

## **Revival on The University Campus – Dan Rudman with permission from Dr. Daryl McCarthy**

This article is contributed by permission of Dr. Daryl McCarthy, president of the International Institute for Christian Studies. In our evangelistic and preaching ministry we find ourselves in networks of many other ministries. IICS is a kindred spirit ministry that seeks to place highly educated Christians in key education positions throughout the world. IICS has a heart for evangelism, mission, and revival-particularly in today's university environment. With a unique calling, their underlying passion aligns clearly with AFCI-USA. We think you will find this brief summary of historic revival on university campuses enlightening.-Dan Rudman

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### "Revival and Reformation on the University Campus"

Dr. Daryl McCarthy

Revivals have played a significant role in the history of universities. Periodically, God has swept through the higher education community and brought an acute awareness of His presence, a painful conviction of sin and a keen longing for holiness among students and faculty. Yet, occasionally some evangelicals still are skeptical about revival because of their stereotypes of extreme emotionalism and fanaticism.

But a serious look at the historical record of the great revivals on university campuses show a somewhat different image. After decades of research, the great revival historian J. Edwin Orr reported that the Great Awakening of 1858, "...was entirely devoid of fanaticism of any kind, not an instance of screaming aloud or jerking or dancing for joy, as recorded in the frontier awakenings among illiterates in post-Revolution times." The 1858 student awakenings were described as "solemn, serious, sane and sober."

The 1858-59 Awakening brought hundreds of conversions at universities such as Dartmouth, Williams, Yale, Columbia, and the University of Pennsylvania. The most noticeable result of this revival was the "reformation of character." This same revival swept across Oxford and Cambridge. Daily prayer meetings began which were continued on a daily basis for a 100 years. It was from these prayer meetings that the InterVarsity Christian Fellowship was formed.

The aftermath of the Second Great Awakening in the early 1800's also makes it evident that there was certainly more than emotions at work. New colleges proliferated as a result of the Second Great Awakening. Before 1830, 29 colleges had been established in the U.S. During 1830-61, 133 colleges began – a result of the great Awakening and leaders' understanding of the important role of education for training believers.

Charles Pettit McIlvaine, who later became a bishop, describes the great revival, which swept through universities in New England when he was a student at Princeton in 1815. “It was powerful and pervading, and fruitful in the conversion of young men to God; and it was quiet, unexcited, and entirely free from any devices or means beyond...’prayer and the ministry of the Word.’”

Iain H. Murray in his classic book *Revival and Revivalism* reports that one student had gone to sleep in chapel at Amherst during the revival of 1815. The student recounted, “I seemed to be awakened by a silence, which pervaded the room; a deep solemn attention which seems to spread over an assembly when all are completely engrossed in some absorbing theme.”

The revival of 1904-05 had a widespread impact on both secular and Christian colleges and universities across the UK, the US and Canada. This revival was “characterized by an intense sensation of the presence of God...” At MIT, attendance at noon prayer meetings doubled. At Rutgers, 111 men out of the 220 male students were in Bible study. At the University of Toronto, out of 2,000 students, 518 were in voluntary Bible classes.

So, let us pray – without fear of excess emotion- for God to move across the universities of the world with revival: awakening and convicting sinners and rejuvenating and reinvigorating believers. Since the university is the most strategic center of training of the future leaders of our world, we desperately need God to move dramatically. This is one of the greatest needs of the hour for universities around the world.