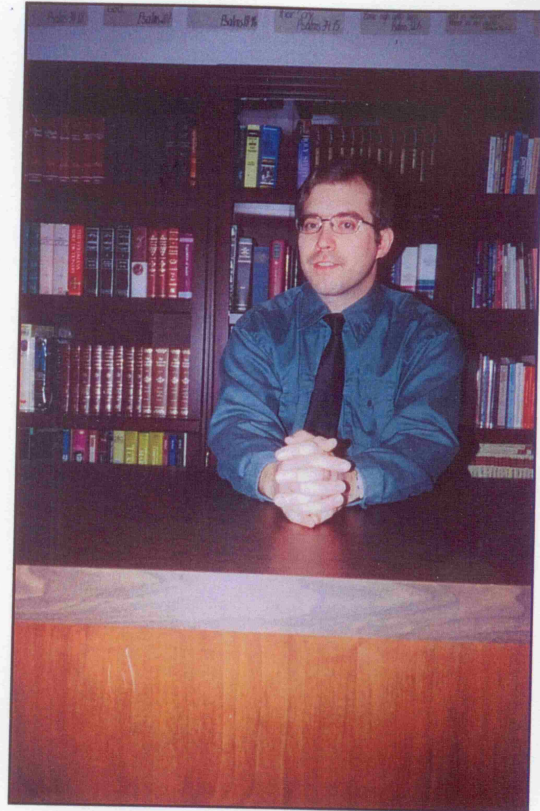


THE PENTECOST

The Pentecost is a new magazine, put out by Zion Tape Ministries, which will have as common themes church history, revival and missions. Its purpose is not only to preserve Christian heritage; it is also to use Christian history to encourage faith in our day. It is to challenge and encourage both believers and searchers to reach out to God. It is written to draw our minds and hearts towards revival and missions. God bless you as you open yourself up to this worthy goal.

Shawn Stevens



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Being a Friend in Jesus Name

The Lord Jesus healed the bodies of countless desperate souls who came to Him. Sometimes they found Him in the streets, other times by the sea, and at other times in the close quarters of a house. In Luke's gospel we read this compassionate story of one such time:

And it came to pass on one of those days, that he was teaching; and there were Pharisees and doctors of the law sitting by, who were come out of every village of Galilee and Judaea and Jerusalem: and the power of the Lord was with him to heal. And behold, men bring on a bed a man that was palsied: and they sought to bring him in, and to lay him before him. And not finding by what way they might bring him in because of the multitude, they went up to the housetop, and let him down through the tiles with his couch into the midst before Jesus. And seeing their faith, he said, Man, thy sins are forgiven thee. And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, Who is this that speaketh blasphemies? Who can forgive sins, but God alone? But Jesus perceiving their reasonings, answered and said unto them, Why reason ye in your hearts? Which is easier, to say, Thy sins are forgiven thee; or to say, Arise and walk? But that ye may know that the Son of man hath authority on earth to forgive sins (he said unto him that was palsied), I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy couch, and go unto thy house. And immediately he rose up before them, and took up that whereon he lay, and departed to his house, glorifying God. And amazement took hold on all, and they glorified God; and they were filled with fear, saying, We have seen strange things to-day.

Luke 5:17-26 American Standard Version

Luke 5:17-26

The man in this story had a problem, and I think you would agree, a large one. He was paralyzed. Day in and day out, he lived with the hard reality of knowing that others, his age and younger, walked and visited together at will. While others loved, laughed and enjoyed the freedoms of independence, he lay fixed in a motionless state. Depression and loneliness were his daily companions. Misery and despair were familiar to him.

However, hard as things were, he had one thing going for him. He had some loyal friends. These friends saw his need and, learning of Jesus and his power to heal, they determined to bring their paralyzed friend to Him.

The house was packed, and so was the entranceway. Anyone else would have gone home. Anyone else would have said, "We will try again tomorrow." These, however, didn't. They were friends. Consider the extent of their determination. First they hauled their paralytic friend up onto the roof of the building. Then they began dismantling its ceiling. I imagine that there were possibly other people outside asking them what they were doing. They would not be dissuaded from their important task. Next a hole, big enough to lower their friend through on a cot, was made. Then they lowered him into the room.

That day their paralytic friend was lowered into the loving presence of the Lord Jesus. On that day, Jesus forgave his many sins and then He healed his body. The determination of a few loyal friends really paid off. It sure was worth it, bringing the paralytic to Jesus. Is there a Jesus like this today? There certainly is. Are there friends like this also? That is a question for each of us to ask ourselves.

Reader, are you one of the walking ones? Are you walking with God, living in His grace? Who is there within your circle of influence who is crippled spiritually, emotionally, or even physically? Who is there who secretly longs for the freedom that you enjoy, and that you, perhaps, take for granted daily? Let's friend them to Jesus. Let us carry them, lift them up the building, start pulling off the tiles, create an opening, not be dissuaded and lower them carefully, until they are in His presence.

