



# JOSHUA REVIVAL PROJECT

the people who know their God will display strength and take action

Dear Friends and Family,

The last two years, to use a driving term, has been a hard right turn. The Lord has brought me back to the beginning; back to the beginning of my relationship with Him.

On a muggy night in August of 1986, I sat in the tabernacle on the grounds of Beulah Holiness Camp Meeting in Eldorado, IL, listening to a preacher proclaim the Gospel. I felt the Lord tugging on my heart and I was too afraid to go up to the altar. I lay awake after the service with a growing urgency that I needed Jesus. I know now that it was the Spirit of God wooing and convicting me, but all I knew that night was that Jesus was real and I could not sleep. I awoke my girlfriends in the girl's dormitory and they knelt with me on the dorm room floor as I prayed, "Jesus, I want what these girls have. You are not a fairytale and I want you to come in to my heart." At that moment, a flood of joy swept over me and I have never been the same. The Lord placed in my heart that night a hunger for his Word.

As I've grown in the Lord that desire has only increased and like Jeremiah I can say that it is a fire in my bones. I am thankful for the mentors that have poured into me. The Lord has led me back to the roots of where I've come from, the roots of Methodism – and that is the fire of His presence. I am thankful for the ten years that I served as a pastor within the United Methodist Church (UMC). It confirmed that I do have the gift and calling to preach. I was loved on and encouraged by those at my local charge as I journeyed through the loss of my mother, and my battle and recovery from breast cancer. I am forever thankful and enriched by their encouragement and prayers.

I was commissioned as a provisional elder (the normal process within the UMC to become an elder) in June of 2013. There was a growing unease within me regarding staying within the UMC and staying the course of an elder. The unease grew but I was uncertain concerning what the Lord wanted me to do. I felt the pressure of others who wanted me to be ordained – but what did the Lord want? The unease grew to anguish and turmoil. Sometimes the Lord takes us through the fire to burn away things that need to be purged and to clarify truth. I was going through the fire and it was agonizing. While on a hike during this time and praying for wisdom and discernment, I heard the Lord speak to me as clearly as I've ever heard him, "Come away with me." It broke me; I dropped to my knees and wept. The Lord was calling me back to my first love, back to the centrality of His call. Yet what did that practically look like in terms of vocation and livelihood? I've spent the last two years praying, seeking Him as to how to reconcile my love for him, my love for His Word, yet stay true to Him in orthodoxy and be able to preach the Word and move in the power and gifts of His Holy Spirit.

I have prayed for revival for twenty-five years. One of the highlights of my theological studies was taking a class on the history of revival at Louisville Southern Baptist Seminary. It has long been a dream to be able to preach the Word AND see the gifts of the Spirit flow. The Lord gave me that desire to see both the power of the Word proclaimed and the power of the Spirit early in my relationship with Him.

I left pastoral ministry in the UMC in the winter of 2015-2016 and officially withdrew from the ordination process in June of 2016. But in reality, I've simply gone back to the place of my first love. I have gone back to the heart of where Methodism was born – the place of revival. I had a vision shortly after becoming a Christian of me preaching – and the Spirit of God being poured out – people being healed, delivered and saved. I shoved it down to the cellar of my heart thinking that would never, ever be possible. I had that vision long before I even believed that it was OK for women to preach. He has been calling me to this place of ministry for a long time. I believe now that God has led me to a place where He can use me in that way.

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A friend, Mark Biteler, asked me this past spring if I would join him in his ministry called, Joshua Revival Project (JRP), founded in 2012. Its mission is to see the church revived and become the powerhouse that is relentlessly advancing on the gates of hell (Matthew 16:8) and to see the Word and the Spirit restored to His church working in tandem.

Working with Joshua Revival Project gives me time to devote to study, prayer, and the ministry to which I feel called. It provides room to proclaim the Gospel and move in the gifts of the Holy Spirit in a broader field of ministry. It allows me to encourage other leaders in the gifts that God has given them. I believe with all my heart that we are on the verge of a revival the likes of which we have never seen. God is calling his people back to Him, back to their first love. He is calling his people out of compromise, out of lukewarmness and back to His fire; back to Him.

One of the saddest images in all of Scripture is Jesus knocking on the door of the church of Laodicea. She thought she was rich, prosperous, abundant and had it all “going on” (Revelation 3:17a). But in actuality, she doesn’t realize she is wretched, pitiable, poor, blind and naked (Revelation 3:17b). She left Jesus outside and didn’t know He was missing, yet Jesus stood outside, knocking on the door of the Church so He could come in (Revelation 3:20).

The message God has called me to declare is that the time is now to repent and enter the fullness to which has God ordained for us – to move in the power of the Holy Spirit. The good news is that the cry of the Holy Spirit *will* become the cry of the Bride.

*The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." And let everyone who hears say, "Come." And let everyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift (Revelation 22:17 NRS).*

Oh, how I long for the day that the Bride of Jesus Christ yearns for Him, loves Him, moves with Him and this Scripture assures me that God is going to bring restoration to His Bride! As C.S. Lewis writes in the “Chronicles of Narnia” – Aslan is on the move. God is on the move! He is calling His people back to the fire of His presence. God has called me to proclaim that message!

The last two years have been a hard right turn and quite the journey. It has turned me right back into my Heavenly Father’s arms. He has burned away things that needed to go, refined and clarified that to which He is calling me, and has focused my eyes back on Him. I am thankful for my Methodist heritage and all who have loved me, prayed for me, mentored me and encouraged me in my calling and ministry gifts. Thankful! God has called me out of the pastoral ministry within the UMC and set me in a place to which I believe He has been calling me since that hot and humid night in August when he first called me to Himself. I am thankful for this opportunity to serve with Joshua Revival Project so I can preach, teach, equip, and lead others to take their place during this time.

I need your prayers. I need your financial support. I need monthly supporters who feel called to give.

Joshua Revival Project is a 501(c)3 non-profit ministry and all your contributions are tax deductible. If you feel called to give, you can give through the website: <http://www.joshuarevivalproject.org/Contact-Us.html> or you may send a check to the address listed below written out to “Joshua Revival Project” or “JRP.”

Thank you for standing with me in the past. Thank you for your continued love and support.

Even so, come Lord Jesus!

For Christ and His Glory,

April D. Turner.

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