

Preparing the WAY

“Prepare ye the way of the Lord...and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed.” Isaiah 40:3-5

The Quarterly Newsletter of Palmer Revival Ministries
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Are We Desperate Yet?

by Tom Palmer

“In the first year of his reign, I Daniel understood by books the number of the years, whereof the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem.” (Dan. 9:2)

I certainly make no claim to be a political or military strategist, but I can and I do ask questions. I ask questions like this: **What if** the United States pulls out of the war in Iraq like many of our politicians are pressuring President Bush to do? **What if** there is a complete collapse of the political structure of the Middle East once the American presence is gone? **What if** Iran quickly takes total control of that region of the world as they claim they intend to do? **What if** the Middle East continues to become a haven for the developing terrorist networks of the radical Muslim religion that hopes to someday rule the world? **What if** a madman dictator in Iran shuts down the oil supply to America and brings our American way of life to a screeching halt? **What if** the United States becomes helplessly unable to even defend itself against our enemies who would mercilessly wipe our nation off the planet?

I am realistic enough to know that “what ifs” represent the unknowns of the future. However I am also realistic enough to know that each of these questions raises a legitimate concern for the world in which my family, including my children and grandchildren, will live in years to come. My greatest concern however, is that in spite of these looming threats to our safety and security as a nation, very few of God’s people seem to care. The situation is desperate, but we are not!

In Daniel 9, the prophet developed an understanding of the impending destruction of Jerusalem and the desolation God’s people would experience. Daniel realized that the solution to this crisis was not political in nature though Daniel served the king in a position of great political leadership (6:1-3). Rather he saw that a spiritual solution was the only hope if God’s people were going to be spared the judgment that in many way they rightfully deserved. Daniel simply took this desperate need to God.

Daniel began by first getting his attention on God. “*I set my face unto the Lord God,*” he said in verse three. You can mark it down - your heart is always going where your eyes are looking. Then Daniel sought the Lord “*by prayer and supplication.*” This involved more than just “a word of prayer,” attending a prayer breakfast, or a call on the prayer chain. Next there was “*fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes,*” which not only represented the sacrificial denial of self, but also a broken heart that mourns over the things that break the heart of God. Verse four then states that

Daniel “*prayed*” and “*made (my) confession*”. His continued confession in the verses that follow is: “*We have sinned*” (v. 5,8,11,15). Probably the greatest desperation of his prayer is found in verse thirteen when Daniel states, “*all this evil is come upon us, yet made we not our prayer before the Lord our God...*” It was incomprehensible to Daniel that in spite of the sin of the people of God and in spite of the judgment of God, they still had not recognized their need to reach out to God.

A number of years ago, I attended a Christian workers conference where the Friday night speaker was a Romanian pastor. In his address he told of the daily prayer meeting held in the early morning hours at his church. He told how the people came to pray before going to work for the day. He said that there were as many people present in the prayer meeting as in the Sunday morning service, which I learned later was around 1500 people. The part that touched me deeply was when he told of his people praying for revival in America. His statement was that in their country they had experienced a meeting with God, and now they were praying that God would do the same in the churches of America. Of course the part that made this more challenging was that the churches and the Christians of Romania had gone through intense persecution, and it was the trial of their faith that purified their faith.

One of the great tragedies of our day is that we have a sick church in a dying world! We, like the people of God in Daniel’s day, have “committed iniquity, and have done wickedly, and have rebelled,
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New Resource Available!

We have put together a new resource that we are calling a **Personal Revival Packet**. This packet includes a printed guide for a 7-day time of heart preparation for revival. There are various pamphlets, scripture studies, and prayer guides to be used in preparing the heart for personal revival. Also included is a guide for an hour of prayer as well as a day of prayer. The packets sell for \$3.00 each or \$2.00 each if you order ten or more. For individual packets there is also a \$1.00 charge for postage. These packets may be used by individuals or by a church in preparation for a week of revival meetings. The theme of these packets is: “*It is Time to Seek the Lord.*”



(Are We Desperate Yet?, cont.)

even by departing from thy (God’s) precepts and from thy (God’s) The world in which we live refuses to take God seriously because the church refuses to take God seriously. America has become an anti-God nation that is on a collision course with God. If Israel, God’s chosen people, received no special favor when they sinned, Americans have no right or reason to think that any special privileges will be ours’. A holy and just God must judge sin. There were and still are three specific consequences when God’s people refuse to repent:

1. “But unto us confusion of faces” (v. 7,8)
2. “The curse is poured upon us” (v. 11)
3. “He hath confirmed His word which He spake against us” (v. 12)

If we choose not to learn from history, we will simply repeat it. Once again, however, the original “What if?” question arises. What if we, like Daniel, are willing to set our faces unto the Lord God? (9:3) What if we recognize that unto the Lord belongeth righteousness, mercy, and forgiveness? (v. 7, 9, 14, 16, 18) What if we pray, “O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive; O Lord, hearken and do; defer not...”? (v. 19) Take heart, dear brother and sister, revival is still possible because God is still God!

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We are excited about the direction the Lord is giving to Julie and Edwin as they consider the new ministry that the Lord is leading them into. Enclosed is some material about their ministry. God has blessed them with some very special areas of ministry. We trust you will pray for them as they take this step of faith in 2008.

During the fall of 2008, we will again be taking an extended trip out west. During that time Ben and Jennifer Haupt will be staying back east. We want to let pastors know that this is a time when we are giving them the opportunity to schedule meetings on their own. The Haupt's have now ministered with us for several years and are doing a great job. If you wish to contact them, their number is (814) 422-8226.

Tentative Schedule for the Palmer Revival Team

January 20-27	God’s Way Baptist Church	Troy, AL
Jan. 31-Feb. 2	Men’s Prayer Advance	Goshen, VA
Feb. 3-6	Tanton Memorial Baptist Church	Pensacola, FL
Feb. 8-10	Grace Bible Baptist Church	Pensacola, FL
Feb. 17-22	Clear Springs Baptist Church	Clear Springs, AL
Feb. 24-27	Faith Baptist Church	Decatur, AL
March 8-10	West Coast Baptist College	Lancaster, CA
March 13-15	Ladies’ Prayer Advance	Goshen, VA
March 23-28	Middletown Baptist Church	Middletown, DE
March 29-30	Community Fellowship Church	Bear, DE
April 6-10	Vernon Forest Baptist Church	Winston Salem, NC
April 13-18	Temple Baptist Church	Sumter, SC
April 20	Mikado Baptist Church	Macon, GA
April 27-May 2	Bible Baptist Church	Culpeper, VA



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Family News

During this special holiday season, we want to thank you, our family and friends, for your faithful prayers and support during the year 2007. This past year brought many changes for our family, but we thank the Lord for His faithfulness. We also want to wish you the best of God’s blessing during this Christmas season and in the year ahead. May God bless you.

We also ask that you be praying for Julie and Edwin as their baby is to be born around the first week of January. We are excited about this new experience of becoming grandparents.

Andrew is continuing to do well in his first year of college. If you wish to contact Andrew while he is at college, his address this coming spring is: Box 754, West Coast Baptist College 4010 E. Lancaster Blvd. Lancaster, CA 93535

