

Revival News European Monthly Report

January 2021



What did January 2021 mean to you? For some of us it marked the start of a new chapter or even a whole new life, the end of a race well-run, or another month walking on towards the goal (rain, shine or snow!). Also inside this report - the latest news from the saints in Liberia, and part 2 of our series on « The Early Church »

Clockwise from top left : 'Just Married' in Hungary, Baptism in Almere, Snowy walk in Czech, Sunday meeting in Liberia

Server News, January 2021

Have fun.

Ps Pieter Visser

All the talks and items from the end-of-year conference can be found on our servers at: <u>live.revivalfellowship.nl</u> mail me for a username and Password.



and local contributors.

Newsletter Crew: Netty, Heleen, Meg

Pastor Pieter Visser Kromhout 95 3311RE Dordrecht The Netherlands Telephone: +31 78 6146173 Mobile: +31 (0)6 22 808 977 E-mail: piet.visser@revivalfellowship.nl Website: www.revivalfellowship.nl

Looking ahead:

There is still a spring camp planned in Hungary, dates: Apr 01— Apr 05. We will see when the date gets closer how the current travel restrictions will be then. There are two summer camps planned, one in Holland, July 31—Aug 07 and one in England, Aug 14—21. An Autumn camp is planned in Czech Republic, Oct 29—Nov 02. Czech Kids Camp 22-25 July 2021

Editorial: The Early Church part 2

Introduction:

It's nearly a year since we published part one. Here is part two of an historical overview, researched by Ps Warren Sharrock from the North London RF assembly.

It explains how and when the **Catholic Church** became the official "face" of Christianity.

During the height of the Roman empire, the authorities encouraged 'loyal citizens' to betray and handover anyone they suspected of being a Christian. People identified as Christians could be 'let off the hook' if they agreed to betray fellow Christians and/or hand over Christian scriptures for burning. Public bonfires of scriptures were commonplace. Local killings of Christians, and scattering of their communities were seen as a necessary part of the persecution. Of course, if you were brought before a local magistrate because you had been accused of the criminal act of practising Christianity, you could be set free if you made a public sacrifice to the emperor as a 'god', offering burnt



incense in his name etc. The persecutions reached their peak under the Emperor Diocletian, whose reign ended in 305 AD.

The letters of the early church

Marble head of Diocletian writers describe

this series of persecutions. So do

contemporary Roman records, and letters from Roman governors and officials. Some Christians, no doubt terrified by the prospect of torture and a violent, shameful death, did 'recant' and deny their faith. Some betrayed fellow Christians and handed over scriptures for burning. They were called traditores, or the 'ones who hand over'. We get the word 'traitor' from this term Again we know about this situation because of writings contemporary to the period. The non-Christian historian Tacitus writes that the Emperor Nero began an official persecution of Christians after the fire which devastated Rome in 64 AD.

The Christian writer Tertullian (ca. 155 AD to 230 AD) claims that Nero was the first active persecutor of Christians. Lactantius (c. 240 AD to 320 AD) confirms this.

Suetonius, a non Christian historian, says that the emperor Claudius, who reigned before Nero, expelled the Christians from Rome because they were Jewish troublemakers inspired by Christus. Clement, an early bishop of Rome wrote a letter to the Corinthian church dated to around 96 AD, reporting the execution of an apostle by Nero.

Bishop Eusebius of Caesarea, a prominent church historian (c. 275-339) was the first to record that the apostle Paul was executed in Rome during the reign of the emperor Nero.

It is important to point out that that these writers were not always in agreement as regards details, but they were very often in accord on the basic information. For example, while there is disagreement as to how Peter and Paul were executed, there was widespread agreement in all these letters during this period that both Peter and Paul had been executed during the reign of the emperor Nero.

So who were these writers and early church commentators? It is a flexible list, but most often included are early leaders in the church.

They did not write inspired Scripture. Their writings are not included in the Bible. They wrote letters, commentaries and histories. Later historians like Gildas and Maelgwyn of Llandaff writing in the fifth century also have some useful things to say.

