



How Social Connections Accelerate Movements

Dear Ministry Friends,

MY FAVORITE TELEVISION CHARACTER WAS CLARK KENT. Not just because he was Superman, but because Kent is my middle name!

Like Clark Kent, it was never easy for me to develop social relationships. I remember longing to make the track team so others would admire my exploits. I did make the team, but my coach assigned me the “low” hurdles and no individual competition. So much for leaping tall buildings and being faster than a speeding bullet!

Fortunately for me, there are powerful but easier ways to connect socially today. Facebook and Twitter (along with other social media platforms) enable us to communicate worldwide with a few strokes of the keyboard.

And social media is even more rapid and powerful than Superman! Right now, we are witnessing unprecedented movements of social change in Egypt and throughout the Arab world, largely fueled by Facebook and other new means of communication.

But it has always been true that movements are birthed and accelerated through social connections:

- **In 1518**, committed friends of Martin Luther translated *The Ninety-Five Theses* into German and, thanks to technological advancement (the printing press), spread them throughout Germany in two weeks and to Europe within two months.
- **In the 1740s**, John Wesley organized converts from the 18th-century awakening in Great Britain into societies for fellowship, accountability, and prayer. These societies were a powerful means of spreading the revival by providing a forum for people to connect around spiritual things.
- **In 1857-58**, the newly invented telegraph helped spread the stories of changed lives from the Fulton Street Prayer meeting in NYC throughout America and beyond.
- **Forty years ago this month**, the Canadian revival ignited. The stories of how God was at work spread the revival throughout the world.

Today, advancements in technology have proven to be a wonderful provision of the Lord to accelerate connections to Christ. Facebook now has over 500 million users, with one-half of them logging on every day. It is expected to reach one billion users by 2012! It is staggering to contemplate how social media will be used today if or when God chooses to send revival in our time.

Last week, we received 900 “Dear Team” letters from one church in Bartlett, TN, where one of our ministry teams recently concluded a summit. Nine hundred people took time to record how Christ touched their hearts and, in many cases, totally transformed their lives. Some of their moving stories were also recorded in video interview format and are available to you at www.LifeAction.org/RealStories.

Let me urge you to not just view these stories yourself, but share them with your friends via Facebook or Twitter. You don’t need to be Superman—the world is waiting for **real stories** about **real people** finding **real solutions** from God. You can be one of those stories!

Together, let’s spread the flame!

Byron *Kent* Paulus
Executive Director

Spring 2011—Schedule

Life Action will hold **summits** and **THIRST conferences** in the following communities:

Pontotoc, MS • April 3–6
Lexington, SC • April 10–13
Charleston, TN • April 10–20
Athens, GA • April 10–24
Chattanooga, TN • April 17–24
Saltillo, MS • April 24 – May 4
Apex, NC • May 1–4
Bourbonnais, IL • May 1–11
Jackson, MI • May 8–15
Elkview, WV • May 8–15
Harleysville, PA • May 22–25
Fort Wayne, IN • May 22–29
Sarnia, ON • May 22–29

Camps and Retreats

Women's Ministry Directors' Retreat • April 7–9

Father/Son Retreat • April 8–10

Momentum Men's Retreat
April 15–17

Pastors' Retreat • April 25–29

Memorial Day Family Camp
May 28–31

Conferences

Ivy League Congress • April 1–3

Heart-Cry for Revival • April 4–7

Shift Conference • April 29–30



Facebook.com/LifeActionMinistries



Twitter.com/LifeAction

You can follow us on Facebook and Twitter for more of what God is doing.

Pray • Live • Give *Ways to Invest in Revival*

We believe the most powerful change agents for spreading movements of authentic Christianity are those who have experienced an authentic move of God themselves. Like a spark that ignites a fire or a drop that spawns a ripple, revival spreads through the authenticity and influence of transformed lives like yours.

That's why Life Action is committed to continually equipping you to be an agent of spiritual change. Here are a few of the resources we make available to Action Partners of our ministry:

- Monthly prayer guide
- Seeking Him small group study and facilitator's guide
- Revive magazine quarterly subscription
- Ministry updates and revival resources
- Intercessors ready to pray for you

If you haven't already, join a team of people who regularly invest in transforming our culture through spiritual revival and awakening! **Become an Action Partner today at www.LifeAction.org/ActionPartners.**

Yours As a Free Gift!

Pastor Bobby Moore's love and service as a board member and spiritual advisor goes back 40 years to the founding days of Life Action Ministries.

Intimacy with God was the life message of Pastor Bobby. In honor of his Bible-saturated and Christ-centered life, we want you to have a copy of his impassioned book on the devotional life. **Return the enclosed card with any size donation for your free copy.**



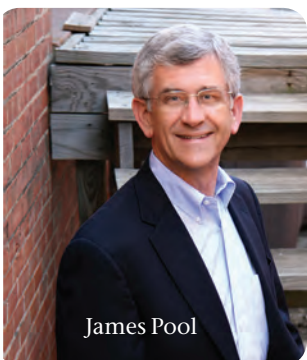
Ignite

A Report for Our Ministry Partners

Are You a Flame Bearer?