Maybe you are not one of the walking ones. Maybe you feel paralyzed by loneliness, emptiness, guilt, fear or sin. Could it be that problems have pinned you motionless? Have you thought that there is no solution? That is not true. I want to pray for you now.

"Lord Jesus, I pray that this reader friend would be lowered into your Holy presence. Into that place where You are near and where they know Your touch. Lord, You love them. You have power to forgive their sins. Help them cry out to You. Forgive us our trespasses. Cause them to arise from their emptiness and fill them with the hope, faith and love that You give to those who are Yours. Thank you. Amen."

Shawn Stevens

Scripture taken from The American Standard Version

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THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF GIDEON OUSELY

On February 24, 1762, in Dunmore, Ireland, Gideon Ousely, sometimes called the Irish Wesley, was born. Throughout his childhood, his devoted Christian mother read to him printed sermons and she protected him from his unbelieving father's philosophy of deism.

As a young man, Ousely was deeply challenged by the preaching of a John Hurley. He responded in repentance and faith to the gospel he heard preached and had a wonderful conversion. Hurley later asked Ousely, "Do you believe that the Lord has pardoned you?" Ousely responded, "Yes, my soul doth magnify the Lord and my spirit doth rejoice in God my Savior."

Ousely was blind in one eye, but this did not stop him from traveling throughout Ireland, preaching to lost souls. He preached with great urgency, calling souls to repentance and faith. His strong fiery preaching shook many hearers, awakening them to their need of Jesus Christ. On one occasion, he stopped a couple who were on their way to a church for their own wedding. He spoke to them seriously about their souls and warned them about eternity. The couple knelt on the ground and let Ousely pray for them.

On another occasion, Ousely entered a market place where a terrible sight met his eyes. Thousands were gathered to witness the hanging of a convicted criminal. Ousely climbed the scaffold and began ministering to the doomed man. After the criminal had committed his life to Christ, the execution was carried

out. By this time, Ousely had climbed down from the scaffold and had begun preaching with solemnness and intensity on the carelessness of sinners and of the importance of eternal life. The crowd hung on every word of Ousely's message while the body of the criminal was swinging in the background. One observer commented, "I wish I could reproduce his testimony as I heard it. The solemnity and loving earnestness of his manner, the melting tone of his voice, the beaming look, the grateful joy, the flowing tears, the impassioned character of his appeals, cannot be reproduced on paper."

Ousely spoke throughout England as well as Ireland and there were many displays of God's sovereign power in his meetings. There were powerful testimonies of conversion. On some occasions, attendees would swoon as he preached and would remain unconscious despite the efforts of others to awaken them. Eventually, they would awaken on their own and testify of having experienced the peace of salvation.

Well into his seventies, Ousely was preaching with zeal and intensity, warning sinners to flee from God's wrath to come. At age seventy-nine, he died. He was buried in a grave on Mount Jerome.

Shawn Stevens

Reference: Leonard Ravenhill, *Sodom Had No Bible* (Minneapolis: Bethany House Publishers, 1996), 157-161.

A CRY FOR REVIVAL

A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet, on Shigionoth.

O Lord, I have heard Your speech *and* was afraid;
O Lord, revive Your work in the midst of the years!
In the midst of the years make *it* known;
In wrath remember mercy.

Habakkuk 3:1-2

This is the cry of the ancient prophet Habakkuk. He lived sometime during the oppressive period of Israel's seventy-year captivity. The Babylonian empire, under Nabopolassar, had overtaken the Assyrian empire. After Nabopolassar's death, his son Nebuchadnezzar ascended the throne. One of Nebuchadnezzar's ambitions was the conquering of Syria-Palestine and he proceeded to do that, fulfilling Bible prophecy. In 606 B.C., the first Jewish captives were taken to Babylon. It was not until 536 B.C. that the first Jewish settlers began returning. This marked a period of seventy years. In the preceding chapters, Habakkuk mourns and complains to God about the wickedness, injustice, and violence which characterized Judah in this time.

As well as being broken hearted over Judah's political and moral distress, Habakkuk looks back at the great deeds of God in past generations. He was also fearful over God's word of judgment. The combination of these distresses caused him to cry out to God with great desire and yearning. It was a cry for God to revive His work. It was a cry for revival in the "midst of the years," which means the midst of the seventy years of

captivity that Judah was currently under. God's people were in captivity and desperately needed revival.

Christian, is there a parallel here? In the secular society in which we live we have seen the rise of wickedness in its many forms, from the greedy exploitation of the poor to dishonesty in government, to militant homosexuality, to abortion on demand, to substance abuse, and to domestic and public violence. Are there some Habakkuks amongst us who would lift up a cry to heaven that God would again revive his people and bring salvation to our land? Are there some Habakkuks who fear God and would plead for His mercy in the midst of these years?

