

## Seeking Revival

### DAY 10—SEARCHING FOR NEW LIFE IN CHRIST TOGETHER

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**“The Lord said, ‘Your help will not come from your own strength and power. No, your help will come from my Spirit.’ This is what the Lord All-Powerful says.” ZECHARIAH 4:6**

#### **What’s Next? Three Steps for a Spiritual Restart (Start Again)**

Would you like to experience spiritual renewal (new again or turn for the better) together with your church family? Here is a plan that has brought revival and hope for churches in Germany, Switzerland, England, Tajikistan, and the United States. Revival can happen anywhere, even in non-religious countries, when people continually (without stop) give their lives to Jesus and ask for the blessing of the Holy Spirit.

Pray about how your church or family or prayer group can have a spiritual “restart” (new start) this year. Make a plan, ask for help from other people, and choose a date to begin. You should change your ideas depending on your culture, your community, and the needs of your group.

Here is an example from a church in Decatur, Alabama, USA:

#### **1. Restart**

**Take several weeks or months to pray for the Holy Spirit, and study the Bible. You may also want to study a short worship book.**

In planning for an evangelistic programs (sermon meetings), members of the Decatur church began praying together at church for 30 minutes every Sabbath morning. They shared ideas in the church bulletin (booklet) to encourage (give support) prayer, revival, and the work of the Holy Spirit. They also had video meetings about the Holy Spirit on two Sabbath evenings. After the meetings, they gave out a short book about spiritual renewal and asked members to read it in the next six weeks. (They chose the book *Steps to Personal Revival*. You may also choose the book *Steps to Christ* or a Bible study guide about spiritual renewal.) Later, during Ten Days of Prayer, they prayed for the Holy Spirit and for a new life in Jesus during a Sabbath of prayer and praise.

#### **2. Relationship Care**

**Begin praying for five people who do not know Jesus, then contact them and be a friend to them in an honest and thoughtful way. During this time you may want to study another book about prayer or revival. Study with two people in each group for support and deeper understanding.**

During this second step, members of the Decatur church started studying the book *40 Days: Prayers and Devotions to Prepare for the Second Coming* in each group of two people. As a result (Then), they became more excited to tell other people about Jesus. The book says that church members also started praying for five people who did not know Jesus. Then they contacted these five friends or former (old) church members and kept in touch with them. This led to the new members to baptize and it was a blessing for the people who prayed for the new members.

Think about it, if 10 church members pray for five people each and contact them that would be 50 people in all, and it would grow from there. At the end of the 40 days, you could invite the people who you prayed for to a special visitor Sabbath. Next, invite each person to join a small group (Bible study, healthy cooking,

exercise, social activities, whatever the people are interested in). You can also invite them to upcoming (soon) evangelistic meetings. Remember to go to the meetings with your friends and help them feel welcome.

### 3. Sharing

**Each church member can invite the people who they have been praying for to come to evangelistic meetings, small-group Bible studies, or a one-on-one (one person to one person) Bible study. (If some of the people you are praying for are not ready for Bible studies, invite them to a small group they may be interested in, such as exercise, healthy cooking, hobbies, or social activities.)**

When the Decatur church held (has) evangelistic meetings, the members experienced a renewed, deeper relationship with Jesus. The Holy Spirit touched the hearts of people who were invited, and 10 people gave their lives to Jesus in baptism (with five more joining later). These results (happenings) are a great example of the power of prayer! (Decatur story is from a report by Elida Meneses in *Southern Tidings*.)

#### What Can Your Church Do?

Pray together and make a plan for your church today. "All heaven is busy working together, and God's angels are waiting to help all people who will make plans to tell people the good news that Jesus died to save them. The angels say to every true Christian: 'There is work for you to do.' 'Go, stand and tell the people about this new life in Christ' (Acts 5:20)" (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, pp. 433, 434).

God sends you out to the world with this promise: "What you are planning will not succeed by the power of an army nor by human strength; but my Holy Spirit will do it! I, the Lord God Almighty, promise this" (Zechariah 4:6).

#### Praying God's Word

##### **The Holy Spirit will do it.**

"What you are planning will not succeed by the power of an army nor by human strength; but my Holy Spirit will do it! I, the Lord God Almighty, promise this" (Zechariah 4:6).

*Dear Father, You tell us that success does not come from our human work. Please forgive us for not having the Holy Spirit. Renew (Make new) our lives and fill us with the Holy Spirit so we are not weak Christians like Laodicea (careless). Wake us up so we and our neighbors can be saved. Thank You for the eternal joy You have promised.*

#### More Prayer Suggestions

**Thanks and Praise:** Give thanks for specific (exact) blessings and praise God for His goodness.

**Confession:** Take a few minutes for private confession (admit your sins/wrongs) and thank God for His forgiveness.

**Guidance:** Ask God to give wisdom for current challenges (now) and decisions.

**Our Church:** Ask God to bless the work of our local (town), regional (part of country), and world church.

**Local Requests:** Pray for the needs of church members, family, and neighbors.

**Listen and Respond (answer):** Take time to listen for God's voice and respond in praise or song.

#### Song Suggestions

SDA Hymnal: Bringing in the Sheaves (#369); Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus (#618); I Love to Tell the Story (#457); When We All Get to Heaven (#633). Other Songs: Pass It On; People Need the Lord; We Are His Hands.