Life Action's vision is to **ignite** movements of authentic Christianity. Our family of outreaches is providing opportunities for thousands of believers to prepare their hearts to be set aflame by the sparks of God's Word and Spirit.

INSIDE THIS EDITION OF IGNITE, you will catch glimpses of what happened in the last few weeks when the fire of God's presence and power came to ordinary people and communities. But the stories don't stop with mere ignition—the nature of fire is to intensify and spread in every direction.



James Pool

The truth is that God intends for every Christian to be a flame bearer—a fire carrier to our generation. You might say, “I’m only one insignificant person. What can I possibly do to spread the fire of God?” Just ask James Pool, a pastor from Texas who hosted a Life Action revival summit in his church.

Going back fifteen years, James had a vision of networking intercessors from different churches to pray for revival in our nation. At the time, there were very few individuals who seemed interested in this type of commitment to prayer.

Two years ago, however, the vision returned with white-hot intensity as the need for national revival became more apparent. So in August of 2008, James left the security of pastoring the church where he had ministered for more than thirteen years to launch the School of Renewal, a prayer ministry that calls Christians to

earnestly pray for revival and spiritual awakening.

Since then, the response to this vision has grown. Today, more than two hundred individuals from thirteen states have become part of a prayer network focused exclusively on praying for revival. And this growing army of prayer warriors has decided to adopt the outreaches of Life Action Ministries, beginning in 2011!

That means every church Life Action ministers in will be undergirded by intercessors across the nation who will lift up every church member and leader specifically, crying out to the Father for power and anointing for the Life Action ministry teams.

This extraordinary story of impact began with one ordinary man with a vision to spread the fire of God's manifest presence. So what about you? How will you fulfill God's calling to be a flame bearer?

“Jesus expects fire to be a way of life for all of us.”¹ ■

¹From *Prayer on Fire*, by Fred Hartley III, copyright © 2006, published by NavPress.

²Ibid. To learn more about God's calling to be a flame bearer, read Fred Hartley's article “The Fire of God's Presence” at www.LifeAction.org/Hartley.

All history is bracketed with the fire of God. It started with creative fire and it will end with consuming fire. From the first to the last pages of the Bible, people met God in the flames of His transforming presence. . . . Envision your life being set on fire by God.²



When God Comes to Class

LIFE ACTION'S CAMPUS OUTREACH, *COLLEGIATE IMPACT*, has been in a partnership for revival with the campus ministries at Montana State University for the past 18 months. The spiritual momentum has dramatically increased to a new level, and the believing students at MSU are now either in low-level revival or are building toward a huge spiritual breakthrough—or both! In fact, the national director for a major campus ministry visited the campus and said that *what he witnessed at MSU is the closest thing he has seen to campus revival anywhere*. Here are a few of the things taking place there:

- Great conviction swept through the male students of one of the largest evangelical student ministries on campus, especially about

sexual immorality. Student after student is still testifying to the work of grace in their hearts and the freedom they have experienced since that season of repentance.

- There is an extraordinary friendship and cooperation between the leadership of the various student ministries on campus. Instead of a spirit of competition, the leaders are praying together and inviting one another to speak at each other's ministry gatherings.

- Students are freely testifying about God's work in their lives. CI director Dave Warn sat with the leadership of one campus ministry for more than an hour listening to story after story about students coming to Christ, repenting of sins, and fasting and praying.

- In a recent gathering where Dave was speaking, the conviction of the Holy Spirit was so great that a student sitting in the back spontaneously stood and asked if he could confess his sin. The rest of the evening turned into a corporate season of public confession and repentance.

- Campus leaders are reporting that even during small group meetings on campus, the regular Bible studies are being interrupted by students wanting to share their stories of what God is doing in their lives.

Learn more about *Collegiate Impact* by going to www.CollegiateImpact.org.

A Valentine Weekend to Remember



OVER VALENTINE'S DAY WEEKEND, *The Lodge* (Life Action's retreat center for Christian leaders) hosted a marriage retreat for pastors and their wives. The daily demands of ministry can sometimes overpower a couple's priorities, but we've seen God rescue marriages on the brink of divorce and bless strong marriages with new commitment. The following is a paraphrase of a pastor's story of how God worked during the retreat:

My wife and I were driving to the Romantic Reflections weekend at the Life Action Lodge—during Valentine's Day week, no less. You'd think we would be talking about happy things, but our relationship had become so tense over the years that while we drove, we even mentioned the possibility of divorce.

Over a Valentine meal during the retreat, God's Spirit started doing an overpowering work in my heart. I can't even explain it. God was breaking me and calling me to repentance, which hadn't exactly been my lifestyle lately.

