanzania and Kenya. He sees an increase in participation and a deeper longing for teaching in God’s word. He writes: *“The church*

**STRAIGHT  
FROM  
THE  
FIELD**

*in Dar-es-Salam, where our seminar is being held is well known to me, so I was really surprised when I discovered it is being extended at the moment to seat 1000 people. Walls are being built, the podium is only half finished, the roof only covers a third of the church. The participants are sitting under that piece of roof and a piece of canvas is being used to shade the podium area. ....It is amazing to see what God is doing here.”*

How this thrills our hearts. God’s church is being built and the members are being instructed in the truth. In his report Ben Hanegraaff mentions a number of negative things, which are taking place in Africa. He writes: *“Brother Benson, who invited us to give the seminaries told us that a while ago an evangelist from Nigeria visited Kenya. This man only wanted to come if he was paid at the outset 100,000 shilling (3300 Guilders). He also insisted on having the most expensive car that could be found to pick him up from his luxury hotel to take him to the meetings. One day he organised a special service of anointing in which he anointed the people with a special oil from Nigeria. This would enable them to receive wonderful blessings from God. But....this was only for*

*those who first gave him 2,000 shilling (65 guilders) or more. Some people were so deceived by him that they borrowed money in order to receive this anointing...It is outrageous that such “evangelists” travel round the world. “ We agree with him completely. This story is very similar to others, which we have shared with you in the past, about “preachers with unbiblical doctrine”. Ben Hanegraaff gives the following warning: “I’ve learned from experience that we need to watch out for preachers, TV evangelists, videos, books and magazines that place the emphasise on money, riches and prosperity instead of living for Jesus. How we need to be careful, because this “prosperity teaching” is very dangerous and unbiblical and is spreading like a huge dirty oil slick over the world!” \*11*

**WARNING**

- Comments on Africa. Those who know the African people agree that they are socially and culturally different from the western world. If things are organised well and a lot of money is poured into advertising and a good location is obtained then you can be assured of success. Often, because of unemployment there is time to travel long distances and stay a few days for the meetings. They also don’t mind being part of mass meetings. When a call is given from the pulpit, it is only normal that nearly

everyone will respond. When, therefore we hear reports of large numbers of converts we should keep this in mind. Patrick Johnstone and Jason Mandijk describe in the book "Operation World" the situation in each land, in order to help those who wish to pray intelligently. When writing about Nigeria they report that there has been a spectacular growth amongst all denominations. The figures given for the evangelical group are: 2.1 million in 1960, 17.2 million in 1980 and 26 million in 2000. They add this comment: *"It is impossible to verify the claims and the denials, (of these figures) from Moslems, Christians and other denominations. Often the figures are exaggerated."* The African Evangelical Alliance (AEA) held a conference this year, called Mission Africa. It was held in the capital of Ivory Coast, Abidjan and the majority of participants were African. One participant said the following: *"One of the problems is that many of our Church leaders are still pagan in their heart.... You can work for the church and still be rejected by the Lord on the day of judgement unless you are born again. I'm not afraid to preach this message to church members, pastors or elders."* At the close of the conference a participant from Uganda prayed: *"Heavenly Father, forgive us for making converts instead of disciples, for depending on our traditional religions instead of in Your word, for seeking material gain instead of Your Kingdom. Father help us to learn to ask for forgiveness; give us the power we need to honour You"* \*12

### **Search in the Bible for the meaning of revival.**

It is strange but the Bible hardly says anything about revival.

- In the New Testament (note: this concerns the Dutch language where the English word revival = opwekking is used for coming back to life), in the Dutch Bible it is used as a noun once concerning the resurrection of Christ and twice concerning exciting news. In Dutch the verb is used more often and then in connection with the resurrection. *"It is true! The Lord has risen"* This would be in English: "The Lord has revived" This is found in the A.V in Rom.14:9: "Christ both died, and rose, and revived." This same word is used for others who have risen from the dead: *"Lazarus.., whom He had raised (revived) from the dead."* The word revived or revival is therefore usually used for the resurrection.
- In the Old Testament it has a different meaning. It is used in Dutch for the stirring up (reviving) of love, stirring up of spirits in Hades. In other verses it is used for the stirring of God in our heart to do His will. In Ezra 1:5 when the exiles returned, we read: *"Then the family heads of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests and Levites- everyone whose heart God had moved- prepared to go up and build the house of the Lord in Jerusalem"*. (In Dutch the word to revive is used for "whose heart God moved") Hagg.1:14 says: *"So the Lord stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel."* (Once more Dutch uses the word "revive") (The word "revive" is used in the Old Testament

**STRANGE**

**REVIVAL**

in Psalm 85:6 and Isaiah 57:15 ). There doesn't seem to be too many similarities between what we understand as revival and how the Bible uses it.

