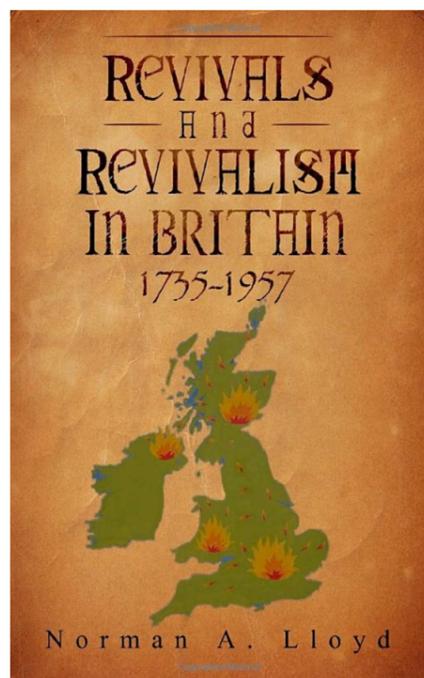


RESOURCE REVIEWS



REVIVALS AND REVIVALISM IN BRITAIN 1735-1957

Norman A Lloyd

Acorn Independent Press Ltd, 2018,
PP 310, £9.99,
ISBN 978-1-912145-91-1

The author was ordained in 1954 as the Minister of a Welsh Baptist Church. He has written on a number of historical

subjects and has a particular, prayerful interest in the history of Revivals, having been the minister of a church in Wales that had known Revival, and whose members had experienced Revival. Many years have passed since Britain experienced such a spiritual awakening and the memory of them has been largely lost. This book reminds us of what God has done in the past and for Christian Churches and all Christians to pray in the words of the Psalmist, "Will you not revive us again that your people may rejoice in you?" Psalm 85:6 NIV

The book is written in four sections:

One: Revival in the Eighteenth Century covering 1735-1790 Revival in Wales; Methodist 1738-1790 Revival in England and in 1742 Scotland's Revival in Cambuslang.

Two: 1859 Revival in the Nineteenth Century covering Revival in Northern Ireland; 1859 Revival in Wales; 1859 Revival in England and Scotland.

Three: Revival in the Twentieth Century covering 1904-5 Revival in Wales; 1921 Revival in South East England; The 1949-1957 Hebrides Revival (in my lifetime!) As a young lad I heard about it and read reports of the ministry of Duncan Campbell and the power of prayer. Duncan Campbell wrote: "Revival is a going of God among His people, and an awareness of God laying hold of the community, the fear of God lays hold upon the community, moving men and

women, who until then had no concern for spiritual things, to seek after God."

Four: Revival and Revivalism in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Century covering Early Primitive Methodist Camp Meetings and Later Revivalism; The Revival Campaigns of Finney and Moody; Is it possible to promote a revival.

God has greatly blessed our land in the past, even in the darkest and most desperate times, in answer to the earnest prayers of his people. This book shares many examples of such prayer. One of the leaders of the 1735-1790 Welsh Revival spent 25 years in prayer for Revival and before the 1742 Revival in Scotland a great man of prayer interceded with God for 8 hours of the day and night in prayer for Revival. The year before the Revival in Northern Ireland 1859 thousands began gathering in hundreds of prayer meetings for the spread of Revival.

Before the 1949-57 Hebrides Revival for 3 months seven church elders decided to spend several nights a week from 10 pm to 4 or 5 am in prayer for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Unknown to them two godly sisters had a similar burden and for months they spent 3 nights a week in earnest prayer for the young people of the island of Lewis and for the people in each cottage in their village.

This quote from the 1904-5 Revival in Wales sums up the importance of prayer

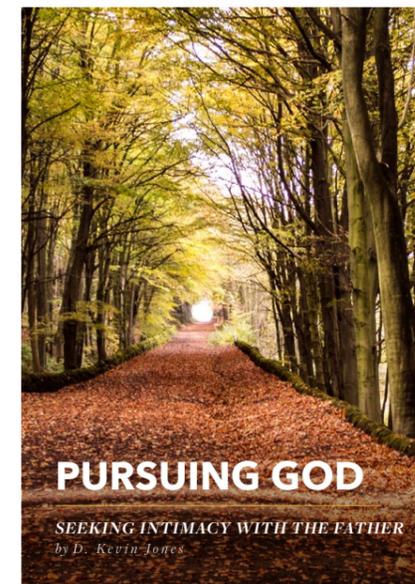
for Revival: "the Land was covered by a canopy of prayer and people everywhere hungered for more of God's presence and power."

