

Ignite

A Report for Our Ministry Partners



The Irresistible Power of Passion

What has a hold on you other than Jesus? by Bill Elliff

Imagine it's September 2010, and suddenly your church is overcome with an intense burden for lost people in your city. Church members begin to fast and pray day after day for the power of God to come.

Then one Sunday as your pastor is preaching, people begin to stream forward, and 200 are converted. Reports begin to pour in from across the nation of thousands coming to Jesus. And the movement doesn't stop—every day, people are being added to the churches.

Sound too incredible to be true? It happened in the first year after Christ's resurrection. And it's happened many times throughout church history in seasons of revival. *It could happen today.*

But to spiritually reclaim America, we need more than a program or strategy. We need an overwhelming, all-encompassing, all-consuming, sustained movement of the

Holy Spirit. We need something viral and contagious, something that spreads with unprecedented rapidity and unstoppable power.

Movements like this are ignited by those who are *passionate about Jesus.*

I'll never forget meeting my wife, Holly, for the first time. I was so "taken" with her that I began to do and say things that were otherwise uncharacteristic of me. I wrote poetry and sang songs. I went to extreme lengths to show her my devotion. Looking back, I'm sure I seemed bizarre to everyone around me, but I didn't care—I was in love!

The same should be true in our Christian walk. The kind of passion that makes us contagious for Jesus doesn't come from doing tasks for Him, but from *relationship with Him.* When we love the Lord Jesus, we simply can't stop thinking and talking about Him.

Time and again, we see how passion for Jesus made the early church *unstoppable.* Even in the face of opposition, they couldn't help testifying about Him (Acts 4:18-20). When persecuted, they continued with rejoicing (Acts 5:40-42). Why? They loved Jesus, so their

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SPECIAL OFFER!

The Power of Surrender

by Michael Catt



MICHAEL CATT is best known for pastoring the church that produced the Christian blockbuster movies *Facing the Giants* and

Fireproof. But Michael's defining passion for more than 30 years has been revival and awakening.

This passion has led to a close friendship with Life Action Ministries, and we have partnered for a number of ministry events, most recently in March at our Vision Gathering in Austin, Texas. At that conference, Michael delivered a powerful message on igniting and spreading the flames of revival. You can hear that message in its entirety at www.LifeAction.org/VG2010.

We would also like you to have Michael's book *The Power of Surrender*. Byron Paulus wrote the introduction to this challenging book that helps believers take the pathway of a revived life. We'd love to send you a copy as our way of saying thank you for any gift of \$10 or more. ■

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lives were gladly at His disposal.

In contrast, our problem today is that we are so stoppable. The slightest inconvenience, disturbance in our social calendar, or disruption of our financial plans causes us to shrink back from the mission.

I have discovered that the things that make us stoppable are usually the things we have begun to *love* more than Jesus. Often these things aren't wrong in themselves—for example, comfort, ease, reputation, and material things. But they are things that have taken dominion over us (Psalm 119:133).

I challenge you to fast, at least for a time, from anything that has a hold on you other than Jesus. It's time to just walk away. If it's television, turn it off. If it's ease, go serve. If it's self-centeredness, open your home to others. If it's food, abstain from it.

Do you need fresh passion for Jesus? Then fuel it by removing the obstacles that are keeping you from falling in love with Jesus again. ■

Adapted from a message given by Bill Elliff at Life Action's Vision Gathering on March 14, 2010. To hear this message in its entirety, go to www.LifeAction.org/VG2010.

The Silence Is Broken *Renewed Prayer for* *America's Future Leaders*

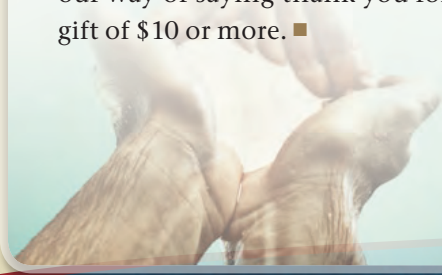
FOR MOST OF A CENTURY (1815-1915) our nation reserved a special day each year to pray for its colleges. God faithfully answered those prayers, and America witnessed an era of ongoing revivals and awakenings. In fact, the early records from many of our best universities read like a virtual history of spiritual revival.