- A term used for revivals in the past and the present is: the moving of the Holy Spirit. The late John Wimber, who wholeheartedly encouraged falling and laughing in the Spirit, believed that he could actually see God's Spirit moving. In large campaigns he would point to the place in the hall where God's Spirit was moving. This

sort of thing has no biblical support. The word moving or to move is used five times in the New Testament.

In only one of these cases could it mean a moving of the Holy Spirit and this too only applies to the Dutch Bible. The verse is found in Acts 4:31: *"After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken"* (The Dutch Bible uses the word moved instead of shaken). After a deeper study of this word in the original we see that shaken is the better translation. In the Old Testament the word move or moving is only used in

connection with the temple sacrifices. (In English wave is used!) Certain offers had to be waved before the altar, the wave offerings. It is actually peculiar to think of God beginning to move. It could imply that God is sometimes sitting doing nothing and only begins to move in a revival. Jesus said: *“My Father is always at His work to this very day, and I, too, am working.”* John 5:17 *“As long as it is day, we must do the work*

**MOVING**

*of Him who sent Me. Night is coming, when no man can work.”* John 9:4 We are in danger of being disrespectful and belittling God when we speaks in terms of God’s Holy Spirit moving.

- Others use the term: anointing of the Spirit. They would say that the Spirit’s anointing was present in a service. Is this the sign of a revival in the Bible? In the Old Testament anointing is used as a symbolic sign when a king, prophet or priest is appointed. A horn filled with pleasant smelling oil was used and poured over the head. It was clearly a holy thing and the anointed person was thereafter called the anointed of the Lord. In the New Testament Jesus is called Christ the Anointed One. This was the fulfilment of the shadow “type” in the Old Testament. Jesus is Prophet, Priest and King. In the New Testament the apostle John speaks about an anointing which seems to correspond with the idea of revival. He says: *“But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth.”* 1 John 2:20 and *“As for you, the anointing you received from Him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as His anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit-just as it has taught you, remain in Him.”* 1 John 2:27 When we read these verses in their context then we see that they are part of a warning that the apostle was giving against false teaching which was entering the church or threatening to do so. John was therefore calling on the church members to be spiritually alert and use the spiritual discernment which was theirs because the Holy Spirit was in them. He probably uses the word anointing here to assure them that through this the church is distinctive and has been given the ability to expose false teaching. Every born-again Christian has this anointing.
- Our search in the Bible brings us to Pentecost where three thousand people were baptised and the conversion of Samaria under Philip’s ministry. Are these examples of revival? Was the rapid growth of the churches in Ephesus or Corinth also an example of revival? We could mention a few more examples. Despite the large number of conversions the apostles do not call it a revival. They talk about churches being planted and growing and this is what occupies all their attention. John describes in Revelation his vision of Jesus amongst the seven golden lamp stands and what He had to say about these churches. What He has to say about these churches is on the whole not very encouraging and there is certainly no question of revival.
- So much for what the Bible doesn’t say about revival. We will include in our summary and conclusion what the Bible does say about revival.

**ANOINTING**

**PENTECOST**

### **Summary and conclusion.**

An experienced missionary in Brazil, Guus Brinsken, recently said in his sermon: *“This is revival”*. He was referring to the return of the exiles from captivity in Babylon. After the Israelites had repaired the walls of Jerusalem and rebuilt the temple they became occupied with their own houses and activities. During the Feast of Tabernacles in Jerusalem all the people gathered together and they asked Ezra to read from the Law of Moses. This Ezra did from daybreak to noon, standing on a wooden platform. Then the priests and Levites instructed the people and helped them to understand what had been read. When the people understood God’s word they began to weep and mourn. They were distraught and felt guilty before God. It must have been a deeply moving experience for Ezra, the priests and the Levites. Here was an overwhelming response to the preaching of the word. Everybody

**MISSIONARY  
IN BRAZIL**

**EZRA**

was gripped and convicted by God's word. *"This is revival"* said the missionary. We agree with him wholeheartedly.

Could it be that our longing for revival has more to do with our own interests than that of God's? Could it be a cover up and a smoke screen for our own spiritual life? Are we taking the attention away from our own spiritual need by focusing on revival? Could our praying and talking about revival sometimes be a means of diversion? We are aware of course that this does not apply to everyone who prays for revival and that's why we have used the word, could. We see in this story that the returned exiles worked really hard for the Lord by restoring the wall and the temple. They then concentrated their efforts upon their own families and activities. Do we not do exactly the same? But then Ezra and the priests call the people to gather together. You see their work was not sufficient, more was needed. The sins of the people had to be dealt with through confession. To recognise their sin they needed to be taught from God's word. It was only after they had listened and been taught for several days that they began to realise that they were sinners and were moved with tears to repentance.

