

THE END TIME
REVIVAL
and
GREAT
AWAKENING

Dr. Joël Hitchcock

Dedication:

I dedicate this book unto my best friend,
ministry partner and dearest wife Heidi,
and unto the great revivalists who have
come before us.

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Introduction:

The Historical South African Revival

On December 31, 1855 Reverend Andrew Murray performed the wedding ceremony of my “Oupa Koen” who was my great great grandfather on my grandmother’s side in Graaf Reinet, South Africa. However, my bond with Reverend Murray goes deeper than that.

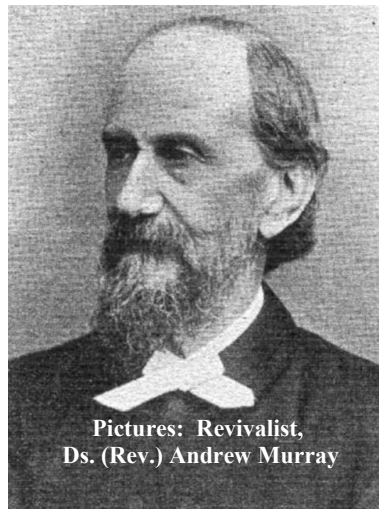
As an evangelist, missionary and revivalist, my bonding with the legendary Andrew Murray is the legacy of revival and great spiritual awakening he left behind. What happened in South Africa during his lifetime was connected to the mighty move of God that was happening simultaneously in the United States of America.

Andrew Murray was the son of a Scottish Presbyterian minister who settled in South Africa, learned Dutch, and devoted himself to God’s work there. Andrew followed in his father’s footsteps. One day Andrew was concluded a worship service for the English speaking congregation. He then went to the Dutch service, already in progress. On his way to the Dutch Reformed Church he realized that something wasn’t quite right. A loud noise came from the church. It sounded like a disorderly, confused conglomeration of voices.

History tells us he did “een drafstappje” (a fast paced walk) to the building to see what was happening. I can just imagine the dignified Rev. Murray speeding up to fix the problem! When he entered the building he found the place in apparent disorder. People were praying out loud at the same time. People were confessing their sin. Some were on the floor unable to deal with the strange conviction that had come upon them. A deep sense of guilt was upon many, and they were praying to God to forgive them and deliver them from that burden.

Rev. Murray tried to bring order to the place, but no one noticed him or cared to pay attention. He got a hold of the man who had conducted the preliminaries. Outside he explained what had happened.

Parishioners had been invited to suggest a song. One young lady in the back suggested one, and then asked if she could pray first. She then delivered a moving passionate prayer. Then it happened. First,



Pictures: Revivalist,
Ds. (Rev.) Andrew Murray

someone started sobbing. Then someone else started asking for forgiveness, and the influence spread through the whole congregation until the combined voices formed a beautiful harmony of prayer and repentance.

Rev. Murray went back into the church. "People, I am your pastor. Listen to me, and be quiet," he tried one more time. "God is a God of order, but here all is disorder!" With that he stomped out of the church. But he was met by his father. "Andrew," he said, "What we are witnessing here this morning is what I have been praying for these last thirty years, and you have tried to stop it in three minutes."