The end of the era of persecution should have brought in a period of peace and great revival. Unfortunately, the emperor Constantine who stopped the wholesale attacks on Christians, by recognising Christianity as a 'legal religion', took the opportunity to select the Roman Catholic church as the future model for religion across the Empire. This meant that the bishop of Rome had to buy into the hardedged politics of the Roman imperial system. Trade offs were required. The symbols, forms, rituals and beliefs of other religions under Roman sway, such as those found in Babylon, began to be introduced into Christian forms of worship and belief. This was meant to keep the peace. On a superficial level it did. However, the churches that wanted to stick with a pure gospel, and a separate Christian faith were quickly sidelined, and /or expelled. When Theodosius made Roman Catholicism the official religion of the Empire in 380 AD, the process began in earnest. Soon the 'official' church, based at Rome, and headed by the pope, slipped into a series of pagan beliefs including shrine worship, the



Constantine's Vision of the cross, Giovan Francisco Penni veneration of dead saints, idolatry, incense e burning, and mother goddess worship.

Caution!

Always, it is wise to be aware of the mixing together of history, legend and myth when trying to trace the true stories of these post-Bible characters. Man has an almost inexhaustible tendency to ornament, exaggerate and even fabricate a piece of genuine history. But this does not mean that we discount or ignore any stories about the early church which appear outside the Bible. The scripture within the Bible is safe. We know that. It has been tried and tested over at least two thousand years. It is our 'need to know' manual for salvation.

We will continue this at another time where we will see that nothing has really changed

and that the living church still faces the same challenges and continues to operate the same way.

Ps Warren Sharrock

Heard from the platform:

- God can do absolutely anything. The only thing that stops Him is how we limit him in our understanding.
- God is good. God is faithful. God will ALWAYS come through for you.
- Experience, learn, be focused
- Do not be too busy with this world's affairs
- A great day awaits us
- What is your plan and purpose?
- We are now God's children—we let Him teach us, not any of our old influences
- Build what God asks us to, according to His blueprint
- The Church is a place of safety, like being behind a sea wall. Don't be wandering on the beach when the big waves come!
- If we put the whole armour of God on, we'll never fall.

Revival Across Europe and the UK

Baptisms in January: 2 in Hungary, 3 in the Netherlands





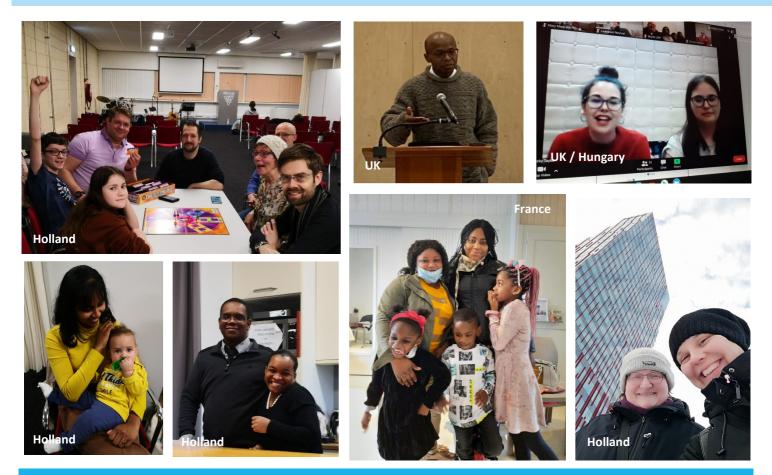






2 COR 6 : 2 ... behold, now *is* the accepted time; behold, now *is* the day of salvation

Photos from around the work



News from the Fellowship in Liberia

Hello all.

The Covid -19 virus obviously has come to live among mankind, we are not surprised because the good Lord told us about it in the Bible. When we were hit with this pandemic the Government of Liberia declared a state of emergency lockdown and curfew.

All social activities were effected by this lock down but we are still attending meeting without worrying about nose mask or observing, so called, social distancing.

All around us, many church people were arrested by the government for not abiding by the protocol from the government.

But the security people did not stop us from meeting, it was then we know that it is the Lord's doing,

However, we cannot travel to other countries and people from other

countries cannot enter Liberia. The borders are closed and these restriction are now in force over the last five months. We have healthy meetings despite our brethren the good Lord has called home. Today we removed the body of Sister Yassa Kollie from the funeral home to her hometown for burial, we still rejoice in the Lord not minding the natural challenges.

God bless. Brother Jude C. Nwachukwu RFL







Hungary : Benji and Kata's Wedding

The wedding of Benji and Kata took place which, because of living in other countries and university commitments, they had waited for for three years. In January the day came to start their walk together as husband and wife.

It was unfortunate that because of Covid Benji's family could not come from Australia, and it could be attended by a few of Kata's relatives. However the day was a wonderful testimony for the Lord and for



the couple. It was streamed worldwide to the whole family of the Lord.