This story leads us to conclude that by obediently listening to God's word and being taught in it we will be brought to our knees. We are more privileged than the returned exiles as we have the complete word of God and we can read it for ourselves. If we would personally and together do this more and more then we would not have the need or desire for a revival. We would experience a revival, tears would flow, tears of repentance. The only thing is we wouldn't call it a revival but "the normal Christian life!"

**SIN AND  
GUILT**

#### **Subject next letter.**

We will look at the video "Transformation" from 1999 and the follow-up video of 2001 Otis jr.. We will study the theology upon which it is based.

**VIDEO**

#### **To Rome.**

Not only the Pentecostal Church but also the Full Evangelical Church (for the first time) have been meeting for talks, this year, with representatives from the Roman Catholic Church. The secretary of the Pentecostal Church, Mr. Zegwaart, was one of the main speakers at an international congress in Celje in Slovenia. This congress was held under the auspices of the Papal Council for the advancement of Christian Unity. We still can't get over the fact that our Pentecostal brothers should want to tighten the links with the Roman Catholic Church. How can they be united with a church that rejects that the blood of Jesus cleanses from sin and guilt and in its place gives to her members bread transformed into the body of Christ by the prayers of the priest? The church that claims to be the only true church with the Pope being the representative of the church on earth and infallible? This church has formulated her dogmas in the 1995 catechism, founded on the Bible and tradition, the teaching of the church, which through the centuries has been written by the Vatican and will continue to be. How can Pentecostal and Full Evangelical churches, who base their faith solely on the Bible turn to a church that completely digresses from this?

**SAD AND  
A  
DANGER**

\*17

#### **References.**

- \*01. Letter 7, 25th November 1996 from the workgroup, "The Great Finale" by Theunis Herder.
- \*02. Letter 5, 20th March 1996 from the workgroup.
- \*03. Ditto
- \*04. Book "The fivefold ministry of the church" by Harold R. Eberle (De vijfvoudige bediening in de gemeente page 127).
- \*05. Book "Revival in Wales" with subtitle "The following wave is coming" by Rick Joyner. (Opwekking in

- Wales page 126, 1994).
- \*06. Video of the Tuesday evening meeting in the Jaap Edenhal in Amsterdam. (campaign 27th-31st Aug. 2001).
  - \*07. Brochure Telegram Revival Report May 2001 Church of all Nations; article in Charisma magazine June 2001.
  - \*08. [www.cfan.org](http://www.cfan.org) 20-09-01.
  - \*09. Article Charisma April 2001; web: [www.themaninthesynagogue.org](http://www.themaninthesynagogue.org) four videos given out by prophet Joshua.
  - \*10. Article Visie (paper from the Christian Broadcasting Company) Spring 2001.
  - \*11. Magazine Victory (Overwinning) October 2001, Post Box 2009 Alphen aan de Rijn.
  - \*12. Magazine Evangelical Mission Quarterly April 2001.
  - \*13. Magazine Parakleet third quarterly 2001 page 16 and 17.
  - \*14. Magazine Challenge (Uitdaging) September 2001.
  - \*15. Ditto
  - \*16. "Dichtbij de Bijbel" (close to the Bible) P.Nullens page 209.
  - \*17. Magazine Parakleet third quarterly 2001 page 19; Magazine Uitdaging (Challenge) September 2001; see also our letters 12-16 about the teaching of the Roman Catholic church.

**Sources consulted.**

- videos Joshua 1999.
- Magazine Charisma April and June 2001.
- The web, see above.
- Book "Operation World" Patrick Johnstone and Jason Mandijk 2001, combined efforts of the WEC and Operation Mobilisation, highly recommended for those wishing to pray for missionaries. ISBN 90-75226-34-9.
- Book "Kinderen van de Opwekking" (Children of the Revival) Vann Lane 2000, ISBN 90-75226-34-9.
- Book "De Opwekking in Wales" (The Revival in Wales) Rick Joyner 1994.
- Book "Een Feest van Vuur" (A celebration of Fire) John Kilpatrick 1999, ISBN 90-6823-024-7.
- Video Rodney Howard-Brown, Jaap Edenhal August 2001.
- Book "De Zegen van de Vader" (The Blessing of the Father) John Arnott 1999, ISBN 90-6823-023-9.
- Book "Verfrissing in Sunderland" (Refreshment in Sunderland) Ken and Lois Gott 1999, ISBN 90-6823 025-5.

**Foundation: Workgroup "Back to the Bible"**

Mailadress: Populierenstraat 51, 8266 BK Kampen, The Netherlands.

Tel.038-3328234

e-mail: [byblos@solcon.nl](mailto:byblos@solcon.nl)

website : [www.backtothebible.nl](http://www.backtothebible.nl)

Local board: president - pastor R. v.d. Kraats  
 secretary/treasurer - A.A. Doorn