

Keep the Fire Burning!

By

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I've got two problems! I want to tell you about the Holy Ghost outpouring around the world, but need to do it in 1,500 words. Mission impossible!

Therefore, I'll try to focus on a few countries. That brings me to my second problem. Reading the reports, and writing this article, makes me want to shout—and I've got a deadline. However, you will have to excuse me if I occasionally put the laptop down and have a praise break. And I'll excuse you if, as you read this article, you put the *Pentecostal Herald* aside, and have a little praise break too!

Papua New Guinea: Richard and Margaret Carver began the church in Papua New Guinea in a remote mountain village. It was three years before anyone received the Holy Ghost. This ignited a revival fire that spread from village to village, town to town, over mountains and through valleys. Now, Papua New Guinea is continuously ablaze with revival. Over 50,000 United Pentecostals are part of the church here and 2,000 received the Holy Ghost last year.

Easter 2005, I had the opportunity to preach at their National Conference. Nearly 9,000 gathered in a town situated 5,200 feet in the mountains. Hundreds came forward in the altar call. We saw 750 receive the Holy Ghost and 87 baptized in Jesus name. Modern day Pentecost is alive in Papua New Guinea.

Jerry Richardson, Regional Director for Africa reports that revival fires are moving throughout his region. I recall one of our Executive Assistants, Dorsey Burk, attending a crusade in Lagos, **Nigeria**. He reported 2, 236 adults receiving the Holy Ghost.

Madagascar: The church on the island nation of Madagascar was started in 1970, by the Denzil and Frieda Richardson family. Four generations of Richardsons have been involved in the Malagasy revival. The beginning was slow, long, and rough. But, once the Holy Ghost was poured out, it became a regular occurrence. Over 13,000 people have received the Holy Ghost in the past two years. When the church meets for national conference, reporters come to take pictures, write articles, and give television news coverage. Healings abound. Demons flee. Dead are restored to life. This year the president of the nation wanted to attend but it was decided that it would be too great a security risk. However, he sent a special envoy to represent him. The crowd topped 12,000 and 975 received the baptism of the Holy Ghost. Today, revival fires burn in 600 churches in Madagascar! What about tomorrow? The aggressive, progressive,

and productive church in Madagascar will not stop until revival consumes the entire island, and jumps to neighboring islands.

Spain: Seven years ago less than forty attended the General Conference in Spain. In 2004, more than 1,200 filled the conference hall and 115 received the Holy Ghost in two days. This year 1,175 attended and 82 received the Holy Ghost. Regional Director, Robert Rodenbush, recently shared with me that there are now 2,392 constituents in Spain; 391 received the Holy Ghost last year. An e-mail from missionary Gary Sones puts it into perspective: "Out to gain Spain in Jesus Name!" Go for it, missionaries! Keep the fire burning!

El Salvador: Years ago, when Sister Howell and I first arrived in El Salvador we were part of conventions held in a small gym with three to four thousand in attendance. Eventually, as the Holy Ghost was continually poured out, and the church grew, we moved to the National Gymnasium with 20,000 in attendance. I often passed the largest sports stadium in El Salvador, and would tell North American visitors that one day we would have our national conference there. We did not see this dream come true under our leadership. However, two years ago I returned to preach the National Convention in El Salvador. Where was it held? Right on, the Cuscatlan Stadium. It was a dream come true! A report from Scotty Slaydon reveals a bit of history and this amazing story.