I finally spoke to the others in the group. "I don't know what to say. I'm surprised my wife is even still with me." I told them we had used the "D" word on the drive over. By this time I was crying as I talked (sure didn't plan that!), and my wife was sobbing. Some Valentine date!

But as Ed, the retreat director, stood praying over my wife and me, God started restoring our love for each other. I can't wait to get back to my home, my kids, my church, and tell them what God has done. How can so much change in the space of just a few days?!

Learn more about *The Lodge* by visiting www.RetreatAtTheLodge.org.

Neighboring Churches Experience “God Moments”



LIFE ACTION'S MINISTRY TEAMS had the opportunity to minister in a cluster of churches during a short time in two cities: Dothan, Alabama, and Memphis, Tennessee. This is significant for two reasons. One, it reflects wide-spread desire for revival in one place. Two, it means that a concentrated experience of revival is being shared by a critical mass of believers at the same time! For example, in the Memphis area, over 4,000 believers participated in a prolonged season of seeking and responding to God in less than six weeks.

The depth of impact that took place during these days is hard to fully appreciate. When people were given an opportunity to publicly share how God had impacted their lives, a 78-year-old lady who was in charge of the senior adult ministry shared that she had never genuinely become a Christian; she placed her faith in Jesus that week. Sensing the “God moment,” the whole church erupted in praise.

In the same service, a former staff member of the church stood and confessed to an immoral lifestyle that found her last week in a bar at the end of herself. She told how she had repented and now wanted accountability and prayer (another “God moment”).

Men, women, teens, and college students alike poured out their hearts, broken and obedient. Here are several responses we received when we asked the people to write a letter to God that started with the words, “Dear God, I believe You are sovereign. Tonight I choose to trust You with . . .” Some 450 people came forward to the altar and delivered their prayers and commitments:

I trust You with . . .

- *my gluttony. I am so focused on it and crave it instead of You. Only You can deal with this area of sin in my life.*
- *my anger, my cursing, my pride, my affair, my prejudices, my verbal abuse of my wife and children.*
- *my finances. I want to follow Your leading and not put my trust in the emergency fund.*
- *my continual battle with pornography. I really can't do this by myself; I need Your help badly. Will You please come to my rescue? I give this completely up to You.*
- *my marriage. I need You, God. I desire to do Your will and be the wife You have called me to be.*
- *my son and his struggle with his sexuality, and my fear and disgust with the thought that my son would be openly seeking this lifestyle.*

Praise the Lord for the deep work of revival being experienced across whole communities!

Revive Making a Difference



THE LATEST ISSUE OF *REVIVE*, RELEASED IN MARCH, addressed the biblical pathway for change. The demand for this subject has been strong, with extra copies selling out in a matter of days. Praise the Lord that revival truths providing real biblical answers for how to overcome habitual sin and experience lasting transformation are spreading, through *Revive* magazine. You can read this issue of *Revive* online and sign up for a free subscription at

www.LifeAction.org/Revive.

Advancing the Mission of Revival Through Partnerships

LIFE ACTION MINISTRIES BELIEVES that the work of revival advances through friendships with other like-minded believers and ministries. Here are a few ways the mission of revival is being advanced by strategic partnerships:

- *Revive Our Hearts*, Life Action's women's ministry, conducts True Woman conferences in partnership with Moody Bible Institute, FamilyLife, Moms In Touch International, and The Council for Biblical Manhood & Womanhood. Twenty thousand women have attended these events.
- Life Action annually conducts panels on revival and spiritual renewal at Moody Bible Institute's Pastors' Conference and the Southern Baptist Convention's Pastors' Conference.
- Byron Paulus, Executive Director of Life Action, is a member of the National Revival Network that is hosting two "Conversations on Revival" for Christian leaders in 2011.
- *Collegiate Impact*, Life Action's outreach to college campuses, is participating with several campus organizations on such initiatives as Ignite (a conference for Ivy League students), Jericho Partnerships (to see campuses transformed), The New Haven Call, and the nationwide Collegiate Day of Prayer.
- Life Action co-hosts the Heart-Cry for Revival Conference with a consortium of revival ministries, including Harvest Prayer Ministries and Sammy Tippit Ministries.

Heart-Cry for Revival Conference

FROM THE CREATORS OF FIREPROOF **COURAGEOUS** HONOR BEGINS AT HOME

Private pre-release screening



Alumni Reunion



Golf Scramble

Life Action Celebrates 40 Years of Ministry

This summer marks Life Action's 40th anniversary. To make much of God's provision and faithfulness, we are hosting a celebration weekend at our National Ministry Center in Buchanan, Michigan. This event will commemorate the past 40 years of ministry and look forward to how Life Action Ministries will continue to further the mission to ignite movements of authentic Christianity.

Special events include an alumni reunion, a golf outing, a private pre-release screening of the new movie *Courageous* from Sherwood Pictures, as well as a keynote address from the film's producer, Michael Catt. Mark your calendars and join us!

To learn more
or to register, visit
www.LifeAction.org/40th.

