

**LEADER CONNECT-AGM REPORT, FEB 21-22, 2019**

**CANADIAN CHURCH OF GOD MINISTRIES – GRACEPOINT CHURCH, EDMONTON**

**Submitted by Julie Wiebe (Wetaskiwin COG)**

Thanks for the opportunity to be one of the Wetaskiwin Church of God representatives at Leader Connect 2019 -AGM and participate in the larger church body within the COG in western Canada. It was good to meet many familiar and new fellow church workers/pastors serving the Lord in the various churches and programs.

This time started in study and prayer with sessions on the **“Path of Revival”** by Mark Barnard of Blessingpoint Ministries, Inc. It was a great beginning for these meetings as the important business of listening, hearing and seeking the Lord happened before addressing the practical application side of the business.

The topic, **THE PATH OF REVIVAL** followed the instruction found in: 2 Chronicles 7:14 “If my people, who called by my name will humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and forgive their sin and heal their land.”

This Scripture was used to teach about God’s view of the nature and need of Corporate revival in the nation of Israel and its application for us today setting out the conditions of God’s blessing for His people corporately. After each session participants gathered in small groups to discuss pertinent questions and pray together spending about 15 minutes per each of 5 breakout sessions.

**The Nature of Corporate Revival in the OT** – God spoke after a Solemn Assembly at the dedication of Solomon’s temple where nearly the entire nation was present when the glory of the Lord filled the temple, given in a night-time appearance to King Solomon as head of the nation. The Lord describes His future policy toward the nation of Israel and set out the conditions of God’s re-blessing of His people as a whole entity.

**The Nature of Corporate Revival in the NT** – Rev. 2 & 3 Each congregation was held accountable for its condition. Jesus called the majority of those churches to report as corporate entities. This is not the typical way we think. We tend to look at our churches as gatherings of individuals who voluntarily meet together but Jesus sees our church as a spiritual entity. He holds the church accountable for its corporate condition.

- Corporate revival addresses spiritual roadblocks to God’s blessing on the church’s ministry. It’s not talking about tweaking a church’s program.

- Just as sin hindered God’s blessing on the nation of Israel, sins and wounds in the body of Christ hinder God’s blessing on local churches.

**The Path of Revival is restoring Our nation – One church at a time** - There are four ways of seeing a Church: 1) the way a church sees itself 2) the way others see the church 3) the way a church thinks others see it 4) the way God sees a church.

We may define our corporate identity in ways that have nothing in common with the way Jesus appraises us. Several of the churches addressed in Rev. 2 & 3 were doubtless shocked to discover the gap between their corporate self perception and Jesus' appraisal of them.

William Wilberforce (Real Christianity. P. 166) quote, "We need to see our true state as God sees it. Because of His perfect purity and His ability to know us better than we know ourselves, it is likely that He sees problems and failures we are barely conscious of - if we recognize them at all."

**An Oft-Ignored Biblical Truth:** - There are many cases where God does not forgive corporate sin until those in leadership take responsibility and repent. (Examples - The kings of Israel and the sins of Jeroboam – resulted in the cycle of Judges. (2Kings 10:28-30); Discipline and judgment can occur long after the sin. (2 Sam. 21: 70 yr. exile); Present enlightenment does not erase past corporate or leadership sinfulness .(Matt.23:29-32)

2 Chronicles 7:14 "...then will I hear from heaven and forgive their sin and heal their land." When is "then" – it refers to a point in time when God's attitude and disposition toward His people changes. In that moment a church/ministry receives a new spirit.

The occasion at which God unleashes His corporate blessing is a gathering where a congregation rights its relationship with God. The event where we transact such serious spiritual business is known as a solemn assembly.

The elements of a Solemn Assembly –

1. Hope
2. Corporate Covenant
3. Public Confessions and Mediatorial Authority
4. Resolution of the Problem
5. Resistance
6. Real and Symbolic Acts of Repentance
7. Courageous Action

Each church is now left facing the challenge of the question:

Are you willing to address **whatever** stands between your church and revival?

Submitted by:

- Julie Wiebe

### **Annual General Meeting**

I am always fascinated to watch how the assembly conducts business. How they bring ideas and discussion to the floor order and respect for the unity of the body. There are several microphones in the area and as the delegates step forward to speak to an issue, they are heard clearly by the assembly and when they sit down, it clears the path for another to speak.

The business at hand for the Canadian Church of God Ministries was to hear reports from the various levels of our leadership. We heard from our executive director of how he is working with the ministries to nurture health in pastors so they can that contribute to growing healthy churches.

We also heard from Mark Baughman who is the financial officer for the ministries. We then passed the budget that seeks to invest in leadership and "future" leaders that are part of the Fellows Program. Our own Joel Hildebrand and example of this investment in developing leaders.

The budget is also allowing development and re-development of churches. We heard from Pleasant Valley that is a very positive example of re-development. Jeff Peter is doing an exciting work with the people of Vernon. His update videos and those of the other missionaries are available [HERE](#).

As you pray for the churches of Western Canada, pray for the search committee that will present a candidate to the Board of Directors in about a year's time. Also, let's pray for healing and wisdom to hear the Spirit's voice as we seek His guidance in fulfilling His commission in our cities, towns and neighbourhoods.

Submitted by

- Reg Hildebrand