



Reformation
REVIVAL
JOURNAL

REVIVAL:
A SOLUTION
OR A PROBLEM?

A Quarterly for Church Leadership

VOLUME 11 · NUMBER 3 · SUMMER 2002

Reformation & Revival Journal (ISSN 1071-7277), (U.S.P.S. 011-791), is published quarterly, for \$28 per year, or \$48 for two years, by Reformation & Revival Ministries, Inc., 630 Paxton Place, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188-9244. Second-class postage has been paid at Carol Stream, Illinois, and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Reformation & Revival Journal*, P.O. Box 88216, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188-0216.

Reformation & Revival Journal is indexed in *Christian Periodical Index* and *ATLA Religion Database*, published by the American Theological Library Association, 250 S. Wacker Dr., 16th Fl., Chicago, IL 60606, E-mail: atla@atla.com, <http://www.atla.com/>.

Reformation & Revival Journal is published four times each year by Reformation & Revival Ministries, Inc., a not-for-profit teaching ministry organized in the state of Illinois in 1991. The ministry is committed to the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the infallible Word of God and is in essential agreement with the confessional statements of historic Reformation theology. The purpose of this ministry is centered in its name:

1. To encourage *reformation* in local Christian churches worldwide.
2. To promote the cause of *revival* and spiritual awakening through prayer and the provision of resources to aid Christian leaders.

Subscription rates are \$28 for one year, \$48 for two years. Special full-time student rate is \$16 for one year. Please remit in U.S. currency only. For overseas orders add \$4 for each year for postage. Canadian subscribers add \$2 per year for additional postage. Back issues and single issues are \$8 each. To order in other currencies contact the names below:

Australian subscriptions available through:
Reformation & Revival Ministries (Australia)
c/o Malcolm Bouchard
110 Marshall Road
Rocklea, Qld. 4106

United Kingdom subscriptions available through:
Reformation & Revival Ministries (UK)
c/o Tony Ruston
2 Caxton House, Wellesley Road
Ashford, Kent TH24 8ET, England • Phone: 01-233-662262

Canadian subscriptions available through:
Reformation & Revival Ministries (Canada)
c/o Don B. Cook
2113 Victoria Avenue E
Thunder Bay, Ontario P7C 1E4 • Phone: (807) 622-2325

Correspondence concerning articles, editorial policy, books for review, suggested manuscripts, and subscriptions should be addressed to the editor. Comments are welcome.

The conviction of the staff and editors of the *Reformation & Revival Journal* is that awakening, of the kind seen in the First Great Awakening in America, wedded to the doctrinal concerns of the historic Protestant Reformation as expressed in the terms *sola scriptura*, *sola gratia*, and *sola fide*, is needed in our generation.

The views expressed in this publication should be considered as the personal opinions of the authors and are not to be taken as an official editorial perspective.

ISSN 1071-7277 Scripture quotations are from *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version*, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

REFORMATION & REVIVAL JOURNAL

A Quarterly Journal for Church Leadership

Published by Reformation & Revival Ministries, Inc.
P.O. Box 88216, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188-0216
(630) 980-1810

Editor-in-Chief:

John H. Armstrong

Editor:

Stephen Board

Associate Editors:

Ardel Caneday

Mark Coppenger

T. M. Moore

Thomas N. Smith

Luder Whitlock

Managing Editor:

Anita Armstrong

Design and Production:

Ragont Design

Subscriptions Managers:

Horst Fiebig

Robert Mulder

Contributing Editors:

Joel R. Beeke

Timothy Beougher

Donald G. Bloesch

Harold O. J. Brown

David Bryant

Bryan Chapell

Susan Cyre

David S. Dockery

Eifion Evans

Don Garlington

Timothy F. George

Michael J. Glodo

Victor R. Gordon

John D. Hannah

Michael A. G. Haykin

John Mason Hodges

Nelson D. Kloosterman

Bonnie Sue Lewis

Erwin W. Lutzer

Ralph MacKenzie

Bassam Madany

Gerald A. McDermott

Andrew T. B. McGowan

Charles H. McGowen

David P. Mills

Peter Moore

Ken Myers

Roger Nicole

Thomas C. Oden

Kevin Offner

Hughes Oliphant Old

James I. Packer

Richard Pratt

Leland Ryken

P. Andrew Sandlin

Thomas Schreiner

Tom Schwanda

H. E. Singley

C. Samuel Storms

Travis Tamerius

Robert E. Webber

Tom Wells

Parker T. Williamson

Monte Wilson

David F. Wright

Terry Yount

REVIVAL: A SOLUTION OR A PROBLEM?

TABLE OF CONTENTS

REFORMATION & REVIVAL JOURNAL

<i>Introduction</i>	7
John H. Armstrong	

Theme Articles

<i>Revival: Blessing or Problem?</i>	10
Raymond C. Ortlund, Jr.	
<i>The Blessings and Burdens of Revival</i>	20
T. M. Moore	
<i>Introduction to the Appeal</i>	36
David Bryant	
<i>An Urgent Appeal to Christian Leaders in America</i>	43

Articles

<i>The Nature of Christian Experience: The Great Awakening in Wales</i>	74
Eifion Evans	

<i>Jonathan Edwards and Justification by Faith, Part Two</i>	98
Brandon Withrow	
<i>Why I Am "Comfortable" with Inerrancy</i>	112
Roger Nicole	
<i>The Definition of Revival in the Old Testament</i>	126
Robert H. Lescelius	

Departments

<i>The RRJ Interview with Roger Nicole</i>	146
<i>Annotated Bibliography</i>	175

Ministry Resources

<i>Book Reviews</i>	179
Field of Wonders	
The Great Awakening	
The First Christian Centuries	
<i>Book Briefs</i>	191
<i>Final Thoughts</i>	203

INTRODUCTION



John H. Armstrong

For some reforming Christians in our time, revival is neither biblical nor desirable. Such believers sincerely think revivals solve nothing and leave in their wake problems untold. When these brothers and sisters hear the word revival the first thing that comes to their minds is "chaos" or "religious enthusiasm." Simply put, they think nothing of lasting value is ever given to the church in revival.

The majority of Christians, at least in the West, talk a lot about revival these days. Most of the ideas such Christians have formed of revival are inadequate at best. These days the word is tossed about to describe everything from a series of evangelistic meetings to new charismatic displays of gifts and phenomena. For far too long stadiums full of men and women have been labeled "revivals." It makes you wonder, doesn't it, if the word is really worth keeping? And if you use it what difference does it really make?

The simple fact is clear to those who read the New Testament carefully: The Holy Scriptures speak of copious showers of blessing, given in this present age, that are the gift of the Holy Spirit to the church. These blessings are seasons and times of God's determination. The late J. Edwin Orr, after a lifetime of studying revival movements, said the best way to describe a movement of God in revival is "times of refreshing

[that] come from the presence of the Lord" (Acts 3:20). I believe such seasons are still sent by God. In fact, I think there is good reason to believe that many parts of the body of Christ are experiencing such showers in our own time.

One thing we know for sure. True revival *must* be centered in Jesus Christ. True revivals have had a number of unique characteristics over the years but all that are biblical are Christ-centered. This is not surprising since the Spirit was given to bring glory to Christ (John 14:25-31; 16:12-15). If you desire his glory in this present age, join me in hoping and praying for a true revival in our time.