It was a truly blessed day with the saints secretly decorating the hall, and placing photos of every person who would have attended on the chairs which the couple really appreciated. After the service many saints waited outside the hall to wish the happy couple a wonderful future. Testimony from the Bride's mother, sister Angéla

The wedding venue was closed due to COVID and they could not find another. The Lord provided one through a person they had not even asked.

They had a contract with an event organiser company according to which they'd have had to pay the full price even though only a very few people could actually attend because of COVID regulations. Praise the Lord the price of all unused

services were refunded.

The weather on the wedding day was overcast which they did not mind and was perfect for photography.

Non fellowship guests of the wedding were worried about a "Zoom wedding" but after seeing how the saints made it special, their positive feedback was a great testimony for the Fellowship.

Almere, NL

Through a family member of sister Angelique from Rotterdam a young lady was born again this month in Almere. She lives in a province called Groningen which is about 2 hours away from Almere. She came together with a friend, her brother and his girlfriend, a car full of souls to visit our meeting. They were all impressed by what they saw and heard, we still hope that they take action.

This month we also went out to preach the gospel in Amsterdam, nearby where sister Marsha and brother Armand live. Sowing the seed over there resulted in a few contacts and some even prayed to receive the Holy Spirit.

We are happily carrying on having fellowship and encouraging one another to be positive and trying to contact people wherever we are. We see many times that people are more and more crying out to the Lord, trying to find answers and there we are, put in front of them by the Lord. At the right time and the right place to pass on the Word of God.

Items evening, a weekend of prayer and fast, presentation of the book of Revelation in the Bible and about 'Who we are!' were the topics and activities in the past weekends. We praise the Lord that we can still come together and share all the things with each other we learn in these times.

Czech Republic

This month, we prayed for the last time with our Ukrainian brother Nikolaj over Zoom, but continue to pray for his family and many other saints in our weekday Zoom prayer sessions at 7pm (except Wednesdays). The regular prayer sessions have been a good way of uniting us together during the current lockdown, and keep us focussed on praying for one





another. Everyone is welcome to join in, please contact us for the connection details.

Early in the month, we went for a Fellowship walk, accompanied by a visiting family. We also received spiritual encouragement during our online Prayer and Fast.

Our children have enjoyed their online Sunday School and Bible Class lessons, with topics such as Adam and Eve, the importance of the Holy Spirit, and how to make good decisions. They also prepared and shared facts about amazing animals, made by God the Creator.

Brother Nikolay's testimony



Nikolay was born again in January 2016. Long time of searching for the right church and true Gospel, he finally heard the Truth from his daughter. When he received the Holy Spirit and was baptized by full immersion, he was healed of bad habits. God has done a lot in his life during these 5 years in the Lord; healings, miracles and provision. Nikolay received a job miraculously when it was impossible to get one without a registration. When he was diagnosed with liver cancer and



hepatitis C, he survived an operation to remove the tumour and the doctor gave him only 2 weeks to live. The Lord performed a miracle and gave him 2 years instead. Nikolay went to sleep in the Lord on the 10th of January 2021. He was a great husband and father, forever loved and missed by his family and the saints.

Dordrecht

We started the new year with a 'Get to know us' evening with musical items, testimonies and a short talk. We saw an interesting presentation about the seven feasts in the Old Testament and how they are a foreshadow of Jesus' first and second coming. We enjoyed the company of saints visiting from our assemblies in Rotterdam and Almere. The last Sunday of the month a few saints went outreaching in between the meetings. They spoke to a lady who came along to the meeting that day. She received the Holy Spirit and got baptized. She feels very happy about her new life with the Lord.

France

This month we resumed street outreaching again at the local market, after a praver

and fast focused on revival. At the end of the month a sister brought along a friend to the Sunday meeting, who then realised she had already received the Holy Spirit. She



was encouraged to start praying in tongues to get used to using the Spirit and was baptised the following week. It's nice to know that the virus isn't the only contagious thing in the air at the moment, the Gospel is catching too! Many testimonies of blessings were shared : a sister needed a specialist appointment and couldn't get one before

April at the earliest. After prayer together at the midweek meeting, she had an appointment the following week. Another sister testified of how her child was having some trouble interacting with the other kids at school because of the language barrier and bullying. After prayer the situation changed—her daughter is speaking French and is happy to go to school with her new friends. A couple who recently moved back to Australia testified of all the miracles the Lord did for them along the way. For example, even though only 26 people were actually allowed on the flight out of about 100 booked, they made it through without any trouble. Praise the Lord.

