

Preparing the **WAY**

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

The Newsletter of Palmer Revival Ministries
September-December 2009

How It All Began

by Tom Palmer

The month of July was significant for our ministry because it marked the completion of twenty years since we began our revival ministry in July, 1989. After spending nine years serving with my father, Pastor Jack Palmer, as his assistant pastor, God led our family into the ministry in which we have spent the last twenty years. Occasionally people ask me how God led us to start Palmer Revival Ministries. I would like to share the story.

In reality, I must go back even further to the fall of 1978. The church my father was pastoring, Twin Valley Bible Chapel in Morgantown, Pennsylvania, was involved in a revival crusade that lasted for nearly five weeks. The meetings lasted 31 days and included five Sundays. As a senior in high school, I experienced firsthand the reality of genuine revival. During that time, God overhauled my life spiritually. I came to understand the difference between just being a good Christian teenager, and being a godly Christian teenager. God truly ignited the fire of revival in my heart and life, a fire which, though it may have died down, has never gone out. It was also during my senior year, that my good friend Eric Fisher (now a veteran missionary in the Marshall Islands) and I traveled together as a gospel team. During that year I fell in love with itinerant ministry with the hope of maybe someday doing it full time.

During the 1980's, God brought Patty and me together, and we began our family. Also during those years I was privileged to serve as an assistant pastor and youth pastor with my father in Huntingdon, Pennsylvania. Through those years I often wondered if God would ever allow me to be in revival ministry. In July of 1989, I concluded nine wonderful years of ministry there. Initially, I assumed that we would relocate to another similar church-type ministry. In the months that followed I had nearly twenty-five contacts with churches seeking to fill pastoral positions; however, God did not open one door or even lead in any of those directions.

I had already scheduled several weeks of camp and conference ministry during July of that year, so I simply proceeded with those weeks. During that time I also sent out a letter to various places where I had preached before, to inform them of the changes taking place and to let them know that I was available for preaching opportunities. That was when things really began to happen. I very quickly began to get invitations to preach throughout the remainder of the year. As it turned out, I had only two Sundays for

the rest of 1989 when I was not preaching somewhere. That was when Patty and I started to sense the leading of the Lord to specifically begin praying about an itinerant ministry. We began to seek godly counsel from numerous sources and we prayed specifically about beginning a revival ministry.

Several times in September I set aside days of prayer and fasting as we sought the Lord. On one of those days I went to the Trough Creek State Park to spend a day with the Lord. For hours I walked the trails alone carrying only my Bible and talking out loud to God. Finally I stopped and built a small campfire. Sitting at a picnic table I began to write. On three and a half pages I wrote thirty-five reasons why I believed God wanted us in revival ministry. (I still have those handwritten pages, and it blesses my heart to review the leading of God that day.) That settled it. Later in the day I returned home to share with my wife how I believed God was leading us. From that point on, we began to pursue the ministry in which we have now spent the last twenty years.

In reality, we did not have a home church at that time. We did not have a supporting organization, we had little or no schedule, and we had no source of income. We did, however, have God, and we knew we were in the center of His will. We learned great lessons in those days about trusting God, as we found that He was faithful. In



All together for a weekend in Kentucky

January of 1990, we relocated to Lewistown, Pennsylvania, to assist a church that offered to help us get started. We were involved there for three years and eventually moved to Spring Mills in 1995 which has been our home ever since.

Over the last twenty years we basically raised our family in the ministry and on the road. We have lived in four fifth-wheel travel trailers, pulled by three different trucks. God has allowed us to crisscross this country many times, traveling hundreds of thousands of miles. What a privilege it has been to work with hundreds of churches, schools, and camps as we have preached, prayed, sung, and served. God has been so good. So many times we have seen people, families, and churches impacted for Him. With the help of God, we desire to continue for many years. We desire to be faithful to our God, Who has been so faithful to us.

In Memorial

On February 15th, Patty's dad, John McCracken, went home to be with the Lord. Her mother had gone to heaven less than two years before. We deeply appreciate the prayers and remembrances from so many of our friends and family during the last two years. After Patty's dad's death, we received a number of memorial gifts in his honor. We would like to extend special thanks to those who gave generously in remembrance of Patty's parents:

Helen Porter
 Jean Hetrick
 John and Barbara Troychock
 Gordon White
 Ed Beattie
 Jim and Ruth Jackson



Prayer Conference

January 7-9, 2010
 Camp Victory in Samson, AL

Conference Host
 Evangelist Tom Palmer

Conference Speaker
 Evangelist Harold Vaughan

**Sow to yourselves in righteousness,
 reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground:
 for it is time to seek the Lord, till he come and
 rain righteousness upon you.
 Hosea 10:12**

It is time to seek the Lord!

For more details, you can contact us directly or go to www.palmerrevival.org to download a brochure.

Tentative Schedule for Palmer Revival Ministries

Sept. 13 - 18	Berean Bible Fellowship	Unionville, PA
Sept. 20 - 25	Cedar Hill Baptist Church	Dillsburg, PA
Sept. 27 - 30	Mt. Pleasant Bible Church	Loganton, PA
Oct. 4 - 11	Lifegate Baptist Church	Bellefonte, PA
Oct. 18 - 23	Covert Baptist Church	Interlaken, NY
Oct. 25 - 28	Fingerlakes Baptist Church	Geneva, NY
Oct. 30 - Nov. 1	Calvary Baptist Church	Carney's Point, NJ
Nov. 6 - 8	Valleyview Baptist Church	Northampton, PA
Nov. 13 - 15	Bible Baptist Church	Stonewood, WV
Nov. 18 - 22	Christian Community Church	Mars, PA

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