

Ephesians 6:18 – “Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit...” In Australia, from 1890-1901, forty ministers and laymen met each Saturday afternoon to pray for revival. The outcome was what came to be called “circles of prayer.” By 1901 there were more than two thousand prayer groups with about 40,000 people praying. In 1902 when R. A. Torrey traveled to Australia and New Zealand in his evangelistic campaigns, circles of prayer were the catalyst for his revival-like meetings. Revivals have coat tails, and all revivals ride the coat tails of prayer. We often forget that the Pentecost “revival” was birthed in prayer and continued in prayer (Acts 2:42). The early church had people without buildings. They prayed in homes, on the streets, at the Temple, and wherever they congregated. Paul dramatically changed the paradigm of the church in Ephesus when he used a philosophy school as a training center. From the school of Tyrannus Paul sent missionaries all over Asia Minor which was the center of Paganism. Churches sprang up in homes, because they had no buildings. In homes they taught the Scriptures, had fellowship, observed communion, and prayed, as from the beginning, only with equipped pastors from Paul’s school of ministry. The result: “All who dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus...” (Acts 19:10). That’s revival! Can we hope for the same? Yes, if the church returns to that paradigm (at least in part). One day we may (and likely will) be forced to go to church in homes. The Chinese have been experiencing revival for years. They do not depend on buildings. They depend on prayer, and they meet in homes to do it. Is it possible the only way God will get the church to pray is to allow our buildings to be taken away so we can get prayer back? Why don’t we pray? We don’t need to. We go where we want, eat what we want, wear what we want, drive what we want, and say what we want. The early church had to pray for their needs. Right now, our greatest need is the Holy Spirit to come in revival. He won’t come until we know we need Him. Right now, we seem to be doing pretty well without Him. That’s a shame. Think about circles of prayer. Pray about circles of prayer. Then do it and wait for the power of Pentecost. HA

Addendum: Due to the COVID lockdown we may need to think of creative ways to do this, i.e. phone, internet, Face Book parties, etc.