

Revive Us Again

I've often said that one of the best things about being a teacher is the fact that we are allowed the luxury of starting over again every new school year. As this summer for me draws to a close and the 2014-2015 school session begins to loom, I can look forward to a better year than last year. Any mistakes that were made are in the past. The content that I taught last year is in for a "freshening up" and the way it was presented will be revamped. I will do better this year than I did last year. My devotion to my students will be ramped up.

There was a program instituted during the Nixon administration had a profound effect on the downtown area of Waco. "Urban renewal," as it was called, sought to bring life to an otherwise lifeless area not too far from where our building stands at Columbus Avenue. And that renewal continues today, with buildings being refurbished and more businesses being brought into the downtown area. It is an exciting time for Waco.

Many of us are in need of a "spiritual renewal." Our relationship with our Lord has become dull and lifeless, we simply "go through the motions" of being spiritual, not really reading our Bible or regularly attending worship services that are meant to be inspiring, informative, and encouraging.

There is a story in Ezekial 37 that illustrates the very point I'm attempting to make. Ezekial receives a prophesy concerning a "dead" Israel. He is in a valley, surrounded by human bones, bleached in the sun. Obviously, to him, these people had been dead for a very long time. Ezekial is instructed to preach the word of God in this valley. As he began to preach, this is what happened:

"...there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them."

Ezekial is then told to preach to the breath. The breath was to enter into these "people" so that they might live. And that is exactly what Ezekial did. The result?

"...they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army."

God's people had been dead, but upon receiving the word of God they were revived. They were now able and willing to do whatever God commanded them to do.

We are God's people, in need of "spiritual renewal." Dead (or dying), and needing the Spirit of God to make us alive again. God's word, the sword of that Spirit, is able to do just that. We can put the past behind and look forward to a better future. Paul put it this way to the Philippian church in Philippians 3:13-14:

"Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."

Examine your spiritual life. Renew your devotion to God. Study your Bible more, attend services more faithfully, pray all of the time. We stand ready to provide you with anything you need in order to become spirituall alive again. Remember from the story of the dry bones. It's never to late to feel the life-giving effect of having a more involved relationship with your Lord.