Hungary

Greetings from Hungary where two people were baptized and three received the gift of the Holy Spirit. One new brother was walking around wanting to find the Lord and feeling unhappy with life when a brother in the Lord told him the full gospel. He was immediately convicted and we went to the hall and filled the bath with boiling kettles and lots of cold water to baptize him by full immersion. He had been a



God fearing man all his life and been to many churches but had never been told - A sister was having issues at work and of full baptism or speaking in tongues, but really needed to forgive someone but after the baptism he was prayed for and immediately received the gift of the Holy Spirit and spoke in tongues. A very happy man.

Another new brother had split up from his spoke to them personally and forgave recently born again wife and got divorced. them. The Lord helped her to do the right Yet through the dramatic changes that happened in our new sister's life he came to a meeting or two and then realized he had been wrong with his Pentecostal ideas town 150km away called Soltvadkert and all the teaching he had previously received and was baptized once more. He is attending meetings and knows that there is a lot to change but that the Lord will help him do so.

- The fellowship prayed for a boy with large tumours and they have started to shrink which the doctors did not believe possible having given up on the boy. - One very daughter of a sister had a wart on her finger which went away after prayer.

- Another spirit filled couple asked for the Lord's protection on their son during his surgery and he came out really well for which they are truly grateful.

Isaiah 35:1-2 The desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. It shall blossom abundantly



found it difficult to do so. There followed a number of talks about forgiveness and being convicted she prayed about it and withing a few hours met the person and thing.

We held outreaches in Budapest and in a where a number of people have been interested and some spirit filled and baptized.

Ireland

Greetings from Ireland.

We have been on different levels of lock down throughout the month and we are back on Zoom for our meetings. On Fridays we are having "Knowledge Talks" on zoom, whereby someone can speak on a topic they've researched or have an interest in. Topics covered to date: the book of Revelation, As birds flying, The abolition of the Slave Trade and The Stars. We also have an informal "Q & A" session after each topic. We have found

> it to be very informative and uplifting. On another positive note, we have had two people come back to the meetings who were missing for awhile and they also brought another new observer with them. All in all, it has been a good month despite what's going on around us. Praise the Lord.





Liverpool

We had a great presentation by Pastor Steve on the prophecies of Israel and a Bible quiz. We have been sharing some proverbs outside our hall (see photos page 8). The saints are just happy meeting together and our zoom follow ups continue every week! We can still meet at the hall on Sundays but we have been having zoom meetings on Wednesdays. We have had Julie from New Zealand and the Taylors form Hungary visit us on zoom this month!

Poole

Greetings to all our brothers and sisters from the saints in Poole. The month of January has been a quiet one due to being back in lockdown but we have continued to enjoy great fellowship and Sunday meetings at the hall. At the start of the month we had a prayer and fast with several brothers giving uplifting talks on the theme of "Learn of Me". One of the talks mentioned how pride gets in and stops us learning from Jesus. A sister gave her testimony of how she suffered a major heart attack and was taken to hospital. After the doctors were no longer able to do anymore the family and the church prayed and she was healed! God is our hope, not man! We were able to enjoy a socially distanced walk in the local area and make the most of blue sky and sunshine albeit quite cold. An evening of Bible quizzes for our games and cakes night gave us an opportunity to explore our Bibles from Genesis to Revelation and good fun was had by all. A presentation about '6th day man' was enlightening. This was attended by brethren from Cape Town, who also join

in our zoom meetings and almost feel like have a future with Him and this goodbye part of our Fellowship. Now we appreciate that we probably would not have met them had it not been for Covid so some good has come from this situation. We also had a questions and answers night where we were joined by Brother Scott from Medway which was a great opportunity to explore and extend our knowledge and understanding of the scriptures. It is great that we can all still enjoy time together even when circumstances keep us apart. God Bless until next time.

Rotterdam



Early in the new year we had to say goodbye to our sister Nini, who passed away. Nini came to the Lord through her sister Angelique and she has been a faithful servant to the Lord for many years. At the funeral service her manager from work shared the testimony she has been there. She was always working as for the Lord and has been an example to many. Brothers and sisters remember her as a happy, thankful and cheerful sister, always ready for a laugh. Praise God we



is a temporal one.

"For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's." Rom. 14:8. Friday night Zoom meetings started for the house groups. A wonderful opportunity for those who are not attending physical meetings, to interact with their brothers and sisters instead of watching a live stream.