It is a humbling thing to realize that while Canada has seen spiritual decline, elsewhere in the world God's kingdom and His gospel are surging forward, blossoming in revival. In China, in Latin America, and in Africa, revival sweeps God's church and sometimes whole nations. Friend, God is not a respecter of persons. He would move here also. Are we a Habakkuk who cries out for Him to revive. Revival is a wonderful possibility for our land as well. God won't let His church go out with a fizzle. Instead, He has reserved it for a purpose and for historic days such as these. Can we feel the heartbeat within His breast and His yearning, burning desire to pour out His Spirit and rain down revival upon the world?

Even now the tide of faith and expectancy is rising in the hearts of many of God's children. The hour is coming when our holy longings will be fulfilled and the name of Jesus will be lifted high. May He be exalted in your life and mine, and in the church as a whole. What enemy could stop God's purposes? What obstacle can resist being swept away by the deluge of end-time revival? Revival! It is driven forward by the

(A Cry for Revival continued from page 5)

breath of God. Brother and sister, can you see with the eyes of faith the rain clouds of revival moving towards us? Can you sense how God's Spirit is brooding over the world again, in the midst of these years? Oh, let's cry out and let heaven hear us.

Father in heaven, we and our country/countries have run from you into the darkness. We have forsaken You, the fountain of living waters, and have hewn out cisterns, broken ones, which can't hold water. You have spoken to us and we have responded in unbelief. But now we would turn and repent and believe. Forgive us our trespasses and our hardness of heart and stiffness of necks. We would come to the cross; we would come to the shelter of Your wings; and we would come to Mount Zion and cry, 'Lord enable us to ascend this hill with clean hands and a pure heart.' You have said in Your word 'Cry out and shout, O inhabitant of Zion, For great is the Holy One of Israel in your midst!' (Isaiah 12:6) Lord, we would recognize Your presence and cry out and shout, and pray with faith in Your name, and call for revival. Pour out the clear, clean river of Your Spirit and may our lives be carried in this flow. May our land be healed as a testimony to Your name. Revive us in the midst of these years. We were not made to wander but, rather, to follow You, running in the power of Your Spirit. Oh Lord hear, answer, and fulfill Your holy desire of having a victorious church surging forward in the midst of these years. Fulfill Your desire in us. Jesus, birth an end-time revival which will neither wax nor wane until every knee has bowed before You and every tongue has confessed that You are Lord.

Shawn Stevens

SEND THE REVIVAL OF THE LATTER DAYS

You said it shall come to pass in the latter days
Upon all flesh, this Holy wave
And all who call on Your name shall be saved
Lord, send the revival of the latter days.

Send the revival of the latter days
With a rushing wind and a burning flame.
Mend our hearts, Oh Lord, we amend our ways
Send the revival of the latter days.

Men though evil give their sons good things.
We lift our eyes to You, Father, and we ask this thing.
Oh, Your Word going forth in a prevailing way
Send the revival of the latter days.

Kindle a fire in our hearts we pray.
May it burn like a torrent till the final day
You've told us to ask, and to You we pray
Sent the revival of the latter days.

Surely, Oh Lord, You have life to give.
Surely, oh Lord, these bones can live.
Surely, oh Lord, so we ask again
Send the revival of the latter days.

Shawn Stevens

Scripture taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

THE LORD IS MOVING IN NIGERIA

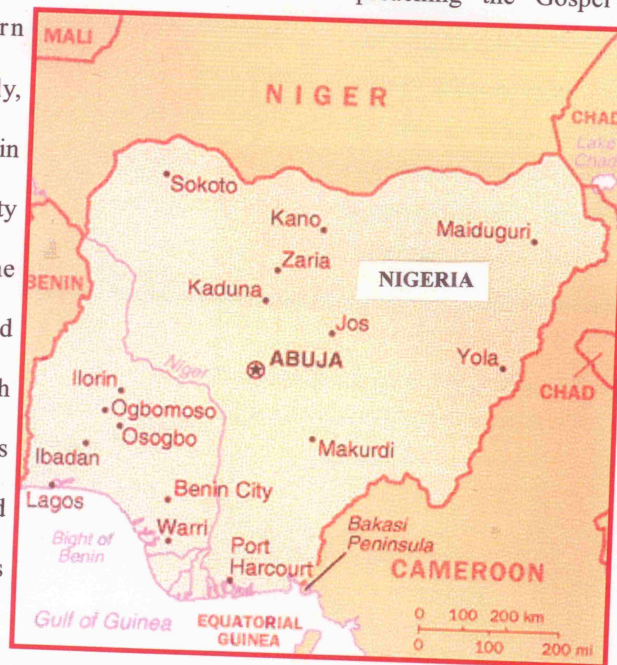
Few countries of the world have known such social upheaval as the country of Nigeria. In its distant past Nigeria was a British colony and functioned as such until 1960. Independence brought to Nigeria national sovereignty and a deliverance from colonial grievances. However, sovereignty also proved painful as the country passed through a series of military regimes. The elimination of many social services, the detention and imprisonment of journalists, students and critical scholars, the governmental mismanagement of funds, widespread unemployment, and riots all contributed to the stress of modern Nigerians.¹ Religiously, Islam was predominant in the North, and Christianity was predominant in the south. Animism had influence in both the north and the south. Many critics looking at Nigeria despaired at the seemingly hopeless state of affairs.

