

# Marching Orders

By Pastor Johnny Tucker, Bethel Christian Center

People ask at times why I think Revival “tarries”. They are often discouraged, never feeling quite good enough. One well-known preacher, Reinhard Bonnke, put it this way: “Is revival a chance to have a rest from the Great Commission, with God doing all the soul saving? Is the proper way of soul saving to wait for God to conquer by sovereign grace, exercising independent omnipotence?” That kind of faith is faith for what God never promised. He said “Go...and preach the gospel.” He concludes with these words, “Faith is not just waiting for God to move. Faith involves moving for God.” My message to you today, Beloved, is that we are living in unprecedented times of upheaval, financial uncertainty at best, and seemingly surrounded on every side by troubles unspeakable. Have no fear! We serve a God of hope who is on the move!

Churches and pastors should be able to identify with what the people are going through. We must hear from God and show our people how to traverse the ground to safety. Within the discipline of mountain climbing, there is the strategy of the strongest going ahead, while reaching down and back to bring the less experienced climber up to their level. That’s where many of us Pastors are --way out on a limb --with others close behind! I have a word of encouragement for you: God has empowered you, anointed you, strengthened you, prepared you and gifted you. You are who God says you are and nothing less. Blessing, favor and honor in the fullness of God are overtaking you, now, in the Name of Jesus.

I am a preacher of the Blood; my message is the cross that honors that shed blood. When Jesus predicted His death on the cross in John 12:27, He said these words, “But for this purpose (the cross) I came to this hour.” There WAS No Plan “B.” But for This Purpose:

He died...we were rescued.  
He died...we were delivered.  
He died...we were cured.  
He died...we were healed.  
He died...we were preserved.

He said in verse 32... “If I be lifted up, I will draw all men unto Me.” “Lifted up” means crucified! The Cross of Christ and the Resurrection which ratifies that crucifixion are pivotal to our relationship to the Father. I love the New Testament narratives of the Resurrection in the Gospels, for each one of them escorts us to the Tomb and makes us look inside. Once armed with the message of the Cross, we’ll then need to come to grips with our “Marching Orders”.

Not much has changed in the last 2,000 plus years since our Lord gave His instruction in Matthew 9:38, “to pray the

Lord of the harvest to send workers into His harvest.” His purpose in underscoring this great need was the urgency of a potentially abundant harvest being neglected and left to rot. If we look at population statistics alone, one could readily note that the statistics are staggering. The world’s current population is at 6.93 billion souls, 27% of which are under 15 years of age. In my state of Colorado, our population is just over 5 million. With the combined church attendance nationwide, if

every “church seat” were filled on any given Sunday, we would be impacting less than 3% of our national population. Now, in these early years of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we too are faced with an abundant potential harvest in the world. God is speaking to men and women, young and old alike about involvement in today’s harvest field. He is mustering a generation of believers empowered and anointed by the Holy Spirit to share the transforming message of the Gospel of Christ; to a lost, perverse, desperate and depraved

generation.

In Luke 4:18-19, the Lord outlined His purpose for coming into this world: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed or downtrodden; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.” He came to preach, to heal and to set the captives free. He made His purpose ours in John 20:21 when He said: “As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.” The disciples would become known as “apostles” or “sent-forth ones.” Herein remains the crux of the matter with us, for the empowering for such mission comes through the Holy Spirit, poured out upon all believers on the day of Pentecost. Our Lord had received the Holy Spirit in fullness, and for us, He has given unlimited Holy Spirit fullness.

He begins to walk the disciples towards that authority in Luke 9:1-2: “Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases. He sent them to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.” He trained them for ministry, and just as it seemed that He was going to release them at His ascension...He instructs them to go to Jerusalem...and wait.

He had instructed them in Matthew 28:18-20 when He said, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Some call this the Great Commission, yet His last words are recorded elsewhere with slight variations,

*Continued on page 37...*

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Continued from page 36...

though the instructions are the same. Let's look at the other portions. As He spoke to them, He was speaking to us as well.

Mark 16:15-18 reads as follows, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover." These signs accredit the gospel message, or better, they bring an illumination to the message of the cross.

When He spoke to the two on the road to Emmaus, He opened their eyes with His words in Luke 24:46-49, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And you are witnesses of these things. Behold, I send the promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high."

Luke brings the entirety of the Great Commission, back around to the necessity of waiting for the enabling power of the Holy Spirit to carry out the task. In other words, I'm sending you out just as the Father sent Me...but don't you

dare begin until you receive the Promise of the Father... Whom I will send. He had implied that no barrier of sin, no geographic boundary, no political or ethnic persuasion would hinder His gospel from being proclaimed throughout the world. "For our weapons are mighty in God to the pulling down of strongholds..."

There is a battle to be won; there is a mountain to take. There is a promise to receive. We will take it by our praise. Revival? Yes there is. There is a Revival about to explode in the Middle East. Revival means to "bring back something that has died." God had said, "The power of the Blood of My Son Shall Speak." We are about to witness tens of thousands to millions cry out for a touch from God. Many are going to be swept into the Kingdom. Watch for it to begin in the arts and music. Those that are worship leaders...hear me. If you will examine yourself, and allow Him to do the work He has been at you about, you will see your musical gifting go into another level altogether, into the realm of the Spirit. It's time to bring the Holy Spirit out of the back room; to give the Cross of Christ the central prominence it is intended to be. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are all three present in several places in scripture; at the creation, at the Lord's baptism, and at the birth of the church on the day of Pentecost. Marching Orders must be followed! Are you a good soldier for Christ, at the ready and eager to march forward with Him in ministry?

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