



Rob Watts, Pastor
Ralph Watts, Pastor Emeritus
147 Gladys Rd., Columbus, OH 43228

Mark Burd and the Revive Ohio Team,

I wanted to take a moment to thank all of you for what you do. We are still floating high on cloud 9 from the week of outreach that you brought to us this past October. I know that I've shared with most of you my story on how I got involved, but let me share one more time if I could, because it helps with setting the stage for how the week affected me.

Two plus years ago, Pastor Steve Anthony from Hilltop Church of God, approached me about attending a minister's meeting to hear a presentation from Revive Ohio. I will admit that at first, I wasn't wanting to get involved in any kind of outreach. Reaching out on the street is not in my *wheelhouse*. I know what Scripture says, but I shared in a lot of different ways, just not out on the street. However, I attended the meeting and was introduced to Mark Burd and this awesome way of reaching out to people.

From that first meeting, I was hooked. I told Pastor Steve that we needed to do **anything** we could to get Revive Ohio to the west side of Columbus. We started praying and praying and praying. We challenged others to pray, but any time you mention reaching out beyond the doors of the church, you get pushback. So, there was **a lot** of work ahead of us.

After two years, Mark showed up to a minister's meeting to give his presentation. I must have looked in shock to Pastor Steve as I thought to myself, "Okay, here we go." Well, believe it or not, it took another year plus for enough of the ministers to say, "Yes." Even then the event still almost didn't happen, but we continued to pray!

During this time, I met Rob Mitchell. He had joined Revive Ohio. He stopped by the church office, and we struck up a friendship. He didn't realize that I had already met Mark. He brought Mark by the office one other day, and we talked about bringing Revive Ohio to the west side of Columbus. I told them that I was in and anything that needed done, let me know and we'll do what we can. (I hadn't talked to my leadership yet, but they were going to be committed. I just knew they would be. But I was in for a rude awakening.)



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It now came time for organizing the event and it was like pulling teeth to get churches to volunteer and to be involved. It seemed like the enemy was hitting us hard at every turn. However, the reviveOHIO Team came and started making plans with us. They started by getting our small group organized. There was excitement building! Even before the “Kick-off” service there were lives being touched.

I remember the first Thursday prayer service I attended at Westgate Park where Rob and I talked with two young men about the Lord. They didn’t accept Christ, but seeds were planted, and the Word went forth. It was exciting to go back and share with the church.

The event came and I was determined to take advantage of all I was physically able. I was at every prayer meeting early in the morning. What a powerful time before the Lord! Each morning was beautifully led by a different team member, and got everyone involved in prayer. The training sessions were well put together and very organized. The setting up of the teams was awesome as well.

My first team was the prayer team. It was very open and relaxed as to “Who feels led to pray.” When I went out on a street team, the attitude was, “If you feel led to talk, lead on out.” As powerful as the outreach was, and it was powerful, but I really loved gathering back at the different churches for testimony time and lunch. Some of the church buildings I had never been in before. Most of the people that attended that week, I had never met. However, I knew where the buildings were, and I’ve made friends for eternity.

Mark told us that he was coming to start a fire, to set a spark, and to introduce us to our neighbors. He did just that! I had met some of the pastors who participated in the outreach, but during the week I really got to know them. Our church was even blessed with a Sanctuary full of new chairs from one of the churches that wanted to get them out of their storage space.

The greatest exclamation point to the Revive Week is that a week **after** the team all left the West side, I had a family come to me and talk about the times that they attended Revive Week. They were able to attend a couple of the prayer services in the early morning.



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However, they were able to attend all of the evening worship services. (They were powerful by the way). I wasn't able to attend all of them in person, but I did watch them all on YouTube and WOW!!) This Mother and her two daughters were touched by the team, the messages, and most importantly by the Lord during that week. They rededicated their lives to the Lord. They surrendered a lot of baggage that they had been carrying to the Lord. They talked about being baptized during the outreach week. However, they decided that they would rather be baptized in their home church. This past Sunday, October 27th, we baptized the mother and her two daughters as a part of our Sunday morning worship celebration! That part of our worship was a tremendous witness to the visitors who had walked through our doors that Sunday. The Spirit of God has been moving in our worship services, and our altars have been full with people giving their hearts to the Lord, taking the next step of sanctification and discipleship. There is an excitement in our church today that wasn't there before the Revive Week. Now I'll be honest with you, not many from our congregation participated that week, but we now have several who are very excited about the Saturday outreaches that have been set up by the Remnant to keep this going!

I do thank Revive Ohio for being patient with us over the past 2 plus years. God had His perfect timing. He knew when you needed to come, and He prepared the ground for you to be here. Thank you for coming and pouring into this pastor especially, but I know that you poured into many here on the West side. You are true servants of the Lord! I look forward to hearing about other communities who will share the Good News of Jesus Christ just as simple as, "How can I pray for you?"

Know that CW Church is praying for you, and praying for the West side, but more than that...we're praying for the furthering of the Kingdom of God. We're praying for all who are on the front lines. Thank you for being some of those soldiers!

Serving our Almighty Lord Together,

Rob Watts, Pastor