Believers nationwide prayed fervently for colleges because they viewed these student communities as the future of their congregations, culture, and society. They believed that the direction of their churches and of the entire nation would soon follow the spiritual bent and character of America's college students—as go the students, so goes the nation. Sadly, this movement of prayer faded into history.

Nearly 100 years later, it's time to break the silence! Life Action's college division, Collegiate Impact, has joined with several other ministries to reinstate nationwide prayer for revival and awakening on the campuses of America.

This effort has met with extraordinary response. Nearly 500 campuses and churches have already joined the prayer movement in a short period of time, and the numbers are increasing daily! You can contact us at www.CollegiateImpact.com.

Let's believe God together for another great awakening in this generation. The need has never been greater than right now! ■





Historic Church Responds to THIRST Conference

point to have a group come in and help us define what revival is, and to trust God to do something deeper in the lives of our congregation.

“It was a bold step,” acknowledged Dr. Luzter, “but at the very heart of revival is sacrifice.” The call to invite the team was unanimous. “Our entire leadership wants a Life Action THIRST conference. We just wish we didn’t have to wait until 2011 for you to come.”

IS THERE A CHURCH ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD more widely known or more historically rooted in revival than Moody Church in Chicago? This church has a rich history of periodic revivals and prolonged fruitfulness, and their pastor has carried a burden for revival for many years.

Dr. Erwin Luzter recently celebrated 30 years as lead pastor. His own roots include vivid recollections of revival in Canada four decades ago:

I had experienced revival in the early '70s up in Canada, and once you've seen God work in people's lives, something inside you says, “We need to see this again.” I'm talking about failing marriages, seemingly without hope; people with addictions; families estranged. I have seen God bring about in several hours what months of counseling sometimes has not accomplished. So ever since I came to Moody Church, I've had the vision at some

“I have seen God bring about in several hours what months of counseling sometimes has not accomplished.”

They didn't have to wait! The Lord rearranged our schedule, and with little time for planning, the third week of March became like no other in recent history at Moody Church. Over 1,000 adults attended Sunday evening, and on weeknights up to 700 returned to hear and respond obediently to core revival truths.

God's work was fresh and deep. Shallow substitutes for passionate love of Jesus were confessed. People experienced repentance, reconciliation, joy, fullness, freedom, and fruitfulness. Though a widespread outpouring of God's Spirit did not occur, a widespread thirst for God to move in revival escalated dramatically.

And thousands of hearts gained a wonderful vision for what God might do in the future.

God has begun a powerful work of fulfilling His promise to “pour water on him that is thirsty.” ■

Women of ACTION

EVERY WOMAN LONGS FOR PURPOSE. Life Action's Women of Action retreats help women be intentional about eternal purposes for their marriage, children, and life. Here's a glimpse of the impact that is taking place in women's hearts:

“I felt like my life was crumbling. I felt defeated by everything going on. Now I want to go home and be the helpmate to my husband that God wants me to be.”

“God showed me that I need to go back to foundational truths and deal with certain lies that I've lived with for so long—lies that are keeping me from growing and trusting in Him.”

Carrie Gaul spoke at Women of Action 2010



A Leader Repents, and Revival Breaks Out

Revival began when God broke one of our leaders, who put his confession of sin in the form of an article in a denominational newspaper

THE LORD HAS BEEN MOVING across northwest Mississippi (Memphis area) in a personal and powerful way for the past eighteen months. This movement of revival began when God broke one of our leaders, who put his confession of sin in the form of an article in a denominational newspaper! Then pastors in our local network began to respond with an unusual degree of transparency and honesty in our meetings together.

These steps of brokenness led to a change in our pastors' network. Meetings began to include mutual confession of our sins to one another, including such matters as burnout, apathy, frustration, and habitual sin. We began to understand the power and presence of Christ's life as we moved from denial into repentance, and we began to seek to learn more about God's ways in revival from godly men like Richard Owen Roberts, Charles Solomon, Bobby Moore, and Ted Rendell, who all had powerful ministry among us.