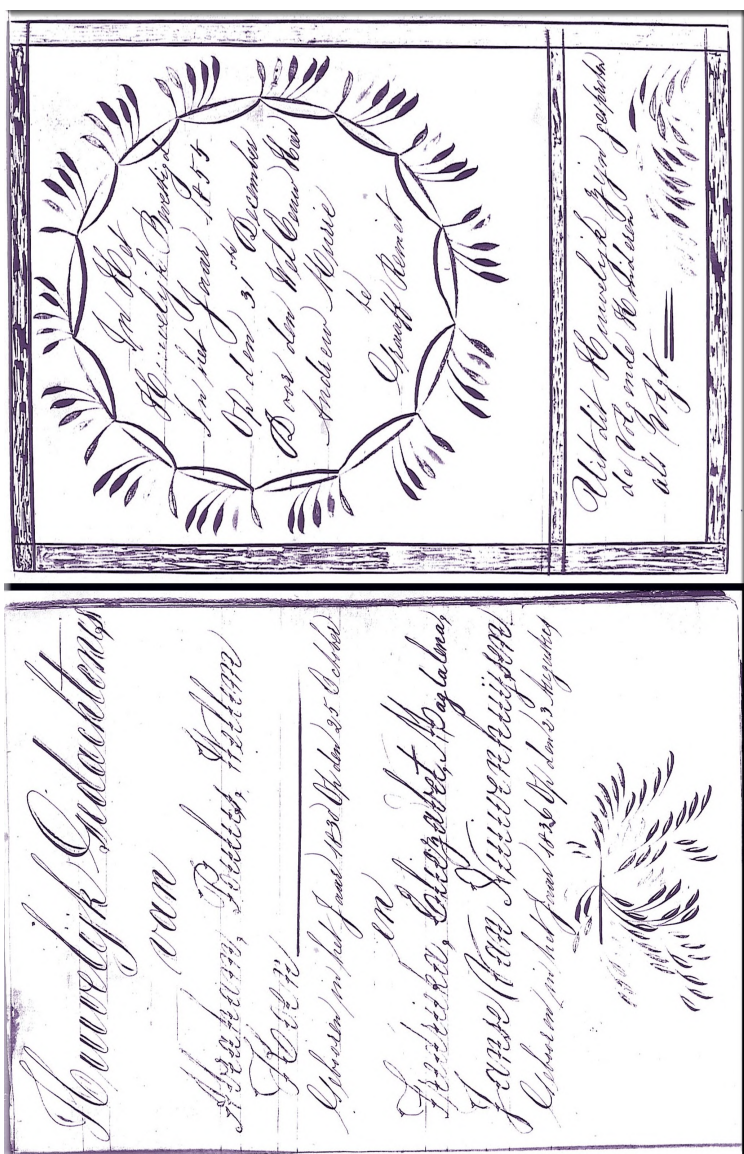
Another stranger approached him. "Are you the pastor of this church?" he asked. Andrew affirmed that he was. The stranger continued, "Be careful what you do to these people today; for I have just returned from the United States, and the same things you are witnessing here are happening there also. The two don't even know about each other."

With that the convicting power of God also gripped Andrew Murray. He realized it was a work of God. For the next six weeks all Andrew could do was sit in the back of the church and weep. He would not preach. He just sat there and

wept. Finally, after six weeks they carried him to the pulpit in his chair; and when he opened his mouth, it was as if words burning with divine fire proceeded from his lips.

The revival became a community-wide awakening as people became converted. Some came to the services with the intent of mocking the strange behavior of the worshipers, only to find themselves also seized with the same conviction. Today Andrew Murray's books are still read all over the world.

This little book serves to wet your appetite for another mighty move of God such as this.



Picture: This is a copy of my father's mother's grandfather's marriage certificate. It reads "Wedding memorandum of Abraham Paulus Willem Koen, born in the year 1830 on October 25 and Frederika Elizabeth Magdalena Janse Van Nuivenhuijzen, born in the year 1836 on August 23, pronounced married on in the year 1855 on December 31, by the Reverend Andrew Murray at Graaf Reinett..."

How hungry are You for a Mighty Move of God?

This question is one we should all ask ourselves. Why? Because God is known to move among the hungry. The recipe for dead religion is complacency. Once we get into a religious rut we are in danger of spiritual death. This is why many Christians are stuck in a spiritual groove. The only difference between a groove and a grave is its depth. If we stay in a groove we are destined to wind up in the grave. Our seminaries then become cemeteries. Our tall church steeples then appear to be just the tallest tombstones among the ones surrounding them.

Thank you for being willing to read through this discussion about the revivals of the past. But let me just start by making something clear. I am not praying for a “good ol’ fashioned revival.” Why not? Because we are not living in the days of old. What we need to reach this generation will take much more than the revival of the past. We need a fresh move of God. We need what He is doing NOW.

We need something that will totally devastate the modern evils of our day. Sexual

perversion, the occult, greed and other sinful practices are so strong in our day. God will just have to grant us a greater revival than our faithful spiritual forerunners had!