Switzerland & Germany

We started our month with a zoom prayer meeting on a Wednesday night, together with our sisters from Germany. It has been really good to see each other a bit more often throughout the month, even if it's just over zoom but we still get to have fellowship with one another and share testimonies and the good things the Lord does in our lives. We also held a zoom meeting with our brothers and sisters from West London at the end of the month. Brother Stephan gave a talk about "making decisions." Every decision we make should be according to God's will as our actions and decisions will always influence our walk and the church. Yasmine shared her testimony about how she came along to the Fellowship as a young girl and suffered persecution from her mum for quite a while until she was kicked out from home and started living with Stephan and Zsuzsa, which was a big blessing. Zsuzsa shared her testimony about how her marriage was healed by God, after her husband Stephan came along. And sister Margaret from Germany shared her testimony on how she came to the Lord in PNG. God has completely changed her personality and her life. Luise asked for prayer for her hip which has been hurting and God healed her completely.

There is a lot of wonderful miracles the lord has done and it's a great blessing to be able to share them with everyone. God bless



West London

This month has seen the passing of our dear brother Nicolaï from Ukraine. We were blessed with his fellowship; his constant joy in the Lord and faithfulness was a testimony to us all. He is missed but we look forward to that great day when our Lord returns. (see testimony page 5) We have had visitors to our meetings mostly through personal witnessing. One man received the Holy Spirit and is yet to be baptised. We had great fellowship with our brothers and sisters from India when we held a joint Q&A. This was followed by a talk on letting the Lord be the driver in our lives from brother Vijay from Hyderabad. We also heard from brother Stephan, Pr

Sammy, brother Edouard and brother Joseph. Not to forget a combined prayer and fast with Ireland and the UK. What a feast! We were well and truly fed. A sister testified of her marriage being healed after coming to the Lord, a brother testified on getting funding for his studies which was not possible and another sister testified of being healed of a scalp condition before seeing a specialist.



Testimonies

My family was a usual family in the world. But we never spoke about the Lord. Somehow, I still had a feeling about heaven and hell and I knew that wasn't going to heaven because I was not a good girl. My relationship with my parents was going downhill but neither me nor them knew how to fix it.

In 1993, I was 9 years old and my sister heard the gospel from her teacher at school and spoke about it at home. Later that year, my whole family came to the Lord. I enjoyed life in the fellowship. My relationship with parents got better because they started dealing with things with God's wisdom. I received the Holy Spirit 2 years later at the age of 11. But my walk with God started properly at high school where I really

saw the world's power. I realized that I don't want to be a part of the world and that I need to choose between God and the world. When I made the right decision, I was very happy and God really blessed me and my relationship with my parents was better and better and now we have a great relationship.

At the age of 18, I got mononucleosis and I was told that I need at least 6 months of treatment. I didn't want it and so the Fellowship and family prayed and I got healed within 2 weeks. I also got married in the Lord and we have 4 kids. I had some serious complications and life-threatening situations of the babies with 3 of the pregnancies but God always had His protective hand over me and our kids and they were born healthy. Three of our kids are now Spirit filled themselves.

Over the years we've experienced God's protection in many situations like travelling, health, relationships. God healed my marriage, my broken heart, my relationship with my kids. I have learnt that what I have in this life is not my credit, but God's glory and mercy and I can only thank Him for everything I have.



My testimony starts when I was about 4 years old. At that time my dad was searching for the truth and a meaning to life. He started taking us to churches. Even at that young age, I remember thinking that the catholic church at the end of the road was a very strange place. Why so dark? Why all the statues and pictures? After a while, we started going to

the Revival Fellowship and I could see the huge difference, even at that age.

At the age of 6, I got Spirit filled, speaking in tongues, and was baptised by full immersion. I'm very grateful to God that He arranged that I could know Him from my childhood. Goodness knows where my life would have gone without Him! Since then, He's been leading me and teaching me, especially since the age of about 15, which was when I really found the joy of praying in the Spirit and reading His Word.

There are way too many healings, protections and blessings for me to list them all here. God saved us on the way to the camp from a potentially really bad accident when I fell asleep behind the wheel. Praise the Lord, nothing serious happened at all. God has taught me to rely on Him for provision. I'm so happy that I know that the burden is not on my shoulders, but if I keep doing what I should then God has got the future in His hands; he's always provided.

I'm most grateful to God for helping me grow into a better person and I'm really looking forward to how He will change me in the future, becoming more and more like Jesus Christ; that's the goal. I hope we get the chance to meet you in person soon.

Daniel, Czech Republic