What critics couldn't see was the rumblings of something wonderful happening just below the surface. In 1987, pained by the spiritual and social plight of Nigeria, Christian believers began uniting together and holding prayer meetings. As many Nigerians were celebrating the independence of their country, many others were gathering in prayer meetings, crying out to God for deliverance and revival. Some on their knees, some pacing the floor, some praying silently, some shouting loudly, all with yearning and expectancy,

believers began calling on the God of Heaven to stretch out His hand in Nigeria.² Prayer meetings grew into a prayer movement as more Nigerian Christians became involved.

Along with the prayer rumblings came something else, a revival among students, sweeping university campuses. Students were getting saved and telling others about their new-found spirituality. The revival spread beyond the universities into Nigerian society as a whole. Many churches in Nigeria are preaching the Gospel boldly. Many have also

established social institutions and services such as hospitals, banks, and soup kitchens.³ In recent years Nigeria has seen the rise of superchurches, comprised of many thousands of believers. One church, the Deeper Life Bible Church, has a membership of 150,000.⁴



There has even been an open Christian public meeting that has gathered over one million people in one place at one time. May God be praised for the revival and the upsurge of faith that has come to Nigeria.

Shawn Stevens

¹ Julius O Ihonverbere, *Nigeria: The Politics of Adjustment & Democracy* (New Brunswick: Transaction Pub., 1994), 1.

² Joseph Thompson, "Rising From The Mediocre To The Miraculous," in *Out of Africa*, ed. C. Peter Wagner and Joseph Thompson (Ventura: Regal, 2004), 29.

³ *Ibid.*, 30, 33.

⁴ C. Peter Wagner, "Introduction," in *Out of Africa*, ed. C. Peter Wagner and Joseph Thompson (Ventura: Regal, 2004), 10.

MISSIONS FEST 2006

"Get out of the playpen and into the world," cried the preacher to any in his audience who wore the name "Christian" but were apathetic to Christ's command to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. The place: Missions Fest 2006. The preacher: Jim Cantelon. It was a call to commitment. It was a call to service. It was a call to large-hearted loving of a suffering world. It was this kind of loving that led Cantelon to resign from pastoring Broadway Tabernacle in Vancouver, B.C., and to work in Africa, reaching out to and caring for, victims of aids.

"You're the aids guy, right?" he was asked. "No, I'm the widows and orphans guy," he responded. He had done a study to find a common theme in the Old Testament prophetic writings. He found this theme to be a call to righteousness and justice. Furthermore, he found that this call was often, if not usually, on behalf of

widows and orphans. Cantelon's heart grew larger and larger for them. Connected with this, Cantelon's heart grew larger for the victims of aids because, today, aids has created more widows and orphans than any other cause. Now the call was going out to any or all in the large auditorium to lay down their lives and say to God, "Here am I. LORD, send me."

Challenging? Welcome to Missions Fest.

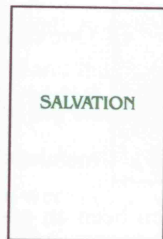
Missions Fest is a large missions conference that is held annually at the Vancouver Convention and Exhibition Center in British Columbia, Canada. In the month of January, approximately two hundred missionary agencies and other ministries set up information booths and many hold seminars on home and foreign missions. The event is spread over three days and attracts large crowds. May the good fruit of its labor be multiplied this year.

Shawn Stevens

B O O K S

In this issue I would like to feature two of my books. You may read these books on line or request a hard copy from this ministry. God bless you.

SALVATION



You can be saved from many things, a car wreck, a plane crash, a fire or more. The greatest salvation that you can know in this life is the salvation of your soul. This book, *Salvation*, was written for seekers who are willing to take an honest look at their life, and an honest look at God's word, and who are willing to let God's Spirit walk them through repentance and faith into the wonderful salvation of spiritual life. God bless you.

THE MINISTRY OF MARY SLESSOR

Come back with me over a hundred years to the grasslands and rainforests of Southern Nigeria. There we will find the humble, pioneer missionary, Mary Slessor. Her sacrifices, her struggles, her victories and her love is a story worth telling over and over.

