

You Are Invited to a  
**GOSPEL MEETING**  
AT THE  
**GRANT COUNTY CHURCH OF  
CHRIST**

205 HOPPERTON LANE, DRY RIDGE, KY

**April 3-6**

**9:30 & 10:40 A.M. & 6:00 P.M.  
SUNDAY**

**7 P.M. EACH EVENING MONDAY-  
WEDNESDAY;**

**SPEAKER:**

**MICHAEL D. GREEN**



**OF**

**BOWLING GREEN, KY**

**THEME: "WHAT CAN THE BIBLE DO FOR ME?"**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:**

**(859)824-6200**

**WE USED TO CALL THEM REVIVALS!  
Jerry W. Carmichael**

Our Gospel Meeting is coming up soon and it got me to thinking about the old days when meetings of this sort were called "Revivals". It was not unusual for such meetings to last several weeks with a church house full of people every night! Also, the sermons almost always lasted one hour or more! Church was as much social in those days as it was spiritual. Most of our neighbors were farmers who didn't see each other except when we attended church services. So the meeting times at the church house were also times to catch up on the news from the community.

Preachers for these meetings were usually from, what seemed to me as a small country boy, a long way off. I remember one came from Stanford, KY which in reality was less than 100 miles from our place! Several were from the Lexington or Louisville area which were about 30 and 100 miles respectively. One came from Alabama and another from Nashville, TN.

There were always several responses to the invitation in those days. The earliest revivals I remember were in the late 1950's. It was not unusual for someone to be baptized every night of the meeting for two or three weeks! Baptisms always took place in a nearby pond or creek illuminated by the headlights of the cars of those in attendance.

One thing that stands out in my mind about those revival meetings were the bed sheet sermon charts. Most preachers in those days either used elaborate drawings on the chalk board or a large white "bed sheet" with hand painted graphics showing the major points of his sermon and some very memorable illustrations. Many preachers and preacher's wives spent hours drawing and painting these charts. I learned many years later that an artist in LaFollette, TN made his living painting bed sheet charts for preachers from all over the

country! The pictures on these charts were large and looming and very vivid. I remember one from the early 1960's that had bright red and yellow flames depicting Hell. While I must have been 10 years old or less, I can see it just as vividly in my mind today as I did when I first looked at it and heard the lesson pertaining to it!

Change is inevitable. Today we have four day Gospel Meetings, 20 minute sermons, and Power Point. These are not bad changes in and of themselves. At least we still *have* Gospel Meetings! And as technology changes **it is wise and prudent to use the latest advances to further the gospel**. I suppose the colorful bed sheet charts were considered innovative at one time.

However, the one thing that should never change is the message taught in these meetings. Paul said his message was "*Christ and Him Crucified*" (1Corinthians 2:2). That message was the same one, in one way or another, that was preached in the old Revivals of long ago. The death, burial and resurrection of Jesus, the Lord and Savior, is what Paul called the "gospel" in 1Corinthians 15:1-4. That message is still as relevant today as it was 50, 100 or even 2,000 years ago!

While it is fun and pleasant for old folks like me to reminisce about days gone by, it is also **exciting to seize the opportunities created by modern inventions and technological advances!**

When I spoke recently in Knoxville, TN the message was sent via live feed to the whole world! People in several foreign countries could have been watching and listening to the gospel being preached in that place!

Small, handheld digital recorders make it possible for a message to be transferred to a computer and sent around the globe in seconds! Our website has outlines of several of the

lessons that have been presented here, available for anyone who wishes to read them.

It is my prayer that you are here as brother Michael Green preaches to us April 3-6. While you are listening to his sermon, think about the possibility that it will go much farther than just the auditorium of the Grant County church of Christ. It has the potential of reaching people in the far corners of the world! You may be part of the process that causes a soul to be won in Malaysia, Singapore, Kansas, Canada, England or many other places.

Maybe *you*, personally will be spiritually revived. Revival *is* a biblical concept. "*Will You not revive us again, That Your people may rejoice in You? Show us Your mercy, LORD, And grant us Your salvation*" (Psalms 85:6-7). So we could still call our meeting a "Revival" and be biblically correct.

Please try to be here April 3-6 to encourage us and to be spiritually revived as brother Green preaches God's word to us. **He probably won't use a bed sheet chart**, but he will preach the truth! For right-thinking people the presentation of the word of God always brings revival!

*"So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it"* (Isaiah 55:11).



"tell us again why you don't attend the services of the church!"