El Salvador, a tiny country in Central America, has enjoyed a great outpouring of the Holy Ghost. This has been dramatic, dynamic, and constant. It is an every day, expected occurrence but, it has never become commonplace. The greatest catalyst to this outpouring is not the grand preaching; rather it is the simple faith of the believers. They simply believe that it can happen; will happen; and it does. Every day throughout El Salvador people are receiving the Holy Ghost in church services and friendship groups. In the past ten years, this nation has averaged more than 3,000 people receiving the Spirit each year, resulting in an estimated constituency in excess of 150,000. It is not uncommon for one, two, or three hundred people to receive the Holy Ghost in a district meeting. The number escalates to thousands at the national convention. In 2002, there were 4,374 that received the Holy Ghost in one day. Over 37,000 attended the 2004 national convention. Two men walked out of their wheelchairs and another left his crutches at the altar. The church in El Salvador has experienced tremendous growth. The heart of that expansion is the dynamic outpouring of the Holy Ghost. Revival fires blaze throughout El Salvador, and Central America. Excuse me! It's time for one of those praise breaks I promised. By the way, it's amazing what praising can do. One of the most memorable outbursts of the Holy Ghost was during a national convention service in the early 90s. One of our leaders asked everyone to give the Lord a hand clap of praise for one minute. From there

the results were uncontrollable. The handclap lasted for two hours and more than 1,000 were filled with the Holy Ghost. Praise the Lord!

Pakistan: Before me, I have an outstanding four-page report from missionary, Allan Shalm. He describes the miraculous open doors the Lord has provided for crusades spanning ten years. In 1996, a large national cricket stadium, normally costing \$7,000 per day was provided free of charge. High profile government officials attended the crusade. Their presence brought extra security and ninety minutes of news coverage for three nights. This not only reached 140,000,000 Muslims in Pakistan, but twenty-eight neighboring nations as well. The crusade was featured in consecutive issues of the largest Christian-owned news magazine. A billboard at the city's main intersection, advertised the crusade. A conservative estimate of 75,000 gathered over three nights. On the second night alone over 3,000 received the Holy Ghost. God opened blind eyes, deaf ears, mute mouths, and healed paralyzed legs. He restored a Muslim woman's hand that had been tightly clenched for twenty-eight years. Another Muslim man, brought to the meeting on a stretcher, paralyzed due to a brain aneurysm, came bounding to the front of the tent, proclaiming loudly that he had been healed. Such things have repeatedly happened in crusades since then.

In 2004, I had the privilege of preaching the crusade in Lahore, Pakistan. Just before I arrived, a cricket tournament was arranged between India and

Pakistan, to help relieve political pressure. For security reasons, we had to cancel the first night since the cricket match was being held in an adjacent stadium. The Lord did in two nights what we had hoped to accomplish in three.

I preached the first night on healing. At the end of the message, I prayed a prayer of faith. A Muslim driver of one of the rented buses came into the arena to see if his passengers were ready to leave. He had a tumor the size of a grapefruit in his stomach. As he was driving the bus later that night, he felt the tumor dissolving. The next night he came and testified before 17,000 people that the Lord had healed him.

During the service a prayer request was brought to the pulpit. A lady was lying in a coma over 250 miles away. Later, we learned that at the exact time that prayer was made, she opened her eyes, sat up, and minutes later left the hospital, totally healed. To God be the glory! In that crusade over 1,000 people received the Holy Ghost. In three mini-crusade meetings this year 1,500 have received the Holy Ghost, and 400 have been baptized in Jesus name. The crusades in Pakistan have been tremendous. Not only have they experienced numerical growth, but among the pastors there is a sense of confidence, vision, excitement, and the knowledge that unstoppable revival fires continue to rage throughout Pakistan.

Other Nations: Revival continues to spread in **Malaysia**, as the number of people receiving the Holy Ghost this year becomes twice as many as last year.

There are six villages on the Amazon River in **Brazil**, where the population is 100% United Pentecostal. In **Venezuela**, over 118,000 constituents press on in revival. During three days of family camps 865 received the Holy Ghost. In the first-ever crusade in **Bangladesh** seventy-eight received the Holy Ghost. A year later 434 received the Holy Ghost in the conference and 148 were baptized in Jesus name. I could go on and on. I think you get the message. The revival fires from Pentecost continue to blaze around the world. Lord, keep the fire burning!