However, the God of the past is the same God of the now. And by studying what He has done in the past, we discover nuggets of spiritual truth and clues of what He may do now.

The Difference Between Revival and Awakening

Many people talk about these two concepts as if they are one and the same thing. Even though they are obviously very closely related, it is important to segregate the two concepts. They are not watertight. They complement one another. They are an integral part of one another. Basically, REVIVAL is what happens to the Church. A GREAT AWAKENING is what happens to the world.

Revival:

Oh, how the Church needs revival! We can be so dead. We can be in church every Sunday and still act as if God does not exist. Many of our services are void of the life-giving power of the Holy Spirit. We can become so accustomed to a lack of the reality of Him that we think the status quo is like it is supposed to be.

Someone said that if the Holy Spirit would be taken away from the Church today, most churches would still survive—because they can do their religious show without Him. They know how to sing “three hymns and a her.” They know how

to dress someone up like mother and call him father. They know how to clap off beat and preach back to the preacher. They know how to say “Come on now” and “Preach it to me” at the right moments. A good orator who can eloquently preach three points and a poem and whip up a crowd into frenzy is considered an anointed man of God.

Not all I’m saying here is wrong. In fact, I personally enjoy high powered spirited meetings myself. But what I am saying is we can have a form of godliness without the power. It’s like a glass with no water. It’s like an electrical socket without electricity.

We definitely need a white-hot Holy Ghost experience with God. I cannot figure out why anybody would have a problem with someone advocating an experience with God. We are so wary of emotion that we label all experience as emotion. People forget that the soul is the seat of the will, the intellect and the emotions of man. To be unemotional is just as much error as ignorance.

But what I am talking about is totally different. I’m talking about an experience—an encounter with God. It is when one collides with the real power of the world to come.

Awakening:

Many of us think that revival is an end in itself. But it is not. God's glory is not there to make you glow in the dark. It is there to pierce the darkness. Once revival hits the churches it has an impact upon the community. There is a reason that church historians have called this phenomenon a "Great Awakening."

It is like someone who has been asleep. He has no clue what is going on around him. He is still in his pajamas. His hair looks like it had been worked on for hours by a punk hair dresser. Drool is running from the side of his mouth. His breath smells like a rat. But suddenly someone wakes him up. "Your girlfriend Sally is here!" Once he is awake, he realizes his surroundings. He realizes how he is dressed. And he makes changes and comes out as slick and handsome as Elvis himself.

In the same way I think it's safe to say that most people don't have the slightest fear of God. The world around us is asleep and oblivious when it comes to reality of God. When Heidi and I go preaching at different towns in America and the world, we see people roller-skating, jogging with their Ipod's headphones seemingly fixed permanently to their ears, towing their expensive

boats somewhere. Many folks are still in bed with a hangover from the previous night's orgies.

People sodomize, womanize, cuss, steal and cheat. It is socially acceptable to live this way. All this is sad, but what is even sadder is the fact that no one is aware of God. Their consciences seem to have been seared. They live with their minds made up that any god is okay. They find some form of satisfaction in their New Age religion. They have a smart answer for everything about Christianity. Christianity is supposed to be to blame for every second war in the world and more.

But something is happening in our churches! And it's not going to remain in our churches only! It's spilling over into our communities. This God-forsaking world is becoming awakened to the reality of God's presence!

John 8:9:

“And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.”

John 16:7-9:

“Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on me”

In the following chapters we are going to explore some of these amazing accounts of some of the great awakenings of the past. We will start our journey by visiting what is commonly known as the “First Great Awakening.”

Past Moves of God

History is rich with tales of great revivals and awakenings. Two very well known ones were the First Great Awakening of 1735 and the Second Great Awakening of 1857.

I will freely make reference to other ministers and ministries, and quote from various sources. As great as these instruments that God chose to use in these mighty moves of God may be, let us remember that just like us, they too are but normal humans just like us, and if God could use them, He can use us also. We honor their ministries, but need to always keep our eyes on Jesus, and not on imperfect man.