Then three pastors in our area decided to invite Life Action Ministries to their churches for extended 11-18-day summits to seek the Lord for revival. As you can imagine, this was a big faith-step by these leaders. During those initial summits in January and February of this year, repentance and reconciliation broke loose in corporate ways in these church congregations, sometimes continuing late into the night.

And the movement continues. Three more Tate County churches are set to host Life Action summits in 2011, and a number of other churches in the region are seriously considering inviting Life Action teams. The hunger for revival is increasing so fast that available dates are becoming scarce, because Life Action is booked into 2012!

We know that no ministry or pastor can bring revival. It certainly does not depend on Life Action Ministries. But we also know that the Holy Spirit can send it! That's why our greatest desire is to set our sails to catch the wind of the Spirit and the grace that God is sending to our region. Please pray for us! ■

– Wade Steelman, Local SBC Director of Missions

True Woman '10 Exceeds Expectations

THANKS FOR YOUR PRAYERS for the True Woman '10 conference in Chattanooga. God was very present, and women were profoundly touched—so much so that many of them hope to bring their friends to Indianapolis and Fort Worth for the September and October conferences!



Here's what the women had to say:

"I went kicking and screaming, positive I wouldn't get anything out of it. Praise God, I was wrong!"

"The conference was like heaven on earth. Unlike any experience I have ever had. I am back in the battle with renewed vigor."

"I realized this weekend that not only do I need Christ when I die, I need Him to live my life."

"What a fabulous, heart-rending, soul-convicting, inspiring weekend. Thank you. At 67 it isn't too late to learn how to love my husband as the Lord instructs."

"I was really challenged to get out of my comfort zone, impact the younger generation, and fight the culture war we are in."



Impact Points over the

Next Six Months

Revival Summits

15 local church 8–15-day summits

THIRST Conferences

11 local church 4-day conferences

Revive Our Hearts

2 national conferences

2 radio programs heard nearly 1700 times a day
on almost 1000 stations

Collegiate Impact

2 events

The Lodge

7 pastors' retreats

2 marriage retreats

2 women's leaders' retreats

Life Action Camp

7 retreats and events

11 family camps

Other Events and Conferences



TESTIMONY

"This week God gave me the courage to be obedient in dealing with my sin and clearing my conscience with my husband. God was so kind, He showed compassion and mercy on me. My husband has forgiven me, he loves me, and I feel free and clean. Praise the Lord!"

For schedule details visit www.LifeAction.org



Igniting Movements of Authentic Christianity

Here at Life Action, that's our ministry calling and relentless pursuit.

Acts 1-3 provides an excellent model of the characteristics of a contagious movement of the Holy Spirit. I believe these "echoes of Pentecost" help us identify five critical factors for igniting and spreading a movement of revival in our day:

Movements of revival . . .

begin by not moving—the disciples gathered together in the upper room for a prolonged period of prayer.

are experienced before exported—the disciples stayed in Jerusalem until they had received power from the Holy Spirit.

are Word-driven and Christ-exalting—217 out of 508 words from Peter's sermon at Pentecost were biblical references, and the focus was Jesus!

spread by stories—when the people saw 3,000 converted in one day, followed by healings like the lame man at the temple gate, they were filled with "wonder and amazement."

are sustained together—as the Holy Spirit was being outpoured, the disciples were "continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."

Life Action is helping the church engage each of these movement-making pursuits. Our outreaches encourage believers to take concentrated periods of time to seek the Lord and to experience His presence as we lead them through a biblical process of reconnecting their relationship to Christ and each other. And all of this is taking place in the context of togetherness—in the family, in the church, and with friends.

To hear three stories of how authentic Christianity is dramatically changing lives and spreading through communities, go to www.LifeAction.org/VG2010. Movements of revival are underway! Thank you for helping us fan the flames of revival across America.

Yours for revival in 2010,

Byron Paulus
Executive Director