There was also a great desire for Bible Study and Biblical teaching as a preparation for Revival. During these times of Revival in our nation millions were converted and over just 2 years of Revival 2 million converts were added to the nation's churches. 200,000 members were added to the Methodist Church through Revival. A quote "The difficulty used to be to get people into the church, but the difficulty now is to get them out of it". But, another feature of the Revival was the earnest desire of those who became Christians to win others for Christ. In fact it was they, perhaps, more than the preaching of the ministers, who spread the Revival and won the great majority of converts through their prayers and zealous witness.

DL Moody at his London meetings had to appeal to Christians to stop attending and occupying seats but rather to go out and bring in the unconverted. He also said: "You've had enough pulpit preaching; what we want now is personal witness, individuals going to people and pressing on them the claims of Christ." J Edwin Orr writes in one of his papers on Revival: "Revival produces an extraordinary burden of prayer, an unusual conviction of sin, an uncanny sense of the presence of God, resulting in repentance, confession, reconciliation and restitution, with great concern for the salvation of people near and far away."

I have often said in my own teaching ministry "we cannot organise an outpouring of the Holy Spirit in Revival but we can desire it, pray for it both individually and corporately." I believe this book will encourage this desire and prayer for Revival. I commend it to you.

Reviewed by David Greenaway who is a Supernumerary Minister in the Derby Circuit. Formerly, he was a Minister in the Evangelical Free Churches, the International Director of One Step Forward Ministries and Publications and Vice Chair of the British Church Growth Association.



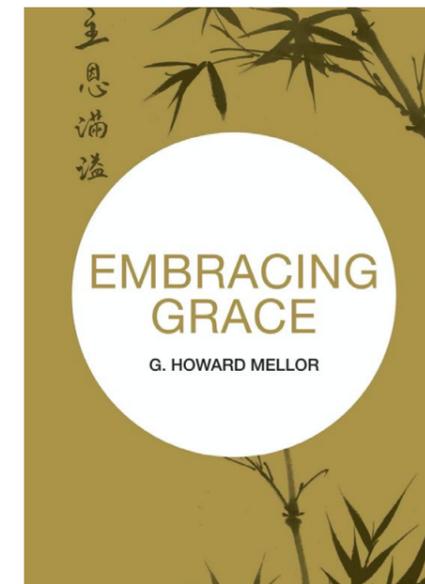
PURSUING GOD: SEEKING INTIMACY WITH THE FATHER

D. Kevin Jones

MET Pub 2019, pp106, £6.00
ISBN 978-0-86071-813-0
Available via the MET website.

This book is both practical and theological: in Part One Kevin explores the practice of Pursuing God, and in Part Two he looks at the theology of this. Even though the subtitle is 'Seeking Intimacy with the Father', Kevin inspires a closer and deeper relationship with all three persons of the Holy Trinity. The book starts by encouraging readers to desire intimacy with God and then explores how humility, repentance, holiness and grace helps this to be a greater reality within our lives. It continues by explaining how this has been made possible through the Son of God dying to make atonement for our sin. Through the work of the cross we can experience wonderful closeness to God day by day, which is just a foretaste of enjoying intimacy with God forever in glorious heaven.

Reviewed by The Revd Derek Balsdon who is a Methodist Presbyter, and serves as the MET Development Worker.



EMBRACING GRACE

G. Howard Mellor

MET Pub 2019, pp58, £4.50
ISBN 978-0-86071-797-3
Available via the MET website

Embracing Grace is a series of four Bible studies about the Christian understanding of grace.

In a winsome and accessible way, Howard Mellor introduces some of the central themes of Christian faith. Written from a Wesleyan and Methodist perspective, and drawing upon insights from ministry in a number of different cultures, Embracing Grace will be a blessing to all Christians, using to a great effect reflection, study and group material which will encourage and deepen your discipleship of Christ.

Reviewed by The Revd Dr Martyn Atkins who is the Superintendent Minister of Methodist Central Hall, Westminster.