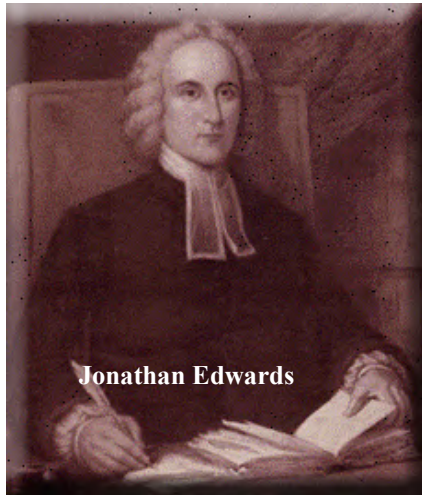
Some would say that we shouldn't focus on the past moves of God too much. Of course I would agree that if we remain stuck in the past we will never experience what God wants to do in the present. But I do believe that we can learn valuable lessons from the past moves of God, be inspired by them, and then let our faith loose for a fresh move of God—unequaled by anything history had ever seen before!

Let's have a closer look at what God hath wrought...

The First Great Awakening 1735

JONATHAN EDWARDS

Rev. Jonathan Edwards became totally disgusted with the cold and lukewarm attitude of New England toward God. And for eight years he prayed. Then SUDDENLY the fire from heaven fell—not only on his congregation, but also upon the



Jonathan Edwards

community. Church history reveals that he preached a message entitled “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God.” The conviction of the Spirit of God was so strong during this meeting that people literally held on to the pillars of the church in a strange fear that they would slip and fall into hell. Here is a quote from one that studied this powerful event, now commonly known as the “First Great Awakening.”

“For a time Northampton was literally filled with the presence of God.... The fire spread thus from town to town and from county to county. It spread not only throughout New England; it passed also to other lands...” (1)

What I want you to notice is that a supernatural power invaded the geographical location. Even though preaching was done, it was not the preaching alone that got the job done. It was when the MANIFEST PRESENCE OF GOD became so incredibly evident, that even the God-forsaken community became impacted with it.

DAVID BRAINERD

David started ministering at the age of 25. He died at age 29. Yet his four years of ministry did more to change a community than most do in a lifetime. And the only reason for this is because of the unusual move of the Spirit of God. David Brainerd was the son-in-law



of Jonathan Edwards (whom we just discussed). He had a passion in his soul for the salvation of the Native Americans in the New England colonies.

However, all his labor did not produce any real fruit of salvation. At times he even had to preach with a drunken translator. I know what that is like, because in one area in Central Africa where we have preached, the only person who could translate into English for me was drunk. I am thankful he helped us out though. He translated for me and we got the job done! My anointing was the “new wine” and the new wine was stronger than the old!

The hearts of the Indians were hard. This made David pray even harder. He would spend hours and days in the woods praying and basking in the power of the Lord. His body began to show signs of shutting down under the stress of his prayers and travel. He was devoted to the cause of the souls of the Indians. One day, as he went on another ministry preaching tour by horseback, a sudden burden for prayer came upon him. A witness said that David Brainerd felt this burden so strongly that he immediately got off his horse and began to pray. After a few minutes the snow around him was drenched with the blood coming from his lungs.

While he was praying, something supernatural happened. The snow around him began to melt under the fervency of his prayer. He finally managed to get back on his horse and head for the Indian village. This time something was

different. When he entered the village, the place was under the conviction of the Holy Spirit. Hardened men grabbed the bridle of his horse and asked what they had to do to be saved. Usually David's audience consisted of a few women and children. But now the whole village was awakened. The atmosphere was filled with sobs and cries of repentance. It was a supernatural move of God. Thousands found peace in Jesus that day.

JOHN WESLEY AND GEORGE WHITEFIELD

I have the privilege to be living and writing this book in an area that was specifically impacted by revival in the past: The Delaware, Maryland and Virginia Eastern Shore Peninsula, also known as "Delmarva." Just a few miles from here, in the town of Lewes, Delaware an Anglican clergyman stepped on shore many years ago. His name was George Whitefield.

