

National Intercessory Prayer

The Hebrides Revival



NIP-6



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July 2, 2023

As you join this intercessory prayer group, it can certainly be empowering to pray in an imprecatory manner and ask God to remove specific political leaders. While this will help the situation a little, a total breakthrough requires a spiritual awakening among Christians and a revival among unbelievers.

THE HEBRIDES REVIVAL

The Hebrides are an archipelago on the western coast of Scotland. The population was 45,000 as of 2011. Peggy and Christine Smith were two sisters, both in their eighties, who lived on the Isle of Lewis in 1949. Peggy had lost her eyesight and Christine was severely crippled with arthritis. The sisters rarely left their home due to their medical conditions. The community they lived in was called Barvas, with a population of around 2,000.

The Second World War had ended four years earlier and they felt the state of the people in their church was deplorable. Many of the men had returned home traumatized from the fighting and addicted to alcohol. Television was still in its infancy in Europe and radio was the social media outlet of that day.

The Holy Spirit showed them the condition of the people and the situation in their local church. The sisters knew the young people were being drawn

away from Christ and embracing the enticements of Satan. The world had written off these two women; it was just a matter of time before they died. But the Holy Spirit moved upon them because they were the only ones on the island that were heartbroken over the spiritual climate. The Holy Spirit gave them a promise from the prophet Isaiah.

“For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring.” (Isaiah 44:3)

They spoke to their pastor, James MacKay, and begged him to call the church leaders and have special prayer meetings. It was agreed to set apart two nights per week for all-night prayer meetings. Peggy and Christine were too ill to participate in the meetings which took place in a hay barn, but they stayed up nonetheless in their home, interceding for their neighbors, asking God to send the fires of revival upon the Christians and usher in an awakening to the unsaved. The status quo remained unchanged for a year and a half until one of the men in the barn stood up and read from Psalms:

“Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath

clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.”

(Psalm 24:3-4)

Speaking to the church leaders he agonized, *“Brethren, it seems to me just so much humbug to be waiting and praying as we are, if we ourselves are not rightly related to God.”* Lifting his hands to heaven, he cried out, *“Are my hands clean; my heart pure?”*¹

As these men humbled themselves before God and expressed their need for Him, the Lord displayed His holiness and filled the barn with His presence. Trembling, the men fell facedown into the straw and earnestly began to worship. This was the spark the villagers had been seeking. It was a foretaste of the Hebrides Revival which would last over two years on the Isle of Lewis.

At this time the Holy Spirit spoke to Peggy and Christine about contacting Pastor Duncan Campbell to come and lead in this move of God. He was scheduled to be on another island and within a day or so found his meetings cancelled. As a result, he traveled to Barvas and became the main preacher.

There was also resistance as the fire spread on the Isle of Lewis. A prayer meeting was held in a village that had rejected the awakening. It was 2:00 a.m. when the group felt that the prayer meeting was over. When they went outside to go to their homes, they found all the people in the village assembled, on their knees, crying out for mercy and salvation.

As men and women went from village to village preaching and praying, the fire of the Holy Spirit swept through every place. Some hardcore sinners barricaded themselves in the taverns and tried to drink so they would not be convicted, but the Holy

Spirit came in the midst of their drunkenness, sobered them up, and saved them.

Alcohol consumption came to an end and the taverns closed due to lack of customers. Crime ceased entirely and the jails were empty. The police found themselves out of a job.²

This wonderful move of God continued until 1952 when Satan was able to infiltrate in the form of organization. Much the same way that Baptists are famous for their organizational hierarchy with committees and subcommittees. That was the moment the Holy Spirit left.

For some reason, this revival did not spread into the rest of Scotland and into England. The blame cannot be laid at the Holy Spirit, but with the people who were touched by Him. Mankind has a tendency to get puffed up and try to organize things to the point that it interferes with God’s plans. We should treat an awakening like a bonfire. Let the fire burn, add more fuel, but do not under any conditions try to control the fire. Quenching the Holy Spirit always leads to disaster and that is exactly what took place with the good intentions of “organization.”

As members of the NIP, let’s do what the men did at the beginning and examine ourselves.

1. Ask God to cleanse you.
2. Increase your personal prayer life.
3. Find people where you live and ask if they are willing to join you for an all-night prayer meeting.

CHRISTIAN LIFE MINISTRIES

We had all-night prayer meetings once a month at Christian Life Ministries from 1977-1981. We were blessed to have a large upper room in our facility and we started around 9 p.m. on a Friday night. People brought guitars and we sang to

¹ <https://reviveourhearts.com/blog/when-women-cry-out-things-change/>

² <https://christianbooknotes.com/2021/09/27/the-hebrides-revival-of-1949-1952-an-overview/>

Jesus, people shared their testimonies, then we had corporate prayer, followed by more singing until we split up into small groups to pray. Time went really fast; sometimes some people would lie down on the carpet and sleep for a while, and then get up to pray some more. We usually ended our meetings around 4-5 a.m.

The result of the prayer meetings was a great anointing in the church services. We saw scores of people coming to Christ and backsliders returning to the Lord. Deliverance and casting out of demons took place several times during the week and we had a number of deliverance teams. We had a great Sunday school and a vibrant youth ministry.

Then in 1981 the Devil was able to infiltrate the church in the form of homosexuality among two of the leading women in the church, witches, and bickering among members.

LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY!

“AND IT CAME TO PASS, THAT, AS HE WAS PRAYING IN A CERTAIN PLACE, WHEN HE CEASED, ONE OF HIS DISCIPLES SAID UNTO HIM, LORD, **TEACH US TO PRAY**, AS JOHN ALSO TAUGHT HIS DISCIPLES.” LUKE 11:1

BE PERSISTENT

If you want results in your prayer life, be persistent. If you know that your prayer request is in the will of God, keep on talking to God until He moves on your behalf. This is precisely what Jesus told us to do.

“And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint; Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man: And there was a widow in

that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary.

And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man; Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.

And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith. And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?” (Luke 18:1-8)

PRAYER TARGET

For the time being, I am not going to introduce any new prayer projects. I want to focus on the following targets until we hear from the Holy Spirit that our requests have been granted and they will be implemented.

Continue to pray for the salvation or demise of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris.

Pray that the work former White House Chief of Staff Ron Klein has left behind will be destroyed.

Pray that the new chief of staff, Jeffrey Zients, will be unable to function and push out the ungodly agenda of the Biden administration.